

General

Generally planting should be carried out in accordance with the following British Standards

- BS 4043:1989 'Recommendation for Transplanting Root Balled Trees'
- BS 4428:1989 'Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations'
- BS 8545:2014 'Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape. Recommendations'

Times of Year for Planting

- Seeding: mid March to the end of April or late August to mid October.
- Root balled/Bare root deciduous trees and Shrubs: late November to late March.
- Root balled conifers and evergreens: September - November or March - May.

- Turf, container grown shrubs and trees (including spring ringed): At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable. Ensure that adequate watering, drainage and weed control is provided. Do not plant into frozen ground.

- Waterlogging shall be avoided through proper ground preparation and tree pit excavation.

- Trees to be sourced locally and supplied with plant passports to ensure biosecurity.**

Do not use peat or products containing peat.

Planting Trees

Tree Pits

- Generally plant trees in pits with minimum dimensions of 1000 x 1000 x 700-800mm deep for trees in soft, planted areas.

- Backfill pits in layers as specified below from bottom up:
 - Aggregate layer: Clean gravel or broken stone, with no fines, graded 50 to 20 mm. Depth: 200mm.
 - Cover drainage layer with 200m of clean horticultural sand.
 - 400-500mm layer of retained site-sourced topsoil, free from weeds, or imported topsoil (Multi-purpose grade to BS3882:2015, sandy loam) depth dependent on size of rootball.

Deciduous and Coniferous Advanced Nursery Stock Trees

- Rootballed stock shall be supported by straps, frames or wire mesh baskets and shall be protected against drying out by wrapping firmly with hessian, plastic film or other recommended material.
- Wrapping shall be firmly tied over the top of the rootball.
- Air pot / spring ringed stock shall be suitably protected with hessian to prevent damage and drying out as soon as the air pot has been removed.

- Tree Pit Aeration/Irrigation Pipe
- All trees 8cm girth and over.
- RootRain metro system with associated end cap as supplied by GreenBlue Urban www.greenblue.com or similar and approved to be coiled around top of rootball.
- Insert during backfill around the rootball - the top to be cut off at a height of not more than 25mm above finished ground level and secured in place and capped.

Tree Support

- Extra Heavy, Heavy standard and standard trees: Short double staking
 - Staking: Drive stakes vertically at least 400 mm into bottom of pit on either side of tree position before

planting. Fix half circle timber cross brace with 2 galvanised nails. Consolidate material around stakes during backfilling.

oHeight of stakes: Cut to approximately 600mm above ground level or 1/3 the height of the tree whichever is the lowest. Treat cut ends with clear timber preservative.

- Feathered and Multi stemmed trees: Short single staking or underground guying as specified.

Staking: Drive stake diagonally at least 400 mm into bottom of pit on before planting. Consolidate material around stake during backfilling.

- Height of stake: Cut to approximately 600mm above ground level or 1/3 whichever is the lowest. Treat cut ends with clear timber preservative.

- Tree ties: Biodegradable webbing 100% natural hessian from sustainable sources; 50mm wide x 1.5mm deep such as 'Nature Tie' as supplied by GreenBlue Urban www.greenblue.com or similar and approved.

- Webbing to be used to secure the tree to stake as well as form the spacers. Tie in a figure of eight, twice around the tree and stake and secure end of hessian to stake using 2 galvanised nails. Form spacer by repeatedly twisting the hessian in the centre of the tie between tree and stake; finish by cutting the hessian to length and secure to the stake with 2 galvanised nails as above.

Backfilling Material

- Ensure that all tree pits are free draining prior to backfilling. Do not back fill pits that are not free draining - notify the Contract Administrator (CA) of any pits retaining water.

- Topsoil shall NOT be used at a depth greater than 500mm unless agreed with the landscape architect.

- Backfill remainder of pit with previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required, together with:
 - Ameliorant/Conditioner: Planting Compost at the following rates:
 - Multi-stemmed, Standard and Feathered trees: 35 litres
 - Fertiliser: Enmag slow release fertiliser or similar and approved at a rate of 100 g/m2.
 - Broadleaf P4 water storing granules at manufacturers recommendations (typically 4gms per litre of compost)

Mulching Trees

- Material: Generally as planting beds.

- Trees in grass: Bark Nuggets (15-65mm) as supplied by Melcourt Industries Ltd www.melcourt.co.uk or similar and approved from FSC Mixed Source.

- Fire resistance to BS 4790: 1987.

- Preparation: Clear all weeds.

- Coverage: 75mm depth, in a circular area of 500mm radius measured from the tree stem.

- Application: Apply when ground is moist, do not apply when ground is frozen or dry.

Tree Protection

- All trees in grass areas to be protected by min.450mm high (Rodent) x 38mm diameter proprietary biodegradable plastic spiral guards, by Green-tech Ltd. or equal and approved.

Root Barrier Membrane

- Where trees are proposed in close proximity to hard paved areas or proposed service runs, a root barrier membrane is to be installed.

- For all proposed trees centred in a location within 3m of an adjacent hard standing, footpath of carriageway kerb line, a proprietary root membrane will be installed to protect the hard standing and any underground services from future damage by tree roots.

- Root barrier membranes to be installed on the tree side along the back edge of the kerb/edging to the adjacent hard standing area and to extend a minimum 3m in each direction from a point perpendicular from the tree trunk to the kerb face.

- Root barrier membrane to extend in depth as below:

- For trees adjacent to hard standing only with no underground services, install Reroot 300 by Green Blue Urban or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane to a depth of 300mm, ribs facing the tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soft landscaping.

- For trees adjacent to hard standings incorporating underground services, install to the following dependant on the depth of underground services:

- For services 450mm deep - Reroot 600 by GreenBlue Urban or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 600mm, ribs facing the tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soft landscaping.

- For services 800mm deep - Reroot 1000 by GreenBlue Urban or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 1000mm, ribs facing the tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soft landscaping.

- For services deeper than 800mm - Reroot 2000 by GreenBlue Urban or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 2000mm, ribs facing the tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soft landscaping.

- Where hard standing with or without underground services occur on both sides of the tree, such as a grass verge, then a root barrier is to be installed along both sides of the tree.

- For trees within hard surfaces, install 'Root Director' by GreenBlue Urban or equal and approved, 1400mm x 1400mm x 450mm, plastic root director with integral ribs.

Thicket Planting

- Clear any surface vegetation in proposed planting areas.

- Install plants into isolated pre-prepared planting pits, generally 300 x 300 x 450mm deep, or 200mm greater than the rootstock, whichever is greater. Backfill with either existing retained site-sourced topsoil (free from weeds) or imported topsoil (sandy loam, General Purpose to grade BS3882:2015) or a combination of the two as necessary.

- Incorporate a soil conditioner in the form of a peat free tree and shrub compost or well rotted spent mushroom compost into backfill material at the rate of 5L per pit, incorporating a slow release fertiliser e.g. Enmag or similar and approved at a rate of 5g per pit.

- Ensure planting conforms to planting matrix where appropriate, and in other areas appears random/natural and not formal.

Plant protection

- Where rabbits are a known issue, all thicket areas are to be fully enclosed by a min. 900mm high rabbit proof fencing, supplied as min. 19 Gauge (1.2mm) galvanised mesh with max. 31mm openings, nailed with galvanised 20mm staples to 50-75mm diameter treated timber stakes at 1.5m centres, incorporating 3 x horizontal galvanised straining wires.

- Mesh fence to be heeled into ground 150mm below ground level. Straining posts of 100mm diameter timber should be installed every 50m or at every turn of direction 90 degrees or more.

- If additional deer protection fencing is required, all thicket areas are to be fully enclosed by min 1.8m high proprietary plastic mesh fencing (50 x 45mm gauge) secured to min 100mm rounded, treated softwood posts, driven min 750mm below ground level at 3.5m centres. Mesh fence to be heeled into ground 150mm

below ground level. In areas where rabbits are also known to be a problem, an additional 300mm high section of min 19 gauge galvanised mesh with max. 31mm openings to be fixed to the lower portion of the deer fencing and attached using plastic cable ties.

- All bushy thicket shrubs to be protected by min.750mm high x 200mm diam. proprietary biodegradable plastic shrub shelters/spiral guards by Green-tech ltd or equal and approved, and secured in places with treated softwood timer stake and plastic cable ties.

- All single stem thicket transplants to be protected by min. 600mm high x 50mm proprietary biodegradable plastic spiral guard by Green-tech ltd or equal and approved, secured with min 12-14diam x 900mm long bamboo cane.

- All thicket plants to be installed with a min. 500mm square, proprietary mulch mat, securely pegged in place.

- Where woodland/thicket areas are created from fresh cultivated ground, i.e. not into the existing sward, then the planting area should be over-seeded with a proprietary meadow grass mix (such as A4 mix by Germinal Seeds Ltd) at a rate of 35g per m2 between planting stations.

Planting Shrubs

Plant Layout

- Spacing: Evenly

- Density: As scheduled.

- Ornamental hedgerows to be laid out in planted border 800mm wide, planted as single central row or double staggered for deciduous species as specified.

Planting Pits - Specimen shrubs, thicket mix and hedgerow, to BS 936: Part 1: 1980 (1992).

- Timing: Excavate immediately prior to planting.

- Sizes: 150 mm wider than roots when fully spread and 400 mm deep.

- Increase dimensions where necessary to ensure that pits are at least 75 mm deeper than root system and wide enough to accommodate roots when fully spread.

- Break up bottom of planting pit to ensure free draining.

- Finished level to be at original soil mark on shrubs.

Herbaceous Plants

- Well rooted, healthy, hardy and not less then one year of full growth.

- Evenly space at the rate stated over the allocated area avoiding straight lines.

- Plant carefully in generously sized holes with finely broken soil returned around the roots.

- Lightly firm the soil.

Backfilling Material

- Composition: Previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required.

- Fertiliser: Enmag slow release fertiliser or similar and approved at a rate of 100 g/m2.

After Planting

- Watering: Immediately after planting, thoroughly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.

- 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.

- Immediately after planting shrubs carefully cut back any damaged, dead or diseased branches and remove any weak, thin or malformed growth.

- When directed and to the extent appropriate for the species cut back to encourage growth.

Mulching Planting Beds

- Spruce Ornamental (5-65mm) as supplied by Melcourt Industries Ltd www.melcourt.co.uk or similar and approved from FSC Mixed Source.

- Fire resistance to BS 4790: 1987

- Coverage: settled depth of 75mm

- Application: Apply when ground is moist, do not apply when ground is frozen or dry.

Plant Protection

- Planting to be protected where necessary against rabbit damage.

Grass Areas

Fertiliser for Amenity Grass Areas ONLY

- Type: Fisions PS5 pre-seeding fertiliser.

- Application: Before final cultivation and three to five days before seeding.

- Coverage: Spread evenly at 70 g/m².

- Fertiliser is not to be used on meadow grass areas.

Final Cultivation

- Timing: After grading and fertilising.

- Seed bed: Lightly rake/harrow to present a true, even tilth no greater than 75mm in depth. Remove surface stones/earth clods exceeding 50 mm.

- Adjacent levels: Extend cultivation into existing adjacent grassed areas sufficient to ensure full marrying in of levels.

- The contractor should allow for all cultivation operations to achieve a good seedbed, including hand raking and hand digging on slopes and banks inaccessible to machinery, and against the backs of kerbs and paths.

- Soils to be free of any weeds.

Seed sowing

- General: Establish good seed contact with the root zone.

- Method: To suit soil type, proposed usage, location and weather conditions during and after sowing.

- Distribution: Seed shall be evenly distributed at the rates specified and shall be immediately followed by lightly raking the soil surface to cover the seeds, by use of a chain harrow or other suitable plant.

- Site should be lightly rolled following seeding to ensure good contact between the seed and topsoil.

Seedbed Germination

- Seeding shall be repeated as necessary until an evenly distributed dense sward is established over the seeded area to the satisfaction of the CA. The contractor/supplier shall allow for maintenance of all grass areas (as specified below) until this is achieved.

Management

- Protect newly turfed/seeded areas with 1.5m high chestnut pale fencing.

- Maintain fencing until grass is well established then remove and reinstate ground.

- Allow for management of grass during establishment either by cutting, to control competition from undesirable species and suppressing of the sown sward. Any cuttings should be removed.

NOTES:
1. Drawing based on Means of Access Plan 19244-ASHB-5-SK005.
2. This drawing is for planning purposes only.
3. No planting to be greater than 600mm high within highway visibility splays.

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North East Stevenage		
TITLE		

Access off Mendip Way: Planting Specification

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	
KL	SG	
SCALE	DATE	
N/A	08/07/2026	
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