

## Soft Landscape Preparation, Installation and Maintenance

### 1.0 General Works

- 1.01 For Landscaping Layout see Drawing Number 219040 MMA 00 103.
- 1.02 Setting out: Planting areas shall be clearly marked out complete with levels. This should be checked against the approved plans prior to planting.
- 1.03 Weather: Excavation, regrading, cultivation, planting and all other work shall be suspended in wet or frosty weather or when ground conditions are unsuitable. Any works affected by the weather shall be made good before continuing.
- 1.04 Implementation: The trees can be planted the first planting season following the erection of the building shell. All bare root plants are to be planted between mid-October and mid-March.

### 2.0 Sequence of Operations

- 2.01 Ground clearance works;
- 2.02 Construction of hard landscaping;
- 2.03 Preparation and cultivation of planting areas;
- 2.04 Seeding grass areas;
- 2.05 Maintenance and aftercare.

### 3.0 Hard Landscaping

- 3.01 Proposed areas of hard landscaping and materials shown on drawing number 219040 MMA 00 103.
- 3.02 Sub-base layers to be designed prior to construction by appointed engineering consultant.
- 3.03 Hard landscaping to be constructed by the client's approved contractors in accordance with the approved engineer's consultant specification.
- 3.04 No changes to the materials as specified within the drawing 219040 MMA 00 103 shall be made without prior written consent of the local authority.

### 4.0 Preparation and Cultivation of Planting Area

- 4.01 Refer to BS4428:1989 code of practise for general landscaping operations and BS 8545:2014 Trees from Nursery to Independence in the Landscape.
- 4.02 Subsoil to be broken up by a suitable machine or hand fork to the depth of 300mm prior to topsoil spreading. This should not take place when the soil the saturated.



- 4.03 Topsoil free from contamination and weeds can be put to one side for later use.
- 4.04 A rotavator is to be used to create a fine tilth and to incorporate soil improvers where necessary.
- 4.05 Imported topsoil is to comply with BS3882 (2007) and is to be supplied in accordance with Annex N. The soil should be free from contaminants, subsoil, rubbish, weeds, seeds and foreign matter.
- 4.06 If areas to be planted contain more than a minimal amount of weeds prior to commencement a non-residual herbicide can be used. All dead plant material must be removed and disposed of off-site. The topsoil is to be kept weed free at all times.
- 4.07 If there is delay between the completion of the planting beds ready for planting and the planting season the beds must be kept weed free in the interim.
- 4.08 Loose granular slow-release fertilizer to be used immediately before plantings. No peat or peat-based materials to be used.
- 4.09 Compacting of the topsoil once place must be avoided.
- 4.10 New trees will have an area of at least one metre squared of mulch with the tree centrally located unless otherwise stated.

## **5.0 Plant Quality**

- 5.01 All plants are to be adequately and carefully packed and protected to survive transport, loading and unloading and temporary on-site storage. If damage has occurred, the plant should be rejected.
- 5.02 All plants purchased from the supplier to be clearly labelled with botanical name of the plant, the suppliers name and other information ie plant passport number also provided with the country of origin and the age of the plant.
- 5.03 Plants to be free from pests and diseases and showed no signs of damage. All plants will be inspected upon delivery to site.
- 5.04 All plants will be appropriately maintained until used and be kept away from possible sources of contamination or damage. Exposure to adverse weather conditions will be avoided and plants will not be allowed to dry out, watering the roots if necessary.
- 5.05 All bare-rooted plants must be supplied to site on the day of planting. If there is a delay in planting, they are to be heeled-in in a temporary area, covered with soil and protected from wind and frost and kept watered.
- 5.06 All plants should be of the best quality and obtained from an approved supplier in accordance with BS3936- 1992 and Horticultural Trade Association HTA national plant specification guidance.
- 5.07 Trees to be selected in accordance with BS8545 life and 2014 Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape recommendations.



- 5.08 All plants to be vigorous, well-formed and well balanced. They should be defect and disease free and should have a well-developed and healthy root system.
- 5.09 Container grown plants should be a minimum 12 months old and well-formed and bushy. They should not be pot bound and must be free from weeds.
- 5.10 All plants must be thoroughly hardened off.

## **6.0 Tree Planting**

- 6.01 Excavations for tree pits will be at least twice the diameter of the root spread and 1.5 times the depth of the roots of the stock to be planted. The pit is to be back filled with topsoil.
- 6.02 The bottom and the sides of the pit will be broken up to allow deep rooted penetration.
- 6.03 80 litres of tree planting compost to be added to planting pit in advance of planting.
- 6.04 The plants to be carefully removed from the pots and the roots gently teased out by the hand to ensure no circling roots remain.
- 6.05 The plants to be carefully placed into the hole with adequate clearance between the root ends and the side of the tree pit.
- 6.06 The plant to be held upright in the middle of the pit whilst the excavated soil is put back over the roots in thin layers. The plant will be shaken gently up and down so that when backfilling the soil fills between and around the roots. Final backfill will be slightly proud of the existing surrounding soil levels.
- 6.07 Standard trees to be double staked with double round straight pressure impregnated softwood stakes pointed at one end. Stake to be driven 750mm in to ground and installed prior to planting and the tree secured immediately. The trees should be secured using 50mm diameter hessian secured to the stake with galvanised nails.
- 6.08 Trees planted within grass to be fitted with strimmer guards.
- 6.09 75 millimetres of ornamental grade bark mulch to be applied to the entire width of the pit around the base of each plant to form continuous line of along with new planting areas.

## **7.0 Grass Seeding**

- 7.01 New areas of lawn will be seeded using general low maintenance grass seed (for example Germinal A22).
- 7.02 The preparation of new lawn areas will be in accordance with BS428- 1989 code of practise for general landscaping operations (excluding hard surfaces).
- 7.03 The soil area will either be rotovated or forked over to a depth of 150 millimetres removing any stones or weeds. The area will be roughly level and allowed to settle for a week where any new emerging weeds will be removed.



- 7.04 The area will then be likely and uniformly firmed to true running levels and raked out to find tilt 25 millimetres in depth. All stones above 25mm will be removed.
- 7.05 A pre-seeding fertiliser will be applied to the manufacturers rates three to five days prior to the seeding and raked into the seedbed 48 hours prior to seeding the area will then be watered to saturation point.
- 7.06 Grass seed should be shown in two directions on a calm dry day preferably between April to mid-October.
- 7.07 Germinal A22- low maintenance will be sown evenly at a rate of 50.00g/m<sup>2</sup>.
- 7.08 During dry weather the newly grassed area will be watered daily using a sprinkler to keep the seedbed moist.

## **8.0 Irrigation**

- 8.01 All areas of new planting will require irrigation throughout the growing season Water requirements will be dependent on species, soil types and weather conditions.
- 8.02 As a guide newly planted standard trees, with a root ball diameter of 800 mm will generally require approximately 20 litres of water twice a week from April to September. This can be reduced in prolonged wet spells.
- 8.03 Watering will be carried out using a hose pipe fitted with fine rose (subject to local restrictions).
- 8.04 Irrigation will be carried out for the first 2 growing seasons to ensure good root establishment.
- 8.05 Irrigation will be carried out first thing in the morning or late in the afternoon to avoid excessive evaporation or leaf scorch.

## **9.0 Maintenance General**

- 9.01 **General:** The site includes soft landscaping of trees and grass areas. All plants are to be maintained until well established. 1m surrounding new trees are to be kept weed free by hand weeding or non residual herbicide.
- 9.02 **Spring:**
  - In March/April trees to be checked for survival
  - Any that have died will be replaced using the same methods for planting.
  - Any loose soil around the base lifted by frost will be firm down by foot.
  - Mulching depth will be checked and reinstated to a depth of 75mm if inadequate.
- 9.03 **Summer:**
  - Trees will be inspected and checked for any disease or problems and rectified as appropriate.



The mulch will be checked and reinstated if found to be inadequate.

Weeds will be removed by hand if found to be growing in the mulched area.

Regular watering will occur.

**9.04 Autumn:**

Ties will be checked to establish whether or not they have secure root hold and can remain upright.

Mulching depth will be checked and reinstated if inadequate.

Regular watering will continue if prolonged summer temperatures extend into the season or if drying winds occur.

**10.0 Tree Maintenance**

10.01 Maintain a 1m surround to trees free from grass, weed and rubbish.

10.02 Water fortnightly between April and September, with additional watering if there has been no rainfall within a weekly period. As a guide newly planted standard trees, with a root ball diameter of 800 mm will generally require approximately 20 litres of water twice a week, this can be reduced in prolonged wet spells.

10.03 This should take place for the first 2 growing seasons. Watering should be carried out first thing in the morning or late in the afternoon to avoid excessive evaporation or leave scorch.

10.04 Re-firm trees that have been loosened by wind or frost.

10.05 Maintain mulch to a minimum depth of 75mm.

10.06 Each stake and tie to be checked and adjusted or renewed as required.

10.07 Remove any dead wood or damaged or diseased branches and any suckers growing from the trunk. Any wounds to be pared back to sound wood in accordance with BS. 3998:2010. All prunings & off cuts to be removed from site.

10.08 Removed the stakes and ties once the trees have rooted successfully.

**11.0 Grass Maintenance**

11.01 Grass should be first cut once it is well rooted and has reached a height of 100mm, it should then be cut to 50mm and lightly rolled. The cuttings are to be removed from site and the grass should only be cut when dry.

11.02 All weeds should be removed by hand for the first growing season. In subsequent seasons a herbicide can be used.

11.03 Any slight hollows which appear should be top dressed with fine compost lightly rolled in and the grass allowed to grow through.



- 11.04 The grass should subsequently be cut regularly to ensure a consistent height of 50mm, approximately 10-24 times a year depending on the growing season.
- 11.05 Watering should be carried out during dry spells to maintain growth. Watering should be carried out with sprinklers or oscillating spray providing 15 litres per square meter.

## **12.0 Replacement Planting**

- 12.01 Replace any tree and plant within the first 5 years of planting that fails to thrive. This includes damage, diseased, defective, or lost plant.
- 12.02 Any grass area that fails should be over seeded with the same mix with the surface lightly raked through and stones over 25mm removed. Any previously turfed areas should be re-turfed.