

LANDSCAPE PLANTING SPECIFICATION & IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

Project Reference: AT-078-CON-01 – Landscape Strategy **Site Address:** 149 Victoria Road, Wargrave, Reading, RG10 8AG **Client:** Mr & Mrs Manning **Date:** March 2026

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the planting strategy, spacing requirements, and implementation timetable for the landscape scheme at 149 Victoria Road. The specifications herein are based on the approved Landscape Strategy drawing (Feb 2026) and adhere to standard UK landscape and horticultural practices. The scheme heavily features Bare Root (BR) native understorey planting, which dictates a strict winter-aligned implementation schedule.

2.0 PLANTING SPACING & DENSITY SPECIFICATION

Planting densities have been calculated to ensure appropriate mature spread, rapid canopy closure for weed suppression, and long-term viability of the respective species.

2.1 Native Understorey Planting

- **Supply Type:** Bare Root (BR), 60-80cm.
- **Species Mix:** *Crataegus monogyna* (50%), *Acer campestre* (10%), *Rosa canina* (10%), *Corylus avellana* (10%), *Prunus spinosa* (10%), *Ilex aquifolium* (10%).
- **Spacing Specification:**
 - *Option A (Boundary/Hedge Formation):* Plant at a density of **5 plants per linear meter**. Plants to be set out in a staggered double row, with rows spaced 400mm apart and individual plants 400mm apart within the rows.
 - *Option B (Woodland Block Planting):* Plant at a density of **1 plant per square meter** (1000mm centers) to allow for naturalized canopy establishment.

2.2 Ornamental Shrub Planting

- **Supply Type:** Container Grown (CG) / Open Ground (OG), varying sizes (20-80cm).
- **Spacing Specification:**
 - *Large Structural Shrubs* (e.g., *Choisya ternata* 'Sundance', *Cornus sanguinea*, *Viburnum opulus*): Plant at **1 to 2 plants per square meter** (approx. 700mm – 1000mm centers).
 - *Medium/Dwarf Shrubs* (e.g., *Berberis thunbergii* 'Atropurpurea nana', *Spiraea japonica* 'Nana', *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus repens*): Plant at **3 to 4 plants per square meter** (approx. 500mm – 600mm centers) to achieve a continuous structural layer.

2.3 Groundcover Planting

- **Supply Type:** Container Grown (CG), 15-40cm.
- **Species:** *Cotoneaster dammeri*, *Euonymus fortunei* varieties, *Hedera helix*, *Lonicera pileata*, *Stachys byzantina*, *Vinca minor*.
- **Spacing Specification:** Plant at a high density of **4 to 6 plants per square meter** (approx. 400mm – 500mm centers). Immediate density is required to provide rapid soil coverage and mitigate future weed ingress.

2.4 Canopy Trees

- **Species:** *Prunus avium*, *Acer campestre*, *Quercus robur*.
 - **Spacing Specification:** Position at **5 to 8-meter centers** (minimum) depending on final layout, allowing sufficient root and canopy expansion without structural conflict.
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3.0 IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

The inclusion of Bare Root (BR) stock necessitates that the primary planting phase occurs during the dormant season (November to March). The following phased approach is recommended for optimal establishment.

Phase 1: Site Preparation (September – October 2026)

- **Clearance:** Removal of existing vegetation, weeds, and debris from proposed planting areas.
- **Cultivation:** De-compaction of topsoil and incorporation of suitable organic soil ameliorants.
- **Lawn/Turf Establishment:** Preparation and seeding/turfing of the designated lawn areas using the specified general landscaping seed mix (ryegrass/fescue/meadowgrass). Early autumn soil temperatures are optimal for rapid germination and establishment.

Phase 2: Primary Planting – Trees & Native Understorey (November 2026 – February 2027)

- **Tree Installation:** Excavation of tree pits, installation of *Prunus*, *Acer*, and *Quercus* specimens with appropriate anchoring (staking/guying) and root protection.
- **Bare Root Installation:** Immediate planting of the Native Understorey mix. Roots must not be exposed to wind or frost prior to planting. Install rabbit/deer protection (spirals and canes) as required by local site conditions.

Phase 3: Secondary Planting – Shrubs & Groundcover (February – March 2027)

- **Container Stock Installation:** Planting of the remaining Container Grown (CG) and Open Ground (OG) ornamental shrubs and groundcover. Planting at this stage limits exposure to the harshest winter frosts while allowing roots to settle prior to the spring growth flush.

Phase 4: Finishing & Aftercare Handover (March – April 2027)

- **Mulching:** Application of a 50mm - 75mm layer of composted bark mulch across all shrub and native beds. Mulch must be kept clear of direct contact with the stems to prevent collar rot.
- **Irrigation Commissioning:** Commencement of spring watering schedules for container-grown stock and trees.