

D20

Excavating and filling

Generally/the site

110 Site investigation

1. Report: Topographical Survey.

145 Variations in ground water level

1. Give notice: If levels encountered are significantly different from levels in the site investigation report or previously measured.

Clearance/excavating

164 Tree roots

1. Protected area: Do not cut roots within precautionary protection area.
 - 1.1. Size of area: See Arboriculturist tree report.
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.
 - 4.3. Treatment of cut roots: Not required
5. Backfill: As dug material, enriched with phosphate fertilizer

168 Site clearance

1. Timing: Before topsoil stripping, if any.
2. General: Clear site of rubbish, debris and vegetation. Do not compact topsoil.
3. Treatment: Apply a suitable non-residual herbicide to areas to receive planting

170 Removing small trees, shrubs, hedges and roots

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

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

1. **General:** Permitted, remove arisings from site.

220 Stripping topsoil

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 150 mm.
 - 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.

221 Treating topsoil

1. **Treatment:** Apply a suitable translocated nonresidual herbicide.
2. **Timing:** Not less than two weeks before excavating topsoil.

225 Handling topsoil

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.

250 Permissible deviations from formation levels

1. **Beneath mass concrete foundations:** ± 25 mm.
2. **Beneath ground bearing slabs and r.c. foundations:** ± 15 mm.
3. **Embankments and cuttings:** ± 50 mm.
4. **Ground abutting external walls:** ± 50 mm, but such as to ensure that finished level is not less than 150 mm below dpc.

330 Unrecorded features

1. **Give notice:** If unrecorded foundations, beds, voids, basements, filling, tanks, pipes, cables, drains, manholes, watercourses, ditches, etc. not shown on the drawings are encountered.

370 Underground structures in landscape areas

1. **Generally:** Remove walls, roads, foundations, disused services, drains, manholes and the like to minimum depth.
2. **Minimum depth below finished levels**
 - 2.1. Grass, ground cover and perennial planting: 500 mm.
 - 2.2. Shrub planting: 750 mm.
 - 2.3. Within 2 m of tree planting: 1000 mm.
3. **Walls and slabs remaining:** In every 10 m² of wall or slab, make a drainage hole at least 600 mm diameter.

Disposal of materials

420 Topsoil storage heaps

1. **Location:** Agree with Contract Administrator (CA)
2. **Standard:** To BS 3882.
3. **Height (maximum):** 1200
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.

421 Topsoil storage heap treatment

1. **Treatment:** Apply a suitable herbicide at appropriate times to prevent seeding of weeds.

441 Surplus subsoil

1. **Excavated material:** Stockpile in temporary storage heaps.
2. **Retained material:** Spread and level surplus subsoil on site.
 - 2.1. **Locations:** Agree with Contract Administrator (CA)
 - 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.

450 Water

1. **Generally:** Keep all excavations free from water until:
 - 1.1. Formations are covered.
 - 1.2. Below ground constructions are completed.
 - 1.3. Basement structures and retaining walls are able to resist leakage, water pressure and flotation.
2. **Drainage:** Form surfaces of excavations and fill to provide adequate falls.
3. **Removal of water:** Provide temporary drains, sumps and pumping as necessary. Do not pollute watercourses with silt laden water.

454 Ground water level, springs or running water

1. **Give notice:** If it is considered that the excavations are below the water table.
2. **Springs/ Running water:** Give notice immediately if encountered.

457 Pumping

1. **General:** Do not disturb excavated faces or stability of adjacent ground or structures.
2. **Pumped water:** Discharge without flooding the site or adjoining property.
3. **Sumps:** Construct clear of excavations. Fill on completion.
 - 3.1. **Locations:** Submit proposals.

460 Permanent drainage system

1. **Disposal of water from the excavations through system:** Not permitted.

Filling

500 Proposed fill materials

1. **Details:** Submit full details of proposed fill materials to demonstrate compliance with specification, including:
 - 1.1. Type and source of imported fill.
 - 1.2. Proposals for processing and reuse of material excavated on site.
 - 1.3. Test reports as required elsewhere.
2. **Timing:** At least 21 days before starting filling

510 Hazardous, aggressive or unstable materials

1. **General:** Do not use fill materials which would, either in themselves or in combination with other materials or ground water, give rise to a health hazard, damage to building structures or instability in the filling, including material that is:
 - 1.1. Frozen or containing ice.
 - 1.2. Organic.
 - 1.3. Contaminated or noxious.
 - 1.4. Susceptible to spontaneous combustion.
 - 1.5. Likely to erode or decay and cause voids.
 - 1.6. With excessive moisture content, slurry, mud or from marshes or bogs.
 - 1.7. Clay of liquid limit exceeding 80 and/or plasticity index exceeding 55.
 - 1.8. Unacceptable, class U2 as defined in the 'Specification for highway works', clause 601.

530 Placing fill

1. **Surfaces of excavations and areas to be filled:** Free from loose soil, topsoil, organic material, rubbish and standing water.
2. **Freezing conditions:** Do not place fill on frozen surfaces. Remove material affected by frost. Replace and recompact if not damaged after thawing.
3. **Adjacent structures, membranes and buried services**
 - 3.1. Do not overload, destabilise or damage.
 - 3.2. Submit proposals for temporary support necessary to ensure stability during filling.
 - 3.3. Allow 14 days (minimum) before backfilling against in situ concrete structures.
4. **Layers:** Place so that only one type of material occurs in each layer.
5. **Earthmoving equipment:** Vary route to avoid rutting.

535 Compaction generally

1. **General:** Compact fill not specified to be left loose as soon as possible after placing.

2. **After compaction:** Surface of each layer must be well closed, showing no movement under compaction plant, and without cracks, holes, ridges, loose material and the like.
3. **Defective areas:** Remove and recompact to full thickness of layer using new material.

550 Geotextile sheet

1. **Manufacturer:** To Engineer's specification.
 - 1.1. **Product reference:** To Engineer's specification.
2. **Type:** To Engineer's specification.
3. **Polymer type:** To Engineer's specification.
4. **Recycled content:** To Engineer's specification.
5. **Jointing:** To Engineer's specification.
6. **Preparation of subgrade:** To Engineer's specification.
7. **Protect from**
 - 7.1. Exposure to light.
 - 7.2. Contaminants.
 - 7.3. Materials listed as potentially deleterious by geotextile manufacturer.
 - 7.4. Wind uplift.

610 Compacted filling for landscape areas

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.

Bioremediation - Not Used

'specification for highway works: earthworks specification' appendices - Not Used

Ω End of Section

Q28

Topsoil and soil ameliorants

System outline

155 Mulching and top dressing system

1. **Description:** To all trees and planting beds except grass lawn/turf
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Material:** Bark Mulch. Rolawn (01904 757372) Pro Mulch or similar approved.

Products

300 Preparation materials generally

1. **Purity:** Free of pests and disease.
2. **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.
3. **Contamination:** Do not use topsoil contaminated with subsoil, rubbish or other materials that are:
 - 3.1. Corrosive, explosive or flammable.
 - 3.2. Hazardous to human or animal life.
 - 3.3. Detrimental to healthy plant growth.
4. **Subsoil:** In areas to receive topsoil or planting media, do not use subsoil contaminated with the above materials.
5. **Objectionable odour:** None.
6. **Give notice:** If any evidence or symptoms of soil contamination are discovered on the site or in topsoil or planting media to be imported.

310 Materials not permitted

1. **Materials:** Products containing peat.

335 Imported manufactured topsoil, custom mix

1. **Description:** For tree pits, planting beds and grass/turf.
2. **Quantity:** Provide as necessary to make up any deficiency of topsoil existing on site and to complete the work.
3. **Source:** Submit proposals.
 - 3.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals including soil report for approval.
4. **Soil textural class:** Sandy loam.
5. **Reaction,** to BS 1377-3: pH 5.5-8.
6. **Organic matter** to PD CR 13456: Minimum 5%
7. **Nutrient content:** Minimum index values for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and magnesium to be as for BS 3882 multipurpose topsoil.
8. **Crumb structure:** Made up of discernible crumbs.
9. **Stone size** in any dimension (maximum): 10mm

335 A Imported manufactured topsoil, custom mix

1. **Description:** With in soil cells only.

2. **Quantity:** Provide as necessary to make up any deficiency of topsoil existing on site and to complete the work.
3. **Source:** GreenBlue Urban Ltd or similar approved, www.greenblueurban.com.
 - 3.1. **Product reference:** Rootsoil 20.
4. **Soil textural class:** Sandy loam for use in Strata cells.
5. **Install:** : To manufacturer's written recommendations

335 B EXISTING OR IMPORTED SUBSOIL To meet the requirements of BS8601

Execution

610 Topsoil analysis

1. **Soil to be analysed:** Imported topsoil
2. **Soil analyst:** Tim O'Hare Associates Tel:01491 822653 or Voelcker Consultants Tel: 02087469550, or equal and approved. Laboratory used to operate in accordance with MCERTS Performance Standard for Laboratories Undertaking the Chemical Testing of Soil.
3. **Samples:** Collect in accordance with BS 3882.
4. **Submit**
 - 4.1. **Declaration of analysis:** In accordance with BS 3882, clause 6 and Table 1.
 - 4.2. **Additional analysis:** Not required
 - 4.3. **Report detailing soil analyst's recommendations.**

620 Importing topsoil

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

630 Documentation for imported topsoil

1. **Description:** For all planting areas
2. **Timing:** Submit at handover.
3. **Contents**
 - 3.1. Full description of all soil components.
 - 3.2. Record of source for all soil components.
 - 3.3. Record drawings showing the location and depth of all soils by type and grade.
 - 3.4. **Declaration of analysis:** in accordance with BS 3882, clause 6 and Table 1.
4. **Number of copies:** Two

650 Notice

1. **Give notice before**
 - 1.1. Spreading topsoil.
2. **Period of notice:** 1 week

655 Mechanical tools

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

660 Grading subsoil for:

1. **Description:** For planting areas.
2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 8601.
3. **General:** Grade to smooth flowing contours to achieve specified finished levels of topsoil.
4. **Areas of thicker topsoil:** Excavate locally.
5. **Avoid compaction.**
6. **Excess subsoil:** Remove.

665 Subsoil surface preparation for:

1. **Description:** For planting areas.
2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 3882.
3. **General:** Excavate and/ or place fill to required profiles and levels, as section D20.
4. **Loosening**
 - 4.1. **When ground conditions are sufficiently dry to allow breaking up of soils, loosen thoroughly to specified depth**
 - 4.1.1. **Light and noncohesive subsoils:** 300mm to ensure free draining.
 - 4.1.2. **Stiff clay and cohesive subsoils:** As necessary to ensure free draining.
 - 4.1.3. **Rock and chalk subgrades:** Lightly scarify to promote free drainage.
 - 4.2. **Wet conditions:** Do not loosen subsoils.
5. **Stones:** Immediately before spreading topsoil, remove stones larger than 20 mm.
6. **Remove from site:** Arisings, contaminants and debris.

685 Surplus materials to be removed

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

690 Topsoil storage heaps

1. **Location:** Agree with Contract Administrator (CA)
2. **Height (maximum):** 1.5m if heap is to be maintained for a period exceeding 2 weeks.
3m for periods less than 2 weeks.
3. **Width (maximum):** 3m if heap is to be maintained for a period exceeding 2 weeks.
10m for periods less than 2 weeks.
 - 3.1. **Formation:** Loose tip and shape from the side only, without running machinery on the heap at any time.
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, by fencing and covering as appropriate.

700 Grading of topsoil

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

705 Handling topsoil

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

1. **Description:** For 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:** Refer topsoil plan.
6. **Crumb structure:** Do not compact topsoil. Preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs wherever possible.

715 Loose tipping of topsoil

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.

718 Final cultivation

1. **Description:** For all planting areas.
2. **Compacted topsoil:** Break up to full depth.
3. **Tilth:** Loosen, aerate and break up topsoil to a tilth suitable for blade grading.
4. **Depth:** 75 mm
5. **Particle size (maximum):** 2-8 mm
6. **Timing:** Within a few days before planting
7. **Weather and ground conditions:** Suitably dry.
8. **Surface:** Leave regular and even.
9. **Levels:** See Levels plan
10. **Undesirable material brought to the surface**
 - 10.1. Remove visible weeds.
 - 10.2. Remove roots and large stones with any dimension exceeding 10 mm.

720 Finished levels of topsoil after settlement

1. **In relation to adjoining paving, kerbs or hard surfaces:** See Levels plan.
2. **In relation to dpc of adjoining buildings:** Not less than 150 mm below.

3. In relation to adjacent grass areas: See Levels plan.
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.

Completion

920 Applying mulch

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): 50 mm 50 mm
4. Trees: Remulch.
 - 4.1. Depth (minimum): 50 mm
5. Container planting: Remulch.
 - 5.1. Depth (minimum): 50 mm

Ω End of Section

Q31

External planting

General information/ requirements

112 Site clearance generally

1. **General:** Remove rubbish, concrete, metal, glass, decayed vegetation and contaminated topsoil.
2. **Stones:** Remove those with any dimension exceeding 10 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.
6. **Additional requirements:** None

118 Soil conditions

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

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

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

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

145 Watering

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

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

1. Give notice before

- 1.1. Setting out.
- 1.2. Planting shrubs.
- 1.3. Planting trees into previously dug pits.
2. Period of notice: One week

170 Soil requirements

1. Type
 - 1.1. Planted beds: Planting bed soil system, as section Q28
 - 1.2. Tree pits, shrub pits and other backfilling: Plant pit backfilling soil system, as section Q28
 - 1.3. External container planting: Container planting growing media system, as section Q28
 - 1.4. Mulch applied after planting: Mulching and top dressing system, as section Q28

200 Plants/ Trees – general

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.

215 Plants/ Trees – specification criteria

1. Name, forms, dimensions, provenance and other criteria: As scheduled and defined in the National Plant Specification (available on CS Design Software Limited's website).

235 Container grown plants/ Trees

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.

245 Labelling and information

1. General: Provide each plant/ tree or group of plants/ trees of a single species or cultivar with supplier's labelling for delivery to site, showing:
 - 1.1. Full botanical name.
 - 1.2. Total number.
 - 1.3. Number of bundles.
 - 1.4. Part bundles.
 - 1.5. Supplier's name.

- 1.6. Employer's name and project reference.
- 1.7. Plant specification, in accordance with scheduled National Plant Specification categories.

246 Labelling and information

1. Standard: To BS 3936.

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.

290 Surplus material

1. Subsoil, stones, debris, wrapping material, canes, ties, temporary labelling, rubbish, prunings and other arisings: Remove.

Plant containers - Not Used

Preparation of planting beds/ planting materials

300 Herbicide

1. Description: TO CLEAR EXISTING VEGETATION
2. Locations: All planting areas
3. Type: Suitable for suppressing perennial weeds.
4. Timing: Allow fallow period before cultivation.
 - 4.1. Duration (minimum): Two weeks

305 Weed control

1. Description: FOR INVASIVE NON-NATIVE WEEDS
2. Locations: All planting areas
3. General: Prevent weeds from seeding and perennial weeds from becoming established, by contractor's choice of herbicide.

Planting shrubs/ herbaceous plants/ bulbs

405 Shrub planting pits

1. Timing: Excavate 1-2 days (maximum) before planting.

2. **Sizes:** 150 mm wider than roots when fully spread and 200 mm deep
3. **Pit bottom improvement** Break up to a depth of 150 mm, incorporating 25 g of slow release fertilizer per planting pit.

470 Formal hedges

1. **Shrubs for hedges:** Consistent in species, cultivar and clone to ensure a uniform hedge.
2. **Planting:** In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly.

480 After planting

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:** 50 mm

Planting trees

500 Tree planting

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

505 Tree pits

1. **Sizes:** See Topsoil plan
2. **Sloping ground:** Maintain horizontal bases and vertical sides with no less than minimum depth throughout.
3. **Excavated material:** Remove arisings
4. **Pit bottoms:** Excavate with slightly raised centre: Break up base to a depth of 200 mm.
 - 4.1. **Treatment:** Not required
5. **Pit sides:** Scarify.
6. **Backfilling material:** Topsoil, as section Q28

512 Tree pit irrigation and ventilation accessories

1. **Locations:** To all tree pits
2. **Manufacturer:** Greenleaf Tel:01424 433233; or equal and approved.
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** Root Rain Urban, installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
3. **Type:** Perforated plastics ventilation pipe with inlet.
4. **Pipe diameter:** As manufactured.
5. **Ring diameter:** As manufactured.
6. **Inlet:** Black plastics, with cap
7. **Installation**
 - 7.1. **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.
 - 7.2. **Top cap of inlet:** Protruding slightly above finished surround level.
 - 7.3. **Backfill material:** Carefully compact in layers.

520 Cellular structural soil system

1. **Locations:** See Topsoil Plan
2. **Manufacturer:** GreenBlue Urban Ltd or similar approved.
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** RootSpace. GBURS61A, 600mm high.
 - Rootsoil 20 as suggested by manufacturer's.
 - Twinwall geonet laid above the RootSpace as suggested by manufacturer's.
 - Plastic open reinforcing mesh 20mm aperture laid below and sides of RootSpace as suggested by manufacturer's.
 - 200mm minimum gravel layer wrapped in geotextile as suggested by manufacturer's.
3. **Geotextile membrane:** Install to manufacturer's written recommendations.
4. **Installation:** Ensure all void spaces are filled with lightly compacted growing medium prior to installation of further layers or sub-bases.

526 Underground guying for:

1. **Description:** ALL TREES WITHIN PAVED SURFACES OR ON PODIUM DECK
2. **Manufacturer:** Platipus
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** RF1RDMP
3. **Anchoring system:** Deadman fixing kit - Plati-Mat
4. **Installation:** Ensure tree is positioned correctly and vertically prior to tightening guy line tensioners.

550 Double staking for

1. **Description:** ALL TREES WITHIN AREAS OF SOFT LANDSCAPE AT GROUND LEVEL
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, 100 mm x 38 mm x 1000 mm
 - 4.1. **Fixing:** Firmly fix using nails on windward side of tree and as close as possible to the stem without making contact with the bark. Position cross bar horizontally and 25 mm from 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

Woodland/ matrix/ buffer zone planting

617 Removing trees and hedges

1. **Identification:** Clearly mark trees and hedges to be removed.

2. **Work near retained trees:** Where canopies overlap, take down trees carefully in small sections to avoid damage to adjacent trees that are to be retained.
3. **Arisings:** Remove.
4. **Tree stumps:** Remove mechanically to a minimum depth of 300 mm below ground level

Protecting/ maintaining/ making good defects

710 Maintenance

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:** Agree with CA

720 Failures of planting

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

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

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 use of approved non-residual herbicides
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:** Agree with CA
7. **Watering:** As required for healthy establishment, depending on weather conditions

760 Planting maintenance – pruning

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

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

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):** 50 mm
5. **Trees:** Remulch.
6. **Depth (minimum):** 50 mm

Ω End of Section

Q35 Landscape maintenance

Generally

105 Maintenance objectives

1. Location: All Planting
 - 1.1. Duration: Agree with Contract Administrator
2. Aims: Provide wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity and Enhanced landscape quality
3. Results: As scheduled

155 Watering

1. Supply: No site supply available, submit proposals
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

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

1. General: Unless specified otherwise, dispose of arisings as follows:
 - 1.1. Biodegradable arisings: Remove to recycling facility
 - 1.2. Shrub and tree prunings: Remove to recycling facility
 - 1.3. Litter and nonbiodegradable arisings: Remove from site

180 Chipping or shredding

1. General: Not permitted on site.

190 Litter

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

197 Cleanliness

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 - Not Used

Flower beds/ seasonal beddings

460 Beds of perennials or perennials and annuals

1. Gaps in planting: Refill by replanting.
2. Watering

- 2.1. **New plants:** Before and after planting out.
- 2.2. **Ongoing:** As necessary for the continued thriving of all planting.
3. **Operations at end of growing season**
 - 3.1. **Trim:** Older flowering stems of herbaceous perennials.
 - 3.2. **Remove:** Redundant plant supports, litter, debris and arisings.
 - 3.3. **Cultivate:** Fork over the soil, taking care not to cause undue disturbance to plants.

470 Flower beds generally

1. **Operations**
 - 1.1. **Remove:** Dead flower heads, fallen leaves, litter and debris.
 - 1.2. **Weeds:** Thoroughly hand weed.
 - 1.3. **Cultivate:** Lightly hoe.
 - 1.4. **Trim:** Clip grass edges.

Shrubs/trees/hedges

500 Establishment of new planting

1. **Duration:** Agree with CA
2. **Weed control**
 - 2.1. **Method:** Keep planting beds clear of weeds by use of suitable herbicides.
 - 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:** Contractor's choice

510 Tree stakes and ties

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

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.

535 Tree grilles

1. **Operations:** Lift grilles, remove weeds, adjust levels as necessary and lightly compact. Refit grilles, refill interstices and lightly compact to correct level.

2. **Material for making up levels and refilling:** Horticultural grit

537 Nesting wild birds

1. **Survey:** Not required
2. **Accidental disturbance:** Report immediately.

540 Pruning generally

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

1. **Timing:** Annually
2. **Operations:** Remove growth encroaching onto grassed areas, paths, roads, signs, sightlines and road lighting luminaires.
3. **Special requirements:** None

555 Pruning trees and shrubs

1. **Standard:** To BS 7370-4.
2. **Special requirements:** None

570 Formative pruning of young trees

1. **Standard:** Type and timing of pruning operations to suit the plant species.
2. **Time of year:** Do not prune during the late winter/ early spring sap flow period.
3. **Young trees up to 4 m high**
 - 3.1. **Crown prune** by removing dead branches and reducing selected side branches by one third to preserve a well-balanced head and ensure the development of a single strong leader.
 - 3.2. **Remove duplicated branches** and potentially weak or tight forks. In each case cut back to live wood.
4. **Whips or feathered trees:** Do not prune.
5. **Operatives:** Approved specialist contractor

575 Pruning ornamental shrubs

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

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.
 - 1.4. Rose bushes: Early spring to encourage basal growths and a balanced, compact habit.

600 Trimming rapidly establishing hedges

1. General: Allow to reach planned height as rapidly as possible.
 - 1.1. Form: Trim back lateral branches moderately.

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.

690 Maintenance of loose mulch

1. Thickness (minimum): 50 mm
 - 1.1. Top up: Annually
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.

Tree work

810 Tree work generally

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

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

820 Prevention of wound bleeding

1. Standard: To BS 3998.

825 Prevention of disease transmission

1. Standard: To BS 3998.

830 Cleaning out and deadwooding

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

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

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.

Water areas - Not Used

Hard landscape areas/fencing

910 Hard surfaces and gravel areas

1. **Herbicide:** Apply a suitable foliar acting or residual herbicide. Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing arisings.
2. **Hard surfaces:** Remove litter, leaves and other debris.
3. **Surface gutters and channels:** Remove mud, silt and debris.
4. **Drainage gullies:** Empty traps and flush clean.
5. **Gravel areas:** Rake over. Remove weeds, litter, leaves and debris, and level off.
6. **Repairs to flexible bituminous pavings:** In accordance with the original paving specification or BS 7370-2, clause 4.12.
7. **Stain removal:** In accordance with BS 7370-2, table 4.

920 Fencing

1. **Fences:** Inspect and repair to maintain protection against Intruders.

Ω End of Section