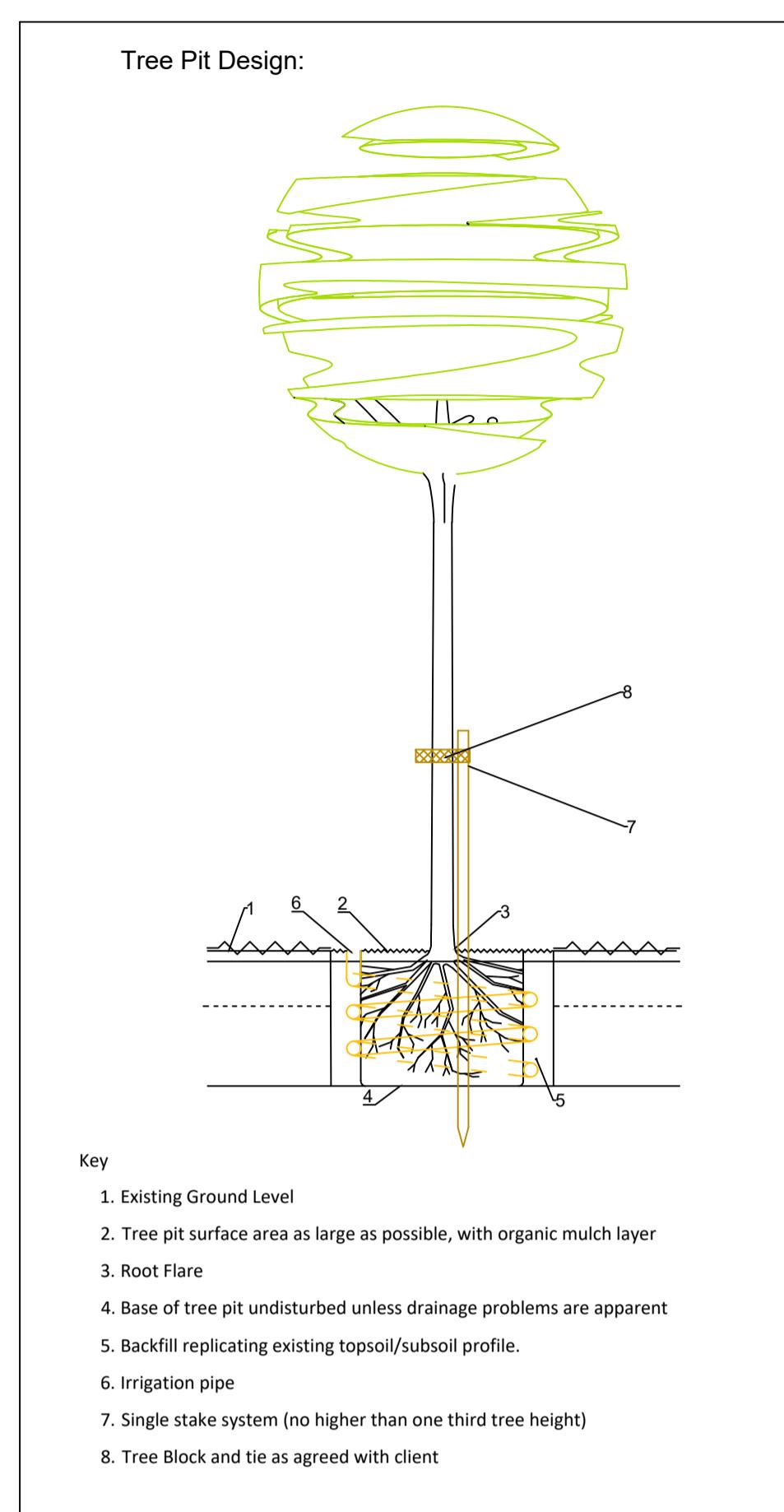




## Individual Tree Planting Specification



### Planting the tree

**NOTE** Planting depth is critical to transplanting success. Planting too deep is often identified as a common cause of failure. The root flare of the newly planted tree should be clearly visible at the soil surface. It should not be buried by excess soil or mulch. Where root flare should be revealed at the time of planting.

If a rootballled tree has used then the hessian, twine and the wire cage should be loosened. If wire encircles the stem diameter as part of the wire cage of the rootball, this should be cut and removed. If a containerised tree has been used all pot/bag materials should be removed and disposed of.

Any minor branch damage should be removed by pruning, ensuring that any branch removal does not include the branch collar attachment.

At no time should trees at the planting site be left with their root systems exposed or be vulnerable to drying out.

The planting pit should be no deeper than the existing rootball or container depth.

Tree pit sides should not have compacted, glazed or smeared sides from digging. Sides of a planting pit that have been smeared or smoothed during excavation should be scarified.

Tree pits should have a diameter at least 75 mm greater than that of the root system.

During excavation of the tree pit the soil dug should be placed to one side separating topsoil and subsoil as far as is practical.

The tree's root system should be wetted prior to planting.

The tree should be planted at the correct depth taking into account the position of the root flare and the finished level. Allowance should be made for settling of the soil after planting.

Backfill should be added gradually in layers of 150 mm to 230 mm depth, ensuring the tree is held upright. At each stage the fill should be firmed in to eliminate all air pockets under and around the root system, but with care being taken not to excessively compact the soil.

The final layer of backfilling should not be consolidated, but should be of a sufficient depth to allow for settlement and mulching.

Immediately after planting, the tree pit should be saturated to field capacity

At this point the tree support system should be used.

## Individual Tree Planting Specification A

### Plant Handling at Site

#### Unloading and temporary storage

The contractor shall ensure that the young trees from the nursery should ensure that the trees are unloaded from the lorry in a speedy and efficient manner. A full quality check should take place at the time of unloading. Any defects or breakages should be reported to the dispatching nursery immediately. Trees that do not meet the specification or are otherwise unsatisfactory or damaged should be rejected and returned. Rootballled or containerized trees shall be lowered intact from the delivery vehicle and shall not be dropped onto the ground, as this can cause damage to the root system.

The time that trees are held in temporary storage should be kept to a minimum. The storage area should be specific for that purpose. The site should be isolated from areas where there is the potential for contamination from other stored materials on neighbouring sites or damage from vehicles.

### Planting

#### Considerations Below Ground

The planting pit position and rooting location will be reviewed by the contractor and any issues reported to the site manager for discussion with the client.

When digging the pit the base of the tree pit should remain undisturbed unless there are specific problems such as poor drainage, soil smearing or pans resulting from pit construction which need to be rectified.

The backfill medium used should be as close as possible in texture and structure to the soil excavated from the tree pit. Ideally the soil dug from the excavated pit should be used as the backfill medium.

Topsoil should not be used below the depth of the original topsoil layer.

An approved below-ground irrigation system should be used to aid establishment.

#### Considerations above ground

Prior to placing the tree within the pit the tree stake used should be driven into the ground to a sufficient depth to provide full support for the tree.

The ties and support system should be attached as recommended by the manufacturer. The support system should be no higher than one third the height of the tree being planted.

The length of time for which this support system is left in place should be assessed during the initial and on-going maintenance of the landscape area. All support systems should be removed as soon as possible.

Mulches are beneficial to transplanting success and should be used. The root flare and the base of the stem should be maintained free from mulch. The tree should be irrigated before mulch is applied. A mulch depth of 50 mm to 100 mm is required. The mulch should be an organic based material such as composted bark or similar.

#### General recommendations for post-planting maintenance

This management programme should be in place for at least 5 years.

##### Irrigation

The timing and frequency of irrigation should take into account the prevailing weather conditions, soil moisture release characteristics, and the response of the tree species to water deficits or periods of prolonged soil saturation.

Frequency of irrigation is more important than the volume of water given at any one time therefore regular irrigation through the initial planting period is recommended rather than one off treatments. Extra irrigation should be considered if there are 10 consecutive days during the growing season at >25 °C.

Not just the irrigation tubes should be used but top watering carried out also.

##### Formative pruning

Formative pruning should be carried out in accordance with BS3998 as required throughout the early years of a tree's life in the landscape and formative pruning should continue until a permanent structurally sound scaffold system of branches typical of the species and appropriate to the site circumstances is produced.

##### Routine maintenance

All stakes and ties should be checked at least annually to ensure that the root system remains stable and firm in the ground, and that ties are still effective and not causing any damage to the tree. Any stakes and ties that are found to be not fit for purpose should be adjusted, replaced or removed.

All stakes and ties should be removed as soon as the developing root system is strong enough to support the tree. **NOTE** Two full growing seasons are usually long enough for this to occur

The area around the base of the tree should be free from competing vegetation. **It is recommended that due to the situation that mulch is used to achieve this or regular hand weeding.**

All mulches should be replenished to their original depth, 50 mm to 100 mm, and hand-weeded as necessary and at least once annually. The mulched area should be enlarged, if practicable, as the tree develops to the canopy drip line, taking care to avoid a build-up of mulch around the root flare and the base of the stem.

The soil around newly planted trees should be regularly inspected for soil capping or compaction. Remedial action should be taken as necessary.

All trees should be checked on a regular basis for mammal, human and other external damage. All trees should be checked on a regular basis for pests and diseases. Remedial action should be implemented as soon as practicable following discovery.

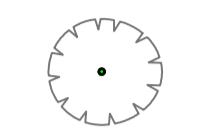
Unless specific nutritional deficiencies are identified, no fertilizer should be applied to newly planted trees in the first season.

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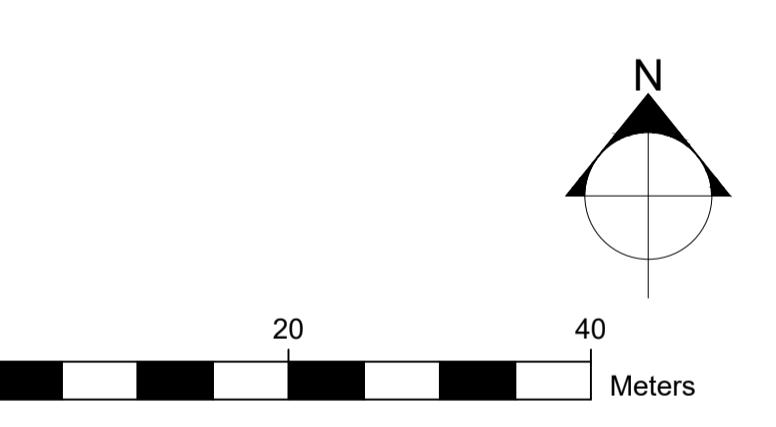
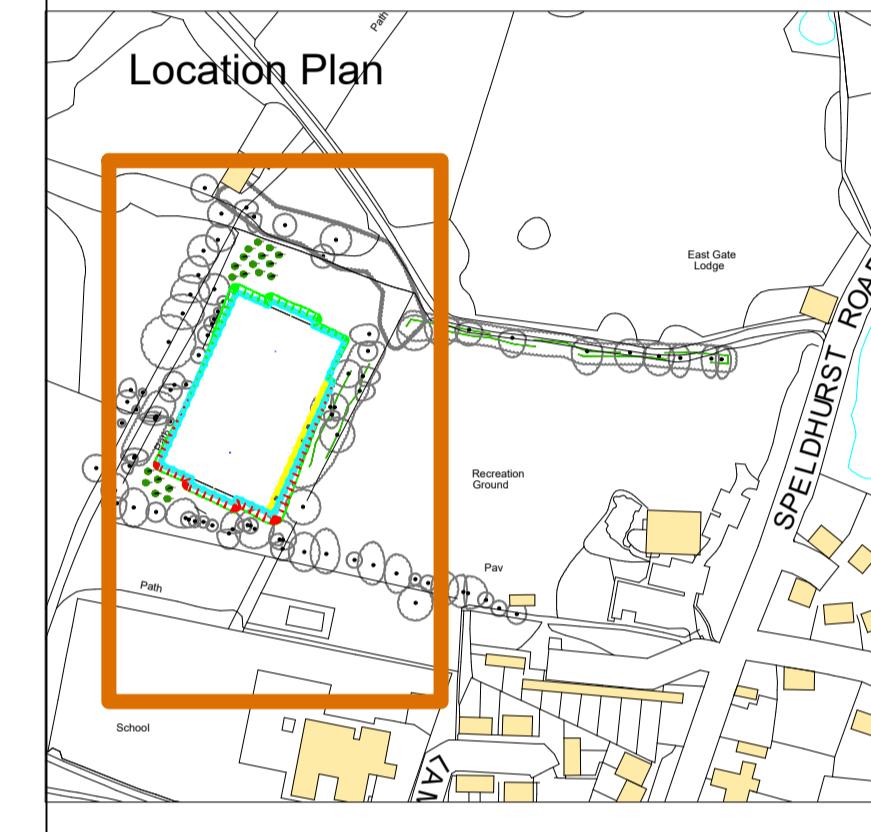
Notes

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## Key



Proposed Deciduous Tree with Species Label



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Client Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells

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