

**Landscape Works & Planting with Maintenance Specification
Erection of a detached dwelling on land at the rear of
61 High Street Kimpton Hitchin Herts SG4 8PU**

24th July 2025

**Landscape planting scheme
(to be read in conjunction with drawing no DPL/25/12-SK1)**

Topsoiling

Imported Top-Soil: Imported top-soil is to be a 'multipurpose topsoil' in accordance with British Standard Specification for topsoil unless there is a requirement for a 'specific purpose topsoil' which will also be in accordance with the British Standard.

The topsoil shall be free from stone, rubbish of any kind, roots of perennial weed or any other injurious matter.

Planting

Container and Pot Grown plants:

Container and pot grown shrubs must have grown in weed free containers of the sizes specified for at least one complete growing season and must be healthy, bushy, vigorous and well-rooted but not pot bound and equal to all clauses of specification.

Species and Varieties:

All plants are to be of the species and variety indicated on the schedules and drawings. If however, any plants are unobtainable at the time of ordering, the contractor is to inform the Employer immediately and submit a list of alternatives for consideration.

Container and pot grown plants which are not planted on arrival on site must be watered frequently to prevent drying out. Plants which have been allowed to dry out to the extent where their health is affected will be replaced at the Contractor's expense. Immediately before planting,

all container and pot grown plants will be well watered.

Care will be taken during planting not to break up the root ball. Where plants have become pot bound, the roots on the outside of the ball will be gently eased out before planting.

Heeling In:

After delivery, if planting is not carried out immediately, root balled plants shall be placed next to each other, and the ball covered with sand or fine soil and watered to prevent drying out.

Bare rooted plants shall be heeled-in by placing the roots in a prepared trench and covering them with fine soil which shall be watered in to avoid air pockets round the roots. Plants are to be arranged in a random layout, with spacing and density in line with landscape proposals.

Watering:

All plants are to be well watered immediately after planting operations. To be wet to full depth of topsoil or wet to field capacity using either potable mains water, recycled or treated grey water. If there is any surface compaction the soil is to be loosened to direct water to the rootzone, taking care not to damage or loosen plants.

Watering operations are to be undertaken as many time as necessary in order to ensure the continued thriving of all planting materials.

Hedge Planting

Formal hedgerows:

Consistent in species, cultivar and clone to ensure a uniform hedge.

Planting:

In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly.

Immediately following planting operations, watering operations are to be undertaken thoroughly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil. Soil is to be lightly firmed around plants and forked/ or rake soil without damaging roots, to a fine tilth with gentle cambers and no hollows. Bark mulch is then to be applied to surface, in line with previous clauses.

Grass/Turf

Turf:

Turfs shall be in accordance with British Standard Recommendations for turf for general purposes. Turfs shall be clean meadow or downland turfs, fibrous and well-rooted, free from matted dead grass and perennial weeds, and shall have been subject to proper maintenance and treatment with selective weed-killers and insecticides during the previous growing season. On completion of laying, the whole turf shall be top dressed with finely sifted soil well worked into the joints.

No turf shall be laid during frost, exceptionally dry weather or on waterlogged ground.

Correction of Hollows:

Any slight hollows which appear within the aftercare period due to settlement or other causes are to be top dressed early in the growing season, with a mixture of good quality topsoil and fine peat-free compost lightly rolled in and the grass allowed to grow through before cutting. Deep hollows are to be treated by neatly cutting out a square of turf, building up beneath with the same mix plus an equal quantity of sharp sand, and the turf replaced at the correct level for rolling. Cutting may proceed without interruption.

Hollows repaired as above are to be kept watered as necessary until the turf has fully married in.

Watering:

On completion of laying and top dressing, turf and meadow areas shall be well watered.

Planting Specification

Hedgerow Planting

- The Hedgerow is to be planted in a single row at 30cm spacing
- All the hedgerow will be planted at 30/20 cm size
- All planting will be caned and protected with spiral guards.

Maintenance

All plants are to be maintained until established. Shrub beds are to be kept weed free. Grass to be kept well watered until established and kept maintained at a consistent height and weedfree. Hedge bases and 1 metre diameter surrounding trees are to be kept free from weed. Any additional weed growth round the base of the plant removed. The bark mulch is to be topped up annually to 75mm and the planting beds kept free of litter.

Grass is to be cut 6 times during the first growing season. The first cut to be when the grass is well rooted and has reached a height of 100mm and cut to 50mm and lightly rolled. During the first year all cuttings are to be removed from site. Grass should only be cut when dry. The grass is to be maintained at 50mm and frequency of cutting will depend on the growing season but be between 8 and 12 cuts a year. Watering will be carried out grassed areas during prolonged dry periods to ensure and maintain adequate growth. Watering shall be carried out with sprinklers or oscillating sprays at a rate of watering will be 15 litres per square metre

Replacement Planting

Replace any tree or plant within a five year period that fails to thrive or is below specification. Any grass area that fails shall be re-turfed in accordance with the specification.