

Cambridge House
Soft Landscape Specification
10th July 2023

Issued for Planning

Specification for Soft Landscape Works

NEW LEAF

Contents

- 1.0 General
- 2.0 Soil preparation
- 3.0 Tree planting
- 4.0 Grass seeding
- 5.0 Landscape maintenance

1. General

- 1.1 The proposed site is located at the bottom of East Chevin Road in Otley. The land has been kept as part of an extended garden, as a low maintenance meadow with various trees.
- 1.2 Part of the site is to be developed in to 2 detached houses with private gardens.

2. Soil preparation

- 2.1 Any receiving soil (i.e. in situ soil) that has been subjected to compaction from construction activities will be needed to be de compacted to break up any panning, reduce flood risk and promote deeper root growth.
- 2.2 For areas where topsoil is to be reused in situ, the soil is to be alleviated of any compaction, rotovate as necessary to achieve medium tilth and stone picked to a depth of 75mm.
- 2.3 The following soil depth shall be achieved:

Tree pits:

Standard trees; 1.0m(depth) x 1.5m(width), 0.4m topsoil, 0.6m subsoil

3. Tree Planting

- 3.1 Proposed trees are specified as root balled stock. If this is to change due to the construction programme, then container grown stock can be used.
- 3.2 The following seasonal restrictions apply to tree planting generally:
Bare root/ Root ball; November to March only
Containerised trees/ Spring Ring trees; All year round
- 3.3 Tree pits shall be dug as close to when the trees will be planted as possible and no more than 7 days in advance.
- 3.4 Trees are to be backfilled with the planting medium which was originally excavated from the pit. Topsoil shall be piled separately to the subsoil so they can be placed back in to the pit to achieve the same profile.
- 3.5 Tree pits will comprise of the following;
Standard trees, 8- 10cm girth
Once excavated the tree pit sides and base are to be broken up to aid drainage.
100mm of loose gravel to be placed at base of pit.
Re- place subsoil taken from original pit excavation on top of gravel to a depth of 600mm.
100mm of washed sand is to be placed on top of subsoil. The root ball is to sit within this layer.

Place the stakes to either side of the tree root ball, 300- 400mm from centre. Firm in ready for backfill of topsoil. Stakes are 1.5m, allowing 600mm to be underground.

Once the tree is placed, back fill with the topsoil re used from original excavation to a depth of 400mm.

Aeration/ Irrigation pipes to be placed. Irrigation pipe needs a cap on the inlet. Chosen and supplied by the contractor.

The cross bar fixed to the stake uprights and stake to be check it is firmly in the ground. A horticultural grade soft buckle tie including spacer (to avoid rubbing against the tree) to be fixed around the tree and nailed in securely to the cross bar.

All trees to be thoroughly watered immediately after planting and during establishment period.

1000mm of bark mulch to be laid to a depth of 75mm around the base of each tree immediately after planting and watering.

4. Grass Seed

4.1 The following seasonal restrictions apply to grass seeding;

Species rich grass seeding; April- June or September

4.2 The ground is to be free of weeds and a medium tilth prior to seeding.

4.3 Grass meadow mix is to be sown at a rate of 20g per sq. m. Seed shall be bulked out with silver sand or sawdust and mixed thoroughly and regularly to ensure even distribution. After sowing, seed should be firmed in by rolling or treading to ensure good contact between seed and soil. Do not cover the seed.

4.4 Supplier; Choice of contractor

Product; Companion Grass seed mix 100%

5. Landscape maintenance

5.1 Landscape maintenance is the responsibility of the main contractor for a period of 12months post practical completion and the building occupier thereafter.

5.2 Tree Planting Yr 1- 5

January- March; Remove any dead, diseased or dying branches. Prune trees to maintain a desirable shape in the first 3 years. Report any signs of disease or a decrease in health to the site management.

September- October; Add a layer of bark mulch to the base. Best done after watering/ rainfall.

May & September; Clear around the base of the trees from weeds to a diameter of 1m. Check the tree is firmed in after weeding. Hand weeding required. No use of glyphosate.

All year round; Check the stakes and ties monthly. Assuming they will need adjusting a few times a year. Fix and re tie any broken stakes, re tie at a lower position to allow for growth. Remove stakes at Year 5.

5.3 Companion Grass Mix 100%

Year 1- 3:

Water weekly after installation for the first month. At times of drought, frequency of watering will be required.

Cut to 50mm 6- 8 weeks after being sown to encourage strong root growth, leave cuttings in situ for 1 week before clearance. Repeat every 8 weeks, last cut in October.

May- October; Check for invasive weeds and tree seedlings and remove by hand.

September; Re seed any areas that haven't taken with original seed mix.

Year 3 onwards:

August; Cut to a height of 50mm and leave in situ for 1 week to allow for the distribution of seed.

October; Final cut of the year

5.4 Boundary wall to Forest Gate (South of site)

Trees must be maintained to allow 4m of clearance from boundary wall. Annual check of the canopy to make sure it is not overhanging and blocking 4m clearance from boundary wall. Pruning can be done in Winter when trees are dormant.