



L I Z A R D

Landscape Design and Ecology

Soft Landscape Specification

Land rear of 96 Folders Lane, Burgess Hill

Jones Homes

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Q28

Topsoil and soil ameliorants

System outline

115 Soil system for wildflower grass swards - All areas to be seeded with wildflower grassland mix

1. **Description:** For Proposed Native Wildflower Grassland Areas
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Soil:** Site-sourced subsoil (BS 8601) or low fertility topsoil (BS 3882), subject to soil testing and approval. Otherwise, imported subsoil to BS8601:2013
 - 2.2. **Ameliorants:** None
 - 2.3. **Accessories:** None

115 Soil system for grass swards - Amenity Turf

1. **Description:** FOR LAWNS
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Soil:** Site-sourced topsoil to BS 3882 (amenity use), subject to soil testing and approval. Where unsuitable or deficient, import topsoil to BS 3882:2015 (multipurpose grade). Depths and cultivation as clause 315/320.
 - 2.2. **Ameliorants:** As required, subject to soil analysis. Fertilizer or soil conditioner to be incorporated only if deficiencies are confirmed by testing.
 - 2.3. **Accessories:** None

135 Planting bed soil system

1. **Description:** For all hedgerow, shrub, perennial, groundcover and climber planting beds (native and ornamental).
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Topsoil:** Site sourced topsoil, subject to soil testing. Otherwise, imported topsoil to BS 3882
 - 2.2. **Ameliorants:** None
 - 2.3. **Accessories:** None

145 Plant pit backfilling soil system

1. **Description:** For all tree pits and specimen shrub/climber pits.
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Topsoil:** Excavated material, subject to soil testing. Otherwise, imported topsoil to BS 3882
 - 2.2. **Ameliorants:** None
 - 2.3. **Accessories:** None

155 Mulching and top dressing system

1. **Description:** For ornamental planting beds, trees, hedgerows and shrubs.
 - 1.1. **Location:** As shown in drawing LLD3589-LAN-DWG-200 (Series)
2. **Composition**
 - 2.1. **Material:** Wood chippings produced on site from tree removal, and / or sanitized and stabilized composted conifer bark mulch.
 - 2.2. **Size:** Medium grade ornamental bark mulch particle size 10 -35 mm. No fines.
 - 2.3. **Additional requirements:** FSC certified;
Free from pests, disease, fungus, weeds or any contaminant that is hazardous to human or animal life or detrimental for plant growth.
 - 2.4. **Exceptions:** Native Scrub and tree planting to attenuation basin, alternative instructions see 155a.

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;
Composted animal manures;
Composted green 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:** Products containing peat

315 Imported topsoil to BS 3882

1. **Description:** For trees, shrubs, hedgerows, and ornamental planting areas
2. **Quantity:** Provide as necessary to complete the work.
3. **Standard:** To BS 3882:2015.
4. **Classification:** Multipurpose grade (not high-fertilty amenity).
 - 4.1. **Soil textural class to BS 3882, Figure 1:** Sandy clay loam or clay loam, compatible with existing site soils; subject to soil analysis and approval.
5. **Source:** Local source preferred – submit proposals with certification.
 - 5.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals, with BS 3882 certificate and full soil analysis results demonstrating compliance.

340 Imported subsoil to BS 8601

1. **Description:** For tree, shrub, ornamental and wildflower grassland areas.
2. **Quantity:** Provide as necessary to complete the work.
3. **Standard:** To BS 8601:2013.
4. **Classification:** Multipurpose grade.
 - 4.1. **Soil textural class to BS 8601, Figure 1::** Clay loam or sandy clay loam, compatible with existing site soils.
5. **Source:** Local – submit proposals, with BS 8601 compliance certification.
 - 5.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals with analysis results.

401 Organic fertilizers - Not required unless indicated by soil analysis

405 Inorganic fertilizers - Not required unless indicated by soil analysis

Execution

610 Topsoil analysis

1. **Soil to be analysed:** Existing site topsoil and subsoil within proposed soft landscape areas.
2. **Soil analyst:** UKAS-accredited laboratory.
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:** Nutrient status (N, P, K, organic matter), soil texture, chemical contaminants, potentially toxic elements (PTEs).
 - 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:** 14 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:** 14 days

630 Documentation for imported topsoil

1. **Description:** For all imported topsoils used in trees, shrubs, hedgerows, and ornamental planting areas.
2. **Timing:** Submit before delivery to site.
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:** As agreed with Contract Administrator

650 Notice

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

655 Mechanical tools

1. **Restrictions:** Do not use within 500 mm of tree and plant stems.

660 Grading subsoil for

1. **Description:** For tree, shrub, hedgerow, ornamental, and wildflower grassland areas.
2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 8601.
3. **General:** Grade to smooth, free-draining profiles to achieve specified finished levels of topsoil. Adjust to SuDS design levels where applicable.
4. Avoid compaction.
5. **Excess subsoil:** Remove.

665 Subsoil surface preparation for

1. **Description:** For all proposed tree, shrub, hedgerow, ornamental and wildflower grassland planting areas.
2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 3882.
3. **General:** Excavate and/ or place fill to required profiles and levels.
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:** 300 mm - Loosen by tine ripping or equivalent method that lifts and shatters without inversion or mixing horizons.
 - 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
7. **Sequencing::** Do not place topsoil until subsoil preparation has been inspected and approved.

670 Inspecting formations

1. **Give notice:** Before spreading topsoil for ornamental and native planting areas.
2. **Notice period:** 14 days

680 Surplus topsoil to be retained

1. **Generally** Spread and level on site:
 - 1.1. **Locations:** As agreed with 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:** 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:** As agreed with Contract Administrator
2. **Height (maximum):** 1.0 m
3. **Width (maximum):** Subject to space available
 - 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.

710A Spreading topsoil - Trees and Shrubs

1. **Description:** For trees and shrub planting areas.
2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 3882.
3. **Temporary roads/ surfacing:** Remove before spreading topsoil.
4. **Layers**
 - 4.1. **Depth (maximum):** 300 mm.
 - 4.2. Gently firm each layer before spreading the next.
5. **Crumb structure:** Do not compact topsoil. Preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs wherever possible.

710B Spreading topsoil - Ornamental Beds / Hedgerows

1. **Description:** For Ornamental Planting and Hedgerows
2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 3882.
3. **Temporary roads/ surfacing:** Remove before spreading topsoil.
4. **Layers**
 - 4.1. **Depth (maximum):** 300 mm.
 - 4.2. Gently firm each layer before spreading the next.
5. **Crumb structure:** Do not compact topsoil. Preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs wherever possible.

710C Spreading topsoil - Wildflower Grassland

1. **Description:** Wildflower Grassland 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. **Crumb structure:** Do not compact topsoil. Preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs wherever possible.

710D Spreading topsoil - Private Amenity Lawns (Turf)

1. **Description:** For Lawns (Amenity Turf).
2. **Standard:** In accordance with BS 3882.
3. **Temporary roads/ surfacing:** Remove before spreading topsoil.
4. **Layers**
 - 4.1. **Depth (maximum):** 150–200 mm of multipurpose topsoil (BS 3882).
 - 4.2. Gently firm each layer before spreading the next.
5. **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 topsoiled planting areas (trees, shrubs, hedgerows, ornamental beds, turf and wildflower grassland).
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:** Trees/shrubs/ornamentals = 300 mm
Hedgerows = 300 mm typical
Wildflower = 150 mm (low fertility)
Turf = 150–200 mm
5. **Particle size (maximum):** 20 mm
6. **Timing:** Within a few days before planting
7. **Weather and ground conditions:** Suitably dry.
8. **Surface:** Leave regular and even.
Turf = fine, level tilth, even surface.
Wildflower = friable, but not over-refined (20–30 mm particles acceptable).
9. **Undesirable material brought to the surface**
 - 9.1. Remove visible weeds.
 - 9.2. Remove roots and large stones with any dimension exceeding 50 mm.

720 Finished levels of topsoil after settlement

1. **In relation to adjoining paving, kerbs or hard surfaces:** 0-25 mm below
2. **In relation to dpc of adjoining buildings:** Not less than 150 mm below.
3. **In relation to adjacent grass areas:** 0-25 mm below
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.

845 Applying loose mulch

1. **Description:** For ornamental, native and pollinator shrub beds, hedgerows, and tree planting areas.
2. **Timing:** Immediately after planting
3. **Preparation:** Remove non-biodegradable debris.
4. **Coverage of mulch (minimum)**
 - 4.1. **Planting beds (depth):** 75 mm depth - Ensure even coverage, no bare patches.
 - 4.2. **Trees:** 75 mm depth leaving a 50 cm collar of mulch around the tree stem.
5. **Finished level of mulch:** 50 mm below adjacent grassed or paved areas

Completion

920 Applying mulch

1. **Timing:** At end of the rectification 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

Ω End of Section

Q30 Seeding/ turfing

General information/requirements

120 Weather 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.

150 Water restrictions

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

160 Notice

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

170 Setting out

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

Preparation

212 Seed bed cleaning before sowing

1. **Description:** All grassed areas
2. **Operations:** Kill pernicious weeds through cultivation.

250 Soil requirements

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

Seeding

312A Wildflower Grassland seed mixture - EM4 Meadow Mixture for Clay Soils

1. **Description:** For Open Areas
2. **Supplier:** Emorsgate Seeds
 - 2.1. **Web::** <https://wildseed.co.uk/>
 - 2.2. **Mixture reference:** EM4 Meadow Mixture for Clay Soils
3. **Application rate:** 4 g/m²

312B Wildflower Grassland seed mixture - EM8 Meadow Mixture for Wetlands

1. **Description:** For seeding to the banks of the Attenuation Basin
2. **Supplier:** Emorsgate Seeds
 - 2.1. **Web::** <https://wildseed.co.uk/>
 - 2.2. **Mixture reference:** EM8 Meadow Mixture for Wetlands
3. **Application rate:** 4 g/m²

312C Wildflower Grassland seed mixture - EH1 Hedgerow Mixture

1. **Description:** For seeding to shaded areas.
2. **Supplier:** Emorsgate Seeds
 - 2.1. **Web::** <https://wildseed.co.uk/>
 - 2.2. **Mixture reference:** EH1 Hedgerow Mixture
3. **Application rate:** 4 g/m²

312D Wildflower seed mixture - EP1 Pond Edge Mixture

1. **Description:** For Basin Floor Marginal Areas
2. **Supplier:** Emorsgate Seeds
 - 2.1. **Web::** <https://wildseed.co.uk/>
 - 2.2. **Mixture reference:** EP1 Pond Edge Mixture
3. **Application rate:** 4 g/m²

322 Quality of wildflower seed

1. **Description:** FOR ALL SEEDED AREAS
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) in situation described below
4. **Freshness of seed:** Produced for the current growing season. Otherwise supply germination test certificate confirming viability for the planned 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.

335 Meadow Seed Mix Sowing Season

1. **Grass seed generally:** April to October, and ideally late summer/ early autumn, when soil temperature is relatively high and there is adequate rainfall or as Seed Supplier's recommendations

Turfing

400 Cultivated turf

1. **Description:** For private Amenity lawns
2. **Supplier:** Bourne Amenity
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** Amenity Turf
3. **Properties of soil used for turf production:** Peat-free, well drained sandy loam

410 Turf to BS 3969

1. **Description:** For Private Amenity lawns
2. **Standard:** To BS 3969, free from undesirable grasses and weeds.
 - 2.1. **Grade:** General purpose utility turf with perennial ryegrass
3. **Source:** Amenity Turf supplied by Bourne Amenity (see clause 400).

423 Inspection of turf

1. **Description:** For Private Amenity Lawns
2. **Sampling method:** To BS 3969.
3. **Give notice:** Before lifting turf.
 - 3.1. **Period of notice:** 2 weeks

430 Turfing generally

1. **Time of year:** Autumn or early winter
2. **Timing of laying**
 - 2.1. **Spring and summer:** Within 18 hours of delivery.
 - 2.2. **Autumn and winter:** Within 24 hours of delivery.
3. **Weather conditions:** Do not lay turf when persistent cold or drying winds are likely to occur or soil is frost bound, waterlogged or excessively dry.
4. **Working access:** Planks laid on previously laid turf. Do not walk on prepared bed or newly laid turf.
5. **Jointing:** Laid with broken joints, well butted up. Do not stretch turf.
6. **Edges:** Whole turfs, trimmed to a true line.
7. **Adjusting levels:** Remove high spots and fill hollows with fine soil.
8. **Consolidating:** Lightly and evenly firm as laying proceeds to ensure full contact with substrate. Do not use rollers.
9. **Dressing, brushed well in to completely fill all joints:** Fine textured topsoil consistent with approved site/imported topsoil (clay loam or sandy clay loam to BS 3882). Do not use sharp sand.
10. **Watering:** Thoroughly water completed turf immediately after laying. Check that water has penetrated into the soil below.

450 Trimming turf

1. **Newly planted tree pits:** Neatly cut away around individual trees.
 - 1.1. **Diameter:** Cut to edge of 500 mm mulch collar (see clause 845).
 - 1.2. **Tree pit surface:** Respread existing mulch

Protecting/cutting

550 Areas not to be cut until established

1. **Do not cut:**
2. Meadow grass containing wildflowers until specified in Q35.

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

1. **Duration:** Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until: the end of the rectification period.
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

650 Maintaining grassed areas with perennial wildflowers

1. Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until: the end of the rectification period.
2. Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris.
3. Height and frequency of cut in first growing season
 - 3.1. Time of first cut: March/ April
 - 3.2. Height of first cut: 100 mm
 - 3.3. Frequency of subsequent cutting (minimum): Every 6-8 weeks until autumn
 - 3.4. Height of growth permitted (maximum): Allow to flower and set seed before cut, typically 450–600 mm height.
4. Height and frequency of cut in second growing season
 - 4.1. Time of cut: Cut in October, or as agreed with the Contract Administrator to suit flowering and seeding cycle.
 - 4.2. Height of cut: 100 mm
5. Trimming: All edges.
 - 5.1. Arisings: Remove.
6. 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 50 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.

118 Soil conditions

1. **Soil for cultivating and planting:** Moist, friable and (except in aquatic/marginal planting) not waterlogged. Refer to Q28 for soil specifications.
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. **Colchicum (crocus):** September/October

130 Mechanical tools

1. **Restrictions:** Do not use within 1 m of existing trees and 0.5 m of other 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. Two times per week in summer as minimum during establishment period.

146A Watering Planting Areas

1. **Quantity:** Soil analysis to be undertaken to measure matric potential (capacity to release water) of soil prior to calculating irrigation needs. If soil analysis not practical, apply 10 - 15 L per application in the summer. Less (c. 10 L) in the spring and autumn.
2. **Application:** Wet full depth of topsoil. Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
3. **Frequency:** When planted, and at the point of bud burst in the spring. To be continued throughout the spring and summer until the leaves have fallen in autumn (for deciduous species)
Apply water two times per week during summer. Avoid waterlogging. Adjust frequency according to soil moisture status and weather.

146B Watering Trees

1. **Quantity:** Soil analysis to be undertaken to measure matric potential (capacity to release water) of soil prior to calculating irrigation needs. If soil analysis not practical, apply 20 l per application per tree in the summer. Less (c. 10 l) in the spring and autumn.
2. **Application:** Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil. Wet full depth of topsoil.
3. **Frequency:** When planted, and at the point of bud burst in the spring. To be continued throughout the spring and summer until the leaves have fallen in autumn (for deciduous trees)
Apply water two times per week during summer. Avoid waterlogging. Adjust frequency according to soil moisture status and weather.

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 fertilizer.
 - 1.3. Delivery of plants/ trees.
 - 1.4. Planting shrubs.
 - 1.5. Planting trees into previously dug pits.
 - 1.6. Watering.
 - 1.7. Visiting site during maintenance period.
2. **Period of notice:** Two weeks

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. **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:** Grown in the United Kingdom for at least one growing season, unless otherwise approved.
Local provenance for native species.
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.
2. **Additional information:** Submit on request: Country of origin, Name or designation of rootstock of budded or grafted plants.

246 Labelling and information

1. **Standard:** To BS 3936.

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.

290 Surplus material

1. **Subsoil, stones, debris, wrapping material, canes, ties, temporary labelling, rubbish, prunings and other arisings:** Remove.
Non-contaminated debris and woody arisings can be retained for habitat creation on site.
Refer to Landscape Architect or Ecology Consultant's ecological enhancements proposals, if applicable.

Preparation of planting beds/ planting materials

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 hand weeding and loose mulching.

Planting shrubs/ herbaceous plants/ bulbs

405 Shrub planting pits

1. **Timing:** Excavate 1-2 days (maximum) before planting.
2. **Sizes:** Min. wide enough to accommodate roots when fully spread and the same depth as plant container.
3. **Pit bottom improvement** Break up to a depth of 150 mm, if compacted or soil of low permeability.

420 Climbing plants

1. **Planting:** 300 mm clear of *Rosa canina* with caned support.
 - 1.1. **Branches:** Lightly secured to caned support.
2. **Climber supports:** Softwood
3. **Fixings:** Contractor's choice

471 Naturalized hedges

1. **Planting:** In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly. Plant min. 300 mm from building or boundary walls. Allow 600 mm rooting depth over foundation levels.

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:** 75 mm or as matching Q28.

486 Shrub protection

1. **Manufacturer:** Contractor's choice
 - 1.1. **Product reference:** Contractor's choice
2. **Type:** Spiral
3. **Material:** Biodegradable
4. **Size:** Contractor's choice
5. **Colour:** Green
6. **Support:** Single timber stake
7. **General:** Ensure that protection methods do not impede natural movement of shrubs or restrict growth.

Planting trees

500 Tree planting

1. **Standard:** Prepare trees and transplant in accordance with BS 4428

505 Tree pits

1. **Sizes:** Twice the width of the root spread, and the same depth of the root system.
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: Do not disturb base, unless soil compacted or of low permeability..
 - 4.1. **Treatment:** Not required
5. **Pit sides:** Scarify if smeared and compacted.
6. **Backfilling material:** Topsoil, as section Q28

510 Tree pit root barriers

1. **Locations:** For trees planted in proximity to paved surfaces
2. **Manufacturer:** Submit proposals
 - 2.1. **Product reference:** Submit proposals
3. **Thickness:** 1.0 mm; ribbed
4. **Barrier depth:** To full depth of pavement construction
5. **Foil liner:** Not required
6. **Top of root barrier in relation to finished topsoil level:** Flush
7. **Installation:** With sides vertical. Remove all sharp objects adjacent to barrier.

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:** Tanalised
2. **Stake size (minimum):** 75 mm diameter
3. **Stake length (minimum):** 1800 mm or Contractor's choice

550 Double staking for

1. **Description:** Heavy Standard and Extra Heavy Standard Trees
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 at approximately one third of the height of the clear stem of tree
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:** Biodegradable natural fibre
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

566 Tree protection

1. **Manufacturer:** Contractor's choice
 - 1.1. **Product reference:** Contractor's choice
2. **Type:** Spiral
3. **Material:** Biodegradable
4. **Size:** Contractor's choice
5. **Colour:** Green
6. **Support:** Single timber stake
7. **General:** Ensure that protection methods do not impede natural movement of trees or restrict growth. Whip / tree guards shall be carefully placed over the plant and the entire base pushed a minimum of 25mm into the ground.

576 Tree pit surfacing - loose fill

1. **Surfacing material:** Mulch, as section Q28
2. **Area:** Entire planting area
3. **Depth:** 75 mm
4. **Watering:** Water soil thoroughly before laying.
5. **Installation:** Ensure the base of the tree stem is kept free from loose filled material. Ensure root flare clearly visible above 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. The rectification period is to be for 1 year (TBC with form of contract) after practical completion..
2. **Frequency of maintenance visits:** TBC with land owner. In accordance with the agreed maintenance schedule/ monthly?

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 planting areas.
2. **Planted areas:** Fork over beds as necessary to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows.
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. **Ties:** Adjust to accommodate growth and prevent constriction or abrasion.
 - 6.4. **Damage to bark:** Cut back neatly with sharp knife. Prevent further damage.
 - 6.5. **Frequency of checks:** As schedule
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, only outside of nesting season.
 - 1.3. **Trees:** Favour a single central leading shoot.
2. **Arisings:** Remove.

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

Ω End of Section

Q35 Landscape maintenance

Generally

105 Maintenance objectives

1. **Location:** Soft landscape scheme.
 - 1.1. **Duration:** 5 years
2. **Aims:** Safeguard and improve landscape quality; Improved landscape visual amenity; Provide wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity
3. **Results:** Successful establishment; Long-term contribution to landscape character and biodiversity; Visual amenity.

110 Notice

1. **Give notice before**
 - 1.1. Application of fertilizer.
 - 1.2. Watering.
 - 1.3. Each site maintenance visit.
2. **Period of notice:** Two weeks

130 Reinstatement

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

155A Watering - Planting Areas

1. **Supply:** No site supply available, submit proposals
2. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil. Application dose and frequency to be determined on soil analysis including matric potential (capacity to release water). If soil analysis not practical/ results not available, apply 10–15 L/m² two times per week during the first two growing seasons (spring–summer). Post-establishment, irrigate only during prolonged dry weather, subject to soil moisture checks.
3. **Application:** Do not damage or loosen plants. Apply in the morning.
4. **Compacted soil:** Loosen or scoop out, to direct water to rootzone.
5. **Frequency:** Two times per week during summer (first two years) for the continued thriving of all planting.

155B Watering - Tree Planting

1. **Supply:** No site supply available, submit proposals
2. **Quantity:** Wet full depth of topsoil. Application dose and frequency to be determined on soil analysis including matric potential (capacity to release water). If soil analysis not practical/ results not available, apply 20 - 30 l per application per tree two times per week during establishment period (first two years) during summer. Post establishment, irrigate only when required, due to prolonged period of dry weather. Always check soil moisture before applying new dose.
3. **Application:** Do not damage or loosen plants. Apply in the morning.
4. **Compacted soil:** Loosen or scoop out, to direct water to rootzone.
5. **Frequency:** Two times per week during summer (first two years) 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. **Grass cuttings:** Remove to recycling facility
 - 1.3. **Tree roots and stumps:** If not diseased, reuse for habitat creation.
 - 1.4. **Shrub and tree prunings:** If not diseased, reuse for habitat creation.
 - 1.5. **Litter and nonbiodegradable arisings:** Remove from site

180 Chipping or shredding

1. **General:** TBC with contract administrator.

181 Mechanical equipment

1. **General:** Minimize.
2. **Prohibited equipment:** TBC with land owner.
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

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.

226 Tree stems

1. **Precautions:** Do not allow nylon filament rotary cutters and other mechanical tools closer than 100 mm to the stem of any tree.
 - 1.1. **Operations close to stems:** Complete using hand tools.

260 Mowing lawns - Amenity Turf

1. **Grass height:** Maintain between 25 and 50 mm
2. **Arisings:** Compost on site or remove to composting facility.
3. **Frequency:** As required to maintain height.
4. **Edges:** Neatly trim around obstructions.

272 Maintaining grassed areas with wildflowers - (EH1, EM4, EM8, EP1)

1. **Duration:** Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding until the end of the rectification period.
2. **Preparation:** Before each cut remove litter and debris.
3. **First growing season management (all mixes):** Guidance above taken from supplier website. <https://thegrasspeople.com/when-should-i-cut-my-wildflower-meadow/> Refer to supplier for further guidance.
 - 3.1. Cut annual weed growth in mid/late summer (July–Aug), especially if Yellow Rattle or cornfield annuals are present.
 - 3.2. **Height of cut:** 70–100 mm.
 - 3.3. Remove arisings after 2–3 days to allow seed shed.
 - 3.4. Keep short (to c. 50 mm) by grazing or mowing through to end of March following sowing.
4. **Management once established (years 2+):** – **EH1 (Hedgerow mix):**
 Leave margins closest to hedge/tree edge uncut most years. Manage outer margins as meadow grassland with one cut in Aug/Sept (70–100 mm). In rough tussocky zones, cut every 2–3 years between Oct–Feb on a rotational basis.
 – **EM4 (Clay meadow):**
 Traditional hay meadow regime. Main cut after flowering in late July/Aug (to c. 50 mm). Leave hay to dry and shed seed for 1–7 days then remove. Optional spring cut (Apr) if growth strong.
 – **EM8 (Wet meadow):**
 As for EM4, but main hay cut in July/Aug once land is dry enough. Optional autumn cut to 50 mm. On wetter zones cut small areas in rotation every 2–3 years.
 – **EP1 (Pond edge):**
 Encourage varied structure. Cut/remove short sections of vegetation every 2–3 years in rotation (Sept–Nov). Work from one bank only in ditches; in ponds remove as wedges (“cake slice”). Allow tussock areas to remain as wildlife refuge.
5. **Trimming:** All edges as necessary to prevent encroachment onto adjacent surfaces.
6. **Arisings:** Remove after cuts unless otherwise stated. Leave for 2–3 days to allow seed shed where appropriate.
7. **Fertiliser:** Do not apply fertiliser. Wildflower meadows require low fertility conditions.
8. **Watering:** Not normally required, except to aid establishment during prolonged drought in first year.

310 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.

320 Levelling hollows and bumps in turf

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

325 Relieving surface compaction in turf

1. **Standard:** To BS 7370-3.
2. **Method:** Spiking
3. **Top dressing:** Medium to fine sand
 - 3.1. **Depth:** 2-5 mm

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 returfing or topsoiling and reseeding:
 - 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 returfing or reseeding:
 - 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.

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 Keep planting beds clear of weeds by hoeing and screefing..
 - 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.
 - 2.3. **Mulch::** Reinstate to original depth after weeding (see clause 690).
3. **Soil condition:** Fork over beds to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows.
4. **Watering:** Apply as necessary to ensure establishment and healthy growth, in accordance with clauses 155A Watering – Planting Areas and 155B Watering – Tree Planting.
5. **General::** Check stakes, ties, guards and irrigation systems regularly and adjust/refix as necessary.

502 Establishment of new planting – fertilizer

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

510 Tree stakes and ties

1. **Inspection/ Maintenance times:** Annually, 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; usually one full growing season is sufficient.
 - 4.1. Fill stake holes with lightly compacted soil.

515 Tree guy wires

1. **Inspection/ Maintenance times:** Immediately after strong winds
2. **Operations**
 - 2.1. Replace or resecure loose or missing guy wires.
 - 2.2. Adjust to suit stem growth and to provide correct and uniform tension.
3. **Removal:** 2 years after planting

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.

537 Nesting wild birds

1. **Survey:** Before starting hedge or tree work during the period of February to August (inclusive), carry out a survey by a qualified ecologist and submit report
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:** As instructed
2. **Operations:** Remove growth encroaching onto grassed areas, paths, roads, signs, sightlines and road lighting luminaires.

555 Pruning trees and shrubs

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

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

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.

615 Trimming native hedges

1. **Operations:** Trim to specified height and profile using suitable mechanical cutters.

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. **Supporting structures:** Check and repair as necessary.

630 Dead and diseased plants

1. **Removal:** As soon as possible
2. **Replacement:** In the next scheduled round of replacement planting

635 Reinstatement of shrub/ herbaceous areas

1. **Dead and damaged plants:** Remove.
2. Do not disturb roots of adjacent plants.
3. **Replacement plants**
 - 3.1. **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.
 - 3.2. **Additional requirements:** None
4. **Dressing:** Slow release fertilizer:
 - 4.1. **Type:** Organic
 - 4.2. **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:** Reinstatement 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 75 mm.
2. **Herbicides:** Do not use

675 Digging over

1. **General:** Dig over beds. Do not damage existing plants, bulbs and roots.
 - 1.1. **Depth of dig (minimum):** 100 mm

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:** After flowering
2. **Type of fertilizer:** Organic
3. **Application:** Spread evenly.
 - 3.1. **Rate:** As manufacturer's recommendations

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:** Compost on site

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.

845 Crown lifting

1. **Clearances:** Remove branch systems to give clearance.
 - 1.1. **Height:** As recommended by BS 7370-4, clause 3.7.2.3
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.

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:** Retain as deadwood if possible. Remove when in amenity areas.
 - 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

Ω End of Section



LIZARD

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