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- 3. NATIVE HEDGE PLANTING**
- Ground Preparation**
- 3.1. Where necessary existing weeds will be treated with a glyphosate-based herbicide and a suitable period allowed to elapse, as recommended by the manufacturer, for the herbicide to take effect.
- Planting**
- 3.2. All arborvitae material such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm diameter will be removed from site to a registered waste disposal facility.
- 3.3. The planting arrangement shall be as set out in the plant schedule on the relevant planting plan.
- 3.4. Bare-root hedge plants shall be notched planted in a double staggered row at the rate of 5 plants per linear metre (using L-shaped notches) using spades of a design suitable for this purpose. The notches must be vertical and deep enough for the roots to hang freely, with the transplant being planted so that the root collar is exactly level with the ground surface. The notches must then be closed and the soil will be well firmed round the roots in line with the guidelines as set out in BS 4388 (1988).
- 3.5. Container-grown hedge plants will be planted into a pit dug 15x the diameter of the root mass, with the bottom and sides of the planting pit broken up to aid root expansion. The plants will be planted so that the root collar is exactly level with the ground surface.
- 3.6. All bare-root hedge planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 600mm plastic-free shrub guards (e.g. GreenTech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.6m x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.
- 3.7. All container-grown shrubs will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 600mm plastic-free shrub guards (e.g. GreenTech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.6m x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.
- Maintenance during first growing season**
- 3.8. All dead, dying or diseased hedge plants will be replaced with plants of similar size and species. If the failure of the plant is due to disease and the disease is considered likely to re-occur then an alternative species may be used as replacement if agreed with the LPA.
- 3.9. The planting area will be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period using approved herbicides in April, June and August.
- 4. TREE BUFFER PLANTING**
- Ground Preparation**
- 4.1. Cut existing rough grass and weeds to between 20mm and 30mm and remove 300x300mm squares of turf.
- Planting**
- 4.2. The minimum overall recommended rooting depth for shrubs is 600mm and for trees is 900mm. The first 300mm shall be made up of multi-purpose topsoil. It shall be ensured that a suitable subsoil provides the remainder of the minimum rooting depth. Before receiving topsoil, subsoils should be loosened using ripping equipment. This shall be done when the subsoil is dry to encourage soil shattering. All stones and other objects larger than 50 mm shall be removed from the prepared surface.
- 4.3. Shrub / tree planting is to be as per the planting patterns set out on the planting plan and planting schedule, with shrubs / trees planted at even spaces into the prepared soil at the specified number per centre, with minimal disturbance to the rootball, and well firmed in. Planting should avoid man-made grids and lines, and should group species together in groups of 5-7 plants. Spread ornamental pine bark mulch to a depth of 75mm to a 900mm diameter around each planting station.
- 4.4. All bare-root planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 0.6m (for shrub species) or 1.2m (for tree species) plastic-free shrub guards (e.g. GreenTech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.6m x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.
- 4.5. All container-grown planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 600mm plastic-free shrub guards (e.g. GreenTech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.6m x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.
- Maintenance**
- 4.6. Using approved herbicides, a 900mm diameter circle centred on each planting station shall be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period. In the autumn following planting the CA will prepare a list of all plants which are dead, dying or diseased and are to be replaced during the following planting season.
- 4.7. Within the day of planting shrub/bulbous plants should be saturated to field capacity, this shall be done before applying the below bark mulch.
- 5. NATIVE SHRUB PLANTING**
- Ground Preparation**
- 5.1. Cut existing rough grass and weeds to between 20mm and 30mm and remove 300x300mm squares of turf at 1m².
- Planting**
- 5.2. The minimum overall recommended rooting depth for shrubs is 600mm and for trees is 900mm. The first 300mm shall be made up of multi-purpose topsoil. It shall be ensured that a suitable subsoil provides the remainder of the minimum rooting depth. Before receiving topsoil, subsoils should be loosened using ripping equipment. This shall be done when the subsoil is dry to encourage soil shattering. All stones and other objects larger than 50 mm shall be removed from the prepared surface.
- 5.3. Shrub / tree planting is to be as per the planting patterns set out on the planting plan and planting schedule, with shrubs / trees planted at even spaces into the prepared soil at the specified number per centre, with minimal disturbance to the rootball, and well firmed in. Planting should avoid man-made grids and lines, and should group species together in groups of 5-7 plants. Spread ornamental pine bark mulch to a depth of 75mm to a 900mm diameter around each planting station.
- 5.4. All bare-root planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 0.6m (for shrub species) or 1.2m (for tree species) plastic-free shrub guards (e.g. GreenTech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.6m x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.
- 5.5. All container-grown planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 600mm plastic-free shrub guards (e.g. GreenTech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.6m x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.
- Maintenance**
- 5.6. Using approved herbicides, a 900mm diameter circle centred on each planting station shall be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period. In the autumn following planting the CA will prepare a list of all plants which are dead, dying or diseased and are to be replaced during the following planting season.
- 5.7. Within the day of planting shrub/bulbous plants should be saturated to field capacity, this shall be done before applying the below bark mulch.
- 5.8. Spread ornamental pine bark mulch to a depth of 75mm across all new planted areas, taking care not to bury groundcover plants.
- 6. SHRUB/HERBACEOUS PLANTING**
- Ground Preparation**
- 6.1. Shrub/herbaceous plants are to be set out as shown on the drawing and pit planted into the prepared soil at the specified densities with minimal disturbance to the rootball and well firmed in.
- 6.2. Recommended rooting depths are 600mm for shrub/herbaceous plants. Multi-purpose topsoil depths shall be 300mm for shrub/herbaceous, ensuring that a suitable subsoil shall provide the remainder of the minimum rooting depth. Before receiving topsoil, subsoils should be loosened using ripping equipment, this shall be done when the subsoil is dry to encourage soil shattering. All stones and other objects larger than 50 mm shall be removed from the prepared surface.
- 6.3. Within the day of planting shrub/bulbous plants should be saturated to field capacity, this shall be done before applying the below bark mulch.
- 7. DAMP TOLERANT MARGINAL PLANTING**
- 7.1. Marginal plants are to be set out as shown on the drawing and pit planted into the prepared soil at the specified densities with minimal disturbance to the rootball and well firmed in.
- Planting**
- 7.2. Emergent plants - plant into 'Y' shaped trench at water's edge.
- 7.3. Submerged plants - replace container grown plants into wicker aquatic baskets prior to planting within the attenuation basin. Marginal baskets should be part filled with aquatic compost with the plant planted to the same depth as the original container. Weights eg. rocks and stones are to be added to the bottom of the baskets for stability if required. Firm plants in well prior to installation into the ground.
- 8. AMENITY GRASS**
- Preparation**
- 8.1. Areas to be turfed or seeded shall be sprayed out with a glyphosate herbicide and cultivated to a depth of 100mm removing all weed debris and stones over 25mm diameter. The surface shall be raked to smooth flowing contours with a fine sieve. Amenity grass areas will receive pre-seeding fertiliser at 70 g/m². Meadow grass areas will not be fertilised.
- 8.2. The minimum overall recommended rooting depth for grass is 450mm. The first 150mm shall be made up of a multi-purpose topsoil. It shall be ensured that a suitable subsoil shall provide the remainder of the minimum rooting depth. Before receiving topsoil, subsoils should be loosened using ripping equipment, this shall be done when the subsoil is dry to encourage soil shattering. All stones and other objects larger than 50 mm shall be removed from the prepared surface.
- 8.3. Grass/turf fresh levels will be 25mm above surrounding beds, paving and planted bed edges.
- Turf**
- 8.4. Turf shall be supplied in accordance with BS3398. It shall be close textured and green in colour and be sufficiently fibrous to withstand handling. Turves shall be regular in shape, 300mm wide and of uniform thickness (minimum 20mm). The grass shall be closely mown and shall not exceed 25mm in height. Turf shall be stacked in piles of no 10 m². It shall not be laid on frosty or waterlogged conditions and shall not be stored in rolls for more than three days. Turfing operations shall be in accordance with BS 4423. Whole turves shall be laid around the perimeter of the area to be turfed. The central area shall be laid in rows with staggered joints, well butted together, working from planks positioned on turves already laid. The turf shall be watered on completion. Any unevenness shall be made good by filling the turf and adjusting the levels. Should shrinkage occur, fine topsoil shall be brushed into the joints.
- Seeding**
- 8.5. Grass seed shall be sown either in April/May or September/October during calm weather and not when the ground is frost bound or waterlogged. Seed shall be sown in transverse directions at 35 g/m² for amenity grass. After sowing the contractor shall lightly rake the seed into intimate contact with the soil.
- Initial Cut**
- 8.6. When newly seeded amenity grass areas reach 50mm they should be lightly rolled and cut to a height of 25mm. All cuttings shall be frequent enough to disperse the cuttings, if it has frequent remove the cuttings. Cutting will be suspended between April and July to allow flowering of the cordial areas.
- 9. WILDLIFE MEADOWS GRASSLAND**
- Preparation**
- 9.1. Areas of wildflower meadow to be seeded shall be sprayed out with a glyphosate herbicide and cultivated to a depth of 100mm removing all weed debris and stones over 25mm diameter. The surface shall be raked to smooth flowing contours with a fine sieve.
- Seeding**
- 9.2. Seeds shall be sown either in April/May or September/October during calm weather and not when the ground is frost bound or waterlogged.
- 9.3. To achieve even sowing, bulk seed in inert carrier, such as sand. Seed shall be sown in two equal sowings in transverse directions at e.g. 40g/m² for Emorgate, EM2 Tussock grassland, EM4 Meadow mixture for wetlands, EM2 Standard General Purpose Seed Mix, EM1 Woodland Mix and EM1 Flowering Lawn Mix. After sowing the contractor shall roll in the seed to guarantee intimate contact with the soil, ensuring not to rake or cover the seed with soil.
- Initial Cut**
- 9.4. During the first 12 months sward to be regularly cut to minimise competition and weed seed production. Cutting should be frequent enough to disperse the cuttings, if it has frequent remove the cuttings. Cutting will be suspended between April and July to allow flowering of the cordial areas.
- 9.5. When newly seeded wildflower areas reach 50mm they should be cut to a height of 25mm. All cuttings shall be removed. Any bare patches shall be made good at this time. Both amenity and meadow grass shall be regularly maintained between 25 and 50mm during the first season after sowing.
- 10. BULB PLANTING**
- 10.1. Bulb planting is to be automatic in character and should not be planted in mounds/grids or lines. Random planting can be achieved by evenly scattering the bulbs/corms over the marked out bulb planting area and planting where they fall.
- 10.2. Bulbs are to be planted at a depth suitable for each species with the base in contact with the bottom of the hole. The removed soil backfilled and firmed on top and, where relevant, the removed plug of turf neatly replaced after planting.
- 11. GENERAL MAINTENANCE**
- 11.1. The Landscape contractor shall maintain all areas of new planting for a period of 12 months following practical completion. All stock deemed to be dead, dying or diseased within the defects period shall be replaced by the contractor at his own cost. The site is to be visited monthly throughout the year to undertake the following operations:
- Weed clearance: All planting areas are to be kept weed free by hand weeding or herbicide treatment.
 - Litter clearance: All litter is to be removed from planting beds.
 - Weeding: All planted areas are to be watered for the first two years from May to September following any dry periods of 7 days.
- Trees and Shrubs**
- 11.2. All trees are to be watered weekly from May to the end of September unless unnecessary due to heavy rain to receive 20 gallons of water. All shrubs are to be watered for the first two years from May to September following any dry periods of 7 days. All tree ties and stakes are to be checked and adjusted if too loose, too tight or if chaffing is occurring. Any broken stakes are to be replaced. Any damaged short/branches are to be pruned back to healthy wood. Plants are to be pruned in accordance with good horticultural practice to maintain healthy, well-shaped specimens. Native shrubs - Using approved herbicides a 1m diameter circle centred on each planting station shall be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period. Stakes may be removed from Year 2 if plant is fully established and if shelter is suppressing further growth.
- Hedges**
- 11.3. Hedge lines to be kept mowed until established. At the end of the Defects Liability Period / First Year's Maintenance the CA will prepare a list of all plants which are dead, dying or diseased and are to be replaced during the following planting season at the contractor's expense.

07/05/2026	B	Scheme updated to address consultee comments
25/11/2025	A	Landscape amended to revised layout
DATE	NO	REVISION NOTE

Detailed Public Open Space Landscape Proposals (Sheet 2 of 3)

LAND AT TALBOT WAY, LETCHWORTH

CLIENT
BARRAT DAVID WILSON HOMES (NORTH THAMES)

DATE
08/05/2026

SCALE
1:250 @A0

TEAM
SW

APPRVD
SW/RVF

DRAWING NUMBER
P25-0636_EN_0002_S2

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