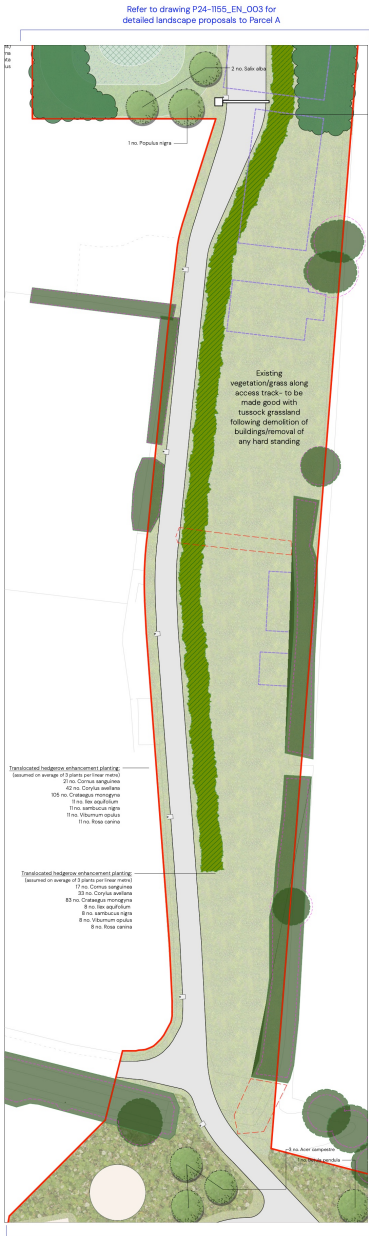




Inset: Access Track

PLANTING SPECIFICATION

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

1. GENERAL

13. 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.
14. All plants shall conform to BS 2808 and be in accordance with the National Plant Specification. Supplying nurseries shall be registered under the NFFA Nursery Certification Scheme. All plants shall be packed and transported in accordance with the Code of Practice for Plant Handling as prescribed by CPRE.

15. Prior to planting soil penetration tests will be undertaken to ensure the soil is free draining and that planting will not become waterlogged. If it is not free draining the landscape architect should be informed, and advice should be sought from a soil scientist. Following which remediation/drainage actions undertaken to ensure planting will thrive.

16. Planting shall not be carried out when the ground is waterlogged. Trees should be planted during periods of cold drying winds. All bare-root planting stock will be kept covered until actually planted in order to minimise water loss and prevent the roots from drying. Tree handling, storage and planting shall be in accordance with BS 8454 Chapters 9 to 10 and Annexes E to F.

17. 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.

18. A minimum intervention approach will be used in terms of weed control in areas of transplant (weedkill or ornamental shrub planting). This is to be achieved by using mulch mats and hand weeding. Weedkill 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.
19. If the water supply is likely to be restricted, e.g. due to emergency drought legislation, do not carry out sowing/hurling until instructed. If sowing/hurling has been carried out and the water supply is restricted, advise restrictions on watering.

2. TREE PLANTING

Ground Preparation and Tree Pit Excavation

20. Where necessary remove existing weeds by hand. Chemical removal using a glyphosate based herbicide will be avoided unless large areas need clearing - following which allow a suitable period to elapse, as recommended by the manufacturer, for the herbicide to take effect.
21. The tree pits of at least 750mm diameter greater than the root system and no deeper than the rootball (7 container depth) are to be excavated and the sides well scaffolded to prevent slumping. All entrance matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm in any dimension shall be removed from site.

22. During excavation of the pit, the soil should be placed to one side separating topsoil and subsoil as far as is practical.
23. 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 tree vertical drainage will not occur through the base of the tree pit, then a drainage system must be put in place, such as in connection to a land drain or additional excavation to reach the grave sear. Professional advice should be sought from a soil scientist and if required a drainage engineer.

Tree Planting

24. Trees shall be planted as per the planting arrangement as set out on the planting plan and plant schedule.
25. The typical rooting depth for trees is 300mm. 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.
26. The root system of the tree should be seated prior to planting. The tree should be planted at the correct depth taking into account the position of the root flare and the ballhead. The rootball or root stem transition should be level with the existing root soil or surface. The base of the rootball should typically sit on subsoil, but for larger rootballs the subsoil will sit around the lower portion of the rootball.

27. The 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 depth) backfilled with a high sand content subsoil. Subsoil should be added gradually, in layers of 500mm to 2000mm depth, ensuring the tree is held upright. At each stage the fill should be tamped in to eliminate 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.

28. General purpose slow release fertiliser (at the rate of 15g/m²) and Tree Planting and Mulching Compound at the rate of 100g/m² are to be incorporated into the top 300mm of topsoil during final cultivation.
29. Standard trees are to be single staked with 25mm dia stakes. All extra heavy standard trees are to be double staked with 75mm dia stakes. Stakes should be driven at least 300mm into the subsoil prior to planting the tree. The stakes should be secured with ratchet straps and cables etc. and should typically be one third the height of the tree stem above ground.

30. Staked trees shall be secured to stakes with suitable proprietary ties or jute tree ties with approx. 50mm depth. A spacer is to be formed using the natural tree tie band.
31. Immediately after planting, but before applying the below bark mulch, all trees should be saturated to field capacity.

32. Ornamental composted bark mulch will be spread to a depth of 75mm across a 600mm 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 SHRUB PLANTING

Ground Preparation

33. Cut existing rough grass and weeds to between 20mm and 30mm and remove 300x300mm squares of turf at the density specified on the planting schedule.

Planting

34. 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 draining. All stones and other objects larger than 50mm shall be removed from the prepared surface.

35. Shrubs / tree planting is to be as per the planting system 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 from the planting. Shrubs should be planted in rows and trees in single group spaces. Together in groups of 17 plants, ornamental tree bark mulch to a depth of 75mm to 300mm diameter around each planting.

36. All bare-root planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 600mm plastic-free shrub guards (e.g. Greenstar Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic Free Shelter), supported with 30mm or 32mm for trees) x 32mm x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.

37. All container-grown planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 600mm plastic-free shrub guards (e.g. Greenstar Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 30mm x 32mm x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.

Maintenance

38. 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. WILDLIFE MEADOWS GRASSLAND

Preparation

39. Areas of wildflower meadow to be seeded shall be sprayed out with a glyphosate herbicide and cultivated to a depth of 300mm removing all weeds debris and stones over 75mm diameter. The surface shall be raked to smooth flowing contours with a fine riddle.

Seeding

40. Seeds shall be sown either in April/May or September/October during calm weather and not when the ground is frost bitten or waterlogged.
41. To achieve an even sowing, bulk with artificial carrier, such as sand, seed shall be sown in rows equal spacing in transverse direction at 4g/m² for Evergreen DM9 Tussock grassland and DM9 Meadow mixtures for wet areas. After sowing the contractor shall use a roller to guarantee intimate contact with the soil, ensuring not to rake or cover the seed with soil.

Initial Cut

42. During April 12 months seed to be regularly cut to minimise competition and weed seed production. Cutting should be frequent enough to ensure the cuttings or straw are removed. The cuttings, during to be suspended between April and July to allow flowering of the cornflower annuals.

43. When newly seeded wildflower areas reach 50mm they should be cut to a height of 25mm. All sowing 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 30mm during the first season after sowing.

5. GENERAL MAINTENANCE

44. 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

45. 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 trees and shrubs are to be checked and adjusted if not below, too tight or if chaffing is occurring. Any broken stakes are to be replaced. Any damaged shrubs/trees are to be pruned back to healthy wood. There are to be pruned in accordance with good horticultural practice to maintain healthy, well-shaped specimens. Native shrubs / Using approved herbicides in a diameter circle centred on each planting station shall be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period. Stakes may be removed from trees 2.0 plant in fully established and if shelter is suppressing further growth.

