

## **EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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### **Itchen Valley Country Park, Allington Lane, Eastleigh**

#### **Soft Landscape Specification**

#### **Stage 4 Issue**

|             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Prepared by | SL                           |
| Checked by  | KM                           |
| Date        | 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 |
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| Revision    | 01                           |

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## D20 Excavating and filling

### Generally/the site

#### 112 Site investigation report

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1. Site Investigation Report by Land Science (to be extended to the re-wilded car parks if instructed.)

### Clearance/excavating

#### 164 Tree roots

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1. **Protected area:** Do not cut roots within precautionary protection area.
  - 1.1. **Size of area:** as shown on the Tree Constraints Plans prepared by LLD
2. **Excavation in protected area**
  - 2.1. **Method:** By hand
  - 2.2. Backfill as soon as possible or temporarily line with polyethylene sheet to reduce evaporation.
3. **Outside protected area:** Give notice of roots exceeding 25 mm and do not cut without approval.
4. **Cutting**
  - 4.1. Make clean smooth cuts with no ragged edges.
  - 4.2. Pare cut surfaces smooth with a sharp knife.
5. **Backfill:** As dug material, enriched with phosphate fertilizer

#### 168 Site clearance

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1. **Timing:** Before topsoil stripping, if any.
2. **General:** Clear site of rubbish, debris and vegetation. Do not compact topsoil.

#### 170 Removing small trees, shrubs, hedges and roots

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1. **Identification:** Clearly mark trees to be removed.
2. **Small trees, shrubs and hedges:** Cut down.
3. **Roots:** Grub up and dispose of without undue disturbance of soil and adjacent areas.
4. **Safety:** Comply with Forest Industry Safety Accord safety leaflets.

#### 175 Felling large trees

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1. **Definition:** Girth over 600 mm.
2. **Identification:** Clearly mark trees to be removed.
3. **Safety:** Comply with Forest Industry Safety Accord safety leaflets.
4. **Felling:** As close to the ground as possible.
5. **Stumps:** Remove mechanically to a minimum depth of 300 mm below ground level
6. **Work near retained trees:** Take down trees carefully in small sections to avoid damage to adjacent trees that are to be retained, where tree canopies overlap and in confined spaces generally.

## 180 Chipping and shredding

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1. **General:** Permitted, spread arisings on site in areas designated

## 220 Stripping topsoil

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1. **General:** Before beginning general excavation or filling, strip topsoil from areas where there will be regrading, buildings, pavings/ roads and other areas shown on drawings.
2. **Depth**
  - 2.1. Remove to an average depth of 300 mm or the full depth of topsoil.
  - 2.2. Give notice where the depth of topsoil is difficult to determine.
3. **Handling:** Handle topsoil for reuse or sale in accordance with clause 225.
4. **Around trees:** Do not remove topsoil from below the spread of trees to be retained.
5. **Site storage:** Keep separate from excavated sub-soil

## 225 Handling topsoil

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1. **Standard:** To BS 3882.
2. **Aggressive weeds**
  - 2.1. **Species:** Notify the presence of species included in the Weeds Act, section 2, or the appropriate Wildlife and Countryside Act for the relevant jurisdiction.
  - 2.2. **Give notice:** Obtain instructions before moving topsoil.
3. **Contamination:** Do not mix topsoil with:
  - 3.1. Subsoil, stone, hardcore, rubbish or material from demolition work.
  - 3.2. Other soil or material containing aggressive weeds, sharps, plastics and non soil forming materials and notifiable animal or plant diseases.
  - 3.3. Oil, fuel, cement or other substances harmful to plant growth.
  - 3.4. Other classifications of topsoil.
4. **Multiple handling:** Keep to a minimum. Use topsoil immediately after stripping.

## Disposal of materials

## 415 Excavated topsoil removal

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1. **General:** Remove from site.

## 420 Topsoil storage heaps

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1. **Location:** to be agreed between Client and Contractor
2. **Standard:** To BS 3882.
3. **Height (maximum):** 1.0m height or 2.0 m height for short periods
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.

#### 441 Surplus subsoil

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1. **Excavated material:** Stockpile in temporary storage heaps.
2. **Retained material:** Spread and level surplus subsoil on site.
  - 2.1. **Locations:** to be agreed between Client and Contractor
  - 2.2. **Protected areas:** Do not raise soil level within root spread of trees that are to be retained.
3. **Remaining material:** Remove from site.

#### Filling

#### 550 Geotextile sheet

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1. **Manufacturer:** Green-Tech or equal and approved
  - 1.1. **Product reference:** Terram 1000
2. **Jointing:** 300 mm overlap
3. **Preparation of subgrade:** Before laying sheet, remove humps and sharp projections. Fill hollows
4. **Protect from**
  - 4.1. Exposure to light.
  - 4.2. Contaminants.
  - 4.3. Materials listed as potentially deleterious by geotextile manufacturer.
  - 4.4. Wind uplift.

#### 571 Geocells

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1. **Manufacturer:** Terram or equal and approved
  - 1.1. **Product reference:** Geocell
2. **Size of cells:** 22/20
3. **Preparation of subgrade:** Before laying geocells, remove humps and sharp projections, and fill hollows
4. **Fixing/ Connecting:** Stainless steel 'J' pins

#### 610 Compacted filling for landscape areas (Main Car Park mounds)

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1. **Fill:** Material capable of compaction by light earthmoving plant.
2. **Filling:** Layers not more than 200 mm thick. Lightly compact each layer to produce a stable soil structure.

#### 615 Loose tip filling for landscape areas (Main Car Park mounds)

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1. **Filling:** If subsoil is heavy clay, do not firm, consolidate or compact when laying. Tip and grade to approximate levels in one operation with minimum of trafficking by plant.

## Q28

### Topsoil and soil ameliorants

#### System outline

##### 115 Topsoil system for seeding wildflowers

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- 6. **Description:** Flowering Grassland Areas (High Hill Field)
- 7. **Composition**
  - 7.1. **Topsoil:** Existing grassland to be retained, prepared for seeding (with raking)

##### 115A Topsoil system for seeding meadows

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- 3. **Description:** Flowering Grassland Areas (Main Car Park)
- 4. **Composition**
  - 4.1. **Topsoil:** Site-sourced topsoil or Imported low fertility topsoil to BS 3882

##### 115B Topsoil system for laying pre-mixed growing medium

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- 5. **Description:** Wildflower Areas
- 6. **Composition**
  - 6.1. **Topsoil:** Lifting existing turf, retain existing soil below

##### 115C Topsoil system for Turfing

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- 7. **Description:** Swales
- 8. **Composition**
  - 8.1. **Topsoil:** Site-sourced topsoil or Imported low fertility topsoil to BS 3882

##### 135 Planting bed topsoil system

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- 5. **Description:** FOR GENERAL PLANTING AREAS
- 6. **Composition**
  - 6.1. **Topsoil:** Site-sourced topsoil or Imported topsoil to BS 3882
  - 6.2. **Ameliorants:** Sanitized and stabilized composted materials certified to PAS 100
  - 6.3. **Accessories:** None

##### 145 Planting pit backfilling topsoil system

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- 7. **Description:** FOR ALL TREE PITS
- 8. **Composition**
  - 8.1. **Topsoil:** Site-sourced topsoil or Imported topsoil to BS 3882
  - 8.2. **Ameliorants:** Sanitized and stabilized composted materials certified to PAS 100
  - 8.3. **Accessories:** None

##### 155 Mulching and top dressing system

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- 2. **Description:** FOR ALL PLANTING AREAS
- 3. **Composition**
  - 3.1. **Material:** Organic materials

## Products

### 300 Preparation materials generally

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6. **Purity:** Free of pests and disease.
7. **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.
8. **Contamination:** Do not use topsoil contaminated with subsoil, rubbish or other materials that are:
  - 8.1. Corrosive, explosive or flammable.
  - 8.2. Hazardous to human or animal life.
  - 8.3. Detrimental to healthy plant growth.
9. **Subsoil:** In areas to receive topsoil or planting media, do not use subsoil contaminated with the above materials.
10. **Objectionable odour:** None.
11. **Give notice:** If any evidence or symptoms of soil contamination are discovered on the site or in topsoil or planting media to be imported.

### 305 Permitted materials

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5. **Materials:** Bark, Composted bark, Wood waste
6. **Give notice:** before ordering or using.
7. **Declaration of compliance in accordance with BS EN 13650:** Required

### 310 Materials not permitted

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

### 315 Imported topsoil to BS 3882

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2. **Description:** FOR ALL PLANTING AREAS
3. **Quantity:** Provide as necessary to make up any deficiency of topsoil existing on site and to complete the work.
4. **Standard:** To BS 3882.
5. **Classification:** Multipurpose

## Execution

### 610 Topsoil analysis

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5. **Soil to be analysed:** Existing soil in area of the demolished building and Imported topsoil
6. **Soil analyst:** Tim O'Hare or equal and approved
7. **Samples:** Collect in accordance with BS 3882.
8. **Submit**
  - 8.1. **Declaration of analysis:** In accordance with BS 3882, clause 6 and Table 1.
  - 8.2. **Additional analysis:** Not required
  - 8.3. Report detailing soil analyst's recommendations.

## 620 Importing topsoil

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4. **Give notice:** Before stripping topsoil for transfer to site.
  - 4.1. **Notice period:** 5 days

## 655 Mechanical tools

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

## 685 Surplus materials to be removed

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5. **Topsoil removal from site:** Topsoil remaining after completion of all landscaping work
6. **Subsoil, stones, debris, wrapping material, canes, ties, temporary labelling, rubbish, prunings and other arisings:** Remove.

## 700 Grading of topsoil

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3. **Topsoil condition:** Reasonably dry and workable.
4. **Contours:** Smooth and flowing, with falls for adequate drainage.
  - 4.1. **Hollows and ridges:** Not permitted.
5. **Give notice:** If required levels cannot be achieved by movement of existing soil.

## 705 Handling topsoil

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2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 3882.
3. **Aggressive weeds:** Give notice and obtain instructions before moving topsoil.
4. **Plant:** Select and use plant to minimize disturbance, trafficking and compaction.
5. **Contamination:** Do not mix topsoil with:
  - 5.1. Subsoil, stone, hardcore, rubbish or material from demolition work.
  - 5.2. Other grades of topsoil.
6. **Multiple handling:** Keep to a minimum. Use or stockpile topsoil immediately after stripping.
7. **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:

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1. **Description:** to all planting areas
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:** maximum 300 mm
6. **Crumb structure:** Do not compact topsoil. Preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs wherever possible.

## 715 Loose tipping of topsoil

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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.

## 720 Finished levels of topsoil after settlement

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1. **In relation to adjoining paving, kerbs or hard surfaces:** 25 mm below adjoining surfaces
2. **In relation to dpc of adjoining buildings:** Not less than 150 mm below.
3. **In relation to adjacent grass areas:** 25 mm above
4. **Seeded areas:** Extend cultivation into existing adjacent grassed areas sufficient to ensure full marrying in of levels.
5. **Within root spread of existing trees and shrubs to be retained:** Do not dig or cultivate.
6. **Adjoining soil areas:** Marry in.
7. **Thickness of turf or mulch:** Included.

## 845 Applying loose mulch

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1. **Description:** to Planting beds and 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):** 75 mm depth
  - 4.2. **Trees:** 75 mm depth

## Completion

## 905 Applying maintenance fertilizer to soil

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1. **Description:** to Planting beds and Tree Pits
2. **Duration:** Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until the end of the rectification period.
3. **Time of year:** During February and March
4. **Application:** Evenly spread, carefully incorporating below mulch materials.
5. **Rate:** To manufacturer's recommendations

## 920 Applying mulch

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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):** 75 mm
4. **Trees:** Remulch.
  - 4.1. **Depth (minimum):** 75 mm

## Q31 External planting

### General information/ requirements

#### 112 Site clearance generally

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1. **General:** Remove rubbish, concrete, metal, glass, decayed vegetation and contaminated topsoil.
2. **Stones:** Remove those with any dimension exceeding 50 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 indicated on drawings
5. **Large roots:** Grub up and dispose of without undue disturbance of soil and adjacent areas.

#### 118 Soil conditions

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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

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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

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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

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1. **Restrictions:** Do not use within 100 mm of tree and plant stems.

#### 145 Watering

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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

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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

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1. **Give notice before**
  - 1.1. Setting out.
  - 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:** Two working days

## 200 Plants/ Trees – general

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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.

## 235 Container grown plants/ Trees

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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.

## 246 Labelling and information

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1. **Standard:** To BS 3936.

## 260 Plant/ Tree substitution

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1. **Plants/ trees unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at time of ordering:** Submit alternatives, stating:
  - 1.1. Price.
  - 1.2. Difference from specified plants/ trees.
2. **Approval:** Obtain before making any substitution.

## 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. **Plant packaging:** Black polyethylene bags
5. **Packaging of bulk quantities:** Pallets or bins sealed with polyethylene and shrink wrapped
6. **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.

## Preparation of planting beds/ planting materials

### 301 Soil preparation - for seeding wildflowers

1. **Locations:** High Hill Field margins
2. **Preparation:** Existing grassland to be broken up to expose at least 50% of bare soil
3. **Method:** Raking

### 301A Soil preparation - for seeding meadows

1. **Locations:** around Main Car Park
2. **Preparation:** General groundworks to prepare car park, swales and mounds. For meadow areas, finish to provide min 450 mm rooting depth made of subsoil or 150 mm low fertility topsoil with 300 mm subsoil underneath.
3. **Method:** Raking

### 301B Soil preparation - for laying pre-mixed growing medium

1. **Locations:** wildflower areas
2. **Preparation:** Lifting of turf, with the potential to be re-used on site. No herbicide treatment to be used.
3. **Method:** Turf cutter

### 301C Soil preparation – for turfing

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1. **Locations:** swales
2. **Preparation:** form swales as shown on the Landscape Levels drawings (LLD2475-LAN-DWG-150 series). If swales are dug into existing ground, dig over minimum of 100 mm of existing soil to loosen up. Provide minimum of 50 mm topsoil over subsoil.

### 305 Weed control

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1. **Locations:** All planting areas
2. **General:** Prevent weeds from seeding and perennial weeds from becoming established, by hand weeding. Herbicides should not be used within the Country Park

### Planting shrubs/ herbaceous plants/ bulbs

#### 401 Regular plant layout

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1. **Description:** TO ALL BEDS
2. **Spacing:** In regular, staggered rows
3. **Density:** As plant schedule, ref. LLD2475-LAN-SCH-001

#### 445 Planting bulbs/ Corms/ Tubers

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1. **Depth:** Top of bulb/ corm/ tuber at a depth of approximately twice its height, base in contact with bottom of hole.
2. **Backfilling:** Finely broken soil. Lightly firm to existing ground level.
3. **Naturalized planting in existing grassed areas**
  - 3.1. **Scattering:** Random. Plant bulbs/ corms/ tubers where they fall.
  - 3.2. **Planting:** Neatly remove a plug of turf and replace after planting.

#### 480 After planting

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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:** 75 mm

#### 481 Notch planting in uncultivated ground (for native hedgerows and native shrub planting)

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1. **Notching:** Make a vertical 'I', 'L', 'T' or 'H' notch.
2. **Depth:** To accommodate full depth of roots.
3. **Planting:** Plant bare root shrubs, close notch with root collar at ground level and firm the soil.

## 486 Shrub protection

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1. **Type:** Round
2. **Material:** Biodegradable
3. **Size:** 0.75 m high x 150 mm diameter
4. **Colour:** Green
5. **Support:** Single timber stake
6. **General:** Ensure that protection methods do not impede natural movement of shrubs or restrict growth

## Planting trees

### 500 Tree planting

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

### 505 Tree pits

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1. **Sizes:** Twice the width of the root spread, and 1.5 times the depth of the root system
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: Break up base to a depth of 150 mm.
  - 4.1. **Treatment:** Soil ameliorant worked into pit bottoms
5. **Pit sides:** Scarify.
6. **Backfilling material:** Excavated material from tree pit, installed to original soil profiles in accordance with BS 8545

### 512 Tree pit irrigation and ventilation accessories

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1. **Locations:** To all tree pits
2. **Installation**
  - 2.1. **Pipe:** Lay in loop above root ball with slight fall away from inlet pipe. Trim length to ensure a close fit in the tree pit. Connect both ends of pipe securely into plastics tee junction on inlet.
  - 2.2. **Top cap of inlet:** Protruding slightly above finished surround level.
  - 2.3. **Backfill material:** Carefully compact in layers.

### 513 Tree pit irrigation and ventilation accessories

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1. **Manufacturer:** GreenBlue Urban Ltd
  - 1.1. **Web:** [www.greenblue.com](http://www.greenblue.com)
  - 1.2. **Email:** [enquiries@greenblueurban.com](mailto:enquiries@greenblueurban.com)
2. **Product Reference:** RootRain Irrigation
3. **Type:** Submit Proposals

## 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:** To provide a 20 year service life
2. **Stake size (minimum):** 75 mm diameter
3. **Stake length (minimum):** 1500 mm for long double stakes and 1200 mm for short triple stakes

## 550 Double staking

1. **Description:** EXTRA 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 to approximately 600 mm above ground level
4. **Horizontal bracing:** Timber cross bar, 75 mm x 38 mm x 900 mm
  - 4.1. **Fixing:** Nailed to stake within 25 mm of top of stakes
5. **Ties:** Adjustable
6. **Tying:** Secure rubber belting 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.
8. **Nails for fixing cross bars:** To BS 1202-1, galvanized round wire, minimum 75 mm long and 3.75 mm gauge

## 556 Triple staking

1. **Description:** Multistem tree
2. **Staking**
  - 2.1. **Position:** Equidistantly around the tree position.
  - 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 to approximately 300 mm above ground level
4. **Horizontal bracing:** Rubber belting with spacers, nailed to stakes within 25 mm of top of stake
5. **Tying:** Secure rubber belting around tree stem firmly without causing constriction or chafing. Ensure tree is supported from all directions
6. **Nails for fixing belts and webbing:** To BS 1202-1, galvanized, minimum 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads

## 566 Tree protection

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1. **Type:** Fence
2. **Material:** Chestnut pale
3. **Size:** 1.5 m height, 1.5 m square
4. **Colour:** natural
5. **Support:** Timber stakes
6. **General:** Ensure that protection methods do not impede natural movement of trees or restrict growth.

## 576 Tree pit surfacing – loose fill

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1. **Surfacing material:** Mulch, as section Q28
2. **Area:** 1000 mm radius circle
3. **Depth:** 100 mm
4. **Watering:** Water soil thoroughly before laying.
5. **Installation:** Ensure the base of the tree stem is kept free from loose filled material.

## Protecting/ maintaining/ making good defects

### 710 Maintenance

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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:** In accordance with the agreed maintenance schedule

### 720 Failures of planting

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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

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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

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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.
  - 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:** At each scheduled maintenance visit
7. **Watering:** As required for healthy establishment, depending on weather conditions

## 760 Planting maintenance – pruning

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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

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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

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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):** 75 mm
5. **Trees:** Remulch.
6. **Depth (minimum):** 75 mm

## Q35

### Landscape maintenance

#### Generally

#### 105 Maintenance objectives

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1. **Location:** All Planting Areas
  - 1.1. **Duration:** 5 years
2. **Aims:** Enhanced landscape quality, Improved landscape visual amenity, Provide wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity

#### 110 Notice

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1. **Give notice before**
  - 1.1. Application of herbicide.
  - 1.2. Application of fertilizer.
  - 1.3. Watering.
  - 1.4. Each site maintenance visit.
2. **Period of notice:** 2 days

#### 130 Reinstatement

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1. **Damage or disturbance to soil structure, planting, grass, fencing, hard landscaping, structures or buildings:** Reinstatement to original condition.

#### 155 Watering

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1. **Supply:** Potable mains water and Rain water from storage tank
2. **Quantity:** Wet to field capacity
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

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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

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1. **General:** Unless specified otherwise, dispose of arisings as follows:
  - 1.1. **Biodegradable arisings:** Compost on site
  - 1.2. **Grass cuttings:** Leave for two to three days after cutting and then remove
  - 1.3. **Tree roots and stumps:** Top up deadwood piles and remove surplus from Site
  - 1.4. **Shrub and tree prunings:** Remove to recycling facility
  - 1.5. **Litter and nonbiodegradable arisings:** Remove from site

#### 190 Litter

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1. **Extraneous rubbish not arising from the contract work:** Collect and remove from site.

## 195 Protection of existing grass

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1. **General:** Protect areas affected by maintenance operations using boards/tarpaulins. Do not place excavated or imported materials directly on grass.

## 197 Cleanliness

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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

## 210 Maintenance of grassed areas (amenity lawn)

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1. **General:** Maintain turf in a manner appropriate to the intended use.
2. **Soil and grass**
  - 2.1. **Condition:** Maintain a healthy vigorous sward, free from disease, fungal growth, discolouration, scorch or wilt.
  - 2.2. **Waterlogging and compaction:** Prevent.
  - 2.3. **Damage:** Repair trampling, abrasion or scalping.
3. **Ornamental lawns:** Maintain reasonably free from moss, excessive thatch, weeds, frost heave, worm casts and mole hills.
  - 3.1. **Edges:** Neat and well defined, in clean straight lines or smooth flowing curves.
4. **Litter and fallen leaves:** Remove regularly to maintain a neat appearance.

## 220 Grass cutting generally

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

## 225 Tree stems

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1. **Precautions:** Do not use mowing machinery closer than 100 mm to tree stems. Use nylon filament rotary cutters and other hand held mechanical tools carefully to avoid damage to bark.

## 226 Tree stems

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

## 235 Bulbs and corms in grassed areas

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1. **Before flowering:** Do not cut.
2. **Interval between end of flowering and start of grass cutting (minimum):** 6 weeks

## 240 Mowing strips

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1. **Location:** Along the base of walls, fences and hedges
2. **Width (approximate):** 150 mm.
3. **Operations:** Maintain by hand weeding and cultivation

## 250 Leaf removal

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1. **Operations:** Collect fallen leaves from hard surfaces
2. **Disposal:** Remove from site for recycling

## 255 First cut of

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1. **Description:** wildflower grasslands from seeds
2. **Time:** first August after sowing
3. **Preparation**
  - 3.1. **Debris and litter:** Remove.
  - 3.2. **Stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension:** Remove
4. **Height of first cut:** 40 mm
5. **Arisings:** Leave

## 275 Cutting summer flowering wildflower meadows

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1. **Times of year/ Frequency of cutting:** Main summer hay cut for grassland meadows: July or August. Remove excess growth after 1-7 days. To reduce the growth of grasses and encourage wildflowers, cut again in autumn/ early winter and potentially in spring
2. **Height of cut:** 40-60 mm
3. **Arisings:** Heavy quantities of cuttings should be collected and removed from site

## 275A Cutting Wetland Meadows within Swales

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1. **Times of year/ Frequency of cutting:** once a year, Late September, early October
2. **Height of cut:** 40-60 mm
3. **Arisings:** collected and removed from site

## 320 Levelling hollows and bumps in turf

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1. **Standard:** To BS 7370-3, clauses 12.4 and 12.5.

## Shrubs/trees/hedges

### 500 Establishment of new planting

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1. **Duration:** 1 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. **Soil condition:** Fork over beds to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Do not reduce depth or effect of mulch.
4. **Watering:** As schedule and when instructed

### 502 Establishment of new planting – fertilizer

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1. **Time of year:** March or April.
2. **Type:** Organic
3. **Spreading:** Spread evenly.

### 510 Tree stakes and ties

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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.

### 520 Refirming of trees and shrubs

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1. **Timing:** After strong winds, frost heave and other disturbances.
2. **Refirming:** Tread around the base until firmly bedded.
3. **Collars in soil at base of tree stems, created by tree movement:** Break up by fork, avoiding damage to roots. Backfill with topsoil and refirm.

### 525 Tree guards

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

### 537 Nesting wild birds

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1. **Survey:** Before starting hedge or tree work during the period of February to August (inclusive), carry out a survey by a qualified ecologist and submit report
2. **Accidental disturbance:** Report immediately.

## 540 Pruning generally

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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.

## 545 Pruning of excessive overhang

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1. **Timing:** As instructed
2. **Operations:** Remove growth encroaching onto grassed areas, paths, roads, signs, sightlines and road lighting luminaires.
3. **Special requirements:** Allow ground cover plants to partially overlap paths and lawns

## 555 Pruning trees and shrubs

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1. **Standard:** To BS 7370-4.
2. **Special requirements:** Prune outside of bird nesting season

## 575 Pruning ornamental shrubs

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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

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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.

## 600 Trimming rapidly establishing hedges

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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.
  - 1.1. **Timing:** formative pruning during winter or early spring, prior to bird nesting season (1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August)

### 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

### 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.
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.

### 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):** 75 mm
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.

### 700 Snow removal from shrubs/ Trees

1. **Standard:** To BS 7370-4.
2. **Plants subject to snow removal:** All evergreens
3. **Timing:** Within 24 hours of snowfall

## Tree work

### 810 Tree work generally

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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.

### 815 Additional work

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1. **Defective, diseased, unsafe or weak parts of trees additional to those scheduled for attention:** Give notice if detected.

### 820 Prevention of wound bleeding

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1. **Standard:** To BS 3998.

### 825 Prevention of disease transmission

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1. **Standard:** To BS 3998.

### 830 Cleaning out and deadwooding

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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

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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.

### 865 Bark damage

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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

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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

Specification created using NBS Chorus



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