

NEW HEART for SHIRLEY
STRATFORD RD. SHIRLEY

SPECIFICATION

for

SOFT LANDSCAPE WORKS

PREPARED FOR :-

SHIRLEY ADVANCE

JOB REF :- KTNA / 295
DATE :- MARCH 2006



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GENERAL NOTES

- All existing vegetation to be retained, to be protected during construction to B.S. 5837 : 2005.
- No existing trees or shrubs topped, lopped or felled without the permission of the Local Authority.
- All proposed plant material and procedure to comply with the latest relevant sections of B.S. 3936 and B.S. 4428 respectively, and HTA National Plant Specification Appendix 1. All plants should be strong and healthy.
- All tree surgery work to be carried out by an approved arboriculturist.
- The condition of all trees to be inspected, and any work agreed, prior to commencement on site.
- No plant size species or variety to be substituted without prior consent of the Landscape Architect.
- Topsoil stored on site to be screened if necessary to remove perennial weeds, rubbish, and stones over 75 mm. dia.
- All plant material to receive enough water to ensure healthy establishment.
- All Service / Drainage positions to be established prior to tree planting. Minimum distance of drain / service position to tree should be 1.5 m. and should be coordinated to avoid tree locations.
- All planting positions to be as shown on the drawing. No tree planting position to be implemented closer than shown on the drawing.
- This specification to be read in conjunction with current drawings.
- ALL PLANTING TO BE CARRIED OUT IN A PLANTING SEASON :- November – March unless otherwise agreed.
- If planting is to be carried out outside a planting season, all plant material to be containerised stock, and of a size to be agreed.
- No planting to be carried out during poor weather conditions, i.e. when ground is frozen, waterlogged, or during drought, hot sunshine or persistent dry or cold winds.
- All Hard Works unless otherwise agreed shall be carried out by the Developer. All materials and workmanship shall be in accordance with construction details and specification.
- All paths and edges to be set out properly to lines and radii achieving flowing natural lines and curves.
- All hard surfaces shall be constructed after suitable bases have been laid, taking into account local site conditions.
- All plant containers and furniture to be agreed with SMBC.

NOTE:- ALL SUBSTITUTIONS TO BE AGREED WITH THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.

SPECIFICATION

for

SOFT LANDSCAPE WORKS

2.0 PLANTING - GENERAL CONDITIONS

2.1 All new plant material is to be available for inspection and selection by the Landscape Architect.

2.2 The Contractor is to notify the Landscape Architect of any discrepancies between the specified number of shrubs in an area and the intended density of plants.

2.3 Soft Landscape works include :-

Tree planting
Shrub planting
Turfing

2.4 Seasons are as follows :-

Bare rooted plants	:	November to March inclusive
Container grown plants	:	All year round
Conifers	:	March to May inclusive
Turfing	:	All year round

Seasons are modified by ground and weather conditions as described in the sections on planting and seeding.

Site Clearance / Earthworks

2.5 Remove rubbish, concrete, metal, glass and decayed vegetation etc. contaminated topsoil and stones exceeding 75mm. Contamination includes subsoil, rubble, fuel, lubricants and other substances injurious to plant growth. Grub up and dispose of large roots with undue disturbance of soil and adjacent areas.

2.6 Where possible and if necessary, Subsoil is to be ripped 1m. deep at 500 mm. centers in all areas to be soft landscaped except under existing trees to be retained or within 1m. of services. A tractor – mounted ripper or subsoiler, or a special ripper tooth on an excavator should be used or similar approved. Where machine ripping is impractical, the subsoil is to be broken up by hand, forking to a depth of 600 mm. at 200 mm. centers. This is a Provisional Item, and should be priced according to site conditions.

2.7 Topsoil depths should be as follows :

Shrubs	350 mm. minimum
Grass	150 mm.
Tree pits	1100 mm. Max.

(unless as shown on the drawing)

Except as specifically stated, finished topsoil levels, i.e. including any mulch, are to be : 150 mm. minimum below DPC level with paving, tops of kerbs and edgings continuous with inspection covers flowing smoothly into surrounding areas.

2.8 On banks, allowance is to be made for the depth of mulch in planting areas when grading. The top of the mulch is the finished level, and must not be extended above kerbs and paths.

2.9 Topsoil is to be cultivated to a fine tilth before planting, removing rubbish, weeds, roots and stones over 50mm.

2.10 Topsoiled areas are to be maintained weed free and friable if there is any waiting period between re-spreading and planting. Allowance is to be made for additional cultivations every two weeks to achieve this, and topsoiled areas are to be protected from contamination or compaction.

All topsoil, existing and imported, shall conform to B.S. 3882:1994 and is to be genuine topsoil with a stone content under 1% ph between 6.5 – 7.5, light to medium loam without harmful chemicals or mineral pollutant.

MATERIALS

2.13 Herbicides, Insecticides and Fungicides :

All chemicals are to be used in accordance with the manufacturer's label recommendations and the contractor is to comply in all respects with the Control of Pesticides Act 1986 using fully trained, certified and equipped operatives, taking great care to avoid irregular application. The Contractor is to verify the specified rates of application.

2.14 Tree Planting Compost :

Greentree Peat Free Planting and Mulching compost supplied by :

Joseph Bentley Ltd.
Beck Lane
Barrow – on – Humber
South Humberside
N19 7AQ (or similar approved)

2.15 Bark mulch :

M&B coarse decorative Grade or equivalent with no fine materials, wood or saw dust. Sample to be approved.

Supplied by :-
M&B Bark supplies Ltd.
The Old Quarry
Roughcote, Caverswall,
Stoke on Trent
ST11 9ET - Tele No. :- 01782 3999949 (or similar approved)

2.16 Slow release fertilizer : Ficote 140, 14.14.14 NPK or similar approved.

Supplied by :

Fisons PLC Horticultural Division
Paper Mill Lane
Bramford,
Ipswich,
Suffolk
IP8 4BZ

PREPARATION OF PLANTING BEDS / PLANTING MATERIALS

2.17 Latest Recommendations for Plant Handling are to be complied with, published by :

The HTA National Plant Specification Appendix 1.
19 High St.
Theale
Reading, Berks. 01189 303132

Ensure that all plants are obtained from a nursery, which adheres to these recommendations. All plant material and procedure to comply with B.S. 3969 and B.S. 4428 latest versions respectively.

- 2.18 All plant material is to be supplied growing on its own roots. Grafted, budded or top worked stock is not acceptable.
- 2.19 Do not plant when the ground is frozen or waterlogged, or in periods of drought, hot sunshine or in persistent dry or cold winds.
- 2.20 All labels are to be removed from plant material prior to planting.
- 2.21 All trees and shrubs are to be planted at the depth at which they were growing in the nursery, and in no case is the soil around the plant to be dished below the surrounding soil level after settlement.
- 2.22 Shoots or roots, which have suffered minor damage, should be pruned back to sound wood. Damaged bark should be pared back to sound wood. Trees, which have suffered major damage in transit or planting, should be replaced.
- 2.23 Great care should be taken to prevent the roots of bare – rooted plant material from drying out in transit and before planting. Plants are to be kept standing in water or heeled in until needed. Any bundles of plants found on site with their roots exposed to the open air may be condemned and must be replaced by the Contractor at his own cost.
- 2.24 Bare-rooted plants are to be well-grown, healthy stock with a good fibrous root system.
- 2.25 Bare-rooted plants shall have their entire root system and the lower 150 mm. of their stems dipped in a 1:3 alginate / water solution, or a similar approved product, on site and immediately before planting.
- 2.26 Container – grown plants are to be well grown, healthy stock, true to type and free from pests and diseases in weed – free containers. The plant is to fill the container without being pot - bound.
- 2.27 Container – grown shrubs are to have a spread equal to their height except where a number of breaks is specified or where they are prostrate varieties in use as ground cover where the specified size refers to the distance from the stem to the end of the longest shoot.
All shrubs are to be well – branched, bushy plants with several main stems arising from or near ground level.
- 2.28 Container-grown stock, which is not planted on the day of delivery, should be set together in a sheltered position, with wet straw or peat covering the pot.

TREE PLANTING

- 2.31 Containerised trees: minimum size to be as shown on Plant Schedule. All trees to be obtained from Barcham Trees Plc. (Tele.No. 01353 720 748) or similar recognised Nursery. Underground guying system by Platipus or similar approved supplier.
- 2.32 Tree pit irrigation by Greenleaf to be Root Rain Metro watering system or similar approved supplier.
- 2.33 Tree pits should be backfilled in layers, taking care not to damage the roots or disturb the root balls, and treading firmly to eliminate voids.
- 2.34 The area of the tree pit should be treated with herbicide as specified for shrub beds. Treatments should be repeated during the defects liability period as specified for shrub beds.
- 2.35 Apply 50mm. depth of bark mulch to the whole area of the tree pit.

SHRUBS / HERBACEOUS PLANTS / BULBS

- 2.36 Planting holes for shrubs are to be 100mm. outside the root ball in every direction. Plants are to be firmed in well.
- 2.37 Backfill for planting shrubs is to consist of the excavated material mixed with 50g. of Enmag or similar approved, carefully placed around the roots and firmed in layers.
- 2.38 5 litres of peat free tree planting and mulching compost are to be incorporated into each planting station, mixing thoroughly with the soil before planting.
- 2.39 After planting the soil is to be raked to give a fine, firm tilth free from clods, weeds and stones.
- 2.40 Shrubs should be watered immediately after planting using 3 litres of water per shrub.
- 2.41 Shrub beds are to be maintained weed-free by hand cultivation, or appropriate chemical applications at regular intervals until all planting is complete, and during the maintenance period.
- 2.42 50mm. depth Bark Mulch ornamental grade or similar approved, should be applied over topsoil after treatment with post-planting herbicide to shrub beds.
- 2.43 Shrubs should be planted at even spacing in irregular groups. Where two shrubs are shown in the same area, plant in an even mix at their respective spacing.
- 2.44 Self-clinging climbers should be planted at 150mm. clear of walls and attached with lead headed nails, one per climber with roots spread outwards. Twining climbers should be loosely tied to the fence or trellis. Retain canes of plants which are too small to reach support.
- 2.45 Conifers / Evergreens to be dipped with suitable antidesiccant before delivering to site. Spray with antidesiccant soon after planting. Do not apply in rainy or frosty weather.
- 2.46 Herbaceous / Perennial plants are to be planted densely and evenly spaced over the allocated area avoiding straight lines unless otherwise indicated.

TURFING – to Garden Areas.

- 2.64 Turf:- to be Purpose grown Grade "A" cultivated turf not less than 15mm. thick consisting of fine grasses free from broad leaved weeds, ryegrass and other coarse grasses. ROLAWN MEDALLION OR SIMILAR APPROVED TURF.
- 2.65 Supply turf rolled or laid flat grass-to-grass. Deliver to site within 36 hours of lifting and protect from drying out. Turf, which is stored for excessive periods such that it becomes yellow, will be rejected.
- 2.66 Cultivate topsoil to a firm tilth, removing stones over 50mm.
- 2.67 Do not lay turf in exceptionally dry weather, or when the ground is frozen or waterlogged.
- 2.68 Lay turf stretcher bond, with the joints closely butted. Work off planks placed over previously laid turf with wooden beaters. Lay edges with whole turves.
- 2.69 Lay turf right up to buildings, walls, fences and paving. The finished level is to be 150mm. or more below DPC and exactly flush with paving after settlement.
- 2.70 Water turf immediately after laying.

- 2.71 On banks over 1 in 4 turves are to be laid diagonally and firmly pinned using 4 mm. wire pins at least 200 mm. long hairpin pattern. The pins should be removed after the grass has been cut twice.
- 2.72 Top dress in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

MAINTENANCE AND DEFECTS LIABILITY for SOFT LANDSCAPE WORKS

- 2.73 The maintenance and defects liability period is to extend for a MINIMUM of 12 months from a practical completion of landscape works.
- 2.74 Planting prices should include for the replacement of all plant material which dies during the defects liability period from any cause whatsoever, except theft or vandalism, or which is not in full leaf at the end of the growing season after planting. Such plants should be replaced in the Autumn following planting and any further losses made good at the end of the defects liability period.
- 2.75 Maintenance operations are to be carried out within one week of a verbal request by the landscape architect, to be confirmed immediately in writing.
- 2.76 Planting is to be inspected once a month throughout the defects liability period, plants loosened by wind or frost firmed in and any weed growth reported to the landscape architect with details of size, frequency and species. Attacks by pests are also to be reported, also diseases or any signs of stress in trees and shrubs.
- 2.77 Planted areas are to be maintained weed-free for a minimum of one year by whatever means the contractor chooses. Annual weeds must be controlled and perennial weeds fully eradicated during the defects liability period.
- 2.78 Spraying should be carried out before the plants show any signs of drought stress using the appropriate systemic pesticide or fungicide.
- 2.79 Allowance should be made for as many watering visits as the contractor thinks necessary to maintain healthy growth. Watering is to be carried out before the plants show any signs of drought stress using the quantity of water specified at planting time.
The landscape architect is to be notified by telephone before the site is visited for the watering of plants.
- 2.80 Allowance should be made for each shrub to be pruned once as directed.
- 2.81 Allowance is to be made for the spraying of all plants with systemic insecticide once, to control aphids or pests.
- 2.82 At the end of the defects liability period, Ficote 140 is to be applied at the rate of 100gm. per shrub as closely as possible around the stem of the plant
- 2.83 At the end of the defects liability period, areas of Bark Mulch should be topped up by the addition of a further 25 mm. of Bark Mulch.
- 2.84 If losses of plant material exceed 20%, the contractor will be required to extend his guarantee for a further 12 months beyond practical completion.
- 2.85 Allowance is to be made in prices for the application of residual herbicides for the spot treatment of annual weed growth to remove any weeds breaking through residual herbicides before re-application.
- 2.86 All maintenance items except watering are provisional and are to be carried out as

Required by the landscape architect. It will remain the duty of the contractor to notify the landscape architect of any maintenance required to keep the planting weed-free and growing well.

- 2.87 Grass is to receive 5 cuts (after the initial 2 cuts) at 3 weekly intervals, reducing the height to approx. 25 mm. cutting edges and removing all cuttings.