

Landscape and Maintenance Specification

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Q28

Topsoil and soil ameliorants

System outline

135 Planting bed topsoil system

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

145 Planting pit backfilling topsoil system

1. **Description:** FOR SHRUB-PLANTING PITS & FOR ALL TREE PITS
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Topsoil:** Site-sourced topsoil or Imported topsoil to BS 3882
 - 2.2. **Ameliorants:** None
 - 2.3. **Accessories:** Mycorrhizal inoculant

155 Mulching and top dressing system

1. **Description:** FOR SHRUB BEDS
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Material:** Organic materials Sanitized and stabilized composted materials certified to PAS 100

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.

310 Materials not permitted

1. **Materials:** Peat, Products containing peat & River and canal dredgings

315 Imported topsoil to BS 3882

1. **Description:** FOR PLANTING BEDS & FOR TREE PITS
2. **Quantity:** Provide as necessary to make up any deficiency of topsoil existing on site and to complete the work.
3. **Standard:** To BS 3882.
4. **Classification:** Multipurpose
 - 4.1. **Soil textural class** to BS 3882, Figure 1: Any class
5. **Source:** Contractor's choice

360 Sanitized and stabilized composted materials certified to PAS 100

1. **Description:** FOR PLANTING BEDS & FOR TREE PITS
2. **Standard:** In accordance with PAS 100 and Compost Quality Protocol
3. **Source:** Contractor's choice
4. **Horticultural parameters**
 - 4.1. **pH (1:5 water extract):** 6.0-9.0
 - 4.2. **Electrical conductivity (maximum, 1:5 water extract):** 200 mS/m
 - 4.3. **Moisture content (m/m of fresh weight):** 35-55%.
 - 4.4. **Organic matter content (minimum):** 25%
 - 4.5. **Grading (air dried samples):** 95% passing 25 mm and 90% passing 10 mm screen mesh apertures
 - 4.6. **Carbon:Nitrogen ratio (maximum):** 20:1.
5. **Texture:** Friable.
6. **Objectionable odour:** Not permitted.
7. **Compost Certification Scheme certification:** Required

380 Mycorrhizal inoculant

1. **Description:** FOR TREE PITS & FOR CONTAINER PLANTING
2. **Manufacturer:** Contractor's choice
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** Contractor's choice

401 Organic fertilizers

1. **Description:** FOR PLANTING BEDS
2. **Manufacturer/ source:** Contractor's choice
3. **Standard:** In accordance with the Fertilizer Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS)
4. **Purpose:** General purpose fertilizer
5. **Type:** Sanitized and stabilized compost
6. **Availability to plants:** Slow-release

Execution

630 Documentation for imported topsoil

1. **Description:** FOR TREE PITS & FOR PLANTING BEDS
2. **Timing:** Submit at handover.
3. **Contents**

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- 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: One

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: 1 week

655 Mechanical tools

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

665 Subsoil surface preparation for:

1. Description: ORNAMENTAL PLANTING BEDS
2. Standard: In accordance with BS 3882.
3. General: Excavate and/ or place fill to required profiles and levels, as section D20.
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: 150 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 75 mm.
6. Remove from site: Builders rubble

690 Topsoil storage heaps

1. Location: Contractor's choice
2. Height (maximum): 1.0 m
3. Width (maximum): 3.0 m
 - 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.

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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:** ORNAMENTAL PLANTING BEDS
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:** 350 mm
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 PLANTING BEDS
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:** 350 mm
5. **Particle size (maximum):** 15 mm
6. **Timing:** Within a few days before planting
7. **Weather and ground conditions:** Suitably dry.
8. **Surface:** Leave regular and even.
9. **Undesirable material brought to the surface**
 - 9.1. Remove visible weeds.
 - 9.2. Remove roots and large stones with any dimension exceeding 75 mm.

720 Finished levels of topsoil after settlement

1. In relation to adjoining paving, kerbs or hard surfaces: 50 mm below
2. Seeded areas: Extend cultivation into existing adjacent grassed areas sufficient to ensure full marrying in of levels.
3. Sportsfields: To even levels and within the following permitted deviations:
 - 3.1. From levels or gradients shown on drawings: ± 75 mm.
 - 3.2. From line between boning rods 30 m apart: ± 25 mm.
4. Within root spread of existing trees and shrubs to be retained: Do not dig or cultivate.
5. Adjoining soil areas: Marry in.
6. Thickness of turf or mulch: Included.

840 Applying mycorrhizal inoculant

1. Description: To all planting areas
2. Depth: To maintain contact with root system & To manufacturer's/ supplier's recommendations

845 Applying loose mulch

1. Description: FOR PLANTING BEDS & FOR TREE PITS
2. Timing: Immediately after planting
3. Preparation: Clear all weeds & Ensure that soil is thoroughly moistened, applying water where necessary
4. Coverage of mulch (minimum)
 - 4.1. Planting beds (depth): 50 mm depth minimum
 - 4.2. Trees: 50 mm depth minimum
5. Finished level of mulch: 50 mm below adjacent grassed or paved areas

Completion

920 Applying mulch

1. Timing: At end of the maintenance period
2. Watering: Ensure that soil is thoroughly moistened prior to mulching, applying water where necessary.
3. Planting beds: Re-mulch.
 - 3.1. Depth (minimum): 50 mm minimum
4. Trees: Remulch.
 - 4.1. Depth (minimum): 50 mm minimum

Ω End of Section

Q30

Seeding/ turfing

General information/requirements

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.

170 Setting out

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

Preparation

212 Seed bed cleaning before sowing

1. Description: To all seeded areas.
2. Operations: Remove weeds by hand weeding and hoeing, in line with supplier's recommendations.

250 Soil requirements

1. Type
 - 1.1. Seeded areas: Existing topsoil

Seeding

312 WOODLAND EDGE SEED MIX

1. Description: HEDGEROW MIXTURE EH1
2. Supplier: Emorsgate Seeds
 - 2.1. Mixture reference: EH1
3. Origin of each species (as defined in Flora Locale's Code of practice for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora): British Native
4. Application rate: 4 g/m²

312 HEDGEROW SEED MIXTURE

1. Description: 50% HEDGEROW MIXTURE EH1 & 50% WOODLAND MIXTURE EW1
2. Supplier: Emorsgate Seeds

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- 2.1. Mixture reference: 50% EH1 & 50% EW1
3. Origin of each species (as defined in Flora Locale's Code of practice for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora): British Native
4. Application rate: 4 g/m²

330 Sowing

1. General: Establish good seed contact with the root zone.
2. Method: Manually broadcast, raked and rolled
 - 2.1. Distribution: 2 equal sowings at right angles to each other

336 Wildflower sowing season

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

Turfing - Not Used

Protecting/cutting

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/ turfing

1. Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until: the end of the rectification period.
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

650 Maintaining EH1

1. Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until: the end of the rectification period.
2. Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris.
3. Height and frequency of cut in first growing season
 - 3.1. Time of first cut: Most of the sown meadow species are perennial and are slow to establish, this may result in a flush of annual weeds, arising from the soil seed bank. These weeds can look unsightly, but they will offer shelter to the sown seedlings, are great for bugs, and they will die before the year is out. So resist cutting the annual weeds until mid to late summer, especially if the mixture contains Yellow Rattle, or has been sown with a nurse of cornfield annuals. Then cut, remove and compost. Early August is a good time. This will reveal the young meadow, which can then be kept short by grazing or mowing through to the end of March of the following year. Dig out any residual perennial weeds such as docks.
4. Trimming: All edges.
 - 4.1. Arisings: Remove.
5. Watering: Contractor's choice

650 Maintaining EW1 Type A

1. **Duration:** Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turving until: the end of the rectification period.
2. **Preparation:** Before each cut remove all litter and debris.
3. **Height and frequency of cut in first growing season**
 - 3.1. **Time of first cut:** Established woodland that has been under-sown with a woodland mixture requires little management during establishment. In open or young woodland with higher light levels, growth and grasses will be more prominent. In these conditions an annual cut mid summer may be worthwhile for a more managed appearance and to keep weeds of semi-shade such as nettles and brambles in check.
4. **Trimming:** All edges.
 - 4.1. **Arisings:** Remove.

Ω End of Section

Q31

External planting

General information/ requirements

112 Site clearance generally

1. **General:** Remove rubbish, concrete, metal, glass, decayed vegetation and contaminated topsoil.
2. **Stones:** Remove those with any dimension exceeding 75 mm.
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 to be retained.
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.

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.

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.**

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- 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: One week

170 Soil requirements

1. Type
 - 1.1. Planted beds: Existing topsoil
 - 1.2. Tree pits, shrub pits and other backfilling: Existing topsoil
 - 1.3. External container planting: Existing topsoil
 - 1.4. Mulch applied after planting: Mulching and top dressing system, as section Q28

200 Plants/ Trees – general

1. Condition: Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous.
2. Appearance: Of good shape and without elongated shoots.
3. Hardiness: Grown in a suitable environment and hardened off.
4. Health: Free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders.
5. Budded or grafted plants: Bottom worked.
6. Root system and condition: Balanced with branch system.
 - 6.1. Standard: The National Plant Specification
7. Species: True to name.
8. Origin/ Provenance: British grown
9. Definition: Origin and Provenance have the meaning given in the National Plant Specification.

215 Plants/ Trees – specification criteria

1. Name, forms, dimensions, provenance and other criteria: As scheduled and defined in the National Plant Specification (available on CS Design Software Limited's website).

235 Container grown plants/ Trees

1. Growing medium: With adequate nutrients for plants to thrive until permanently planted.
2. Plants: Centred in containers, firmed and well watered.
3. Root growth: Substantially filling containers, but not root bound, and in a condition conducive to successful transplanting.
4. Hardiness: Grown in the open for at least two months before being supplied.
5. Containers: With holes adequate for drainage when placed on any substrate commonly used under irrigation systems.

245 Labelling and information

1. General: Provide each plant/ tree or group of plants/ trees of a single species or cultivar with supplier's labelling for delivery to site, showing:
 - 1.1. Full botanical name.

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- 1.2. Total number.
- 1.3. Number of bundles.
- 1.4. Part bundles.
- 1.5. Supplier's name.
- 1.6. Employer's name and project reference.
- 1.7. Plant specification, in accordance with scheduled National Plant Specification categories.

265 Plant handling, storage transport and planting

1. **Standard:** To CPSE 'Handling and establishing landscape plants'.
2. **Frost:** Protect plants from frost.
3. **Handling:** Handle plants with care. Protect from mechanical damage and do not subject to shock, e.g. by dropping from a vehicle.
4. **Planting:** Upright or well balanced with best side to front.

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.

285 Protection of existing grass

1. **General:** Protect areas affected by planting operations using boards/ tarpaulins.
 - 1.1. **Excavated or imported material:** Do not place directly on grass.
 - 1.2. **Duration:** Minimum period.

290 Surplus material

1. **Subsoil, stones, debris, wrapping material, canes, ties, temporary labelling, rubbish, prunings and other arisings:** Remove.

Plant containers - Not Used

Preparation of planting beds/ planting materials

305 Weed control

1. **Description:** FOR INVASIVE NON-NATIVE WEEDS
2. **Locations:** Whole site
3. **General:** Prevent weeds from seeding and perennial weeds from becoming established, by hand weeding.

Planting shrubs/ herbaceous plants/ bulbs

401 Regular plant layout

1. **Description:** TO ALL BEDS
2. **Spacing:** In regular, staggered rows
3. **Density:** As plant schedule

405 Shrub planting pits

1. **Timing:** Excavate 1-2 days (maximum) before planting.
2. **Sizes:** Wide enough to accommodate roots when fully spread and 75 mm deeper than root system 150 mm wider than roots when fully spread and 200 mm deep

415 Antidesiccant for conifers/ Evergreens

1. **Manufacturer:** Contractor's choice
 - 1.1. **Product reference:** Contractor's choice
2. **Application:** Dip before delivering to site. Spray soon after planting.
 - 2.1. Do not apply in wet or frosty weather.
 - 2.2. Ensure full coverage of underside of foliage.

470 Formal hedges

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

471 Naturalized hedges

1. **Planting:** In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly.

472 Fencing support for Double Staggered Hedgerow

1. **Type:** Chestnut post and wire mesh
2. **Timing:** Before planting hedge.
3. **Support:** Lightly secure hedge plants to fence wires at appropriate intervals.

480 After planting

1. **Watering:** Immediately after planting, thoroughly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
2. **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.
3. **Top dressing:** Mulching and top dressing system, as section Q28
 - 3.1. **Depth:** 50 mm

486 Shrub protection

1. **Manufacturer:** Exee Trees
 - 1.1. **Product reference:** Contractor's choice
2. **Type:** Tree and Hedgerow Guards to protect new planting.
3. **Material:** Compostable
4. **Size:** To suit situation
5. **General:** Ensure that protection methods do not impede natural movement of shrubs or restrict growth.

Planting trees

500 Tree planting

1. **Standard:** Prepare trees and transplant in accordance with BS 8545

502 Antidesiccant for conifers/ Evergreens

1. **Manufacturer:** Contractor's choice
 - 1.1. **Product reference:** Contractor's choice
2. **Application:** Dip or thoroughly spray before delivering to site. Spray again soon after planting.
 - 2.1. Do not apply in wet or frosty weather.
 - 2.2. Ensure full coverage of underside of foliage.

505 Tree pits

1. **Sizes:** 75 mm wider than the root spread, and same depth as the rootball
2. **Sloping ground:** Maintain horizontal bases and vertical sides with no less than minimum depth throughout.
3. **Excavated material:** Separate topsoil and subsoil material and stockpile for backfilling
4. **Pit bottoms:** Excavate with slightly raised centre: Do not disturb base.
5. **Pit sides:** Scarify.
6. **Backfilling material:** Excavated material from tree pit, installed to original soil profiles in accordance with BS 8545

535 Tree stakes

1. **Stakes:** Softwood, peeled chestnut, larch or oak, straight, free from projections and large or edge knots and with pointed lower end.
 - 1.1. **Preservative treatment:** Not required
2. **Stake size (minimum):** Contractor's choice
3. **Stake length (minimum):** Contractor's choice

550 Double staking for trees 10-12cm girth and above

1. **Description:** EXTRA HEAVY STANDARD TREES & HEAVY STANDARD TREES
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 rootball/ rootstock.
3. **Height of stakes:** Cut off at approximately one third of the height of the clear stem of tree
4. **Horizontal bracing:** Flexible webbing or Rubber belting with spacers
 - 4.1. **Fixing:** Contractor's choice
5. **Ties:** Adjustable & Biodegradable natural fibre
6. **Tying:** Secure flexible webbing around tree stem firmly without causing constriction or chafing
7. **Nails for fixing ties, belts and webbing:** To BS 1202-1, galvanized, minimum 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads.

566 Tree protection

1. **Manufacturer:** Ezee Tree
 - 1.1. **Product reference:** Tree Guard
2. **Material:** Compostable
3. **General:** Ensure that protection methods do not impede natural movement of trees or restrict growth.

576 Tree pit surfacing – loose fill

1. **Surfacing material:** Mulch, as section Q28
2. **Area:** 1000 mm radius circle minimum
3. **Depth:** 50 mm minimum
4. **Watering:** Water soil thoroughly before laying.
5. **Installation:** Ensure the base of the tree stem is kept free from loose filled material.

Woodland/ matrix/ buffer zone planting - Not Used

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.
2. **Frequency of maintenance visits:** Contractor's choice, to maintain the health and vigour of the landscape

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.

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- 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:** Contractor's choice
- 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:** As appropriate to the species
 - 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 maintenance of the planting work for one full year: Provide details of any special procedures to be carried out.

790 Final mulching

- 1. **Timing:** At end of the maintenance period.
- 2. **Watering:** Ensure that soil is thoroughly moistened prior to remulching, applying water where necessary.
- 3. **Planting beds:** Remulch.
- 4. **Depth (minimum):** 50 mm
- 5. **Trees:** Remulch.
- 6. **Depth (minimum):** 50 mm

Ω End of Section

Q35 Landscape maintenance

Generally

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
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

160 Water restrictions

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

170 Disposal of arisings

1. General: Unless specified otherwise, dispose of arisings as follows:
 - 1.1. Biodegradable arisings: Remove to recycling facility
 - 1.2. Grass cuttings: Dispose of on site where directed by the CA.
 - 1.3. Tree roots and stumps: Remove from site
 - 1.4. Shrub and tree prunings: Remove to recycling facility
 - 1.5. Litter and nonbiodegradable arisings: Remove from site

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

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.

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4. Adjoining hard areas: Sweep clear and remove arisings.
5. Drought or wet conditions: Obtain instructions.

225 Tree stems

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

250 Leaf removal

1. Operations: Collect fallen leaves.
2. Special requirements: None
3. Disposal: Remove from site for recycling

Flower beds/ seasonal beddings

460 Beds of perennials or perennials and annuals

1. Plant supports: Stake and tie plants using Bamboo canes, as required.
 - 1.1. Length: To suit plant height
 - 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. Top dress: Apply Sanitized and stabilized compost top dressing.

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: One year
2. Weed control
 - 2.1. Method: Keep planting beds clear of weeds by 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. Watering: Contractor's choice to maintain the health and vigor of plants, and enable proper establishment.

502 Establishment of new planting – fertilizer

1. Time of year: March or April.
2. Type: Organic
3. Spreading: Spread evenly.
 - 3.1. Application rate: As manufacturer's recommendations

510 Tree stakes and ties

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: During spring when no longer required to support the tree
 - 4.1. Fill stake holes with lightly compacted soil.

525 Tree guards

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

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.

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: Member of the Arboricultural Association

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.

615 Trimming field hedges

1. **Operations:** Trim to specified height and profile using 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:** Organic
 - 5.2. **Application rate:** As manufacturer's recommendations

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.

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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:** Reinstate 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 25 mm.
2. **Herbicides:** Give notice before use

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):** 50 mm
 - 1.1. **Top up:** Annually
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 Hand-weeding.

695 Fertilizing established trees and shrubs

1. **Time of year:** During February or March
2. **Type of fertilizer:** Organic
3. **Application:** Spread evenly.
 - 3.1. **Rate:** As manufacturer's recommendations

Green walls - Not Used

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:** Avoid damage to neighbouring trees, plants and property
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.

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 if unavoidable
 - 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.

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.

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 - Not Used

Ω End of Section

