

PLANT SCHEDULE

Common name	Plant Species	Photo	Specification	Planting Density	Ultimate height (after 25 years)
Mixed Evergreen hedge rows					
Common Laurel	Prunus laurocerasus		Og 10-12	As shown on plan	3-5 meters
Bay Laurel	Laurus nobilis		Og 10-12	As shown on plan	3-5 meters
Mexican Orange	Choisya		Og 10-12	As shown on plan	3-5 meters
Firethorn	Pyracantha		Og 10-12	As shown on plan	3-5 meters
Mixed Deciduous Orchard trees					
Apple	Ashmead's Kernel		Og 120-200	As shown on plan	6-8 meters
Medlar	Mespilus germanica		Og 120-200	As shown on plan	6-8 meters
Plum	Prunus domestica		Og 120-200	As shown on plan	6-8 meters

Design Remarks

North Herts Local plan policy

Policy 21: Landscape and Open Space in Towns and Villages

In towns, the Council will maintain a general pattern of landscape features, and of public and private open spaces, as shown on the Proposals Map:

- by normally refusing development proposals which would have a significantly detrimental effect on the character, form, extent and structure of the pattern;
- if development is acceptable in these terms, by requiring the character, form and layout of the development proposals to retain and/or reinforce the pattern through appropriate landscape and open space provision and quality of design;
- by managing appropriate land for open spaces;
- by encouraging their positive use and management for formal and informal recreation, for amenity and nature conservation; and
- by undertaking and encouraging small scale environmental improvements where they will reinforce the pattern of landscape features and open spaces. In addition, the Council will seek to reinforce the pattern in areas for consolidation of open space and landscape pattern as shown on the Proposals Map.

Landscape character

The Village of Ashwell is found in the National Character area no. 87 East Anglian Chalk (NE529)

The East Anglian Chalk National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by the narrow continuation of the chalk ridge that runs south-west-north-east across southern England. The underlying geology is Upper Cretaceous Chalk, which is covered in a surface deposit of soil and river-deposited material laid down during the last ice age. This creates a visually simple and uninterrupted landscape of smooth, rolling chalkland hills with large regular fields enclosed by low hawthorn hedges, with few trees, straight roads and expansive views to the horizon. The area around the village of Ashwell has been further classified as Area 224 North Baldock Chalk Uplands where the area is characterised as rolling chalk landscape, eroded by a complex network of shallow dry valleys. Small rounded chalk knolls common, large scale arable fields often with remnant field boundaries, mainly well trimmed hawthorn hedges. The core has a pattern of regular rectilinear fields often with curving boundaries. Boundaries often based on older more organic pattern of lanes and primary boundaries. To the east of the Ashwell to Slip End Road and west of Newham field patterns become more regular with stronger patterns of more rectilinear fields. The village of Ashwell is designated as a conservation area and is particularly attractive with a wealth of farming spanning many centuries. Planting strategy should make a positive contribution to the landscape by adapting to the local authority's landscape strategy and thereby increasing the potential for residents to enjoy their surroundings and to improve nature biodiversity opportunities. The purpose of this planting scheme is to reflect the existing local landscape character with in the constraints imposed by the development with the tree planting limited to replace numbers lost whilst minimising future conflict with neighbouring residents. Plant species have been selected for their suitability reflecting their garden locations within the wider village setting and contributing to the development's sense of place. Hedges species have mainly been selected for effectiveness of screening.

Site preparation

Existing top soil must be removed in construction areas before building work begins. Imported top sun shall be to BS3882 2007 and must be of multipurpose grade, medium texture with a high proportion of fertile loamy material. It should be free from subsoil, debris, rubbish, rubble, contamination, roots of perennial weeds and other materials injurious to plant growth. The maximum stone content of the soil shall be 20% with maximum size of stones 25mm in any one dimension. All topsoil shall be stacked in heaps not exceeding 2m high until required. During storage all topsoil shall be kept free from contamination compaction and weeds. Unless otherwise indicated areas to be planted shall be cleared of all surface rubbish and excavated to the dimensions below finished levels as follows, when the soil is not waterlogged or frozen.

Ensure the locations of all services are known before and excavation operations are carried out.

Excavation must not be carried out within the root protection area of any existing tree or plant to be retained. The base of excavated areas shall be forked or otherwise cultivated to a depth of 150mm to facilitate drainage and all bricks, stones, and other debris over 75mm in any one dimension shall be removed. Areas trafficked by construction vehicles shall be ripped to a depth of 150-300mm to relieve compaction. Where excavated areas are lower than the required depth, excavations shall be back-filled with selected subsoil and lightly consolidated to make up levels. Selected subsoil should be friable, second quality topsoil of similar and be free of rubbish roots stones over 75mm in any one dimension, perennial weeds or other matter injurious to plant growth. Tree and hedge pit trench excavations and garden borders shall be backfilled in layers with clean topsoil (as specified above) thoroughly mixed with an approved planting composted bark product or approved mulch to a depth of 5-10mm. Topsoil mixed with topsoil to a depth of 150mm to a single layer of 150mm depth. Planting idially shall be undertaken between the months of October and April when the temperature is above 5 degrees centigrade. If it is carried out outside of these months regular watering throughout the summer must be planned for to ensure adequate establishment. At the time of planting, the Contractor must incorporate into the soil a slow-release fertiliser, equal parts NPK, and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Grass seeding idially shall be undertaken during one of the two periods of March to May or September to October when the weather is warm, moist and without significant wind. If it is carried out outside of these months regular watering throughout the summer must be planned for to ensure adequate establishment. At the time of sowing an approved pre-emergence grass seedling fertiliser must be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and lightly raked into the surface.

Biosecurity

"BS8545 Trees - From Nursery to independence in the landscape" shall be adhered to. In the interest of biosecurity, no plant should be imported directly from European suppliers and planted straight into the site unless they have appropriate certification that they are 100% disease free and have come from an area with no known horticultural diseases. If disease free certification is not possible, the plants shall spend a full growing season in quarantine, in a UK nursery to ensure they are free from foreign pests and diseases. This is a measure to address the threat of the introduction of pests and diseases from outside the UK

Plant Schedule

Plants shall be supplied in accordance with BS9396-1:1992, set out in accordance with this plan and planted to the densities as shown in the Plant Schedule. All plants must be kept adequately moist at all times whilst waiting to be planted.

Tree Planting Specification

The planting pit must be dug large enough to accommodate the roots. All trees irrespective of size should have a minimum of 200mm space between the roots and sides of the planting pit. The bottom and lower sides of the hole must be forked, loosening the soil to a depth of 150mm. If material (eg rubble or clay) unsuitable for successful plant growth is found during excavation, this must be removed and replaced by clean topsoil to B12822 or B12823. The planting pit should be 225mm top-diameter with a 150mm top-diameter without projections, and 600mm deep at the base. Alternatively pressure-treated BS1282 with approved preservative from a sweet chestnut must be driven in firmly 600mm into undisturbed ground to leave the stake to a height above surrounding ground level. The projection should be positioned slightly off-centre of the pit so that when the tree is placed, it is in the centre of the pit. The tree is to be positioned so that prevailing winds, taking into account local conditions, blow the tree away from the stake. If the ground is dry at least 50 litres of clean water must be put in the hole prior to planting. All protective materials and nursery ties and tags from the tree are also to be removed. At the time of planting prune away all diseased, damaged or dead roots, leaving a neat cut at a 45 angle to the roots. Prune out all diseased, damaged or dead branches from the crown, as well as any weak or crossing growth and competing leaders. When it is the natural form of the tree to have a dense crown with no dominant leader, no attempt should be made to remove all competing leaders. Place the tree in the pit, spreading the roots out so that wherever possible the distance between the stake and the tree is within 25mm. The soil should be forked into the root system and the hole then refilled in 150mm layers, firming with the feet to ensure that the tree is firmly planted. A depression to the diameter of the hole and 75mm deep should (75mm) be left to facilitate watering. The soil around the tree should be at the same level or no more than 25mm lower to the tree stem than as it was in the nursery. Top depression (75mm) up with good quality, medium-grade bark mulch. Attach appropriate tree ties and spacers 50mm from the top of the stake.

Hege plant specification
Great care must be taken to avoid damage to the root and stem system during planting. Bare root material must have the roots carefully spread and fine broken soil must be packed around the roots. Following planting the planted areas must be lightly forked to level the surface by removing depressions caused during the planting process. All debris must be removed and disposed of. Mulch all planted areas with a layer of quality medium-grade bark mass mulch to an even depth of 75-100 mm, being careful not to cover any leaves of any plant.

Grass seed specification
Cultivate the soil to a depth of 150 mm, removing all stone, flint, chalk particles exceeding 25 mm in diameter. During this operation, the surface must be graded to even levels or slopes to blend in with the proposed hard landscape, planted and existing grass edges. Low areas must be raised to level by filling with fine topsoil to BS3882 2007 multipurpose topsoil Consolidate the area to be seeded by treading or rolling to ensure no further settlement takes place after sowing. Such work must be taken care of when the soil is in a friable condition. Apply an approved seed before production in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and lightly rake the seed into the surface before sowing. Upon completion of the above operations sow a low maintenance grass seed mixture, e.g. Barrenland, either by hand or with an approved mechanical method and at a rate of 35 g per sqm. Grass seeds must be lightly raked and not incorporated deeper than 10mm into the soil and completed with light rolling. Rolling may only take place where the soil surface is dry enough to avoid soil sticking to the roller.



General requirements for Good Traditional Orchard	1. Tree spacing	•	5-10 metres apart
	2. Tree Health and Structure	•	Use MM106 or M25 rootstocks for apples (semi- or full-standard)
		•	Include pollination partners (apples need at least 2–3 compatible varieties)
		•	Veteran or decaying trees retained to support biodiversity
		•	Trees pruned to maintain traditional orchard form
	3. Presence of Fruit Production	•	Trees actively managed for fruit (even if only lightly harvested), maintaining the orchard's function
	4. Ground Flora and Sward Management	•	Species-rich grassland and wild floweres with at least 4 native species/m²
		•	Minimal fertiliser/pesticide use
		•	Clear grazing or mowing regime that benefits flora
	5. Boundary Features and Connectivity	•	Well-managed hedgerow or wooden fence boundaries, ideally continuous
		•	Links to other semi-natural habitats - Refer to Drawing 178 SKD 31 for habitat connectivity.

KEY



Good quality traditional
orchard (see plant
schedule)

Areas to be laid to lawn



Hedges planted with mixed evergreen (see plant schedule)



Tarmac surface



New gravel drive

New wooden post and rail fencing 1.2 m high

NOTES

1. All vegetation on the site to be removed
2. This landscaping proposal has been prepared on the basis of survey provided by others. Crawshaw Architects LLP can not take responsibility for inaccuracies in the information provided.

No.	Date	By.	Comments

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Project

Ashwell plot III

Status	Drawing Number
PLANNING	178 SKD 30

Title

LANDSCAPE AS PROPOSED

Scale	Date	Drawn	Checked	Revision
1:250 @ A2	28.01.25	AC	AC	A