



L I Z A R D

Landscape Design and Ecology

Soft landscape Specifications

Blakers Yard, Dial Post, Horsham

Dial Post Developments LTD

Prepared by	RM
Approved by	KM
LLD Project Ref.	LLD2064
Document Ref.	LLD2064-LAN-SPE-001
Date	03 July 2025
Revision	02
Status	Planning Issue

Contents

Q28 Topsoil and soil ameliorants.....	1
Q30 Seeding/ turfing	7
Q31 External planting	13
Q35 Landscape maintenance	23

Q28 Topsoil and soil ameliorants

System outline

115 Topsoil system for turfing and seeding

1. **Description:** FOR ALL GRASSED
 - 1.1. **Topsoil:** Imported topsoil to BS 3882
 - 1.2. **Ameliorants:** None
 - 1.3. **Accessories:** None

135 Planting bed topsoil system

1. **Description:** FOR GENERAL PLANTING AREAS
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Topsoil:** Imported topsoil to BS 3882
 - 2.2. **Ameliorants:** None
 - 2.3. **Accessories:** None

145 Planting pit backfilling topsoil system

1. **Description:** For ornamental and native planting areas
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Topsoil:** Imported topsoil to BS 3882
 - 2.2. **Ameliorants:** None
 - 2.3. **Accessories:** None

155 Mulching and top dressing system Type A

1. **Description:** For planting areas
 - 1.1. **Location:** For all ornamental planting
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Material:** Sanitized and stabilized composted conifer bark mulch.
 - 2.2. **Size:** Medium grade ornamental bark mulch particle size 10 -35mm. No fines.
 - 2.3. **Additional requirements:** FSC certified;
Free from pests, disease, fungus, weeds or any contaminant that is hazardous to human or animal life or detrimental for plant growth.

Products

300 Preparation materials generally

1. **Purity:** Free of pests and disease.
2. **Foreign matter:** On visual inspection, free of fragments and roots of aggressive weeds, sticks, straw, subsoil, pieces of brick, concrete, glass, wire, large lumps of clay or vegetation, and the like.
3. **Contamination:** Do not use topsoil contaminated with subsoil, rubbish or other materials that are:
 - 3.1. Corrosive, explosive or flammable.
 - 3.2. Hazardous to human or animal life.

- 3.3. Detrimental to healthy plant growth.
4. **Subsoil:** In areas to receive topsoil or planting media, do not use subsoil contaminated with the above materials.
5. **Objectionable odour:** None.
6. **Give notice:** If any evidence or symptoms of soil contamination are discovered on the site or in topsoil or planting media to be imported.

305 Permitted materials

1. **Materials:** Composted bark;
Composted animal manures;
Composted green waste
2. **Give notice:** before ordering or using.
3. **Declaration of compliance in accordance with BS EN 13650:** Required

310 Materials not permitted

1. **Materials:** Products containing peat

315 Imported topsoil to BS 3882

1. **Description:** For ornamental and native planting areas
2. **Quantity:** Provide as necessary to complete the work.
3. **Standard:** To BS 3882.
4. **Classification:** Multipurpose
 - 4.1. **Soil textural class to BS 3882, Figure 1:** Sandy loam
5. **Source:** Local - submit proposals
 - 5.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals

340 Imported subsoil to BS 8601

1. **Description:** For ornamental and native planting areas
2. **Quantity:** Provide as necessary to complete the work.
3. **Standard:** To BS 8601.
4. **Classification:** Multipurpose
 - 4.1. **Soil textural class to BS 8601, Figure 1::** Sandy loam
5. **Source:** Local - submit proposals
 - 5.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals

Execution

610 Topsoil analysis

1. **Soil to be analysed:** Existing soil in soft landscape/ grass areas.
2. **Soil analyst:** Local soil lab
3. **Samples:** Collect in accordance with BS 3882.
4. **Submit**
 - 4.1. **Declaration of analysis:** In accordance with BS 3882, clause 6 and Table 1.
 - 4.2. **Additional analysis:** Chemical analysis
Chemical contaminants
Potentially toxic elements (PTEs)

- 4.3. Report detailing soil analyst's recommendations.

620 Importing topsoil

1. **Give notice:** Before stripping topsoil for transfer to site.
 - 1.1. **Notice period:** 14 days

625 Sample loads

1. **Description:** For imported topsoil
2. **Deliver to site a sample load:** of 5 kg
3. **Give notice:** Allow inspection before making further deliveries to site. Retain for comparison with subsequent loads.
 - 3.1. **Notice period:** 14 days

630 Documentation for imported topsoil

1. **Description:** For ornamental and native planting areas
2. **Timing:** Submit at handover.
3. **Contents**
 - 3.1. Full description of all soil components.
 - 3.2. Record of source for all soil components.
 - 3.3. Record drawings showing the location and depth of all soils by type and grade.
 - 3.4. **Declaration of analysis:** in accordance with BS 3882, clause 6 and Table 1.
4. **Number of copies:** As agreed with Contract Administrator

650 Notice

1. **Give notice before**
 - 1.1. Setting out.
 - 1.2. Spreading topsoil.
 - 1.3. Applying herbicide.
 - 1.4. Applying fertilizer.
 - 1.5. Visiting site during maintenance period.
2. **Period of notice:** 2 weeks

655 Mechanical tools

1. **Restrictions:** Do not use within 100 mm of tree and plant stems. Do not damage adjacent planting.

660 Grading subsoil for

1. **Description:** For ornamental and native planting areas
2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 8601.
3. **General:** Grade to smooth flowing contours to achieve specified finished levels of topsoil.
4. Avoid compaction.
5. **Excess subsoil:** Remove.

665 Subsoil surface preparation for

1. **Description:** For ornamental and native planting areas
2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 3882.
3. **General:** Excavate and/ or place fill to required profiles and levels.
4. **Loosening**
 - 4.1. **When ground conditions are sufficiently dry to allow breaking up of soils, loosen thoroughly to specified depth**
 - 4.1.1. **Light and noncohesive subsoils:** 300 mm
 - 4.1.2. **Stiff clay and cohesive subsoils:** 300 mm
 - 4.1.3. **Rock and chalk subgrades:** Lightly scarify to promote free drainage.
 - 4.2. **Wet conditions:** Do not loosen subsoils.
5. **Stones:** Immediately before spreading topsoil, remove stones larger than 50 mm.
6. **Remove from site:** Arisings, contaminants and debris;
Builders rubble

670 Inspecting formations

1. **Give notice:** Before spreading topsoil for ornamental and native planting areas.
2. **Notice period:** 14 days

680 Surplus topsoil to be retained

1. **Generally:** Spread and level on site:
 - 1.1. **Protected areas:** Do not raise soil level within root spread of trees that are to be retained.

685 Surplus materials to be removed

1. **Topsoil removal from site:** Topsoil remaining after completion of all landscaping work
2. **Subsoil, stones, debris, wrapping material, canes, ties, temporary labelling, rubbish, prunings and other arisings:** Remove.

690 Topsoil storage heaps

1. **Location:** As agreed with Contract Administrator
2. **Height (maximum):** 1.0 m
3. **Width (maximum):** Subject to space available
 - 3.1. **Formation:** Loose tip and shape from the side only, without running machinery on the heap at any time.
4. **Protection**
 - 4.1. Do not place any other material on top of storage heaps.
 - 4.2. Do not allow construction plant to pass over storage heaps.
 - 4.3. Prevent compaction and contamination, by fencing and covering as appropriate.

700 Grading of topsoil

1. **Topsoil condition:** Reasonably dry and workable.
2. **Contours:** Smooth and flowing, with falls for adequate drainage.
 - 2.1. **Hollows and ridges:** Not permitted.
3. **Give notice:** If required levels cannot be achieved by movement of existing soil.

705 Handling topsoil

1. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 3882.
2. **Aggressive weeds:** Give notice and obtain instructions before moving topsoil.
3. **Plant:** Select and use plant to minimize disturbance, trafficking and compaction.
4. **Contamination:** Do not mix topsoil with:
 - 4.1. Subsoil, stone, hardcore, rubbish or material from demolition work.
 - 4.2. Other grades of topsoil.
5. **Multiple handling:** Keep to a minimum. Use or stockpile topsoil immediately after stripping.
6. **Wet conditions:** Handle topsoil in the driest condition possible. Do not handle during or after heavy rainfall, or when the moisture content is greater than the plastic limit.

710 Spreading topsoil on

1. **Description:** For ornamental and native planting areas
2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 3882.
3. **Temporary roads/ surfacing:** Remove before spreading topsoil.
4. **Layers**
 - 4.1. **Depth (maximum):** 150 mm.
 - 4.2. Gently firm each layer before spreading the next.
5. **Depth after firming and settlement:** As shown in drawings LLD2064-LAN-DWG-300 and 301.
6. **Crumb structure:** Do not compact topsoil. Preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs wherever possible.

715 Loose tipping of topsoil

1. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 3882.
2. **General:** Do not firm, consolidate or compact topsoil when laying. Tip and grade to approximate levels in one operation with minimum of trafficking by plant.

718 Final cultivation

1. **Description:** For ornamental and native planting areas
2. **Compacted topsoil:** Break up to full depth.
3. **Tilth:** Loosen, aerate and break up topsoil to a tilth suitable for blade grading.
4. **Depth:** 300 mm
5. **Particle size (maximum):** 20 mm
6. **Timing:** Within a few days before planting
7. **Weather and ground conditions:** Suitably dry.
8. **Surface:** Leave regular and even.
9. **Levels:** As shown on drawings
10. **Undesirable material brought to the surface**
 - 10.1. Remove visible weeds.
 - 10.2. Remove roots and large stones with any dimension exceeding 50 mm

720 Finished levels of topsoil after settlement

1. **In relation to adjoining paving, kerbs or hard surfaces:** 25 mm below
2. **In relation to dpc of adjoining buildings:** Not less than 150 mm below.
3. **In relation to adjacent grass areas:** 25 mm below
4. **Seeded areas:** Extend cultivation into existing adjacent grassed areas sufficient to ensure full marrying in of levels.
5. **Within root spread of existing trees and shrubs to be retained:** Do not dig or cultivate.
6. **Adjoining soil areas:** Marry in.
7. **Thickness of turf or mulch:** Included.

720 Finished levels of topsoil after settlement (newer)

1. **In relation to adjoining paving, kerbs or hard surfaces:** 25 mm below
2. **In relation to dpc of adjoining buildings:** Not less than 150 mm below.
3. **In relation to adjacent grass areas:** 50 mm below
4. **Seeded areas:** Extend cultivation into existing adjacent grassed areas sufficient to ensure full marrying in of levels.
5. **Within root spread of existing trees and shrubs to be retained:** Do not dig or cultivate.
6. **Adjoining soil areas:** Marry in.
7. **Thickness of turf or mulch:** Included.

845 Applying loose mulch

1. **Description:** For ornamental and native planting areas
2. **Timing:** Immediately after planting
3. **Preparation:** Clear all weeds;
Water soil thoroughly
4. **Coverage of mulch (minimum)**
 - 4.1. **Planting beds (depth):** 75 mm depth
 - 4.2. **Trees:** 75 mm depth
5. **Finished level of mulch:** 0-25 mm below adjacent paved areas

Ω End of Section

Q30 Seeding/ turfing

General information/requirements

115 Seeded and turfed areas

1. **Growth and development:** Healthy, vigorous grass sward, free from the visible effects of pests, weeds and disease.
2. **Appearance:** A closely knit, continuous ground cover of even density, height and colour.

120 Climatic conditions

1. **General:** Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable.

145 Watering

1. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil.
2. **Application:** Even and without displacing seed, seedlings or soil.
3. **Frequency:** As necessary to ensure the establishment and continued thriving of all seeding/turfing.

150 Water restrictions

1. **Timing:** If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation do not carry out seeding/turfing until instructed. If seeding/turfing has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering.

160 Notice

1. **Give notice before**
 - 1.1. Setting out.
 - 1.2. Applying herbicide.
 - 1.3. Applying fertilizer.
 - 1.4. Preparing seed bed.
 - 1.5. Seeding or turfing.
 - 1.6. Visiting site during maintenance period.
2. **Period of notice:** 2 weeks

170 Setting out

1. **Boundaries:** Mark clearly.
2. **Delineation:** In straight lines or smoothly flowing curves as shown on drawings.

Preparation

210 Herbicide

1. **Description:** For proposed grassland areas.
2. **Type:** Suitable for suppressing perennial weeds.
3. **Timing:** Allow fallow period before cultivation.
 - 3.1. **Duration:** As manufacturer's recommendation

212 Seed bed cleaning before sowing

1. **Description:** All grassed areas
2. **Operations:** Kill pernicious weeds with selective contact herbicide.

250 Soil requirements

1. **Type**
 - 1.1. **Seeded areas:** Soil for grass swards, as section Q28
 - 1.2. **Turfed areas:** Soil for grass swards, as section Q28

Seeding

312 Wildflower seed mixture

1. **Description:** For wildflower meadows in the swale and ditch
2. **Supplier:** Emorsgate
 - 2.1. **Web::** www.wildseed.co.uk
 - 2.2. **Email::** enquiries@emorsgateseeds.com
 - 2.3. **Mixture reference:** EP1 – Pond Edge Mixture
3. **Origin of each species (as defined in Flora Locale's Code of practice for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora):** Locally collected - subject to availability.
4. **Application rate:** 4 g/m²

312 Wildflower seed mixture Type A

1. **Description:** For wildflower meadows in the shaded areas along the boundaries
2. **Supplier:** Emorsgate
 - 2.1. **Web::** www.wildseed.co.uk
 - 2.2. **Email::** enquiries@emorsgateseeds.com
 - 2.3. **Mixture reference:** EH1 – Hedgerow Mixture
3. **Origin of each species (as defined in Flora Locale's Code of practice for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora):** Locally collected - subject to availability.
4. **Application rate:** 4 g/m²

319 Quality of seed

1. **Description:** To seed mixtures.
2. **Freshness:** Produced for the current growing season.
3. **Certification:** Blue label certified varieties.
 - 3.1. **Standard:** EC purity and germination regulations.
 - 3.2. **Official Seed Testing Station certificate of germination, purity and composition:** Submit when requested.
4. **Samples of mixtures:** Submit when requested.

322 Quality of wildflower seed

1. **Description:** FOR NATURALIZED AREAS
2. **Standard:** In accordance with Flora Locale's 'Code of practice for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora'.
3. **Germination testing:** Submit germination test results (to ISTA International rules for seed testing) in situation described below
4. **Freshness of seed:** Produced for the current growing season. Otherwise supply germination test certificate confirming viability for the planned growing season.
5. **Samples:** Submit when requested.

330 Sowing

1. **General:** Establish good seed contact with the root zone.
2. **Method:** To suit soil type, proposed usage, location and weather conditions during and after sowing.
 - 2.1. **Distribution:** 2 equal sowings at right angles to each other.

335 Grass sowing season

1. **Grass seed generally:** April to October, and ideally late summer/ early autumn, when soil temperature is relatively high and there is adequate rainfall or as Seed Supplier's recommendations

336 Wildflower sowing season

1. **Wildflower seed generally:** March to May or August to October

340 Pre-emergent herbicide

1. **Description:** For areas to accept wildflower seed mix.
2. **Standard:** Pesticide Safety Directorate approved.
3. **Application rate:** In accordance with manufacturer's written recommendation.
 - 3.1. **Timing:** Immediately after sowing.

Turfing

400 Cultivated turf

1. **Description:** FOR LAWNS
2. **Supplier:** County Turf
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** County Shade
3. **Properties of soil used for turf production:** Well drained sandy loam

410 Turf to BS 3969

1. **Description:** FOR LAWNS
2. **Standard:** To BS 3969, free from undesirable grasses and weeds.
3. **Source:** County Turf
4. **Herbicide treatment:** Apply not less than four weeks and not more than three months before lifting.

420 Delivery and storage

1. **Timing:** Lay turf with minimum possible delay after lifting. If delay occurs, lay turf out on topsoil and keep moist.
2. **Frosty weather or waterlogged ground:** Do not lift turf.
3. **Delivery:** Arrange to avoid need for excessive stacking.
4. **Stacking height (maximum):** 1 m.
5. **Dried out or deteriorated turf:** Do not use.
6. **Certification**
 - 6.1. **Standard:** To BS 3969.
 - 6.2. **Declaration:** Sward species composition

423 Inspection of turf

1. **Description:** FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS
2. **Sampling method:** To BS 3969.
3. **Give notice:** Before lifting turf.
 - 3.1. **Period of notice:** 1 week

427 Weed suppression membrane

1. **Description:** FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS
2. **Manufacturer:** Submit proposals
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals
3. **Laps:** Minimum 100 mm side and end laps.
4. **Laying sequence:** After final cultivation and immediately before turfing.
5. **Anchoring:** Sufficient topsoil or sand spread evenly over membrane to prevent wind uplift.

430 Turfing generally

1. **Time of year:** Autumn or early winter
2. **Timing of laying**
 - 2.1. **Spring and summer:** Within 18 hours of delivery.
 - 2.2. **Autumn and winter:** Within 24 hours of delivery.
3. **Weather conditions:** Do not lay turf when persistent cold or drying winds are likely to occur or soil is frost bound, waterlogged or excessively dry.
4. **Working access:** Planks laid on previously laid turf. Do not walk on prepared bed or newly laid turf.
5. **Jointing:** Laid with broken joints, well butted up. Do not stretch turf.
6. **Edges:** Whole turfs, trimmed to a true line.
7. **Adjusting levels:** Remove high spots and fill hollows with fine soil.
8. **Consolidating:** Lightly and evenly firm as laying proceeds to ensure full contact with substrate. Do not use rollers.
9. **Dressing, brushed well in to completely fill all joints:** Mulching and top dressing system, as section Q28
10. **Watering:** Thoroughly water completed turf immediately after laying. Check that water has penetrated into the soil below.

Protecting/cutting

510 Protective fencing

1. **Fencing type:** Dense mesh fencing
 - 1.1. **Height:** 0.9 m
2. **Erection:** On completion of seeding/ turfing.
3. **Removal:** After grass is well established. Fencing will remain the property of the Contractor

530 First cut of grassed areas

1. **Timing:** When grass is reasonably dry.
 - 1.1. **Height of initial growth:** 75 mm or as seed mix Supplier's recommendations.
2. **Preparation**
 - 2.1. **Debris and litter:** Remove.
 - 2.2. **Stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension:** Remove
3. **Height of first cut:** 50 mm
4. **Mower type:** Rotary. Ensure grass cutting machinery is very sharp and in good condition to avoid pulling out young seedlings.
5. **Arisings:** Remove from site

540 First cut of

1. **Description:** Wildflower Grassland Area
2. **Height of initial growth:** 75 mm
3. **Preparation:**
4. **Debris and litter:** Remove.
 - 4.1. **Stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension:** Remove
5. **Height of first cut:** 50 mm
6. **Mower type:** Contractor's choice, but ensure cutting machinery is very sharp and in good condition to avoid pulling out young seedlings.
7. **Arisings:** Leave the initial mowings in situ for a few days to allow seed to drop to the ground, then collect arisings and remove from site.

590 Cleanliness

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

Maintenance

610 Failures of seeding

1. Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turving until: the end of the rectification period - TBC.
2. Defective materials or workmanship: Areas that have failed to thrive.
 - 2.1. Exclusions: Theft or malicious damage.
3. Method of making good: Recultivation and reseeding/ returfing.
4. Timing of making good: The next suitable planting season

620 Maintaining

1. Description: LAWNS
2. Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turving until: the end of the rectification period.
3. Maximum height of growth at any time: 75 mm
4. Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris.
5. Cutting: As and when necessary to a height of 50 mm.
 - 5.1. Arisings: Remove
6. Bulb planting areas: Do not cut until bulb foliage has died down.
7. Trimming: All edges.
 - 7.1. Arisings: Remove.
8. Weed control: Substantially free of broad leaved weeds.
 - 8.1. Method: Application of a suitable selective herbicide.
9. Stones brought to the surface: Remove regularly.
 - 9.1. Size: Exceeding 25 mm in any dimension.
10. Areas of settlement: Make good.
11. Watering:

Ω End of Section

Q31 External planting

General information/ requirements

112 Site clearance generally

1. **Description:**
2. **General:** Remove rubbish, concrete, metal, glass, decayed vegetation and contaminated topsoil
3. **Contamination:** Remove material containing toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life
4. **Vegetation:** Clear scrub to ground level by flail mowing and remove arisings; retain and protect trees indicated on drawings
5. **Large roots:** Grub up and dispose of without undue disturbance of soil and adjacent areas

118 Soil conditions

1. **Soil for cultivating and planting:** Moist, friable and (except in aquatic/ marginal planting) not waterlogged
2. **Frozen or snow-covered soil:** Give notice before planting. Provide additional root protection. Prevent planting pit sides and bases and backfill materials from freezing

120 Climatic conditions

1. **General:** Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable
 - 1.1. **Strong winds:** Do not plant

125 Times of year for planting

1. **Deciduous trees and shrubs:** Late October to late March
2. **Conifers and evergreens:** September/ October or April/ May
3. **Herbaceous plants (including marginal):** September/ October or March/ April
4. **Container-grown plants:** At any time, if ground and weather conditions are favourable
 - 4.1. **Watering and weed control:** Provide as necessary
5. **Dried bulbs, corms and tubers:** September/ October
6. **Colchicum (crocus):** July/ August
7. **Green bulbs:** After flowering in spring

130 Mechanical tools

1. **Restrictions:** Do not use within 100 mm of tree and plant stems

145 Watering

1. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil.
2. **Application:** Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
3. **Frequency:** As necessary to ensure establishment and continued thriving of planting. Two times per week in summer as minimum during establishment period.

145 Watering (newer)

1. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil. 20l per application in summer. Less (c. 10l) in the spring and autumn.
2. **Application:** Even, and without damage or displacement of plants or soil
3. **Frequency:** When planted, and at the point of bud burst in the spring. To be continued throughout the spring and summer until the leaves have fallen in autumn (for deciduous trees)
Apply water every second day during summer.

146 Watering (newer) Planting Areas

1. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil
2. **Application:** Even, and without damage or displacement of plants or soil
3. **Frequency:** As maintenance schedule

146 Watering (newer) Trees

1. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil
2. **Application:** Even, and without damage or displacement of plants or soil
3. **Frequency:** As maintenance schedule

146 Watering Planting Areas

1. **Quantity:** Soil analysis to be undertaken to measure matric potential (capacity to release water) of soil prior to calculating irrigation needs. If soil analysis not practical, apply 20 l per application in the summer. Less (c. 10 l) in the spring and autumn.
2. **Application:** Wet full depth of topsoil. Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
3. **Frequency:** When planted, and at the point of bud burst in the spring. To be continued throughout the spring and summer until the leaves have fallen in autumn (for deciduous species)
Apply water two times per week during summer.

150 Water restrictions

1. **General:** If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation, do not carry out planting until instructed. If planting has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering

160 Notice

1. **Give notice before**
 - 1.1. Setting out.
 - 1.2. Applying herbicide.
 - 1.3. Applying fertilizer.
 - 1.4. Delivery of plants/ trees.
 - 1.5. Planting shrubs.
 - 1.6. Planting trees into previously dug pits.
 - 1.7. Watering.
 - 1.8. Visiting site during maintenance period.
2. **Period of notice:** Two weeks

170 Soil requirements

1. Type
 - 1.1. **Planted beds:** Planting bed soil system, as section Q28
 - 1.2. **Tree pits, shrub pits and other backfilling:** Plant pit backfilling soil system, as section Q28
 - 1.3. **Mulch applied after planting:** Mulching and top dressing system, as section Q28

200 Plants/ trees – general

1. **Standard:** The [National Plant Specification](#)
2. **Condition:** Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous
3. **Appearance:** Of good shape and without elongated shoots
4. **Hardiness:** Grown in a suitable environment and hardened off
5. **Health:** Free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders
6. **Budded or grafted plants:** Bottom worked.
7. **Root system and condition:** Balanced with branch system
8. **Species:** True to name
9. **Origin/ provenance:** Grown in the United Kingdom for at least one growing season, unless otherwise approved
10. **Definition:** Origin and provenance have the meaning given in the [National Plant Specification](#)
11. **Verification:** Request verification requirements over and above any covered by Project Management/ Preliminaries.
 - 11.1. **Submittals:** Origin and provenance as per the National Plant Specification.
 - 11.2. **Timing:** Confirm species and size during early design stage or at least four weeks before procurement.

215 Plants/ trees – specification criteria

1. **Name, forms, dimensions, provenance and other criteria:** As scheduled and defined in the [National Plant Specification](#).

235 Container-grown plants/ trees

1. **Standard:** The [National Plant Specification](#)
2. **Growing medium:** With adequate nutrients for plants to thrive until permanently planted
3. **Plants:** Centred in containers, firmed and well-watered
4. **Root growth:** Substantially filling containers, but not root-bound, and in a condition conducive to successful transplanting
5. **Hardiness:** Grown in the open for at least two months before being supplied
6. **Containers:** With holes adequate for drainage when placed on any substrate commonly used under irrigation systems
7. **Verification:** Request verification requirements over and above any covered by Project Management/ Preliminaries.
 - 7.1. **Submittals:** Origin and provenance as per the National Plant Specification.
 - 7.2. **Timing:** Instruction once order has been placed.

245 Labelling to National Plant Specification and other information

1. **General:** Provide each plant/ tree (or group of plants/ trees) of a single species or cultivar with the supplier's labelling for delivery to site, showing:
 - 1.1. Full botanical name.
 - 1.2. Total number.
 - 1.3. Number of bundles.
 - 1.4. Part bundles.
 - 1.5. The supplier's name.
 - 1.6. The employer's name and project reference.
 - 1.7. Plant specification, in accordance with scheduled [National Plant Specification](#) categories.
2. Additional information: Submit on request: Date supplied and consignment details or reference

260 Plant/ tree substitution

1. Plants/ trees unobtainable, or likely to be unobtainable at time of ordering. Submit alternatives, stating:
 - 1.1. **Price:**
 - 1.2. **Difference from specified plants/ trees:**
2. **Approval:** Obtain before making any substitution

265 Plant handling, storage, transport and planting

1. **Standard:** To Committee of Plant Supply and Establishment (CPSE) [Recommendations for Plant Handling](#).
2. **Frost:** Protect plants from frost.
3. **Handling:** Handle plants with care. Protect them from mechanical damage and do not subject them to shock, e.g. by dropping them from a vehicle.
4. **Plant packaging:** Compliant with the [Packaging Waste Regulations](#)
5. **Packaging of bulk quantities:** Compliant with the [Packaging Waste Regulations](#)
6. **Planting:** Upright or well balanced, with best side to front.
7. **Verification:** Request verification requirements over and above any covered by Project Management/ Preliminaries.
 - 7.1. **Submittals:** Submit detailed procedures for handling plants to ensure minimal stress and damage.
 - 7.2. **Timing:** Before delivery.

280 Treatment of tree wounds

1. **Cutting:** Keep wounds as small as possible.
 - 1.1. Cut cleanly back to sound wood using sharp, clean tools.
 - 1.2. Leave branch collars. Do not cut flush with stem or trunk.
 - 1.3. Set cuts so that water will not collect on cut area.
2. **Fungicide/ sealant:** Do not apply unless instructed.

290 Surplus material

1. **Subsoil:** Remove
2. **Stones:** Remove
3. **Debris:** Non-contaminated debris and woody arisings can be retained for habitat creation on site.
4. **Wrapping material:** Remove
5. **Canes:** Remove
6. **Ties:** Remove
7. **Temporary labels:** Remove
8. **Rubbish:** Remove
9. **Prunings and other arisings:** Remove

Preparation of planting beds/ planting materials

300 Herbicide

1. **Description:** To clear existing vegetation
2. **Manufacturer:**
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals
3. **Third-party certification:** Manufactured under a quality system complying with BS EN ISO 9001
4. **Locations:** Whole site
5. **Type:** Suitable for suppressing perennial weeds
6. **Programme:** Allow fallow period before cultivation
 - 6.1. **Duration (minimum):** As manufacturer's recommendation
7. **Verification:** Request verification requirements over and above any covered by Project Management/ Preliminaries.
 - 7.1. **Submittals:** Accredited laboratory test reports, showing results for efficacy, environmental impact and safety compliance.
 - 7.2. **Timing:** Four weeks prior to application.

Planting shrubs/ herbaceous plants/ bulbs

400 Random plant layout

1. **Description:** To native shrub planting
2. **Spacing:** Random groups of three to 11 plants of the same species.
3. **Density:** As plant schedule

401 Regular plant layout

1. **Description:** To planting beds
2. **Spacing:** In regular, staggered rows
3. **Density:** If single-species groups are not demarcated in construction drawings, for herbaceous perennials, group 3-5 plants per m², to achieve specified numbers.

405 Shrub planting pits

1. **Description:** To all shrub planting pits.
2. **Timing:** Excavate One to two days (maximum) before planting.

3. **Sizes:** Wide enough to accommodate roots when fully spread and 75 mm deeper than root system
4. **Pit bottom improvement** Break up to a depth of 150 mm, incorporating 25 g of slow-release fertilizer per planting pit.

415 Anti-desiccant for conifers/ evergreens

1. **Description:** For locations refer to Detailed Planting Plans
2. **Manufacturer:** Submit proposals
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals
3. **Application:** Dip before delivering to site. Spray soon after planting
 - 3.1. Do not apply in wet or frosty weather.
 - 3.2. Ensure full coverage of underside of foliage.

470 Formal hedges

1. **Description:** Refer to Detailed Planting Plan
2. **Shrubs for hedges:** Consistent in species, cultivar and clone to ensure a uniform hedge.
3. **Planting:** In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly.

471 Naturalized hedges

1. **Description:** To all native mixed species hedges
2. **Trees and shrubs for hedges:** Native species, with diversity in height, growth habit and seasonal interest to enhance biodiversity.
3. **Planting:** In trenches large enough to take the full spread of roots. Set plants out evenly.

480 After planting

1. **Description:** To all planting areas.
2. **Watering:** Immediately after planting, thoroughly, and without damaging or displacing plants or soil
3. **Firming:** Lightly firm soil around plants and fork and/ or rake soil, without damaging roots, to a fine tilth with gentle cambers and no hollows
4. **Top dressing:** Mulching and top dressing system, as section Q28
 - 4.1. **Depth:** 75 mm

Planting trees

500 Tree planting

1. **Standard:** Prepare trees and transplant in accordance with [BS 4428](#)

502 Anti-desiccant for conifers/ evergreens

1. **Description:** To evergreen plants.
2. **Manufacturer:** Submit proposals
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals
3. **Application:** Dip or thoroughly spray before delivering to site. Spray again soon after planting
 - 3.1. Do not apply in wet or frosty weather.
 - 3.2. Ensure full coverage of underside of foliage.

535 Tree stakes

1. **Description:** To all extra-heavy standard trees.
2. **Stakes:** Softwood, peeled chestnut, larch or oak; straight, free from projections and large or edge knots, and with pointed lower end

550 Double staking

1. **Description:** For extra-heavy standards.
2. **Staking**
 - 2.1. **Position:** Either side of tree position, and perpendicular to wind direction
 - 2.2. **Driving:** Vertically at least 300 mm into bottom of pit before planting
 - 2.3. **Backfilling:** Consolidate material around stake
 - 2.4. **Firming:** Sufficiently firm to prevent movement of the root ball/ rootstock
3. **Height of stakes:** Cut off at approximately one third of the height of the clear stem of tree
4. **Horizontal bracing:** Timber cross bar, 75 x 38 x 900 mm
 - 4.1. **Fixing:** Firmly fix, using nails on the windward side of the tree, and as close as possible to the stem, without making contact with the bark. Position cross bar horizontally and 25 mm from the top of the stakes
5. **Ties:** Biodegradable natural fibre
6. **Tying:** Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to cross bar. Prevent tree from touching cross bar using spacer blocks or cushions if required
7. **Nails for fixing ties, belts and webbing:** To BS 1202-1, galvanized; a minimum of 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads
8. **Nails for fixing cross bars:** To BS 1202-1, galvanized round wire; a minimum of 75 mm long and 3.75 mm gauge

576 Tree pit surfacing - loose fill

1. **Surfacing material:** Mulch, as section Q28
2. **Area:** Entire planting area
3. **Depth:** 75 mm
4. **Watering:** Water soil thoroughly before laying.
5. **Installation:** Ensure the base of the tree stem is kept free from loose filled material. Ensure root flare clearly visible above ground level.

576 Tree pit surfacing - loose fill (newer)

1. **Description:** Refer to Detailed Planting Plan
2. **Surfacing material:** Mulch, as section Q28
3. **Area:** 600 mm radius circle
4. **Depth:** 75 mm
5. **Watering:** Water soil thoroughly before laying
6. **Installation:** Ensure that the base of the tree stem is kept free from loose-filled material

Protecting/ maintaining/ making good defects

710 Maintenance

1. Duration: Carry out the operations in the following clauses from completion of planting until the end of the rectification period. The rectification period is to be for 1 year (TBC with form of contract) after practical completion..
2. **Frequency of maintenance visits:** TBC with land owner. In accordance with the agreed maintenance schedule/ monthly?

710 Maintenance (newer)

1. Duration: Carry out the operations in the following clauses from completion of planting until The end of the rectification period - TBC.
2. **Frequency of maintenance visits:** In accordance with the agreed maintenance schedule

720 Failures of planting

1. **Defects due to materials or workmanship not in accordance with the Contract:** Plants/ trees/ shrubs that have failed to thrive.
 - 1.1. **Exclusions:** Theft or malicious damage after completion.
 - 1.2. **Rectification:** Replace with equivalent plants/ trees/ shrubs.
2. **Replacements:** To match size of adjacent or nearby plants of same species or match original specification, whichever is the greater.
3. **Timing of making good:** During the next suitable planting season

740 Cleanliness

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

750 Planting maintenance generally

1. **Weed control:** Maintain weed free area around each tree and shrub.
 - 1.1. **Diameter (minimum):** The larger of 1 m or the surface of original planting pit.
 - 1.2. **Keep planting beds clear of weeds:** By maintaining full thickness of mulch
2. **Planted areas:** Fork over beds as necessary to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Take care not to reduce depth or effect of mulch.
3. **Precautions:** Ensure that trees and shrubs are not damaged by use of mowers, nylon filament rotary cutters and similar powered tools.
4. **Firming up:** Gently firm loosened soil around trees/ shrubs. Straighten leaning trees/ shrubs.
5. **Trees:** Spray crown when in leaf during warm weather.
 - 5.1. **Timing:** After dusk.
6. **Tree accessories:** Check condition of stakes, ties, guys, guards and irrigation and ventilation systems.
 - 6.1. **Broken or missing items:** Replace.
 - 6.2. **Loose stakes:** Re-firm in the ground or replace as necessary to provide support to the tree.
 - 6.3. **Loose guys:** Re-firm anchor points and adjust as necessary to provide support to the tree.
 - 6.4. **Ties:** Adjust to accommodate growth and prevent constriction or abrasion.
 - 6.5. **Damage to bark:** Cut back neatly with sharp knife. Prevent further damage.
 - 6.6. **Frequency of checks:** At each scheduled maintenance visit
7. **Watering:** As required for healthy establishment, depending on weather conditions

750 Planting maintenance generally (newer)

1. **Weed control:** Maintain weed-free area around each tree and shrub
 - 1.1. **Diameter (minimum):** The surface of original planting pit
 - 1.2. **Keep planting beds clear of weeds:** By maintaining full thickness of mulch
2. **Planted areas:** Fork over beds as necessary to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Take care not to reduce depth or effect of mulch
3. **Precautions:** Ensure that trees and shrubs are not damaged by use of mowers, nylon filament rotary cutters and similar powered tools
4. **Firming up:** Gently firm loosened soil around trees/ shrubs. Straighten leaning trees/ shrubs
5. **Trees:** Spray crown when in leaf during warm weather.
 - 5.1. **Timing:** After dusk.
6. **Tree accessories:** Check condition of stakes, ties, guys, guards, and irrigation and ventilation systems
 - 6.1. **Broken or missing items:** Replace.
 - 6.2. **Loose stakes:** Re-firm in the ground or replace as necessary to provide support to the tree.
 - 6.3. **Loose guys:** Re-firm anchor points and adjust as necessary to provide support to the tree.
 - 6.4. **Ties:** Adjust to accommodate growth and prevent constriction or abrasion.
 - 6.5. **Damage to bark:** Cut back neatly with sharp knife. Prevent further damage.
 - 6.6. **Frequency of checks:** At each scheduled maintenance visit

7. **Watering:** As required for healthy establishment, depending on weather conditions

760 Planting maintenance – pruning

1. **General:** Prune to promote healthy growth and natural shape
 - 1.1. **Dead, dying, diseased wood and suckers:** Remove.
 - 1.2. **Timing:** In accordance with the agreed maintenance schedule
 - 1.3. **Trees:** Favour a single central leading shoot
2. **Arisings:** Remove.

780 Maintenance instructions

1. **General:** Before end of the maintenance period, submit printed instructions recommending procedures to be established by the employer for the maintenance of the planting work for one full year: Provide a schedule of any ongoing maintenance problems experienced during the rectification period.

790 Final mulching

1. **Timing:** At end of the maintenance period
2. **Watering:** Ensure that soil is thoroughly moistened prior to re-mulching, applying water where necessary
3. **Planting beds:** Re-mulch
4. **Depth (minimum):** 75 mm
5. **Trees:** Re-mulch
6. **Depth (minimum):** 75 mm

Ω End of Section

Q35 Landscape maintenance

Generally

105 Maintenance objectives

1. **Location:** Soft landscape scheme.
 - 1.1. **Duration:** 5 years
2. **Aims:** Safeguard and improve landscape quality; Improved landscape visual amenity; Provide wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity
3. **Restrictions:** As described in any third party reports and Landscape Management Plan.
4. **Results:** Successful establishment; Long-term contribution to landscape character and biodiversity; Visual amenity.

110 Notice

1. **Give notice before**
 - 1.1. Application of herbicide.
 - 1.2. Application of fertilizer.
 - 1.3. Watering.
 - 1.4. Each site maintenance visit.
2. **Period of notice:** Seven days

130 Reinstatement

1. **Damage or disturbance to soil structure, planting, grass, fencing, hard landscaping, structures or buildings:** Reinstatement to original condition.

155 Watering

1. **Supply:** Potable mains water
2. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil. Application dose and frequency to be determined on soil analysis including matric potential (capacity to release water). If soil analysis not practical/ results not available, apply 20 l per application per tree two times per week during establishment period (first two years) during summer. Post establishment, irrigate only when required, due to prolonged period of dry weather. Always check soil moisture before applying new dose.
3. **Application:** Do not damage or loosen plants. Apply in the morning.
4. **Compacted soil:** Loosen or scoop out, to direct water to rootzone.
5. **Frequency:** As necessary for the continued thriving of all planting.

155 Watering (newer)

1. **Supply:** Potable mains water
2. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil
3. **Application:** Do not damage or loosen plants.
4. **Compacted soil:** Loosen or scoop out, to direct water to rootzone.
5. **Frequency:** As necessary for the continued thriving of all planting

170 Disposal of arisings

1. **General:** Unless specified otherwise, dispose of arisings as follows:
 - 1.1. **Biodegradable arisings:** Compost on site or remove to recycling facility
 - 1.2. **Grass cuttings:** Compost on site or remove to recycling facility
 - 1.3. **Tree roots and stumps:** If not diseased, reuse for habitat creation.
 - 1.4. **Shrub and tree prunings:** If not diseased, reuse for habitat creation.
 - 1.5. **Litter and nonbiodegradable arisings:** Remove from site

180 Chipping or shredding

1. **General:** TBC with contract administrator.

181 Mechanical equipment

1. **General:** Minimize.
2. **Prohibited equipment:** TBC with land owner.
3. **Timing:** Use of mechanical equipment allowed between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm only

190 Litter

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

195 Protection of existing grass

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

197 Cleanliness

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

Grassed areas

210 Performance-based maintenance of grassed areas

1. **General:** Maintain turf in a manner appropriate to the intended use.
2. **Soil and grass**
 - 2.1. **Condition:** Maintain a healthy vigorous sward, free from disease, fungal growth, discolouration, scorch or wilt.
 - 2.2. **Waterlogging and compaction:** Prevent.
 - 2.3. **Damage:** Repair trampling, abrasion or scalping.
3. **Ornamental lawns:** Maintain reasonably free from moss, excessive thatch, weeds, frost heave, worm casts and mole hills.
 - 3.1. **Edges:** Neat and well defined, in clean, straight lines or smooth-flowing curves.
4. **Litter and fallen leaves:** Remove regularly to maintain a neat appearance.

211 Maintenance of grassed areas

1. **Standard:** To BS 7370-3. Carry out maintenance appropriate to each category of turf, as follows:
 - 1.1. **Objectives:** To BS 7370-3, Table 6.
 - 1.2. **Programme:** To BS 7370-3, clause 11.
 - 1.3. **Mowing methods:** To BS 7370-3, Table 3.

220 Grass cutting generally

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

225 Tree stems

1. **Precautions:** Do not use mowing machinery closer than 100 mm to tree stems. Use nylon filament rotary cutters and other handheld mechanical tools carefully to avoid damage to bark

240 Mowing strips

1. **Location:** As drawing LLD2064-LAN-DWG-200 series
2. **Width (approximate):** 150 mm.
3. **Operations:** Maintain by applying a suitable herbicide twice during the growing season

250 Leaf removal

1. **Operations:** Collect fallen leaves.
2. **Special requirements:** None
3. **Disposal:** Compost on site or remove to recycling facility.

255 First cut of

1. **Description:** Lawns
2. **Height of initial growth:** 75 mm
3. **Preparation**
 - 3.1. **Debris and litter:** Remove.
 - 3.2. **Stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension:** Remove
4. **Height of first cut:** 25 mm
5. **Mower type:** Rotary
6. **Arisings:** Compost on site or remove to composting facility.

260 Mowing lawns

1. **Grass height:** Maintain between 25 and 50 mm
2. **Arisings:** Compost on site or remove to composting facility.

290 Rolling

1. **Location:** All lawns
2. **Timing:** February or March, after first mowing
3. **Roller:** 100 kg
4. **Operations:** Consolidate turf and reduce frost heave.

295 Spiking

1. **Location:** All lawns subject to and following rolling.
2. **Timing:** February or March, after first mowing
3. **Operations:** Aerate the soil and improve surface water penetration.
4. **Depth (minimum):** 75 mm

300 Scarifying

1. **Location:** All lawns
2. **Timing:** October or November. A light scarification may be necessary in February (March) to remove detritus that has accumulated through the winter.
3. **Operations:** Relieve thatch conditions and remove dead grass.
4. **Depth (maximum):** 25 mm
5. **Arisings:** Remove for composting on site

305 Harrowing

1. **Location:** All lawns
2. **Timing:** October or November, after top dressing
3. **Operations:** Aerate soil and remove worm casts.
4. **Type of harrow:** Chain harrow or drag mat.

345 Control of Japanese knotweed

1. **Operations:** Spot-treat in June and September during suitable weather conditions and when plants are growing vigorously.
2. **Herbicide:** In accordance with the INNSA 'Code of practice. Managing Japanese knotweed'
3. **Application:** In accordance with the INNSA 'Code of practice. Managing Japanese knotweed'
4. **Arisings:** In accordance with the INNSA 'Code of practice. Managing Japanese knotweed'

360 Fertilizer – autumn application

1. **Type:** Slow-release
2. **Application rate:** 60 g/m²

380 Reinstatement of damaged lawns

1. **Damaged turf:** Remove to a depth of 50 mm.
2. **Preparation:** Cultivate substrate to a fine tilth.
3. **Reinstatement:** Contractor's choice of returfing or topsoiling and reseedling:
 - 3.1. **Returfing:** Quality and appearance to match existing.

- 3.2. **Reseeding:** Fill with fine topsoil to BS 3882 multipurpose class, free from stones, debris and weeds. Reseed with a seed mix to match existing grass in quality and appearance.
4. **Protection and watering:** Provide as necessary to promote successful germination and/ or establishment.

381 Reinstatement of worn or damaged lawns

1. **Worn or damaged areas:** Make good by returfing or reseeding:
 - 1.1. **Returfing standard:** To BS 7370-3, clause 12.2.
 - 1.2. **Reseeding standard:** To BS 7370-3, clause 12.6.
2. **Turf or seed:** To match existing in appearance and quality.
3. **Protection and watering:** Provide as necessary to promote successful germination and/ or establishment.

Flower beds/ seasonal beddings

460 Beds of perennials or perennials and annuals

1. Plant supports: Stake and tie plants using Bamboo canes.
 - 1.1. **Length:** 800 mm
 - 1.2. Maintain throughout the growing season.
2. **Gaps in planting:** Refill by replanting.
3. **Watering**
 - 3.1. **New plants:** Before and after planting out.
 - 3.2. **Ongoing:** As necessary for the continued thriving of all planting.
4. **Operations at end of growing season**
 - 4.1. **Trim:** Older flowering stems of herbaceous perennials.
 - 4.2. **Remove:** Redundant plant supports, litter, debris and arisings.
 - 4.3. **Cultivate:** Fork over the soil, taking care not to cause undue disturbance to plants.
 - 4.4. **Top dress:** Apply Fertilizer at a rate of 60 g/m².

470 Flower beds generally

1. **Operations**
 - 1.1. **Remove:** Dead flower heads, fallen leaves, litter and debris.
 - 1.2. **Weeds:** Thoroughly hand-weed.
 - 1.3. **Cultivate:** Lightly hoe.
 - 1.4. **Trim:** Clip grass edges.

Shrubs/trees/hedges

500 Establishment of new planting

1. **Duration:** Two full growing seasons from the date of planting
2. **Weed control**
 - 2.1. **Method:** Keep planting beds clear of weeds by Keep planting beds clear of weeds by hoeing and screefing and maintaining full thickness of mulch..
 - 2.2. **Area:** Maintain a weed free area around each tree and shrub, minimum diameter the larger of 1 m or the surface of the original planting pit.

3. **Soil condition:** Fork over beds to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Do not reduce depth or effect of mulch.

510 Tree stakes and ties

1. **Inspection/ Maintenance times:** Annually, as scheduled and immediately after strong winds.
2. **Stakes**
 - 2.1. Replace loose, broken or decayed stakes to original specification.
 - 2.2. 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.
3. **Ties:** Adjust, refix or replace loose or defective ties, allowing for growth and to prevent chafing.
 - 3.1. Where chafing has occurred, reposition or replace ties to prevent further chafing.
4. **Removal of stakes and ties:** During spring when no longer required to support the tree; usually one full growing season is sufficient.
 - 4.1. Fill stake holes with lightly compacted soil.

510 Tree stakes and ties (newer)

1. **Inspection/ maintenance times:** As scheduled and immediately after strong winds
2. **Stakes**
 - 2.1. Replace loose, broken or decayed stakes to original specification.
 - 2.2. 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.
3. **Ties:** Adjust, refix or replace loose or defective ties, allowing for growth and to prevent chafing.
 - 3.1. Where chafing has occurred, reposition or replace ties to prevent further chafing.
4. **Removal of stakes and ties:** Two years after planting
 - 4.1. Fill stake holes with lightly compacted soil.

515 Tree guy wires

1. **Inspection/ maintenance times:** Immediately after strong winds
2. **Operations**
 - 2.1. Replace or resecure loose or missing guy wires.
 - 2.2. Adjust to suit stem growth and to provide correct and uniform tension.
3. **Removal:** Two years after planting

520 Refirming of trees and shrubs

1. **Timing:** After strong winds, frost heave and other disturbances.
2. **Refirming:** Tread around the base until firmly bedded.
3. **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

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

537 Nesting wild birds

1. **Survey:** Before starting hedge or tree work during the period of February to August (inclusive), carry out a survey by a qualified ecologist and submit report
2. **Accidental disturbance:** Report immediately.

540 Pruning generally

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

545 Pruning of excessive overhang

1. **Timing:** As instructed
2. **Operations:** Remove growth encroaching onto grassed areas, paths, roads, signs, sightlines and road lighting luminaires.

550 Pruning of excessive height

1. **Timing:** Annually
2. **Operations:** Remove excessive height Above 12 m.

555 Pruning trees and shrubs

1. **Standard:** To BS 7370-4.
2. **Special requirements:** Growth retardants not permitted

570 Formative pruning of young trees

1. **Standard:** Type and timing of pruning operations to suit the plant species.
2. **Time of year:** Do not prune during the late winter/ early spring sap flow period.
3. **Young trees up to 4 m high**
 - 3.1. 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.
 - 3.2. Remove duplicated branches and potentially weak or tight forks. In each case cut back to live wood.
4. **Whips or feathered trees:** Do not prune.

5. **Operatives:** Approved specialist contractor

570 Formative pruning of young trees (newer)

1. **Standard:** Type and timing of pruning operations to suit the plant species.
2. **Time of year:** Do not prune during the late winter/ early spring sap flow period.
3. **Young trees up to 4 m high**
 - 3.1. 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.
 - 3.2. Remove duplicated branches and potentially weak or tight forks. In each case, cut back to live wood.
4. **Whips or feathered trees:** Do not prune.
5. **Operatives:**

575 Pruning ornamental shrubs

1. **General:** Prune to encourage healthy and bushy growth and desirable ornamental features, e.g. flowers, fruit, autumn colour, stem colour.
2. **Suckers:** Remove by cutting back level with the source stem or root.

580 Pruning flowering species of shrubs and roses

1. **Time of year**
 - 1.1. **Winter flowering shrubs:** Spring.
 - 1.2. **Shrubs flowering between March and July:** Immediately after the flowering period.
 - 1.3. **Shrubs flowering between July and October:** Back to old wood in winter.
 - 1.4. **Rose bushes:** Early spring to encourage basal growths and a balanced, compact habit.

600 Trimming rapidly establishing hedges

1. **General:** Allow to reach planned height as rapidly as possible.
 - 1.1. **Form:** Trim back lateral branches moderately.

605 Trimming slowly establishing hedges

1. **Operations**
 - 1.1. **Timing:** Cut back hard in June and September to encourage bushy growth down to ground level.
 - 1.2. **Form:** Allow to reach planned dimensions only by gradual degrees, depending on growth rate and habit.

610 Trimming tapering established hedges

1. **Time of year:** Regular trimming from June to September
2. **Operations**
 - 2.1. **Form:** Trim carefully and neatly to regular line and shape, with the width at the top less than that at the base.
 - 2.2. **Trim:** Remove current growth rather than old wood.

611 Trimming non-tapering established hedges

1. **Time of year:** Trim once in July or August
2. **Operations**
 - 2.1. **Form:** Trim carefully and neatly to regular line and shape with vertical sides.
 - 2.2. **Trim:** Remove current growth rather than old wood.
3. **Tools/ cutting:** Suitable mechanical cutters

620 Removal of dead plant material

1. **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.

630 Dead and diseased plants

1. **Removal:** As soon as possible
2. **Replacement:** In the next suitable planting season

635 Reinstatement of shrub/ herbaceous areas

1. **Dead and damaged plants:** Remove.
2. **Mulch/ matting materials**
 - 2.1. Carefully move to one side and dig over the soil, leaving it fit for replanting.
3. Do not disturb roots of adjacent plants.
4. **Replacement plants**
 - 4.1. **Use pits and plants:** To original specification or to match the size of adjacent or nearby plants of the same species, whichever is the greater.
5. **Dressing:** Slow-release fertilizer:
 - 5.1. **Type:** Chemical
 - 5.2. **Application rate:** 70 g/m²

645 Weed control generally

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

650 Hand-weeding

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

655 Weed cutting by hand or machine

1. Undesirable grass, brambles and herbaceous growth: Cut down cleanly to a maximum height of 75 mm.
2. **Herbicides:** Remove arisings before application

657 Herbicide to kill regrowth

1. **Type:** Suitable foliar-acting herbicide to kill regrowth.
2. **Timing:** Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing dead weeds.

665 Weed control with winter herbicide

1. **Type:** Suitable residual soil-acting herbicide.
2. **Time of year:** Unless otherwise agreed, complete before end of March.
3. **Timing:** Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing dead weeds.

670 Weed control with summer herbicide

1. **Type:** Suitable foliar-acting herbicide.
2. **Timing:** Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing dead weeds.

675 Digging over

1. **General:** Dig over beds. Do not damage existing plants, bulbs and roots.
 - 1.1. **Depth of dig (minimum):** 100 mm

680 Soil aeration

1. **Compacted soil surfaces**
 - 1.1. **Prick up:** To aerate the soil of root areas and break surface crust.
 - 1.2. **Size of lumps:** Reduce to crumb and level off.
 - 1.3. **Damage:** Do not damage plants and their roots.

685 Soil level adjustment

1. **Level of soil/mulch at edges of beds:** Reduce to 50 mm below adjacent grass or hard surface.
 - 1.1. **Arisings (if any):** Spread evenly over the bed.

690 Maintenance of loose mulch

1. **Thickness (minimum):** 75 mm
 - 1.1. **Top up:** Twice per year
2. **Mulch spill on adjacent areas:** Remove weeds and rubbish and return to planted area.
3. **Weeding:** Remove weeds growing on or in mulch by Herbicide treatment.

695 Fertilizing established trees and shrubs

1. **Time of year:** After flowering
2. **Type of fertilizer:** Slow-release
3. **Application:** Spread evenly.
 - 3.1. **Rate:** 60 g/m²

700 Snow removal from shrubs/ trees

1. **Standard:** To BS 7370-4.

705 Winter leaf removal

1. **Operations:** Take down temporary leaf fences. Collect accumulations of drifted leaves from the vicinity and from planting beds.
2. **Arisings:** Remove to recycling facility

Tree work

810 Tree work generally

1. **Identification:** Before starting work agree which trees, shrubs and hedges are to be removed or pruned.
2. **Protection:** As section A34
3. **Standard:** To BS 3998.
4. **Removing branches:** Cut vertical branches similarly, with no more slope on the cut surface than is necessary to shed rainwater.
5. **Appearance:** Leave trees with a well-balanced natural appearance.
6. **Chain saw work:** Operatives must hold a certificate of competence.
7. **Tree work:** To be carried out by an approved member of the Arboricultural Association.

815 Additional work

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

820 Prevention of wound bleeding

1. **Standard:** To BS 3998.

825 Prevention of disease transmission

1. **Standard:** To BS 3998.

830 Cleaning out and deadwooding

1. **Remove**
 - 1.1. Dead, dying or diseased wood, broken branches and stubs.
 - 1.2. Fungal growths and fruiting bodies.
 - 1.3. Rubbish, windblown or accumulated in branch forks.
 - 1.4. Wires, clamps, boards and metal objects, if removable without causing further damage and not part of a support structure that is to be retained.
 - 1.5. Other unwanted objects, e.g. tree houses, swings.

835 Cutting and pruning generally

1. **Tools:** Appropriate, well maintained and sharp.
2. **Final pruning cuts**
 - 2.1. **Chainsaws:** Do not use on branches of less than 50 mm diameter.
 - 2.2. **Hand saws:** Form a smooth cut surface.
 - 2.3. **Anvil type secateurs:** Do not use.
3. **Removing branches:** Do not damage or tear the stem.
4. **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.

5. **Cutting:** Cut at a fork or at the main stem to avoid stumps wherever possible.
6. **Large branches:** Remove only with prior approval
 - 6.1. Remove in small sections and lower to ground with ropes and slings.
7. **Dead branches and stubs:** When removing, do not cut into live wood.
8. **Unsafe branches:** Remove epicormic shoots and potentially weak forks that could fail in adverse weather conditions.
9. **Disease or fungus:** Give notice if detected. Do not apply fungicide or sealant unless instructed.

840 Crown reduction/ shaping

1. **General:** Cut back selectively to lateral or sublateral buds or branches to retain flowing branch lines without leaving stumps.
2. **Operations:** Give notice

845 Crown lifting

1. **Clearances:** Remove branch systems to give clearance.
 - 1.1. **Height:** As recommended by BS 7370-4, clause 3.7.2.3
2. **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.

850 Crown thinning

1. **Removing branches:** Remove inward-growing, crossing, rubbing, dead and damaged branches.
2. **Thinning:** Selectively remove secondary and small live branch growth evenly throughout the crown.
 - 2.1. **Quantity:** 15 %
3. **Cutting:** Make no cuts of more than 50 mm diameter.
 - 3.1. **Branches:** Cut back to lateral or sublateral buds or branches without leaving stumps.
4. **Appearance:** Leave a uniform and well-balanced structure of branches and foliage.

855 Cutting tree roots

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

860 Removing trees, shrubs and hedges

1. **Standard:** To BS 3998.
2. **Existing services:** Check for below and above ground services. Give notice if they may be affected.
3. **Shrubs and smaller trees:** Cut down and grub up roots.
4. **Tree stumps**
 - 4.1. **Treatment:** Remove mechanically to a minimum depth of 300 mm below ground level
 - 4.2. **Removal by winching:** Give notice. Do not use other trees as supports or anchors.
5. **Protection:** As section A34
6. **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.
7. **Filling holes**
 - 7.1. **Material:** Use as-dug material and/ or imported soil as required.
 - 7.2. **Finishing:** Consolidate and grade to marry in with surrounding ground level.

865 Bark damage

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

870 Cavities in trees

1. **Investigation:** Remove rubbish and rotten wood. Probe the cavity to find the extent of any decay, and give notice.
2. **Water-filled cavities:** Do not drain.
3. **Sound wood inside cavities:** Do not remove.
4. **Cavity openings:** Do not cover

Water areas - Not Used

Hard landscape areas/fencing

910 Hard surfaces and gravel areas

1. **Herbicide:** Apply a suitable foliar-acting or residual herbicide. Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing arisings.
2. **Hard surfaces:** Remove litter, leaves and other debris.
3. **Surface gutters and channels:** Remove mud, silt and debris.
4. **Drainage gullies:** Empty traps and flush clean.
5. **Gravel areas:** Rake over. Remove weeds, litter, leaves and debris, and level off.
6. **Repairs to flexible bituminous pavings:** In accordance with the original paving specification or BS 7370-2, clause 4.12.
7. **Stain removal:** In accordance with BS 7370-2, Table 4.



LIZARD

Landscape Design and Ecology

The Old Bank, 34 South Street, Tarring, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7LH
T. 01903 216033 E. lizard.landscape@btconnect.com W. lizardlandscapeecology.com



Specification created using NBS Chorus