

STONDON MASSEY HOUSE

PROPOSED OUT-BUILDING

22/01417/HHA

Condition 5

NATIVE TREE AND HEDGE PLANTING STATEMENT

Tree Planting

4 new native specimen trees are to be planted in agreed locations within the Site. These are 2 no. Silver Birch and 2 no. groups of 3 Hazel trees, well grown specimens of ht. 2.5m, stem diameter 10cm and UK provenance.

The trees are to be planted in well prepared tree pits of dimension equal to or exceeding 450mm in depth and diameter. The tree pits are to have all excavated topsoil and subsoil material removed and half of the excavated material mixed 50:50 with a peat free planting compost, with 150g bone meal (high phosphate) mixed well into the back fill material. The tree is to be planted into this mix and the sides of the pit to be roughened and tree roots are to be teased out from the rootball, to encourage extension growth. The planting depth is to equate to the nursery line to ensure that trees are not planted at excessive depth.

It is also recommended that a perforated aeration tube is installed around the circumference of the root ball and cut to a suitable length before installing the T-piece. This is then to be levelled and cut to a similar level to the surrounding ground level. The backfill is to be gently packed back around the rootball, covering the entire root and aeration tube, ensuring that the tube inlet is not covered and is level with the surrounding ground and the new trees firmed in by careful trampling.

Tree stakes are to be installed either side of the rootball and supported with a cross bar and rubber tree tie/block to protect the tree trunk from damage. Once planted the trees are to be well watered in, any damaged or broken snags or uneven growth removed, and labels removed. A tree guard is to be installed to prevent any damage by rabbits or deer. Any excess soil is to be distributed elsewhere within the Site.

Planting is to be undertaken during the dormant season (ie between November and March) during suitable damp and frost-free weather.

Hedge Planting

New mixed native hedgerow is to be planted along the northern and western site boundaries (approximately 40m).

The new boundary hedgerow will be planted using locally indigenous species including Hawthorn, Dog Rose, Hazel Hornbeam and Maple, comprising bare root whips of height 20-60cm.

The hedging will be planted in a double staggered row @ 5 plants / linear m (ie a total of 850 plants) in a well prepared planting trough of dimension equal to or exceeding 300mm in depth and 400mm width. The hedge troughs are to have all excavated topsoil and any subsoil material removed and half of the excavated material mixed 50:50 with a peat free planting compost, with 135g / m² bone meal (high phosphate) mixed well into the back fill material. The hedge plants are to be planted into this mix and the sides of the trough to be roughened and shrub roots are to be teased out from the rootball, to encourage extension growth. The planting depth is to equate to the nursery line to ensure that shrubs are not planted at excessive depth and the plants firmed in by careful trampling.

Once planted the shrubs are to be well watered in, any damaged or broken snags removed, and labels removed. Any excess soil is to be distributed elsewhere within the Site.

Planting is to be undertaken during the dormant season (ie between November and March) during suitable damp and frost-free weather.

Maintenance of Tree and Hedge Planting

All new planting is to be subject to appropriate protection, an initial 3-year regime of establishment maintenance (including adequate watering and weed control) to ensure survival and early growth and longer-term pruning management.

Maintenance is to be undertaken by the applicant. The new planting will be inspected and monitored on a regular twice annual regime by the applicant, to ensure that the new plants are thriving and to advise on any additional operations that might be required, to ensure plant survival.

The species selected are locally indigenous native species, of particular potential value for wildlife (through the provision of flowers and fruit attractive to a range of invertebrates and birds) and suitable for the garden environment associated with the proposed scheme.

During the initial establishment maintenance period watering and weed control are the most important elements to ensure plant survival. A circle of 1m diameter around each of the 4 specimen trees is to be maintained free of weeds and the hedge planting trough of width 400mm is similarly to be maintained free of weeds. This may be aided by the use of a coarse chipped bark mulch, kept topped up to a depth of 75mm, or the use of mulch matting, pegged into the ground to keep them in place. It may also be necessary to suppress weeds through the use of a suitable translocated herbicide (Glyphosate or similar approved), employed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Watering is to be undertaken, as necessary, to ensure that new plants are not adversely affected by drought. At each watering visit the new plants are to be thoroughly soaked to ensure that the rooting areas are saturated.

All new plants are to be treated in April in each of Years 2 and 3 with bone meal, incorporated into the upper layer of soil. They are to be regularly inspected for signs of pests or disease (eg brown tailed moth) and any necessary remedial treatment to be undertaken. All tree guards / stakes and hedge plant protection are to be regularly checked and re-firmed / reinstated as necessary, to ensure that plants remain upright and robust.

In the longer term (Years 4-10 and thereafter), the need for watering, fertiliser treatment and weed control should diminish but it will be necessary to commence a regime of formative hedge pruning in the winter when plants are dormant. The aim is to create hedges of ultimate height 1.5m ht and width 1m, through annual pruning.

The new trees are not expected to require any routine pruning, with the exception of removal of dead, dying or diseased, or unbalanced growth, as and when these may occur. It is recommended that even in the longer term, a weed-free circle is maintained around each tree, to help ensure that trees thrive and that there is no mower or strimmer damage to the young trees.

The regime of monitoring for pests and diseases and general plant health and vigour instigated in the establishment period, is to continue in the longer-term, as is regular checking for plant stability, removal of any remaining tree guards and stakes etc.