SPECIFICATION

GROUND PREPARATION - GENERAL

Preparing for topsoiling
Subsoil that is to receive topsoil shall, whether obviously overcompacted or not, be thoroughly broken up by hand, by heavy rotovator, by subsoiler or tined equipment with adequate passes made to thoroughly break up the surface to a depth of 150mm, cleared of all large stones, bricks, perennial weeds, tree roots (excluding living tree roots), coarse vegetation and other extraneous matter.

Subsoil grading
Subsoil shall only be graded after loosening as above, and this shall be undertaken by the use of a tractor and blade grader on large areas and by a small mechanical grader or by hand on small areas. Ground shall at no time be traversed by heavy machinery, for grading or any other purpose after subsoiling and/or topsoiling has taken place.

Supply of topsoil
Topsoil shall conform to BS 3882: 2007, clause 4.1a. The soil shall be free of weeds, roots or perennial weeds, pests, diseases, debris, tree roots, sticks, subsoil and foreign matter and shall be capable of being broken down to a fine tilth.

Spreading topsoil
Prior to topsoil replacement the formation level shall be cleared of all stones, rubbish, debris with any one dimension greater than 75mm. Areas to be seeded or turfed shall be covered by topsoil 100mm thick and areas to be planted shall be covered by topsoil 400mm thick .Topsoil shall be spread in an evenly consolidated layer and shall be left cleared of all roots, stones and debris with any one dimension greater than 50mm throughout its depth. Unless otherwise stated the finished level shall be 25mm above adjacent hard areas. No topsoil shall be spread until the subsoil grade has been inspected by a Landscape Architect.

PLANTING

Mulching
A 75mm compacted layer of medium grade pulverised bark, with a particle size of not more than 100mm and containing no more than 10% fines, shall be spread to form a continuous layer covering the whole of the bed, or in the case of standard trees shall be in the form of a circle of 600mm diameter around the base of the tree. Whips and transplants shall be mulched in the form of a 300mm diameter circle around the base of the tree. This is to be maintained up until the sale of the house.

Planting
All plant material shall generally be planted between November and March in open cool weather. Planting shall not take place in frosty, snowy or waterlogged conditions. Where approved, pot or container grown plants may be planted outside the described season, but adequate watering shall be supplied. Torn or damaged roots and branches shall be cleanly pruned prior to planting.

Planting of whips, transplants and shrubs
The nature of the material to be planted is variable and the contractor shall allow for planting to be properly carried out in all cases as descibed in BS 4428: 1989 5.8 Woodland, 5.9 Shrubs. All plants shall be planted at same depth, or very slighly deeper, as they were grown.Roots shall not be bent, broken or forced into inadequate pits or notches. Plants shall be upright, firmed in and wind resistant, with no air pockets around roots. All pots and root wrappings shall be carefully removed prior to planting. All pots and wrappings arising shall immediately be picked up and stored ready for removal to tip. Plants shall be planted at thespecified centres. On steep slopes this shall be in the horizontal measure.

Tree planting
Trees shall conform to BS 3936 and be planted in tree pits of the following sizes unless directed otherwise:
Feathered trees 900 x 900 x 450 up to 3 metres high (0.36m)
Selected standards 1000 x 1000 x 600 up to 4.25 metres high (0.60m)
Heavy Standard and Extra heavy standards 1200 x 1200 x 600
Excavated subsoil or stone shall be carted off site to tip.
The bottom 250mm of the pit shall be dug and broken up. Backfill shall be imported topsoil as specified unless directed otherwise.

Compost for planting pits
Compost shall be a proprietary product, bark based incorporating fertilisers and improving additives. The type of compost shall be approved before its delivery on site, and the details of the product shall be supplied. Cambark planting compost is approved. Where directed compost shall be added to and mixed with topsoil backfill at the following rates:
Feathered trees - 1 bag: 80 litres
Selected standards - 1.5 bags: 120 litres
Heavy Standard and Extra heavy standards - 2 bags: 160 litres

Stakes for trees
Stakes shall be peeled round pressure treated softwood, pointed or minimum diameter 75mm. The stakes shall be driven into the base of the tree pit prior to placing the tree and backfilling. Stakes shall in general have a clear height above the finished ground level as follows unless directed otherwise: Feathered trees - 750mm (one tie). Selected standards - 900mm (2 stakes, one tie each). Heavy Standard and Extra heavy standards - 1200mm (2 stakes, one tie each). The stake shall be long enough to drive until they hold the tree firmly without rocking.

Planting of trees
The tree shall be set upright and at the same depth as grown in the nursery, the roots shall be spread out and the topsoil, or compost/topsoil mixture, backfilled. Backfilling should be done to ensure close contact between roots and by firming in layers. The soil shall be left level and tidy, any subsoil clods, bricks or stones over 50mm arising, collected and carted off site.

TURFING

Soil preparation and cultivation
All areas to be turfed shall be cultivated to a depth of at least 100mm, all weeds, stones and refuse larger than 50mm shall be removed to Contractor's tip, and shall be brought to a fine tilth. Allow for hand cultivation where machine work is not possible.

Turf
Turf shall be extra-quality meadow turf and shall comply to BS 3969.

Season
Turf shall be laid when weather and soil conditions are suitable and, where possible, preference should be given to autumn and early winter operations. No turf shall be laid in exceptionally dry or frosty weather or in other unsuitable weather conditions.

Laying
No turf shall be laid until the soil preparation has been satisfactorily completed by being brought to an even tilth and firmness. Turves from the stack shall be wheeled to turf layers on planks laid closely side by side. Adequate timber planks shall be used to support operatives and barrows, and provide access. The turves shall be laid in consecutive rows with broken joints (stretcher bond), closely butted and to the correct levels. The turf shall be laid off planks working over turves previously laid. Where necessary, the turves shall be lightly and evenly firmed with wooden beaters, the bottom of the beaters being frequently scraped clean of accumulated soil or mud. A dressing of finely sifted topsoil shall be applied and well brushed into the joints. Any inequalities in finished levels owing to variation in turf thickness or uneven consolidation of soil shall be adjusted by raking and/or packing fine soil under the turf. A roller shall not be used. The finished levels of the turf shall conform to the levels indicated, allowing for final settlement. Turf edges and margins shall be laid with whole turves. Turves adjoining buildings, walls or fences shall be taken to the face of the structure, giving complete soil cover.

MAINTENANCE
All maintenance to be carried out up to handover to the adopting authority/ householder from the date of planting and turfing to ensure successful establishment. All dead, diseased, damaged plants must be replaced during this time unless the local Planning Authority states, in writing, any variation to this.

Weeding
All beds to be kept weed free by cultivating and by using approved herbicides. Beds to be forked over as necessary to keep soil loose to approved cambers with no hollows.

Watering
The Contractor shall ensure that sufficient water is applied to maintain healthy growth.

Grass cutting
The initial cut shall be carried out when first growth is apparent, blades set 20mm above ground. The Contractor shall continue cutting at appropriate intervals during the growing season and maintain 40mm high sward until grass areas are handed over. Watering, weeding, cutting, repair of all erosion and settlement and re-seeding as necessary to establish a uniform and healthy stand of grass shall continue until handover to the householder.

PROTECTION TO EXISTING TREES
The recommendations in BS 5837 (2005), *Trees in relation to Construction* must be complied with at all times.
No pruning, lopping, felling or severance of roots is to take place without prior consent of the local authority.
Any work to the existing trees is to be carried out by a qualified tree surgeon.
The position and construction of protective fencing shall be agreed with the local authority prior to any site works commencing.
Under no circumstances must any materials be stored under the canopy of existing trees, and no cement, diesel or oil stored near them.
No vehicles should pass under the canopy of existing trees.
No fires should be lit in close proximity to existing trees.
No ropes, cables, services or notice boards shall be fixed to existing trees.
Under no circumstances should the levels around existing trees be either raised or reduced.
Scaffolding may only be erected within protected areas if it is done so in accordance with BS 5837.
Any excavations under existing tree canopy spreads shall be done by hand.

PLANTING SCHEDULE

TREE PLANTING

Key	Botanical Name	Form / X Transplanted	Girth (cm)	Min. Height (cm)	Root Condtion / Pot Size
TC	Betula pendula	Selected Standard: 3x	10-12cm	350-425cm	45L Container

SHRUB PLANTING

Key	Botanical Name	Min. Height (cm)	Pot Size	Density
Sa	Ligustrum Ovifolium	30-40cm	3L	300mm ctrs. to form hedge
Sb	Pyracantha 'Orange Glow'	30-40cm	3L	3/m²
Sc	Cotoneaster horizontallis	30-40cm	3L	3/m²

Revisions

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