



Specification for establishment and maintenance of planted areas

Preparation
Prior to planting, shrub beds shall be prepared by being forked, dug and hoed with stones picked to create a smooth even surface. All stones greater than 50mm in any dimension or any other foreign material found are to be removed. All perennial weeds to be removed including root systems. If necessary apply an approved herbicide following all manufacturer's instructions.

First season's maintenance
Following planting all areas shall be mulched with coarse grade bark to a minimum depth of 75mm during moist ground conditions. Shrubs beds are to be kept clear of all weeds during the first growing season. Edges of shrub beds that abut grassed areas shall be kept tidy by regular edging.

Long term maintenance
Garden maintenance to be provided by the end user. Bark mulch to be topped up as required at the start of each season to maintain a minimum settled depth of 50mm. Mulching shall only be applied once beds are weed-free. Weeding shall be carried out as necessary during the growing season to keep beds in a tidy condition. Prune shrubs as necessary to remove dead, damaged or diseased branches to prevent overcrowding of plants; to maintain health of plants; to promote growth; to bring out natural form of plant. Shape each specimen appropriately to species, location, season, and stage of growth, leaving a well balanced natural appearance. Long term maintenance of trees to be carried out in conjunction with BS5837:2005 section 15 and any damaged or dead trees to be replaced within the first 7 years.

Imported soil
Break up and remove hard surfacing / ground. Provide as necessary to make up any deficiency existing on site and to complete the scheme. Quality of topsoil - as defined in BS 3882:1994. It is possible to assess the quality of soil by using a simple 'finger and thumb' test as outlined in the BS but essentially a light, sandy and 'open' texture is required.

Grade
all imported soil to BS 3882:1994

Grading
- reasonably free from stones with a maximum size of stone being 50mm in any dimension

Purity
- free of weeds, roots of perennial weeds, sticks, subsoil and other

Spreading
- spread when reasonably dry, not to be compacted and to be spread in 150mm layers (maximum)

Turfing
A depth of at least 150 mm of topsoil is recommended for establishment of turf (50mm if ground is poor). Turf to be supplied and laid by an approved landscape supplier (turf should be in accordance with the specifications given in BS 3969, and in accordance with BS 4428:1989 section 6).

Soil Protection
The root protection area (RPA) is the minimum area around a tree which should be left undisturbed in order to avoid damage to the roots or the rooting environment (see specific site tree survey for existing tree RPA, where applicable).

Tree Protection
Tree protection will be installed prior to any demolition or ground works commencing, remaining in place throughout construction and be removed only after completion.

Tree Protection
Tree protection will be installed as agreed with the Local Authority Arboricultural Officer and with reference to the British Standard BS5837:2012 'Recommendations for Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction'. The default specification as per section 6.2.2.2 of BS 5837:2012 will be used where the risk of damage to roots is negligible. Where the protective fencing is within the RPA then an appropriate above ground stabilisation system will be used as shown in figure 3 of the BS also. Within the fenced zone, no materials or chemicals should be stored at any time, no fires should be lit, no pedestrian or vehicle traffic, and level changes within these areas should be kept to an absolute minimum. Every effort should be taken to protect a maximum possible area of the root system.

Within the RPA, no level changes or excavation within the RPA should be undertaken without the consent of the LPA Arboricultural Officer.

Clear notices are to be fixed to the outside of the fencing with words such as 'TREE PROTECTION AREA - NO ACCESS OR WORKING WITHIN THIS AREA'. See Appendix 4. These notices shall be in A3 size, laminated and fixed to the fencing using suitable means such as wire.

The site agent, all contractors and other relevant personnel are to be informed of the root of the Tree Protection Fencing and their importance. A copy of the Tree Protection Plan will be displayed on site at all times during construction.

Specification for hard landscaping

Tree pits
Tree pits to be 500mm greater in all directions than the root ball. Roots must not be compressed. Shrubs to be planted in 300 x 300mm pits. Field grown trees (light standards) to be planted in 500 x 500mm pits (minimum). Select Standard Trees to be planted in 900 x 900mm pits (minimum). Pit bottoms should be slightly raised centre and scarified sides.

Plant conditions
Undamaged, healthy, sturdy and vigorous, free of pests, diseases, weeds, root system and condition: balanced with branch system (national plant specification) species: true to name/origin plant identification: retain in ground after planting.

Tracing
Softwood chestnut, larch, ash, free from projections and large or edge knots with pointed lower end. Nails: to BS1202-1 (galvanized 25mm long with 10mm dia heads).

Short staking for standard trees
Secure tree with 2 no 100mm dia tannalised softwood stakes driven a min 500mm into the ground vertically. A 100mm dia half round cross bar to be secured horizontally 100mm from ground. Tree to be secured with crossing 25mm reinforced rubber belt nailed neatly at rear of cross bar.

Light standards trees
Long single staking for light standard trees/whips
Position stake close to tree on windward side and drive vertically at least 300mm into bottom of pit before planting. Backfilling: consolidate material around stake. Height of cut off below lower branch of tree. Ties shall be expandable/divisible. Tying: secure tree firmly but not tight to stake with at least two ties. Use three where require to prevent tree touching stake. Position: top tie within 20cm of top of stake and lower tie approx. halfway down.

Shrubs
All shrubs to comply with BS4428:1989 and to have 3-5 branching shrubs. Minimum stem diameter to be 7mm. Heights to be measured from root collar and does not include pot or roots.

All plants and trees to be well watered in planting and again immediately before mulch is applied. Compacted soil should be loosened or scooped out to allow water to roots. All plants to receive application of slow release fertilizer annually thereafter.

