

IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN:

Plant handling at the nursery, during transit up to delivery shall be in accordance with 'Plant Handling', the booklet published by the Committee for Plant Supply and Establishment (CPSE) and the Contractor shall comply with Clauses 3 & 4 of the above booklet (obtained from the Horticultural Trades Association, tel 01734 303 132) which refer to the receipt, unloading and temporary storage of plants.

Plants shall be first class examples of their species or variety, shall be free from all pests and diseases, with good fibrous root systems and materially undamaged (refer to relevant sections of BS3936 Parts 1-10 Specification of Nursery Stock) and BS4043 Transporting Root-balled Trees'.

All planting is to be in general compliance with BS4428, 1989 'Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations (excluding hard surfaces)'.

The Contractor shall protect all existing vegetation in accordance with BS 5837:2012 - 'Trees in Relation to Construction' during the whole of the contract period, up to Final Completion.

All shrubs / plants are to be planted within one week of delivery.

It is essential that all plants are sheltered from drying winds during their first winter and growing season. If the weather conditions are particularly severe or the site is subject to strong prevailing winds a protective windbreak should be erected, for example windbreak netting. This will help to prevent the plants drying out before their roots are established.

All works shall be carried out to the minimum standard according to:

BS 3936: 1980 Nursery Stock. Specification for Trees and Shrubs
BS 5236: 1975 Recommendations for the cultivation and planting of trees in the advanced nursery stock category. Planting of Root-balled trees, section 3.1 and section 3.2.3-3.2.5.

Any trees, shrubs, or other plants planted or retained in accordance with this landscape scheme that are removed, uprooted, destroyed, die, or become seriously damaged or diseased within five years of planting shall be replaced during the next available planting season. Replacement species shall match the original in size, form, and species unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. All replacements shall be subject to the same establishment and maintenance requirements as the original planting to ensure successful long-term growth.

Topsoil
The Contractor is to supply topsoil to the approval of the Contract Administrator. It shall comply with BS 3882: 2015- 'Specification for Topsoil' and shall also comply with the following specification.

Imported topsoil shall be a suitable medium for growing the ordinary range of grasses and cultivated plants under satisfactory conditions of management, Topsoil must be an 'as-dug' soil from an approved source, obtained from the top of the 150mm of ground. Manufactured or composite screened topsoil will not normally be acceptable. A sample of not less than 5 cubic metres load shall be approved by the Contract Administrator and retained for comparison with subsequent loads. Topsoil shall be stored on site in mounds not exceeding 2m high.

Topsoil Spreading
Where topsoil is used to make up levels, the material must be spread in layers not exceeding 300m and each layer must be firmed (not compacted) prior to spreading the next layer. The depth of fill after settlement shall be sufficient to achieve the required ground levels, within the tolerance specified.

Topsoil shall be spread over prepared subsoil in layers not exceeding 150mm and each layer firmed before the next is spread. At the time of laying, both the material and the weather must be reasonably dry. Overall minimum depths are firmed and settlement to be:

- i. For areas of shrub planting 450mm.
- ii. For areas of turf 150mm.

Mulch: All planting containers shall be spread with medium grade mulch to a maximum settled depth of 50 - 75mm. The mulch is to be free from fines, weeds, disease and contaminants. The use of Mulch: Areas around trees should be mulched to inhibit weed growth, reduce evaporation, resist compaction, enable gaseous exchange and water penetration to roots, and reduce maintenance requirements. The mulch material should be weed-free, non-matting, easy to apply, containable within the are of application and readily available. Fine particle organic mulch forms a more complete soil cover than a coarse, loose material.

Care should be taken to ensure that the material does not form an impermeable mat nor inhibit gaseous exchange to the bark of the tree or soil. Organic mulches should, therefore, not be spread up to the stem but leave a 75mm gap. Appropriate depth of mulch should be between 50mm and 75mm depending on the material and the design context. The area around the plant should be well watered prior to the application of mulching material.

The use of peat should be avoided for reasons of sustainability. Non-composted organic materials such as grass cuttings, leaves, straw, sawdust or wood chips should not be used as these extract nitrogen from the soil as they decompose and may promote weed or harmful forms of fungal growth. Black plastic matting should not be used around trees / plants as it inhibits water penetration and gaseous exchange, although permeable geo-textile mats can be beneficial in controlling weeds. Calcareous rock chippings (i.e. limestone) should not be used as these may raise the pH of soils to the detriment of most tree species.

All planting pits shall be backfilled using excavated topsoil improved with a peat-free compost applied at a rate of 7 litres per planting pit. In addition, each planting station shall receive an application of a UK-origin mycorrhizal fungi inoculant containing bio-additives, such as Rootgrow™ Professional supplied by PlantWorks UK Ltd, or equal and approved.

The mycorrhizal fungi component must consist of:

Viable spores

Strands of mycelium

Dried plant root material colonised by mycelium

Attapulgite clay acting as a natural carrier

The inoculant shall not include synthetic fertilisers. All included bio-additives must be demonstrably effective in enhancing mycorrhizal colonisation and root establishment. Application shall follow manufacturer's guidelines to ensure contact with roots at planting.

All shrubs and whips shall receive a slow-release fertiliser at the time of planting to support early root development and establishment. A product such as Agrobien® slow-release fertiliser tablets, or equal and approved, shall be used in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.

Fertiliser tablets shall be:

Incorporated directly into the planting pit at root zone level

Fully encapsulated to allow gradual nutrient release over an extended period (typically 8–16 months)

Free from high levels of soluble salts that may damage young roots

The use of slow-release fertilisers will ensure a balanced and sustained nutrient supply without the risk of leaching, supporting healthy growth during the critical establishment phase.

Fertiliser tablets apply to hedge planting only; not required for native herbaceous or bulb species

Turf: Cultivation- Break up any compacted topsoil to full depth and remove any undesirable material including stones larger than 50mm.
Grading - When topsoil is reasonably dry and workable grad to smooth, flowing, contours, with falls for adequate drainage.

Final Cultivation - After grading carry out further cultivation to reduce top 25mm to a fine firm seedbed. Rake to a true even surface, lightly firmed but not over

compacted, removing all stones and earth clods more than 40-50 mm diameter. Turf cultivated for the ornamental lawn area, supplied by a Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) member, to TGA Standards.

Delivery and Storage - Take all necessary precautions to avoid drying out and do not stack to a height of more than 1 metre.

Turfing Generally - Lay turf within 18 hours of delivery. Thoroughly water the completed turf immediately after laying. Newly planted trees-Neatly cut away turf to adiameter of 800mm around individual trees, leave soil exposed and much to a depth of 75mm.
Timing: The landscape Architect must be given 24 hours notice of intention to commence and / or anticipated completion as required for the following:
Topsoiling and earth shaping
Setting out
Cultivation
Inspection of plant material
Planting of trees into previously dug pits
Seeding or turfing
Softworks shall be implemented following the completion of all major excavation and building works.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

All new planting and hard landscape areas shall be maintained throughout the year as follows:

HARD LANDSCAPE AREAS

- Sweep up leaf fall under trees and windblown in formal and hard landscape areas.
- Sweep all hard landscape areas to remove dust and debris.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE (ALL SPECIES)

- All planting areas to be kept weed-free by hand-weeding or mulching (no herbicide use preferred).
- All dead, dying, diseased or vandalised plants are to be replaced with the same species and specification during the next planting season to ensure full establishment and design integrity.
- Watering during establishment (typically the first 2-3 growing seasons) is essential, particularly during dry spells.
- All planting beds to be topped up with much (e.g. composted bark) annually to suppress weeds, conserve moisture, and improve soil health.
- Litter and debris to be removed during routine visits.

TREE MAINTENANCE

- Stake and tie all trees securely at planting using adjustable rubber ties and double staking as appropriate.
- Monitor ties and stakes at every maintenance visit. Loosen ties as necessary to prevent stem constriction.
- Tree ties and stakes must be removed after 3 years, unless root anchorage is not yet sufficient. Assess root firmness before removal.
- Formative pruning in years 1-5 to remove deadwood, damaged or crossing branches and to encourage healthy structure.
- Protect all trees from accidental damage or removal, particularly during early establishment. Long- term protection measure may include tree guards or fencing in vulnerable areas.
- Inspect trees regularly for signs of pests, disease or instability and take remedial action promptly.

HEDGE MAINTENANCE

Establishment Phase (Years 1-3)

- Watering: provide supplemental watering during dry spells, particularly throughout the first two growing seasons to support root establishment.
- Weeding : Maintain a weed-free area around the base of the plants to reduce competition for nutrients and moisture.
- Mulching: Apply an annual layer of organic mulch to conserve soil moisture and suppress weed growth.
- Fertilization: Administer a balanced, slow-release fertilizer annually in early spring to promote healthy growth.

Pruning and Trimming Schedule

Initial Trim

Trim at the end of the first growing season (late autumn / winter). Light pruning of overly vigorous shoots to encourage bushiness and establish shape. Maintain form with light interventions.

Annual Trim

Late winter to early spring (pre-bud break), hard pruning to control height and width according to target dimensions. For 1200mm more frequent, rigorous trimming to maintain compactness. For 1800mm less frequent, moderate trimming for denser, taller hedge.

Summer Light Trim

Mid to late summer (optional) Light trimming to control lateral growth and encourage dense foliage. Particularly beneficial for hawthorn and hazel.

Dog Rose Pruning

Late winter of immediately post flowering, selective removal of dead, damaged or tangled stems to encourage healthy flowering growth. Heavy pruning is not recommended due to sensitivity.

General Maintenance

- Pest and Disease monitoring: Conduct regular inspections for common issues such as aphids, powdery mildew and leaf spots. Employ organic treatment methods promptly if needed.
- Stake removal: Remove support stakes after 2-3 years to promote natural, strong trunk development.
- Replacement planting : Fill in any gaps caused by plant loss during the dormant planting season (late autumn or early spring)

LOW GROWING HERBACIOUS AND BULBOUS PLANTING MIX

Establishment (Years 0-2):
Maintain the planting area free from weeds by hand-weeding or spot treatment as required. Water regularly during the first growing season and during prolonged dry periods thereafter to ensure successful establishment. Replace any failed plants in the next suitable planting season to maintain full cover. Maintain mulch to a depth of 50 mm to conserve moisture and suppress weed growth.

Ongoing Maintenance (Post-establishment):
Inspect the planting area annually and remove any litter, invasive, or self-seeded non-native species. Lightly cut back dead or damaged herbaceous growth in late winter to encourage new growth in spring. Top up mulch annually with organic compost or leaf mould. Avoid fertilisers and pesticides to protect soil health and promote wildlife value.

GRASSLAND ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Establishment and Seeding

Soil Preparation:
Loosen the soil to a depth of 15–20 cm. Remove weeds, stones, and debris. Apply a starter fertilizer rich in phosphorus to promote root development.

Seeding Rate:
Sow at approximately 30 grams per square meter.
Lightly rake the seed into the soil and gently firm with a roller.

Watering:
Keep the soil consistently moist (but not waterlogged) during germination. Expect germination within 7–21 days, depending on temperature and soil conditions.

Watering
Newly Established Lawn:

Water daily for the first 2–3 weeks, ensuring the top 2–3 cm of soil remains moist.

Established Lawn:
Water deeply (25–40 mm) once a week during dry periods.
Avoid frequent shallow watering, which promotes weak roots.

Mowing
First Cut:
Once the grass reaches 7–8 cm tall, reduce height gradually to about 4 cm.
Regular Mowing:
Ideal mowing height: 2.5–5 cm for a neat appearance and healthy growth.
Avoid cutting more than one-third of the grass height in a single mow.
Ensure blades are sharp to avoid tearing grass.

Feeding and Fertilizing
Spring:
Apply a nitrogen-rich fertilizer to encourage growth and greening.
Summer:
Use a balanced or slow-release fertilizer to maintain health during stress periods.
Autumn:
Apply a low-nitrogen, high-potassium fertilizer to strengthen roots for winter.

Aeration and Dethatching
Aeration:
Aerate annually in spring or autumn to reduce soil compaction and improve drainage.
Dethatching:
Remove thatch (dead grass buildup) every 1–2 years with a scarifier or rake to promote healthy regrowth.

Weed and Moss Control
Weeds:
Use a selective lawn weed killer in spring or summer to tackle broadleaf weeds.
Moss:
Apply a moss killer in early spring or autumn and rake out dead moss after treatment.

Overseeding
When:
Annually in spring or early autumn to fill in bare patches and maintain density.
How:
Mow the lawn short, aerate, and apply seed at 10–15 g/m². Water thoroughly.

Seasonal Care
Summer:
Water deeply in prolonged dry periods and avoid overuse of the lawn.
Autumn/Winter:
Reduce mowing frequency as growth slows. Avoid heavy traffic on wet or frosty grass to prevent damage.

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Project:	Hale View Road, Huyton
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