



West End Cottage, Swaythling Rd, SO18 3HT

Soft Landscaping Specification

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Soft Landscaping Specification for West End Cottage SO18 3HT

This document has been prepared by Aura Landscapes Ltd on behalf of Mr. Alan Philips to meet Condition No. 12 in relation to the soft landscaping at West End Cottage, SO18 3HT

Introduction

The purpose of this specification is to provide comprehensive details regarding the proposed soft landscaping for the aforementioned site. This document outlines the types of trees and hedging to be planted if required, specifies the appropriate planting seasons, and details the relevant standards and guidelines to be adhered to during the planting process.

The soft landscaping plan aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the property, promote biodiversity, and comply with local planning requirements. It covers various aspects, including species selection, planting techniques, soil preparation, and ongoing care and maintenance.

By adhering to the specifications outlined in this document, we aim to achieve a sustainable and visually appealing landscape that meets the expectations of both the client and the local planning authority.

Tree Planting and Staking (IF REQUIRED)

Tree pits shall be prepared just before the trees are planted.

Excavate tree pits with slightly raised centre. Retain topsoil for re-use and remove other excavated material from site. Dig a hole which is substantially bigger than the volume of roots to be accommodated. Break up and loosen the base and sides of the pit to a depth of 150mm and scarify sides. The base of the pit should fall towards the drainage trench, if specified.

The trees will be planted to ensure planted as the same depth as they were in the nursery. Back fill the pit in stages, whilst firming up the soil around the roots until the original ground level is restored.

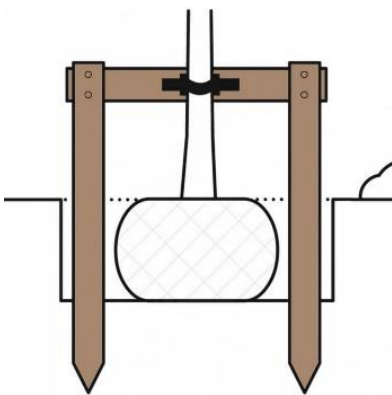
Tree pits to be filled with 1:3 mixture of peat-free compost and topsoil. Slow release fertiliser (200 gms. or to manufacturer's recommendations to be incorporated into each tree pit.

Tree in grass to be mulched to a 1m diameter, 75mm depth to deter strimming damage and retain a weed-free area to aid establishment. In addition, all trees within grassed areas to have a strimmer guard e.g. Tubex 'Grass Trimmer Tree Guard' Material with the following specification or similar approved: LDPE, colour: Black, Height: 200mm, Diameter: 95mm, Flange Base: 58mm.

Form watering hollow around tree bases of a sufficient diameter and height to act as a water 'reservoir' for the tree rootball. In public areas, install a tree irrigation system around rootball, with inlet slightly above finished level (Greenleaf Roottrain or similar).

Edges of tree pits, where aligned to paving, to be installed with linear root deflecting barrier (minimum depth 400mm with ribs facing tree, to deflect roots away from paving.

Trees adjacent to hard surfacing and/or services to have growing area defined by Greenleaf Reroot 600 high density root barrier, in accordance with manufacturer's and Engineer's guidance.



Example of a double staked tree & tie.

Stake all feathered, standard and extra heavy standard trees with double stakes and one adjustable tie per stake. Stakes to be first grade pressure impregnated round timber with chamfered tops, 100mm diameter. Position stake close to tree on windward side and drive vertically at least 300mm into bottom of pit before planting. Backfilling: consolidate material around stake.

Height of stakes: cut to approximately one third of the tree height above ground level. Ties: Rubber, adjustable. Tying: adjustable reinforced nylon belting, pad and spacer fixed to each stake with 2no. galvanised clout nails to secure tree firmly but not rigidly to stake.

Cultivation

Cultivate the soil of all areas prior to seeding and planting. A few days before planting, but in suitably dry weather and ground conditions, cultivate top 300mm of all planting beds, using suitable plant to loosen, aerate and break up the soil into particles of 2-8mm. Leave surface regular and even, with levels as required.

Remove weeds, perennial weed roots and undesirable material brought to the surface including stones and clods larger than 50mm in any dimension, roots, tufts of grass and foreign matter.

Final cultivation prior to seeding topsoil shall be brought to a fine tilth by approved mechanical means or by hand raking.

Topsoil

Topsoil to general planting and grass seeded areas to be to BS3882: 2015 Multipurpose Grade.

Topsoil must be free from pernicious weeds and roots, clay lumps, non-soil materials, brick or other building materials, foreign matter and chemical contamination.

Topsoil should be spread evenly over areas to be seeded and planted. Minimum topsoil depths after settlement shall be: Grass-150mm, Shrub/ Plant beds - 450mm. Tree pits - see below.

Topsoil shall be spread in layers not exceeding 150mm and firm each layer before spreading the next. At the time of laying, both material and weather should be reasonably dry. Soil levels should be 30mm higher than adjacent kerbs and paving after settlement and married in with existing soil levels.

Soil Conditioner

Incorporate Eco-mix compost, from Eco-Composting Ltd, or Pro-Grow, from Mendip Forestry Ltd during cultivation to ornamental planting areas. Spread over all planting areas at 50mm depth during cultivation, or similar approved peat free soil improver with soil association approval.

Plant Specification

All plants are to be local provenance wherever possible, from a local supplier and from sources with soil and climatic conditions similar to those prevailing on site.

All plants to be healthy, hardened-off and with good fibrous root systems and to comply with the requirements of BS3936 Specification for Nursery Stock and of BS8545 Trees: from nursery to independence - Recommendations.

All plant material to be supplied in accordance with the HTA National Plant Specification. The code for Plant Handling published by C.P.S.E. shall be strictly adhered to. Substitutions to plant material will only be acceptable if approved by the Landscape Architect (if applicable).

Time of Year for Planting and Turfing

Deciduous Trees and Shrubs: (if required)

- **Planting Period:** Late October to late March.
- **Description:** Deciduous trees and shrubs will be planted during the dormant season, which spans from late autumn to early spring. This period allows the plants to establish roots before the growing season begins, ensuring they develop strong and healthy growth.

Container Grown Plants:

- **Planting Period:** Any time of the year, weather permitting.
- **Description:** Container-grown plants can be planted at any time throughout the year, provided that the ground and weather conditions are favourable. This flexibility allows for continuous enhancement of the landscape with a variety of plants, ensuring optimal conditions for successful establishment and growth.

Turfing: if required

- **Planting Period:** All year round, with considerations.
- **Description:** Turf can be laid at any time during the year as long as it is adequately watered. However, it is advisable to avoid turfing in hot, sunny conditions to prevent stress and ensure successful rooting. Proper watering and care are essential for maintaining a lush, green lawn throughout the year.

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on site conditions. Planting should be done during spring (April-May). Plant
ommended on the plant label or pot. Plants to be mulched with pro grow