

TREE PLANTINGS SPECIFICATION

Overview

The default period for planting is between 1 October and 31 December when the soil is usually warm and moist as this is most conducive to root development. If necessary, planting can be undertaken after this period, during 1 January and 28 February; however this should be avoided where possible. All trees will need to be supplied with irrigation system, stakes, ties, strimmer guards, mulch and initial watering.

After Care

For the first one or two years after planting special care and attention to new plantings will help ensure their successful establishment. It is therefore important to have a maintenance programme incorporating weeding, mulching, checking tree protection / tree support, as well as watering. A formal assessment of young tree health and development shall be carried out annually. County council are required to employ a maintenance scheme to any newly planted trees for a minimum of five years.

Planting Stock

All plant materials and their transportation shall comply with BS 8545 (2014): *Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations*. During transport crowns and roots shall be wrapped to prevent desiccation. After delivery trees shall be checked for any damage; any minor damage incurred during transport shall be rectified by pruning. Trees that do not meet the specification or are otherwise unsatisfactory or damaged shall be rejected and returned. The length of time that trees are held in temporary storage shall be kept to a minimum. Trees shall be stored in an upright position and irrigated until planted.

Site Preparation

The sub-soil and topsoil shall have good physical structure, be friable, retentive of moisture, and well drained. On sites where this is lacking, or the ground is heavily compacted, cultivation over the whole area should be undertaken. A 1m minimum diameter weed free spot shall be provided around the tree planting area. This includes the removal of turf within the 1m planting area

Tree Pits

All planting pits shall be excavated and planted in one operation, no pits shall be dug in advance and left open overnight. Planting pits shall be a square pit and dug by hand with a large surface area to a minimum of at least 1m x 1m. This shall incorporate a circular area excavated for mulching. The planting pit shall be no deeper than the existing rootball or container depth and shall have a diameter at least 75mm greater than that of the root system. During excavation of the tree pit, the soil dug shall be placed to one side separating topsoil and subsoil as far as is practical. The bottom and sides of each pit will be forked to improve aeration. When instructed by the Supervising person, organic matter or approved peat free tree planting compost will be incorporated into the bottom of the pit at the suppliers recommended rates. The base of the tree pit shall remain undisturbed unless there are specific problems such as poor drainage, soil smearing or pans resulting from pit construction which need to be rectified. Excavated, poor sub-soil shall be removed from the site and shall be replaced with topsoil, planting compost or other suitable growing medium.

Planting & backfilling

It is most important to plant trees at the original root collar soil depth. The soil mark on the stem is an indication of this and it should be maintained on the finished level, allowing for settling of the soil after planting. The tree's root system shall be wetted prior to planting. At no time shall trees at the planting site be left with their root systems exposed or vulnerable to drying out. Before planting, all wrappings or containers, unless biodegradable, shall be removed. Any broken or damaged roots shall be cut back to sound growth point with a sharp knife or secateurs; heavily coiled roots on container grown plants shall be eased from the root ball or cut. Each plant shall be placed upright in the centre of the pit with the bare roots shall be spread out evenly in the planting pit. The bottom of the planting pit shall be covered with sufficient specified backfill material to raise and maintain the root ball to the required level. All pits shall be backfilled with a 3 to 1 volume mixture of topsoil and approved peat free planting compost which shall be pre-mixed before placing in the planting pits. All backfill applied shall, as far as is practicable, replicate the horizons within the original soil profile. It will be added gradually, in layers of 150mm to 230mm depth, ensuring the tree is held upright. At each stage the fill shall be firmed in to eliminate all air pockets under and around the root system, but with care being taken not to excessively compact the soil. The final layer of backfilling shall not be consolidated, but shall be of a sufficient depth to allow for settlement and mulching. Immediately after planting, the tree pit shall be saturated to field capacity (unless water levels are already at field capacity). The contractor shall excavate in whatever material may be found and include for loading and transporting all excavated material to tip, leaving the site in a neat and tidy condition. Sites may also need to be cleared of bramble.

Stakes and ties

Newly planted trees over 1m high shall be held secure at the base until a new anchorage develops. Vertical stakes shall be straight pointed between round section peeled larch or sweet chestnut, 100 mm in diameter and be 1.2 or 2.4 metres long and in accordance with BS 5236. Each stake shall be penetrate at least 0.6m below the base of the planting pit and shall extend above ground level to a maximum of one third the total tree height. The stakes should be free from bark, snags, pests and diseases and should be of sufficient size to withstand the weight of the tree crown when subjected to the normal prevailing wind of the planting site. If the tree has a root ball, the stake shall be placed in the hole with the ball intact. Each tree shall be secured to the stake so as to prevent excessive movement. The tree shall be secured at the top of the stake or stakes depending on size of the tree. All stakes and ties shall be checked at least annually to ensure that the root system remains stable and firm in the ground, and that ties are still effective and not causing any damage to the tree. Any stakes and ties that are found to be not fit for purpose shall be adjusted, replaced or removed. All stakes and ties shall be removed as soon as the developing root system is strong enough to support the tree. NOTE: Two full growing seasons are usually long enough for this to occur.

Mulching

Mulches are beneficial to transplanting success and shall be used wherever practical to conserve soil moisture and to minimize weed growth. Mulches shall consist of either sheet or granular materials such as ultraviolet stabilised polythene sheeting, or pea gravel or bark/wood chippings. Mulches shall be 50mm to 100mm in depth and applied from the drip line almost up to the base of the stem. (Mulch placed against the stem is likely to retain moisture, which can result in disease.) If this is not practical, typical minimum mulch circle radii would be 0.3 m for small trees, 1 m for medium trees and 3 m for large trees. Mulches shall only be applied when the soil is moist and mulch shall not be pushed up against the base of the trees stem. All mulches shall be replenished to their original depth and hand-weeded as necessary and at least once annually. The mulched area should be enlarged, if practicable, as the tree develops to the canopy drip line, taking care to avoid a build-up of mulch around the root flare and the base of the stem.

Watering

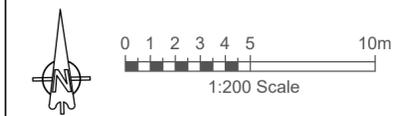
All newly planted trees will be given an initial watering upon planting to ensure the soil is moist and at field capacity. However if the soil is already at field capacity upon planting an initial watering will not be required. The period over which irrigation is required is to be at least two full growing seasons. The frequency of irrigation is more important than the volume of water given at any one time. Increased water volumes cannot compensate for a lack of frequency. Watering frequency shall be 4 times a month between the 1st of May to the 30th of September; when the ground conditions are predicted to be dry and rainfall low the trees shall be watered twice a week. The quantity of water will be 20-30L of water for each visit. Trees should not be watered when the soil is already saturated or very wet. Over watering can make the tree dependent of the water provided, rather than encouraging root extension to source its own.

Formative pruning

Formative pruning shall be carried out in accordance with BS 3998 (2010): *Tree work - Recommendations*; as required throughout the early years of a tree's life in the landscape. Some of the nursery-prepared branching structure is temporary, and formative pruning shall continue until a permanent structurally sound scaffold system of branches typical of the species and appropriate to the site circumstances is produced.



Trees				
Species	Form	Girth	Height (cm)	No.
NP1 and 3 Prunus Sunset Boulevard	Container	12-14	300-350	2
NP 2 and 4 Acer campestre Elegant	Container	12-14	300-350	2



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Client	Colin Deehan
Title	Tree Planting Scheme
Site	Hunters Lodge, Friars Lane, Richmond Green, TW9 1NX
Date	11/03/2024
Drawn	GRS
Job ref	GRS.34.24
Scale	1:200
Paper size	A2
Drawing reference	Proposed site layout