

Mitchell and Associates

ARP 4.2 Sustainable Communities (Ireland) Fund

Whitestown Way LRD

Softworks Specification

07-05-2026

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Q28

Topsoil and soil ameliorants

System outline

115 Topsoil system for turfing and seeding

1. Description: FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS
2. Composition
 - 2.1. Topsoil: Site-sourced topsoil and Imported topsoil to BS 3882
 - 2.2. Ameliorants: None
 - 2.3. Accessories: None

115 Topsoil system for turfing and seeding Type A

1. Description: FOR WILDFLOWER MEADOWS
2. Composition
 - 2.1. Topsoil: Site-sourced topsoil and Imported topsoil to BS 3882

135 Planting bed topsoil system

1. Description: FOR GENERAL PLANTING AREAS
2. Composition
 - 2.1. Topsoil: Site sourced topsoil and imported topsoil to BS 3882
 - 2.2. Ameliorants: None
 - 2.3. Accessories: None

155 Mulching and top dressing system

1. Description: For general planting areas
2. Composition
 - 2.1. Material: Organic materials

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.

305 Permitted materials

1. Materials: Composted bark and Composted animal manures and Composted waste

2. Give notice: before ordering or using.
3. Declaration of compliance in accordance with BS EN 13650: Required

310 Materials not permitted

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

315 Imported topsoil to BS 3882

1. Description: For all grassed areas, trees, shrubs, groundcover, hedge planting areas where required
2. Quantity: Provide as necessary to make up any deficiency of topsoil existing on site and to complete the work.
3. Standard: To BS 3882.
4. Classification: Multipurpose
 - 4.1. Soil textural class to BS 3882, Figure 1: Any class
5. Source: Contractor's choice
 - 5.1. Product reference: Contractor's choice

401 Organic fertilizers

1. Description: For planting beds, hedge planting, tree pits
2. Manufacturer/ source: Submit proposals
 - 2.1. Product reference: Submit proposals
3. Standard: In accordance with the Fertilizer Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS)
4. Purpose: Establishment fertilizer
5. Type: Blood and bone
6. Availability to plants: Slow-release

Execution

610 Topsoil analysis

1. Soil to be analysed: Imported topsoil, Topsoil stockpile
2. Soil analyst: Contractor's choice
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: 7 days

625 Sample loads

1. Description: FOR IMPORTED TOPSOIL
2. Deliver to site a sample load: of 5 kg
3. Give notice: Allow inspection before making further deliveries to site. Retain for comparison with subsequent loads.
 - 3.1. Notice period: 7 days

630 Documentation for imported topsoil

1. Description: For all type of imported topsoil
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: Three

650 Notice

1. Give notice before
 - 1.1. Setting out.
 - 1.2. Spreading topsoil.
 - 1.3. Applying herbicide.
 - 1.4. Applying fertilizer.
 - 1.5. Visiting site during maintenance period.
2. Period of notice: 1 week

655 Mechanical tools

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

660 Grading subsoil for:

1. Description: GRASSED AREAS WILDFLOWER AREAS ORNAMENTAL PLANTING BEDS
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: Grassed areas and amenity planted 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: 300 mm
 - 4.1.2. Stiff clay and cohesive subsoils: 450 mm
 - 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 50 mm.
6. Remove from site: Arisings, contaminants and debris, Builders rubble

670 Inspecting formations

1. Give notice: Before spreading topsoil for lawn areas, planting beds.
2. Notice period: 7 days

675 Preparation of undisturbed topsoil

1. Standard: In accordance with BS 4428.
 - 1.1. Grading and cultivation: To suit cultivation operations specified in Q31
2. Hard ground: Break up thoroughly.
3. Clearing: Remove visible roots and large stones with a diameter greater than 50 mm.
4. Areas covered with turf or thick sward: Plough or dig over to full depth of topsoil.
5. Fallow period (minimum): One month
 - 5.1. Weed control: At appropriate times re-cultivate at fortnightly intervals to suppress weed growth.

680 Surplus topsoil to be retained

1. Generally: Spread and level on site:
 - 1.1. Locations: As directed by contract administrator
 - 1.2. Protected areas: Do not raise soil level within root spread of trees that are to be retained.

685 Surplus materials to be removed

1. Topsoil removal from site: Not required
2. Subsoil, stones, debris, wrapping material, canes, ties, temporary labelling, rubbish, prunings and other arisings: Remove.

690 Topsoil storage heaps

1. Location: Contractor's choice
2. Height (maximum): 2.0 m
3. Width (maximum): 4.0 m
 - 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: GRASSED AREAS WILDFLOWER AREAS ORNAMENTAL PLANTING BEDS
AMENITY PLANTING AREAS WOODLAND 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: 150 mm
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 GRASS SEEDING FOR PLANTING BEDS
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: 150 mm for grass areas , 450 mm for planted areas
5. Particle size (maximum): 5 mm
6. Timing: After grading and fertilizing, and within a few days before seeding
7. Weather and ground conditions: Suitably dry.
8. Surface: Leave regular and even.
9. Levels: 25 mm above adjoining paving or kerbs
10. Undesirable material brought to the surface
 - 10.1. Remove visible weeds.
 - 10.2. Remove roots and large stones with any dimension exceeding 20 mm.

720 Finished levels of topsoil after settlement

1. In relation to adjoining paving, kerbs or hard surfaces: 25 mm above
2. In relation to dpc of adjoining buildings: Not less than 150 mm below.
3. In relation to adjacent grass areas: 25 mm below
4. Seeded areas: Extend cultivation into existing adjacent grassed areas sufficient to ensure full marrying in of levels.
5. Sportsfields: To even levels and within the following permitted deviations:
 - 5.1. From levels or gradients shown on drawings: ± 75 mm.
 - 5.2. From line between boning rods 30 m apart: ± 25 mm.

6. Within root spread of existing trees and shrubs to be retained: Do not dig or cultivate.
7. Adjoining soil areas: Marry in.
8. Thickness of turf or mulch: Included.

805 Applying soil ameliorant

1. Description: To planted areas
2. Type: Organic materials
3. Fully incorporate into topsoil to a depth of 150 mm.
4. Application: Spread evenly.
 - 4.1. Timing: Apply prior to cultivation.
 - 4.2. Rate: 1 kg/m²
5. Timing: Prior to cultivation.
6. Other requirements: Submit 5 kg sample before ordering

820 Applying general fertilizer

1. Description: To shrubs, hedges, tree planting
2. Application: Spread evenly, carefully incorporating below mulch materials.
 - 2.1. Timing: Immediately before cultivation.
 - 2.2. Application rate: 50 g/m²
 - 2.3. Other requirements: None

845 Applying loose mulch

1. Description: For planting beds, hedge planting, trees pits
2. Timing: Immediately after planting
3. Preparation: Clear all weeds and Ensure that soil is thoroughly moistened, applying water where necessary
4. Coverage of mulch (minimum)
 - 4.1. Planting beds (depth): 50-75 mm depth (75mm depth for trees)
 - 4.2. Trees: In a circular area of 500 mm radius measured from the tree stem
5. Finished level of mulch: 50 mm below adjacent grassed or paved areas

Completion

905 Applying maintenance fertilizer to soil

1. Description: TO PLANTING BEDS, TO 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: March or April
4. Application: Evenly spread, carefully incorporating below mulch materials.
5. Rate: 25 g/m²

910 Applying maintenance fertilizer to grass swards

1. Description: TO ALL GRASSED AREAS EXCEPT WILDFLOWER MEADOWS
2. Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/turfing until the end of the rectification period.
3. Time of year: During April and May
4. Application: Evenly spread, carefully incorporating below mulch materials.

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): 75 mm
4. Trees: Remulch.
 - 4.1. Depth (minimum): 75 mm
5. Container planting: Remulch.
 - 5.1. Depth (minimum): 75 mm

Ω End of Section

Q30 Seeding/ turfing

General information/requirements

115 Seeded and turfed areas

1. **Growth and development:** Healthy, vigorous grass sward, free from the visible effects of pests, weeds and disease.
2. **Appearance:** A closely knit, continuous ground cover of even density, height and colour.

120 Climatic conditions

1. **General:** Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable.

145 Watering

1. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil.
2. **Application:** Even and without displacing seed, seedlings or soil.
3. **Frequency:** As necessary to ensure the establishment and continued thriving of all seeding/turfing.

150 Water restrictions

1. **Timing:** If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation do not carry out seeding/turfing until instructed. If seeding/turfing has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering.

160 Notice

1. Give notice before
 - 1.1. Setting out.
 - 1.2. Applying herbicide.
 - 1.3. Applying fertilizer.
 - 1.4. Preparing seed bed.
 - 1.5. Seeding or turfing.
 - 1.6. Visiting site during maintenance period.
2. Period of notice: 1 week

170 Setting out

1. **Boundaries:** Mark clearly.
2. **Delineation:** In straight lines or smoothly flowing curves as shown on drawings.

Preparation

210 Herbicide

1. **Description:** FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS
2. **Type:** Suitable for suppressing perennial weeds.
3. **Timing:** Allow fallow period before cultivation.
 - 3.1. **Duration:** 2 weeks

212 Seed bed cleaning before sowing

1. **Description:** ALL GRASSED AREAS WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

2. Operations: Kill pernicious weeds with selective contact herbicide.

250 Soil requirements

1. Type
 - 1.1. Seeded areas: Soil for grass swards, as section Q28

Seeding

310 Grass seed

1. Description: FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS
2. Mixture: 35% Chewings fescue, 35% Slender red fescue, 20% Smooth stalked meadow grass, 10% Brown top bent
3. Application rate: 34–50 g/m²

312 Wildflower seed mixture

1. Description: FOR WILDFLOWER MEADOWS
2. Supplier: Contractor's choice
 - 2.1. Mixture reference: Submit proposals
3. Origin of each species (as defined in Flora Locale's Code of practice for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora): Local origin
4. Application rate: Supplier's recommendations

319 Quality of seed

1. Description: For all seeded areas
2. Freshness: Produced for the current growing season.
3. Certification: Blue label certified varieties.
 - 3.1. Standard: EC purity and germination regulations.
 - 3.2. Official Seed Testing Station certificate of germination, purity and composition: Submit when requested.
4. Samples of mixtures: Submit when requested.

322 Quality of wildflower seed

1. Description: FOR WILDFLOWER MEADOWS
2. Standard: In accordance with Flora Locale's 'Code of practice for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora'.
3. Germination testing: Submit germination test results (to ISTA International rules for seed testing)
4. Freshness of seed: Produced for the current growing season
5. Samples: Submit when requested.

330 Sowing

1. General: Establish good seed contact with the root zone.
2. Method: To suit soil type, proposed usage, location and weather conditions during and after sowing
 - 2.1. Distribution: 2 equal sowings at right angles to each other and diagonally to main axis

335 Grass sowing season

1. Grass seed generally: April to October

336 Wildflower sowing season

1. Wildflower seed generally: March to May Or August to October

352 Edges to seeded areas

1. Description: ADJACENT TO PLANTING BEDS AND TREE PITS
2. Timing: After seeded areas are well established.
3. Edges: Clean straight lines or smooth curves.
 - 3.1. Mulch and soil: Draw back to permit edging.
4. Arisings: Remove.
5. Completion: Respread soil and mulch.

Turfing - Not Used

Protecting/cutting

510 Protective fencing

1. Fencing type: Chestnut pale fencing to BS 1722-4
 - 1.1. Height: 1.1 m
2. Erection: On completion of seeding/ turfing.
3. Removal: After grass is well established. Fencing will remain the property of the Contractor

530 First cut of grassed areas

1. Timing: When grass is reasonably dry.
 - 1.1. Height of initial growth: 40-75 mm
2. Preparation
 - 2.1. Debris and litter: Remove.
 - 2.2. Stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension: Remove
3. Height of first cut: 40 mm
4. Mower type: Contractor's choice
5. Arisings: Remove from site

540 First cut of Wildflower meadows

1. Description: WILDFLOWER MEADOWS
2. Height of initial growth: 75 mm
3. Preparation:
4. Debris and litter: Remove.
 - 4.1. Stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension: Remove
5. Height of first cut: 50 mm
6. Mower type: Contractor's choice
7. Arisings: Remove from site

590 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.

Maintenance

610 Failures of seeding/ turfing

1. Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until: the end of the rectification period or practical completion.
2. Defective materials or workmanship: Areas that have failed to thrive.
 - 2.1. Exclusions: Theft or malicious damage.
3. Method of making good: Recultivation and reseeding/ returfing.
4. Timing of making good: The next suitable planting season

620 Maintaining

1. Description: GENERAL GRASSED AREAS
2. Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until: the end of the rectification period.
3. Maximum height of growth at any time: 50 mm
4. Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris.
5. Cutting: As and when necessary to a height of 50 mm.
 - 5.1. Arisings: Remove
6. Bulb planting areas: Do not cut until bulb foliage has died down.
7. Trimming: All edges.
 - 7.1. Arisings: Remove.
8. Weed control: Substantially free of broad leaved weeds.
 - 8.1. Method: Application of a suitable selective herbicide.
9. Stones brought to the surface: Remove regularly.
 - 9.1. Size: Exceeding 25 mm in any dimension.
10. Areas of settlement: Make good.
11. Watering: When instructed

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:** Remove remnants of old fence posts and mesh

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.
5. **Dried bulbs, corms and tubers:** September/ October.
6. **Colchicum (crocus):** July/ August.
7. **Green bulbs:** After flowering in spring.
8. **Wildflower plugs:** Late August to mid November or March/ April.
9. **Aquatic plants:** May/ June or September/ October.

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. 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: 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 relevant parts of BS 3936
7. **Species:** True to name.
8. **Origin/ Provenance:** Contractor's choice
9. **Definition:** Origin and Provenance have the meaning given in the National Plant Specification.

216 Plants/ Trees – specification criteria

1. **Name, forms, dimensions and other criteria:** To the relevant part of BS 3936.

225 Bulbs/ Corms/ Tubers

1. **Condition:** Firm, entire, not dried out or shrivelled.
2. **Health:** Free from pests, diseases and fungus.
3. **Handling:** Remove from packaging immediately.
4. **Storage:** Permitted only when necessary.
 - 4.1. **Location:** Well ventilated, dark, covered, rodent proof container, away from exhausts and fruit.
 - 4.2. **Duration:** Minimum period.

4.3. Temperature: 18-21°C.

246 Labelling and information

1. Standard: To BS 3936.

255 Plants/ Trees reserved at supplier's premises

1. Types/ Species: As plant schedule
2. Predelivery inspection: Give notice.
3. Labelling: Identify inspected plants/ trees as reserved for use on this project.

260 Plant/ Tree substitution

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.

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

400 Random plant layout

1. Description: TO SHRUB PLANTING, TO HERBACEOUS/ PERRENIAL PLANTING
2. Spacing: Random groups of 3-11 plants of the same species, also refer to plant schedule
3. Density: As plant schedule

401 Regular plant layout

1. Description: To hedge planting
2. Spacing: In regular, staggered rows
3. Density: As plant schedule

405 Shrub planting pits

1. Timing: Excavate 1-2 days (maximum) before planting.
2. Sizes: 150 mm wider than roots when fully spread and 300 mm deep
3. Pit bottom improvement Not required.

415A Antidesiccant for Evergreens

1. Manufacturer: Contractor's choice
 - 1.1. Product reference: Contractor's choice
2. Application: Dip before delivering to site. Spray soon after planting.
 - 2.1. Do not apply in wet or frosty weather.
 - 2.2. Ensure full coverage of underside of foliage.

420 Climbing plants

1. Planting: 150 mm clear of supporting structure (e.g. wall/ fence) with roots spread outward.
 - 1.1. Branches: Lightly secured to supports.
2. Climber supports: Softwood, Stainless steel wire
 - 2.1. Distance from wall: 75 mm
3. Fixings: Contractor's choice

435 Climbing plants used as ground cover

1. Planting
 - 1.1. Canes or other supports: Remove.
 - 1.2. Arrangement: Spread stems.
2. Fixing: Pinned to ground to ensure good contact.

445 Planting bulbs/ Corms/ Tubers

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.

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.

471 Naturalized hedges

1. Planting: In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly.

472 Fencing support for new hedges

1. Type: Timber post and general pattern wire mesh, as section Q40
2. Timing: Before planting hedge.
3. Support: Lightly secure hedge plants to fence wires at appropriate intervals.

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
Prepare trees and transplant in accordance with BS 4428

505 Tree pits

1. Sizes: As plant schedule
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: Proprietary tree backfilling material, as section Q28 Proprietary tree backfilling material, as section Q28

510 Tree pit root barriers

1. Locations: Wherever the installed rootball will be within 2 m of a building foundation
Wherever the installed rootball will be within 2 m of an existing underground service route

2. Manufacturer: Submit proposals
 - 2.1. Product reference: Submit proposals
3. Thickness: Submit proposals
4. Barrier depth: Submit proposals
5. Foil liner: Submit proposals
6. Top of root barrier in relation to finished topsoil level: 50 mm below ground level
7. Installation: With sides vertical. Remove all sharp objects adjacent to barrier.

512 Tree pit irrigation and ventilation accessories

1. Locations: To all tree pits
2. Manufacturer: Contractor's choice
 - 2.1. Product reference: Submit proposals
3. Type: Perforated plastics irrigation pipe with inlet
4. Pipe diameter: Submit proposals
5. Ring diameter: Submit proposals
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.

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): 100 mm diameter
3. Stake length (minimum): 1800 mm

540 Single angled staking for

1. Description: See planting details
2. Staking
 - 2.1. Position: Close to tree position on windward or upslope side.
 - 2.2. Tying position: Approximately one third of the height of the clear stem of the tree to be planted.
 - 2.3. Driving: At an angle of 45° away from the tree position and at least 300 mm into bottom of pit before planting.
 - 2.4. Backfilling: Consolidate material around stake.
 - 2.5. Firming: Sufficiently firm to prevent movement of the rootball/ rootstock.
 - 2.6. Excess length: Cut off 200 mm above tree support position.
3. Ties: Expanding
 - 3.1. Number of ties: One
4. Tying: Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to stake. Prevent tree from touching stake using spacer blocks or cushions if required.
5. Nails: To BS 1202-1, galvanized, minimum 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads.

546 Single vertical staking for

1. Description: See planting details
2. Staking
 - 2.1. Position: Close to tree position on windward side.
 - 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. Ties: Expanding
 - 4.1. Number of ties: One
5. Tying: Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to stake with ties. Prevent tree from touching stake using spacer blocks or cushions if required.
 - 5.1. Position: Top tie within 25 mm of top of stake and additional ties equally spaced along the stake.
6. Nails: To BS 1202-1, galvanized, minimum 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads.

550 Double staking for

1. Description: See planting details
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: 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: Cushioned
6. Tying: Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to cross bar. Prevent tree from touching cross bar using spacer blocks or cushions if required
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 for

1. Description: See planting details
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 600 mm above ground level
4. Horizontal bracing: Rubber belting with spacers, nailed to stakes within 25 mm of top of stake
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

1. **Manufacturer:** Submit proposals
 - 1.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals
2. **General:** Ensure that protection methods do not impede natural movement of trees or restrict growth.

Woodland/ matrix/ buffer zone planting

600 Woodland work generally

1. **Services:** Check for below and above ground services, including land drainage, in the vicinity. Give notice if they may be affected and obtain instructions before proceeding.
2. **Safety:** Comply with Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group Safety leaflets.

605 Existing vegetation/ Weed clearance

1. **Surface vegetation clearance:** In areas shown on plan drawings, using suitable nonresidual herbicide
2. **Arisings:** Remove.

615 Existing trees/ Seedlings/ Coppice shoots

1. **Existing trees and seedlings:** Retain as per drawings.
2. **Coppice shoots:** Thin to 3-5 stems per stool, removing all damaged, dead or diseased shoots

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:** Cut as close to ground as possible and kill with a suitable herbicide immediately after felling

625 Cultivation

1. **General:** Rotary cultivate to full depth of topsoil
2. **Consolidation:** Leave for one month
3. **Soil within root spread of trees to be retained:** Do not plough or cultivate.

680 Setting out

1. **Planting density:** As Masterplan drawings
2. **Layout:** Random groups of no less than 3 or more than 7 of the same species, ensuring that no three plants are aligned in any one direction.

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 18month long defects liability period. The defects liability period shall commence on the day of practical completion for all planting works and shall finish 18 months after planting when all replacement planting has been satisfactorily completed
2. Frequency of maintenance visits: Weekly during growing season

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: Every month
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.

770 Woodland planting maintenance

1. Watering: Only as necessary to prevent plants wilting.
2. Loose plants: Refirm surrounding soil, without compacting.
3. Weed control: Cut down and remove weeds prior to setting seed in a 1 m diameter area around each tree.
4. Vegetation except trees and coppice shoots to be retained: Cut within the plantation area.
 - 4.1. Arisings: Leave between rows.
5. Mechanical, chemical or mulching methods of vegetation control: Submit proposals.
6. Ditches and drains: Keep clear.

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

Ω End of Section

Q35 Landscape maintenance

Generally

105 Maintenance objectives

1. Location: All Soft Landscape areas
 - 1.1. Duration: One year
2. Aims: Enhanced landscape quality and Improved landscape visual amenity
3. Restrictions: As described in the landscape maintenance manual
4. Results: Adequate establishment, in accordance with the grant scheme contract

110 Notice

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: Seven days

130 Reinstatement

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

155 Watering

1. Supply: Potable mains water
2. Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil
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: Remove off site to appropriate locations

181 Mechanical equipment

1. General: Minimize.
2. Prohibited equipment: Chippers
3. Timing: Use of mechanical equipment allowed between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm only

190 Litter

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

195 Protection of existing grass

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

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

210 Performance-based maintenance of grassed areas

1. **General:** Maintain lawn 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.

211 Maintenance of grassed areas

1. **Standard:** To BS 7370-3. Carry out maintenance appropriate to each category of turf, as follows:
 - 1.1. **Objectives:** To BS 7370-3, Table 6.
 - 1.2. **Programme:** To BS 7370-3, clause 11.
 - 1.3. **Mowing methods:** To BS 7370-3, Table 3.

220 Grass cutting generally

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

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

235 Bulbs and corms in grassed areas

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

240 Mowing strips

1. **Location:** As per Masterplan drawings
2. **Operations:** Maintain by hand-weeding and cultivation

250 Leaf removal

1. Operations: Collect fallen leaves.
2. Special requirements: None
3. Disposal: Remove from site for recycling

255 First cut of

1. Description: ALL GRASSED AREAS
2. Height of initial growth: 40-75 mm
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: 50 mm
5. Mower type: Rotary
6. Arisings: Remove

260 Mowing lawns

1. Grass height: Maintain between 25 and 50 mm
2. Arisings: Remove

262 Mowing sports fields

1. Grass height: 25 mm maximum
2. Arisings: Remove

265 Mowing general areas

1. Grass height: Maintain between 25 and 50 mm
2. Arisings: Remove

275 Cutting summer flowering wildflower meadows

1. Times of year/ frequency of cutting: Once in each of March, April, May, September and October
2. Height of cut: 100 mm
3. Arisings: Leave for two to three days after cutting then remove

285 Top dressing

1. Location: All lawns
2. Timing: Following scarification and aeration
3. Material: Dry sand
4. Supplier: Contractor's choice
 - 4.1. Product reference: Submit proposals
5. Declaration of analysis: Submit. Submit.
6. Additional analyses: Not required
7. Samples: Not required
8. Application rate: 1 kg/m²

290 Rolling

1. Location: All lawns

2. Timing: February or March, after first mowing
3. Roller: Contractor's choice
4. Operations: Consolidate turf and reduce frost heave.

295 Spiking

1. Location: All lawns
2. Timing: February or March, after rolling
3. Operations: Aerate the soil and improve surface water penetration.
4. Depth (minimum): 75 mm

300 Scarifying

1. Location: All lawns
2. Timing: October or November, before top dressing
3. Operations: Relieve thatch conditions and remove dead grass.
4. Depth (maximum): 15 mm
5. Arisings: Remove

309 Edges to seeded areas

1. Location: Adjacent to planting beds and around trees
2. Timing: After seeded areas are well established.
3. Method: Cut to clean, straight lines or smooth curves. Draw back soil to permit edging.
4. Arisings: Remove.

311 Re-forming grass edges

1. Location: Where damage occurs
2. Method: Draw back soil and re-form edges to clean, straight lines or smooth-flowing curves, sloping slightly back from vertical
3. Finishing: Damaged parts of turned turf top dressed with suitable soil and seed mix matching the sward

320 Levelling hollows and bumps in turf

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

330 Selective herbicide

1. Location: All lawns
2. Herbicide: Suitable for suppressing perennial weeds
3. Areas not to be sprayed: Wildflower areas, Desirable herbaceous plantings, Bulb and corn-planted areas when in leaf

345 Control of Japanese knotweed

1. Operations: Spot-treat in June and September during suitable weather conditions and when plants are growing vigorously.
2. Herbicide: In accordance with the INNSA 'Code of practice. Managing Japanese knotweed'
3. Application: In accordance with the INNSA 'Code of practice. Managing Japanese knotweed'
4. Arisings: In accordance with the INNSA 'Code of practice. Managing Japanese knotweed'

350 Fertilizer – spring application

1. Type: Slow-release
2. Application rate: 60 g/m²

360 Fertilizer – autumn application

1. Type: Slow-release
2. Application rate: 60 g/m²

380 Reinstatement of damaged lawns

1. Damaged turf: Remove to a depth of 50 mm.
2. Preparation: Cultivate substrate to a fine tilth.
3. Reinstatement: Contractor's choice of turfing or topsoiling and reseeded:
 - 3.1. Returfing: Quality and appearance to match existing.
 - 3.2. Reseeding: Fill with fine topsoil to BS 3882 multipurpose class, free from stones, debris and weeds. Reseed with a seed mix to match existing grass in quality and appearance.
4. Protection and watering: Provide as necessary to promote successful germination and/ or establishment.

381 Reinstatement of worn or damaged lawns

1. Worn or damaged areas: Make good by turfing or reseeded:
 - 1.1. Returfing standard: To BS 7370-3, clause 12.2.
 - 1.2. Reseeding standard: To BS 7370-3, clause 12.6.
2. Turf or seed: To match existing in appearance and quality.
3. Protection and watering: Provide as necessary to promote successful germination and/ or establishment.

Flower beds/ seasonal beddings

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: Two full growing seasons from the date of planting
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: As required

502 Establishment of new planting – fertilizer

1. Time of year: March or April.
2. Type: Slow-release
3. Spreading: Spread evenly.
 - 3.1. Application rate: As manufacturer's recommendations

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: Two years after planting
 - 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.

525 Tree guards

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

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: As instructed
2. Operations: Remove growth encroaching onto grassed areas, paths, roads, signs, sightlines and road lighting luminaires.

550 Pruning of excessive height

1. Timing: As instructed
2. Operations: Remove excessive height As instructed.

555 Pruning trees and shrubs

1. Standard: To BS 7370-4.
2. Special requirements: Growth retardents not permitted

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.

600 Trimming rapidly establishing hedges

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

605 Trimming slowly establishing hedges

1. Operations
 - 1.1. Timing: Cut back hard in June and September to encourage bushy growth down to ground level.
 - 1.2. Form: Allow to reach planned dimensions only by gradual degrees, depending on growth rate and habit.

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.

625 Climbing plants

1. Pruning: Remove excess growth, to ensure that signs, light fittings, doors and windows are kept clear at all times.
2. Insecure growth: Attach to supporting wires or structures using Stainless steel wire.
3. Supporting structures: Check and repair as necessary.

630 Dead and diseased plants

1. Removal: As soon as possible
2. Replacement: In the next suitable planting season

635 Reinstatement of shrub/ herbaceous areas

1. Dead and damaged plants: Remove.
2. Mulch/ matting materials
 - 2.1. Carefully move to one side and dig over the soil, leaving it fit for replanting.
3. Do not disturb roots of adjacent plants.
4. Replacement plants
 - 4.1. Use pits and plants: To original specification or to match the size of adjacent or nearby plants of the same species, whichever is the greater.
 - 4.2. Additional requirements: None

5. Dressing: Slow-release fertilizer:
 - 5.1. Type: Contractor's choice
 - 5.2. Application rate: As manufacturer's recommendations

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.

655 Weed cutting by hand or machine

1. Undesirable grass, brambles and herbaceous growth: Cut down cleanly to a maximum height of 25 mm.
2. Herbicides: Give notice before use

657 Herbicide to kill regrowth

1. Type: Suitable foliar-acting herbicide to kill regrowth.
2. Timing: Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing dead weeds.

665 Weed control with winter herbicide

1. Type: Suitable residual soil-acting herbicide.
2. Time of year: Unless otherwise agreed, complete before end of March.
3. Timing: Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing dead weeds.

670 Weed control with summer herbicide

1. Type: Suitable foliar-acting herbicide.
2. Timing: Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing dead weeds.

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
 - 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.

695 Fertilizing established trees and shrubs

1. Time of year: During April or May
2. Type of fertilizer: Slow-release
3. Application: Spread evenly.
 - 3.1. Rate: As manufacturer's recommendations

700 Snow removal from shrubs/ trees

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

705 Winter leaf removal

1. Operations: Take down temporary leaf fences. Collect accumulations of drifted leaves from the vicinity and from planting beds.
2. Arisings: Remove

710 Woodland planting maintenance

1. Watering: In exceptional circumstances to prevent plants dying.
2. Loose plants: Refirm surrounding soil, without compacting.
3. Vegetation: Except trees and coppice shoots to be retained, cut down to 200 mm above ground level within the plantation area.
 - 3.1. Arisings: Leave between rows.
4. Ditches and drains: Keep clear.

715 Woodland thinning

1. Mature planting density: Four plants per m²
2. Timing: Thin in stages In accordance with the agreed management plan.

Green walls - Not Used

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 with prior approval
 - 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.

840 Crown reduction/ shaping

1. General: Cut back selectively to lateral or sublateral buds or branches to retain flowing branch lines without leaving stumps.
2. Operations: Reduce crown by 15%

845 Crown lifting

1. Clearances: Remove branch systems to give clearance.
 - 1.1. Height: 2.5 m above footpaths, 3 m above cycleways, 5.5 m above vehicle carriageways
2. Removing branches: Remove whole branches back to the stem, or cut lower portions of branches back to lateral or sublateral buds or branches. Do not leave stumps.

850 Crown thinning

1. Removing branches: Remove inward-growing, crossing, rubbing, dead and damaged branches.
2. Thinning: Selectively remove secondary and small live branch growth evenly throughout the crown.

- 2.1. Quantity: 10 %
3. Cutting: Make no cuts of more than 35 mm diameter.
 - 3.1. Branches: Cut back to lateral or sublateral buds or branches without leaving stumps.
4. Appearance: Leave a uniform and well-balanced structure of branches and foliage.

855 Cutting tree roots

1. Excavating: Use hand tools only.
2. Protected area: Do not cut roots within an area which is the larger of:
 - 2.1. The branch spread of the tree.
 - 2.2. An area with a radius of half the tree's height, measured from the trunk.
3. Outside protected area: Give notice of roots exceeding 50 mm in diameter. Do not cut without approval.
4. Cutting
 - 4.1. Cutting: Make clean smooth cuts with a hand saw.
 - 4.2. Wounds: Minimize. Avoid ragged edges.
 - 4.3. Finishing: Pare cut surfaces smooth with a sharp knife.
5. Backfilling
 - 5.1. Protection: Cover cut roots with clean sharp sand.
 - 5.2. Material: Backfill with original topsoil.

860 Removing trees, shrubs and hedges

1. Standard: To BS 3998.
2. Existing services: Check for below and above ground services. Give notice if they may be affected.
3. Shrubs and smaller trees: Cut down and grub up roots.
4. Tree stumps
 - 4.1. Treatment: Remove mechanically to a minimum depth of 300 mm below ground level
 - 4.2. Removal by winching: Give notice. Do not use other trees as supports or anchors.
5. Protection: Avoid damage to neighbouring trees, plants and property
6. Work near retained trees: Where tree canopies overlap and in confined spaces generally, take down trees carefully in small sections to avoid damage to adjacent trees that are to be retained.
7. Filling holes
 - 7.1. Material: Use as-dug material and/ or imported soil as required.
 - 7.2. Finishing: Consolidate and grade to marry in with surrounding ground level.

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.

870 Cavities in trees

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

Water areas - Not Used

Hard landscape areas/ fencing - Not Used

Ω End of Section

