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Issue:

KEY

- Site boundary
- Existing vegetation to be retained – Root Protection Area (RPA) indicated by pink dashed line
- Existing vegetation to be removed
- Proposed feature tree
- Proposed street tree
- Proposed parkland tree
- Proposed orchard tree
- Proposed tree buffer planting
- Proposed native hedgerow planting
- Proposed native shrub planting
- Proposed ornamental shrub planting
- Proposed rain gardens
- Proposed damp tolerant planting
- Proposed bulb planting
- Area of species rich long grass - to be Emorsgate EM10 Tussock Meadow Mixture or similar approved
- Area of flowering lawn - to be Emorsgate EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture or similar approved
- Area of meadow grassland - to be Emorsgate EM2 Standard General Purpose Mixture or similar approved
- Area of woodland mxeadow grassland - to be Emorsgate EW1 Woodland Mixture or similar approved
- Area of wet meadow grassland to SuDS basin - to be Emorsgate EM8 Meadow Mixture for Wetlands or similar approved
- Proposed mounding - to have a max. gradient 1:3
- Proposed self binding gravel footpath- refer to P25-0636_EN_04 for hard landscape specification
- Proposed resin bound gravel footpath/ cycleway- refer to P25-0636_EN_04 for hard landscape specification
- Proposed unsurfaced bark mulch footpath- refer to P25-0636_EN_04 for hard landscape specification
- Proposed square hardwood timber bollard - refer to P25-0636_EN_04 for hard landscape specification
- SE — Proposed Seat - FSC certified hardwood timber seat, 2000mm length, to be root fixed e.g. Woodscape Type 2 Double Backrest Seat or similar approved
- BE — Proposed Bench - FSC certified hardwood timber seat, 2000mm length, to be root fixed e.g. Woodscape Type 2 Backless Bench or similar approved
- Proposed Picnic Bench - FSC certified hardwood timber, to be root fixed e.g. Furnitubes Chesham 6-person table CHS 16 and 2x Cheshunt 3 person bench CHS B6 or similar approved
- FS — Proposed Feature Seat - FSC certified hardwood timber seat, to be surface fixed e.g. Woodscape Letchworth Backrest Seat or similar approved
- Proposed Cube Seat - FSC certified hardwood, 400x400x400mm, to be surface fixed e.g. Woodscape Mixed Cube Seat or similar approved
- Proposed Raised Planter - FSC certified hardwood timber, to include seating e.g. Woodscape Modular Planting System or similar approved
- Proposed Litter bin - to be a mixed timber/ steel 90 litre litter bin to compliment the benches, to be root fixed e.g. Woodscape LBR90
- Proposed Dog Bin - to be steel a steel dog waste bin of a simple contemporary style, to be root fixed. E.g. Furnitubes Lucky Dog Bin galvanised and powder coated in green LUK 745F
- Proposed Cycle Stands - to be galvanised steel cylce stands, root fixed. E.g. Furnitubes Fin Cycle Stand or similar
- Proposed play equipment with manufacturers fall zone – refer to P25-0636_EN_05 for play specification
- Proposed natural play features – refer to P25-0636_EN_05 for play specification
- INFO — Proposed information board for play space – refer to P25-0636_EN_05 for play specification
- Proposed areas of loose bark chip safety surfacing – refer to P25-0636_EN_04 for hard landscape specification
- Proposed grass matting safety surfacing – refer to P25-0636_EN_04 for hard landscape specification
- Proposed visibility splay - refer to dwg by others for details
- Proposed street lighting

Note: exact location of footpath and play equipment within the existing woodland to be confirmed based on the location of individual trees

For Planting Specification, refer to P25-0636_EN_0002 Sheet 2.
For Planting Schedule, refer to P25-0636_EN_0002 Sheet 3.
For Detailed On-plot Planting Proposals, refer to P25-0636_EN_0003 Sheet 1 to Sheet 4
For Detailed Hard Landscape Proposals, refer to P25-0636_EN_0004
For Play Space Details, refer to P25-0636_EN_0006_Sheet 1 to Sheet 3

PLANTING SPECIFICATION

These implementation and maintenance guidelines are for planning purposes only to indicate the level of workmanship to be specified and do not constitute a detailed specification.

GENERAL

All landscape operatives will be appropriately trained, certified and qualified to undertake the tasks required. When required, the relevant certificates will be made available for inspection. All work is to be carried out in accordance with the relevant British Standards, Codes of Practice and Legislation.

All plants shall conform to BS 3936 and be in accordance with the National Plant Specification. Supplying nurseries shall be registered under the HTA Nursery Certification Scheme. All plants shall be packed and transported in accordance with the Code of Practice for Plant Handling as produced by CPSE.

Prior to planting soil percolation tests will be undertaken to ensure the soil is free draining and that planting will not become waterlogged. If soil is not free-draining the landscape architect should be informed and advice should be sought from a soil scientist, following which remediation/drainage solutions undertaken to ensure planting will thrive.

Planting shall not be carried out when the ground is waterlogged, frost bound or during periods of cold drying winds. All bareroot planting stock will be kept covered until actually planted in order to minimise water-loss and prevent the roots from drying out. Tree handling, storage and planting shall be in accordance with BS 8545 Chapters 9 to10 and Annexes E to F.

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.

A minimum intervention approach will be used in terms of weed control. In areas of transplant tree/shrub or ornamental shrub planting this is to be achieved by using mulch mats and hand-weeding. Weed killer and other chemicals will be used as little as possible on site. Spot removal of weeds will be carried out by hand removal as necessary.

If the water supply is likely to be restricted, e.g. due to emergency drought legislation, do not carry out seeding/turfing until instructed. If seeding/turfing has been carried out and the water supply is restricted, obtain instructions on watering.

TREE PLANTING

Ground Preparation and Tree Pit Excavation

Where necessary remove existing weeds by hand. Chemical removal using a glyphosate based herbicide will be avoided, where large areas need to be cleared a non-glyphosate herbicide should be used – following which allow a suitable period to elapse, as recommended by the manufacturer, for the herbicide to take effect.

Tree pits of at least 75mm diameter greater than the root system and no deeper than the rootball / container depth are to be excavated and the sides well scarified to prevent smearing. All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm in any dimension shall be removed from site.

During excavation of the pit, the soil dug should be placed to one side separating topsoil and subsoil as far as is practical.

Drainage: prior to tree planting a review of the soil type should be undertaken to ensure that the tree pit base will allow water to percolate, and the pit will not become waterlogged. If free vertical drainage will occur through the base of the tree pit, then a drainage system must be put in place, such as connection to a land drain or additional excavation to reach the gravel seam. Professional advice should be sought from a soil scientist and, if required, a drainage engineer.

Tree Planting

Trees shall be planted as per the planting arrangement as set out on the planting plan and plant schedule.

2.6. The typical rooting depth for trees is 900mm. The first 300mm shall be made up of topsoil; it shall be ensured that a suitable subsoil provides the remainder of the minimum rooting depth.

2.7. The root system of the tree should be wetted prior to planting. The tree should be planted at the correct depth taking into account the position of the root flare and the finished level – the rootball or root stem transition should be level with the existing host soil or surface. The base of the rootball should typically sit on subsoil, for larger rootballs the subsoil will sit around the lower portion of the rootball.

2.8. Tree pits should be backfilled with the excavated topsoil, if the original topsoil is not available or deemed unsuitable, a multi-purpose topsoil should be used. Any subsoil excavated should be discarded and the subsoil depth (beyond 300mm deep) backfilled with a high sand content subsoil. Backfill should be added gradually, in layers of 150mm to 230mm depth, ensuring the tree is held upright At each stage the fill should 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 should not be consolidated.

2.9. General-purpose slow release fertiliser (at the rate of 75gm/m2) and Tree Planting and Mulching Compost at the rate of (200litres/m2) are to be incorporated into the top 150mm of topsoil during final cultivations.

2.10. Selected standard trees will be protected from rabbit and deer damage by fitting appropriate tree guards.

2.11. Semi-mature trees to have underground guy system eg. Arborguy strapped large anchor system with drive in large heavy duty composite anchors. Underground guy system to be suitable for tree girth of 20–25cm girth.

2.12. All multi-stem trees are to be staked with a single diagonal stake, driven at 45° to the lead branch.

2.13. Standard trees are to be single staked with 75mm dia stakes. All extra heavy standard size trees are to be double staked with 75mm dia stakes. Stakes should be driven at least 300mm into undisturbed ground before planting the tree, taking care to avoid underground services and cables etc. and should typically be one third the height of the tree stem above ground.

2.14. All semi-mature trees shall be secured using a three-anchor underground guying system.

2.15. Staked trees shall be secured to stakes with suitable proprietary hessian or jute tree ties with approx. 50mm depth. A spacer is to be formed using the natural tree tie itself.

2.16. Immediately after planting, but before applying the below bark mulch, all trees should be saturated to field capacity.

2.17. Ornamental composted bark mulch will be spread to a depth of 75mm across a 0.8m dia circle around individual trees, ensuring that the root flare and base of the stem, along with any ground cover plants, are not buried.

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.

3.2. All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm diameter will be removed from site to a registered waste disposal facility.

Planting

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 notch 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 notch must then be closed and the soil will be well firmed round the roots in line with the guidelines as set out in BS 4428 (1989).

3.5. Container-grown hedge plants will be planted into a pit dug 1.5x 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 0.9m 12/14b canes 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 0.9m x 32 mm 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 pattern as 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/tree guards (e.g. Greentech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.9m (or 1.35m for trees) x 32mm 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/tree guards (e.g. Greentech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.9m x 32mm 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 climber 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 pattern as 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 0.9m (or 1.35m for trees) x 32mm 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 0.9m x 32mm 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.

6. SHRUB/ HERBACEOUS PLANTING

6.1. Shrubs/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 shrubs/herbaceous plants. Multi-purpose topsoil depths shall be 300mm for shrubs/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/herbaceous plants should be saturated to field capacity, this shall be done before applying the below bark mulch.

6.4. Spread ornamental pine bark mulch to a depth of 75mm across all new planted areas, taking care not to bury groundcover plants.

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 'V' shaped trench at water's edge.

7.3. Submerged plants - replant container grown plants into hessian 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 to be added to the bottom of the basket 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 weeds, debris and stones over 25mm diameter. The surface shall be raked to smooth flowing contours with a fine tilth. 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 finish levels will be 25mm above surrounding kerbs, paving and plant bed edges.

Turf

8.4. Turf shall be supplied in accordance with BS3969. 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 25mm). The grass shall be closely mown and shall not exceed 25mm in height. Turf shall be stacked in piles of up to 1 metre. It shall not be laid in frosty or waterlogged conditions and shall not be stacked in rolls for more than three days. Turfing operations shall be in accordance with BS 4428. 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 lifting 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 two equal sowings 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 arisings shall be removed. Any bare patches shall be made good at this time. Amenity grass shall be regularly maintained between 25 and 50mm during the first season after sowing. Long or rough mown grass will be maintained between 50 and 75mm during the first season after sowing.

9. WILDFLOWER 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 weeds debris and stones over 75mm diameter. The surface shall be raked to smooth flowing contours with a fine tilth.

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 an even sowing, bulk with an inert carrier, such as sand. Seed shall be sown in two equal sowings in transverse directions at eg. 4g/m2 for Emorsgate: EM10 Tussock grassland, EM8 Meadow mixture for wetlands, EM2 Standard General Purpose Meadow mix, EW1 Woodland Mix and EL1 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 first 12 months sward to be regularly cut to minimise competition and weed seed production. Cutting should be frequent enough to disperse the cuttings, or if less frequent remove the cuttings. Cutting to be suspended between April and July to allow flowering of the cornfield annuals.

9.5. When newly seeded wildflower areas reach 50mm they should be cut to a height of 25mm. All arising's 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 naturalistic in character and should not be planted in manmade 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 to be kept weed free by hand weeding or herbicide treatment.
- Litter clearance: All litter is to be removed from planting beds.
- Watering: 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

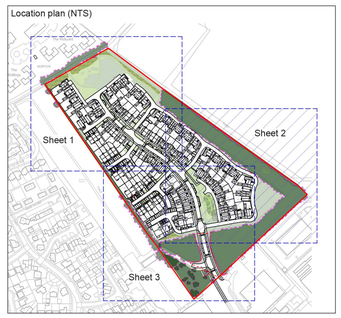
11.2. All trees are to be watered weekly from May to the end of September unless unnecessary due to heavy rain; to receive 20 gallons of water. All shrubs are to be watered for the first two years from May to September following any dry periods of 7 days. All tree ties and stakes are to be checked and adjusted if too loose, too tight or if chaffing is occurring. Any broken stakes are to be replaced. Any damaged shoots/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 shall be kept mulched 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.

DATE	NO	REVISION NOTE
25/11/2025	A	Landscape amended to revised layout

Location plan (NTS)



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

LAND AT TALBOT WAY, LETCHWORTH

CLIENT
BARRAT DAVID WILSON HOMES (NORTH THAMES)

DATE	SCALE	TEAM	APPRVD
25/11/2025	1:250 @A0	LAB/ARW	SW/RVF

DRAWING NUMBER

P25-0636_EN_0002_S2

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