

Badnam Cottage: Landscape _ General and planting specification

General instructions

Drawings and specifications to be read in conjunction with all relevant Architect's drawings, Structural Engineer's drawings, Ecological Assessment, Arboricultural Report, Drainage Strategy and all associated project documentation.

The Contractor shall report any discrepancies between the drawings and existing site conditions before commencing work.

Protection of vegetation (plants) to be retained:

All existing trees, hedgerows and vegetation to be retained within or adjacent to the site shall be protected throughout the works in accordance with BS 583 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations, together with the project Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Arboricultural Method Statement where applicable.

Do not damage or prune the visible parts of any vegetation which is to be retained without permission. Within the Root Protection Area or spread of the crown of trees (whichever is greater) or other retained vegetation:

- do not reduce or increase soil levels;
- avoid compaction of the soil;
- do not use machinery or store any materials or equipment, or locate facilities;
- do not spill or store toxic materials; where excavation is agreed, use only trenchless or hand excavation and backfill immediately;
- do not cut roots over 25mm diameter or damage their bark without agreement.

Fires: are not permitted on site without agreement. When permitted, fires must not be within 10m horizontal distance of the canopy spread of any trees or other vegetation to be retained.

Soils:

Soil conditions:

Undertake operations involving topsoil, subsoil in soft landscape areas and subsoil for reuse, when the soil is reasonably dry and workable and non-plastic in consistency, with a soil moisture content at or below the lower plastic limit; not when the soil is wet. Topsoil shall not be trafficked or compacted following placement.

Existing topsoil (Soil preservation):

All top-soil excavated during construction to be retained and stored separately from sub-soils, or other aggregates/ materials. f stored in temporary heaps, stacked less than 1m high and protected from compaction and contamination.

Top-soil to be (re)used to fill base layers of beds and level planted areas as needed. Any surplus topsoil to be removed once these requirements are complete.

Imported topsoil

- to be in compliance with BS 3882
- multipurpose natural topsoil;
- Screened to 20mm (stone size)
- Texture: 'Loamy clay/ Loamy sand'
- free of building materials or other similar alien matter, sub- soil, large roots, stolons, rhizomes or poisonous substances;
- if stored in temporary heaps, stacked less than 1m high and protected from compaction and contamination
- Samples shall be submitted for approval prior to importation.

Imported subsoil

- to be in compliance with BS 8601:
- multipurpose subsoil
- free of building materials or other similar alien matter, sub- soil, large roots, stolons, rhizomes or poisonous substances;

Prior to the placement of topsoil, all planting areas and lawn areas shall be cleared of building debris, concrete, mortar, subsoil contamination and other alien materials. Compacted subgrades shall be thoroughly cultivated or mechanically loosened to a minimum depth of 250mm (or as required by the specification).

Spread top soil (from topsoil storage heap/ imported top soil): to provide the following requirements and minimum depths:

- grass areas 100mm;
- wildflower grass areas 25mm mixed with top of subsoil
- shrub areas 400mm;
- treepits 600mm deep x (diameter specified/ appropriate to tree container).

o Backfill in tree pits to 400mm below ground to be subsoil

Gradients and levels:

- Conform to the spot heights or contours on drawings and grade to even flowing contours with no sharp angles in any direction and no ponding hollows (unless shown on drawings). Level of soil adjacent to paving and other surfaces shall be as shown on the detail drawings.
- Graded slopes to be of even gradient;
- Graded to avoid ponding hollows; Graded to even flowing contours with no sharp angles in any direction (unless shown on drawings);
- Topsoil edges 50mm above bordering hard surfaces to allow for settlement;
- Finished level (after mulch or other finishing) to be at least 150mm below the top of any damp proof course.

Water supply restrictions

If the water supply is, or is likely to be restricted, advise Customer and do not carry out planting or seeding until instructed. If planting or seeding has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering.

Planting Specific - instructions

Supply & handling of trees & all plants:

- Ensure all nurseries / plant suppliers comply with the National Plant Specification (NPS) and all legal requirements concerning plant health and biosecurity, eg plant passporting and import notifications for particular species as appropriate.
- All plants shall have been grown in peat free growing media.

Plant labelling:

- All plants delivered to site shall be clearly and durably labelled with exact genus, species, cultivar and supplier. Where plants are grouped, one label is to be retained in place on completion of the work.

Timing of planting:

Undertake planting in the following seasons unless the agreed programme indicates otherwise:

- Deciduous plants: beginning November to end March
- Evergreen plants: October/November or April
- Grass and wildflower seeding: March/April or September/October
- Bulbs: when available depending on species, usually in Autumn or Spring
- Aquatic and marginal plants: when available in Spring and Autumn

Weather and soil conditions:

Undertake soft landscape works generally in open weather conditions, typically mild, dull and moist.

Do not undertake planting seeding or turfing when the temperature is below 4 degrees C and falling, when the ground is covered in snow, in frozen or waterlogged ground or in drought conditions.

Preparation for planting:

Rotovate or hand-dig ground to a minimum of 250mm deep and remove stones, or building waste, over 50mm in any dimension. Remove existing unwanted plants including their roots.

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Rotovate or hand-dig ground to a minimum of 250mm deep and remove stones, or building waste, over 50mm in any dimension. Remove existing unwanted plants including their roots.

Organic matter:

Apply and incorporate into the surface 250mm of planting areas, either: composted green waste complying with BSI PAS 100, or spent mushroom compost from an agreed supplier, at the rate of 100ltr/m2.

Suppliers: Hampshire Garden Supplies, Apsley farms, Veolia (pro-gro)

Preparation of all plants:

- Remove inorganic containers, or root-ball support materials.
- Check for and reject any damaged, diseased, poorly rooted, pot-bound, pest infested, wrongly identified plants, or plants not complying with all the requirements of the plant list (unless previously agreed)
- Trees - Remove any string, or similar from canopy and prune out any dead, diseased or malformed growth prior to planting.
- Carefully prune any minor root damage.

Watering before planting:

- If soil is dry, thoroughly water 48 hours before planting.
- Saturate the root ball of container grown and root-balled plants 24 hours before planting.

After planting:

Watering:

Water thoroughly immediately after planting and at intervals as necessary, until the Customer agrees the work is finished.

Mulching:

Fork soil to a medium tilth in the areas to be mulched. Apply mulch after watering to a lightly consolidated depth of 100 mm, including soil areas around trees in grass.

Mulch shall be kept clear of plant stems and tree trunks.

Mulch: ornamental landscape bark – Hampshire Garden Supplies/ Westland

All - Shrubs, hedging plants and trees

Mycorrhizal fungi inoculant:

Apply a UK-produced, broad-spectrum mycorrhizal fungi inoculum (containing both endomycorrhizal and ectomycorrhizal species),

- at a rate of (minimum) 50 g for large trees or 2 g per litre of root-ball volume.
- Granules must be directly onto the dampened root-ball to ensure direct root contact.

Product: Vitax Q4 rootboost

Trees

Tree quality, size and type: In accordance with the plant schedule (and as specified in the National Plant Specification)

Individual tree pits: Excavate 450mm deep by 500mm diameter (assuming 45ltr pots);

Set aside topsoil for backfill and store subsoil or dispose if not required in the works; Backfill to 400mm below ground to be subsoil from spoil

Tree pit preparation: Shortly before planting: incorporate organic matter (as above) to a maximum depth of 250mm

Planting trees:

- plant in previously prepared tree pits;
- upright and in exact positions shown on the drawings or in agreed positions;
- in holes large enough to allow adequate root spread or 150mm wider all round rootball;
- cut back any damaged roots to sound growth;
- loosen soil of sides of rootball while backfilling;
- so that the finished soil level is above the surrounding soil by 5% of the tree pit depth;
- so that the root flair is clearly visible above the finished soil level (including mulch if applicable);
- so that the original orientation is maintained (if marked on tree in nursery).

Watering pipes: provide perforated plastic watering pipes in a circle around the top edge of the rootball.

Backfilling: to be the excavated (pre-prepared) soil. The backfill is to be evenly worked round the roots and well heeled in.

Staking for root-balled and container trees:

- Tree stakes: 75mm minimum diameter, free of bark, with one end pointed. Tree ties: 25mm rubber tree belting/ soft buckle ties, and appropriate spacers.
- Drive 2 stakes upright 600mm into bottom of excavated planting pit 600mm apart, before planting, either side of the root-ball in line with the prevailing wind.
- Cut off at 600mm high above ground level and after planting secure tree with loops of webbing, secured approx 50mm from the top of the stake to hold the tree vertical.

Tree protection:

Biodegradable* tree guard, capable of accommodating tree for 1 season, to be fitted to all trees, using appropriate ties/ supports.

Immediately after planting: Water in (directing water at the base of the plants). Lightly prune back any damaged or malformed growth. Rake soil to an even, fine tilth to the required levels.

Hedges

Hedge plant quality, size and type: In accordance with the plant schedule.

Hedge whips will have a well-developed fibrous root system.

Preparation and storage:

Hedge whips shall be protected from drying out during transport, storage and planting. E.g., Maintain roots in damp hessian or planting bags until planted. Soak root-ball/ rooted end of plant in water for 2-8 hours, prior to planting.

Planting hedge whips:

- Planting density: 5 plants per linear metre
- Plants shall be arranged in a staggered double row where space permits, with rows approximately 200 mm apart, and, plants offset to create a triangular planting pattern.
- Planting shall be carried out by notch planting or slit planting using appropriate planting spades.
- Each plant shall be:
- Planted vertically.
- Set to the same depth as grown in the nursery (identified by the nursery soil mark).
- Firmly heel-pressed to eliminate air pockets.
- Watered immediately if soil conditions are dry.

Protection: Spiral guards NOT required, (Rabbit damage is not anticipated to be an issue).

Shrubs and herbaceous plants

Planting:

In previously prepared pits and planting areas in position shown on the drawings or in the absence of drawings space evenly;

- at the rate specified, avoiding regimented rows unless specifically shown;
- in holes large enough to allow adequate root spread and tease out congested root balls of container grown plants;
- excavate holes at least 75mm below the root system;
- set plants so that their original soil level matches the new surrounding ground and with their best side displayed.

Immediately after planting: Water in (directing water at the base of the plants). Lightly prune back any damaged or malformed growth. Rake soil to an even, fine tilth to the required levels.

Bulbs, corms and tubers:

Plant bulbs:

- under plugs of turf when in existing grass areas;
- grouped at random for naturalised bulbs.
- with the base of bulb at the correct depth for the species and in contact with the soil;
- with fine, stone-free topsoil backfill.

Turf and grassed/meadow areas:

Turfed areas (all): Preparation:

- Remove all weeds, rubbish and stones over 30mm in any dimension.
- Cultivate topsoil to a minimum depth of 100mm.
- Reduce top 30mm to a fine tilth and on clay or heavy loam soils work in 50% of coarse sharp sand to produce a 60mm layer.

Laying Turf

Turf: Rowlawn medallion/ Biodiverse

- Delivery to be phased to ensure laying within 48 hours of lifting. Ensure turves do not dry out.
- Conform to the spot heights or contours on drawings and grade to even flowing contours with no sharp angles in any direction and no ponding hollows (unless shown on drawings).
- Unless otherwise specified - final levels after settlement are to be 20mm above any adjacent paving or other hard surface.
- Lay turf in consecutive rows; close butted breaking the joint in alternate rows.
- Use only whole turves at margins.
- Consolidate lightly with wooden beaters.
- Brush in finely sieved topsoil to fill all joints.

Turfing adjacent to obstructions:

- Leave a neat 300mm radius of soil round all newly planted trees.
- Unless otherwise shown on the drawing, turf right up to existing established trees, walls, fences and similar obstructions, leaving no soil uncovered.

Seeding -Meadow grassed area

Ground preparation: Harrow to reduce soil to a good tilth not exceeding 25mm.

Broadcast sow seed: (Boston seeds: Hedgerow & Light Shade Wildflower Seed Mix) at a rate of 3g/ m2

- Bulk up the seed with 10 times the volume of sawdust or silica sand to support even sowing.

Carefully rake the seed into the surface and roll to consolidate.

VICKY LINCOLN Garden Design	Title: Planting specification-general notes		
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