

Tree & Hedgerow Maintenance Specification

Q35 Landscape Maintenance

To be read with Preliminaries/General conditions

GENERALLY**110 NOTICE**

- Give notice before:
 - Application of herbicide.
 - Application of fertilizer.
 - Watering.
 - Each site maintenance visit.
- Period of notice: 2 days.

130 REINSTATEMENT

- Damage or disturbance to soil structure, planting, grass, fencing, hard landscaping, structures or buildings: Reinstate to original condition.

140 CONTROL OF MAMMALIAN PESTS

- Specialist firms: -.
 - Method: Employ only approved firms and methods.

156 WATERING

- Supply: Potable mains water.
- Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
- Application: Do not damage or loosen plants.
- Compacted soil: Loosen or scoop out, to direct water to rootzone.
- Frequency: When instructed.

160 WATERING RESTRICTIONS

- General: If water supply is, or is likely to be, restricted by emergency legislation, submit proposals for an alternative suitable source of water. Obtain instructions before proceeding.

170 DISPOSAL OF ARISING

- General: Unless specified otherwise, dispose of arisings as follows:
 - Biodegradable arisings: Remove to recycling facility.
 - Grass cuttings: Remove to recycling facility.
 - Tree roots and stumps: Remove from site.
 - Shrub and tree prunings: Remove to recycling facility.
 - Litter and nonbiodegradable arisings: Remove from site.

190 LITTER

- Extraneous rubbish not arising from the contract work: Collect and remove from site.

195 PROTECTION OF EXISTING GRASS

- General: Protect areas affected by maintenance operations using boards/tarpaulins. Do not place excavated or imported materials directly on grass.

197 CLEANLINESS

- Soil and arisings: Remove from hard surfaces.
- General: Leave the works in a clean, tidy condition at completion and after any maintenance operations.

GRASSED AREAS**210 MAINTENANCE OF GRASSED AREAS**

- General: Maintain turf in a manner appropriate to the intended use.
- Soil and grass:
 - Condition: Maintain a healthy vigorous sward, free from disease, fungal growth, discolouration, scorch or wilt.
 - Waterlogging and compaction: Prevent.
 - Damage: Repair trampling, abrasion or scalping.
- Litter and fallen leaves: Remove regularly to maintain a neat appearance.

220 GRASS CUTTING GENERALLY

- Before mowing: Remove litter, rubbish and debris.
- Finish: Neat and even, without surface rutting, compaction or damage to grass.
- Edges: Leave neat and well defined. Neatly trim around obstructions.
- Adjoining hard areas: Sweep clear and remove arisings.
- Drought or wet conditions: Obtain instructions.

226 TREE STEMS

- Precautions: Do not allow nylon filament rotary cutters and other mechanical tools closer than 100 mm to the stem of any tree.
 - Operations close to stems: Complete using hand tools.

265 MOWING GENERAL AREAS

- Grass height: Maintain between 25 and 50 mm.
- Arisings: Remove.

SHRUBS / TREES / HEDGES**510 TREE STAKES AND TIES**

- Inspection/ Maintenance times: As scheduled and immediately after strong winds.
- Stakes:
 - Replace loose, broken or decayed stakes to original specification.
 - If longer than half of clear tree stem height, cut to this height in spring. Retie to tree firmly but not tightly with a single tie.
- Ties: Adjust, refix or replace loose or defective ties, allowing for growth and to prevent chafing.
 - Where chafing has occurred, reposition or replace ties to prevent further chafing.
- Removal of stakes and ties: When instructed.
Fill stake holes with lightly compacted soil.

520 REFIRMING OF TREES AND SHRUBS

- Timing: After strong winds, frost heave and other disturbances.
- Refirming: Tread around the base until firmly bedded.
- Collars in soil at base of tree stems, created by tree movement: Break up by fork, avoiding damage to roots. Backfill with topsoil and refirm.

525 TREE GUARDS

- Loose or defective guards: Adjust, refix or replace to original specification and to prevent chafing.

537 NESTING WILD BIRDS

- Survey: May be required.
- Accidental disturbance: Report immediately.

540 PRUNING GENERALLY

- Pruning: In accordance with good horticultural and arboricultural practice.
 - Removing branches: Do not damage or tear the stem or bark.
 - Wounds: Keep as small as possible and cut cleanly back to sound wood.
 - Cutting: Make cuts above and sloping away from an outward facing healthy bud, angled so that water will not collect on cut area.
 - Larger branches: Prune neither flush nor leaving a stub, but using the branch bark ridge or branch collar as a pruning guide.
- Appearance: Thin, trim and shape each specimen appropriately to species, location, season, and stage of growth, leaving a well balanced natural appearance.
- Tools: Use clean sharp secateurs, hand saws or other approved tools. Trim off ragged edges of bark or wood with a sharp knife.
- Disease or infection: Give notice if detected.
- Growth retardants, fungicide or pruning sealant: Do not use unless instructed.

545 PRUNING OF EXCESSIVE OVERHANG

- Timing: As instructed.
- Operations: Remove growth encroaching onto grassed areas, paths, roads, signs, sightlines and road lighting luminaires.
- Special requirements: None.

570 FORMATIVE PRUNING OF YOUNG TREES

- Standard: Type and timing of pruning operations to suit the plant species.
- Time of year: Do not prune during the late winter/ early spring sap flow period.
- Young trees up to 4 m high:
 - Crown prune by removing dead branches and reducing selected side branches by one third to preserve a well balanced head and ensure the development of a single strong leader.
 - Remove duplicated branches and potentially weak or tight forks. In each case cut back to live wood.
- Whips or feathered trees: Do not prune.
- Operatives: Approved specialist contractor.

620 REMOVAL OF DEAD PLANT MATERIAL

- Operations: At the end of the growing season, check all shrubs and remove all dead foliage, dead wood, and broken or damaged branches and stems.

645 WEED CONTROL GENERALLY

- Weed tolerance: At all times, weed cover less than 5% and no weed to exceed 100 mm high.
- Adjacent plants, trees and grass: Do not damage.

650 HAND WEDDING

- General: Remove weeds entirely, including roots.
- Disturbance: Remove the minimum quantity of soil, and disturb plants, bulbs and mulched surfaces as little as possible.
- Completion: Rake area to a neat, clean condition.
- Mulch: Reinstate to original depth.

690 MAINTENANCE OF LOOSE MULCH

- Thickness (minimum): 75 mm.
 - Top up: Annually.
- Mulch spill on adjacent areas: Remove weeds and rubbish and return to planted area.
- Weeding: Remove weeds growing on or in mulch by hand weeding.

695 FERTILIZING ESTABLISHED TREES AND SHRUBS

- Time of year: May of second or third year.
- Type of fertilizer: Enmag slow release fertiliser.
- Application: Spread evenly.
 - Rate: 100 g/m².

TREE WORK**810 TREE WORK GENERALLY**

- Identification: Before starting work agree which trees, shrubs and hedges are to be removed or pruned.
- Protection: Avoid damage to neighbouring trees, plants and property.
- Standards: To BS 3998 and Health & Safety Executive (HSE) 'Forestry and arboriculture safety leaflets.'
- Removing branches: Cut vertical branches similarly, with no more slope on the cut surface than is necessary to shed rainwater.
- Appearance: Leave trees with a well balanced natural appearance.
- Chain saw work: Operatives must hold a Certificate of Competence.
- Tree work: To be carried out by an approved member of the Arboricultural Association.

815 ADDITIONAL WORK

- Defective, diseased, unsafe or weak parts of trees additional to those scheduled for attention: Give notice if detected.

820 PREVENTION OF WOUND BLEEDING

- Standard: To BS 3998.

825 PREVENTION OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION

- Standard: To BS 3998.

830 CLEANING OUT AND DEADWOODING

- Remove:
 - Dead, dying, or diseased wood, broken branches and stubs.
 - Fungal growths and fruiting bodies.
 - Rubbish, wind blown or accumulated in branch forks.
 - Wires, clamps, boards and metal objects, if removable without causing further damage and not part of a support structure that is to be retained.
 - Other unwanted objects, e.g. tree houses, swings.
- Climbing plants N/A.

835 CUTTING AND PRUNING GENERALLY

- Tools: Appropriate, well maintained and sharp.
- Final pruning cuts:
 - Chainsaws: Do not use on branches of less than 50 mm diameter.
 - Hand saws: Form a smooth cut surface.
 - Anvil type secateurs: Do not use.
- Removing branches: Do not damage or tear the stem.
- Wounds: Keep as small as possible, cut cleanly back to sound wood leaving a smooth surface, and angled so that water will not collect on the cut area.
- Cutting: Cut at a fork or at the main stem to avoid stumps wherever possible.
Large branches: Remove only with prior approval.
 - Remove in small sections and lower to ground with ropes and slings.
- Dead branches and stubs: When removing, do not cut into live wood.
- Unsafe branches: Remove epicormic shoots and potentially weak forks that could fail in adverse weather conditions.
- Disease or fungus: Give notice if detected. Do not apply fungicide or sealant unless instructed.

840 CROWN REDUCTION / SHAPING

- General: Cut back selectively to lateral or sublateral buds or branches to retain flowing branch lines without leaving stumps.
- Operations: Reduce crown by 15%.

845 CROWN LIFTING

- Clearances: Remove branch systems to give clearance.
 - Height: 2.5 m above footpaths.
- Removing branches: Remove whole branches back to the stem, or cut lower portions of branches back to lateral or sublateral buds or branches. Do not leave stumps.

855 CUTTING TREE ROOTS

- Excavating: Use hand tools only.
- Protected area: Do not cut roots within an area which is the larger of:
 - The branch spread of the tree.
 - An area with a radius of half the tree's height, measured from the trunk.
- Outside protected area: Give notice of roots exceeding 50 mm in diameter. Do not cut without approval.
- Cutting:
 - Cutting: Make clean smooth cuts with a hand saw.
 - Wounds: Minimize. Avoid ragged edges.
 - Finishing: Pare cut surfaces smooth with a sharp knife.
- Backfilling:
 - Protection: Cover cut roots with clean sharp sand.
 - Material: Backfill with original topsoil.

860 REMOVING TREES, SHRUBS AND HEDGES

- Standards: To BS 3998 and Health & Safety Executive (HSE)/ Arboricultural and Forestry Advisory Group Safety Leaflets.
- Existing services: Check for below and above ground services. Give notice if they may be affected.
- Shrubs and smaller trees: Cut down and grub up roots.
- Tree stumps:
 - Treatment: Remove mechanically to a minimum depth of 300 mm below ground level.
 - Removal by winching: Give notice. Do not use other trees as supports or anchors.
- Protection: Avoid damage to neighbouring trees, plants and property.
- Work near retained trees: Where tree canopies overlap and in confined spaces generally, take down trees carefully in small sections to avoid damage to adjacent trees that are to be retained.
- Filling holes:
 - Material: Use as-dug material and/ or imported soil as required.
 - Finishing: Consolidate and grade to marry in with surrounding ground level.

865 BARK DAMAGE

- Wounds:
 - Do not attempt to stop sap bleeding.
 - Bark: Remove ragged edges using a sharp knife.
 - Wood: Remove splintered wood from deep wounds.
 - Size: Keep wounds as small as possible.
- Liquid or flux oozing from apparently healthy bark: Give notice.