

# WEBSTER ASSOCIATES

TOWN PLANNERS, DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS, LAND AGENTS

P.M. Webster BA (Hons) M.R.T.P.I. B.J. Webster

## **TREE / HEDGE PLANTING SPECIFICATION**

### **Erection of 9 holiday lodges, associated parking facilities and vehicular access Land northeast of Wombleton Grange, The Airfield, Wombleton, YO62 7RY**

The landscaping proposals are as defined on Drawing ref. W - WG - 1.5

#### **Proposed trees:**

New tree planting of native species of local provenance will include a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs; the planting mix will include berry, seed and pollen-rich species to provide wildlife habitat and an important source of food.

A mixture of extra heavy standard and heavy standard trees and feathered whips will be planted, at spacings to suit the size and variety of tree.

Tree plant schedule to include:

pinus sylvestris Scots Pine  
betula pendula Silver Birch  
sorbus aucuparia Rowan  
prunus avium Wild Cherry  
fraxinus excelsior Ash  
ilex aquifolium Holly  
crataegus monogyna Hawthorn  
corylus avellana Hazel  
prunus spinosa Blackthorn  
rosa canina Dog rose  
sambucus nigra Common Elder

#### **New Hedge / Screen planting:**

Mixed species hedges of at least five different varieties as detailed below will be used throughout the site and these will also divide individual plots providing important infrastructure for the site and wildlife habitat as well as providing further screening of lodges:-

40%	Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna
20%	Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa
5%	Field Maple	Acer campestre
5%	Buckthorn	Rhamnus catharticus
5%	Gelder Rose	Viburnum opulus
5%	Dog Rose	Rosa canina
5%	Spindle	Euonymus europaeus
5%	Wild Privet	Ligustrum vulgare
5%	Hazel	Corylus avellana
5%	Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea

All plants used will be good quality bare-root stock (generally 2 year transplants or roottrainers), native to Britain. All plants will be protected by a 0.6 m green mesh shelter and stake, as appropriate to cope with rabbit damage.

Planting to be at 0.5m gaps between double staggered rows.

3 Spaldwick Road, Stow Longa, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 0TL

Tel / Fax: 01480 860862

VAT registration No. 638 5312 33

## SPECIFICATION FOR SOFT LANDSCAPE

### 1.0 PRELIMINARIES

1.1 All materials and workmanship must comply with the relevant British Standards and recognised Codes of Practice for the landscape industry.

1.2 The contractor will be deemed to have visited the site and to have carried out any investigations necessary on all conditions affecting the work, as no claim on the grounds of lack of knowledge will be entertained.

1.3 Before commencing the works the contractor will inform the Landscape Architect of his timetable of operations, and shall continue to contact them to inform of variations.

1.4 The contractor will be held responsible for any damage to trees, shrubs or hedges caused by his negligence. In the case of minor superficial damage, the contractor shall arrange for any necessary surgery to be carried out by an approved tree surgeon. Should damage to any tree, shrub or hedge result in its death or serious disfigurement it shall be removed and replaced as the Landscape Architect may direct, to give the same density of cover as previously. All costs at contractors own expense.

1.5 The contractor shall protect all pipes, ducts, sewers, service mains etc, and make good at his own expense any damage caused by carrying out the works. Notwithstanding information which the Landscape Architect may make available to the contractor regarding the position of the existing services, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to satisfy himself as to their accurate location and condition.

1.6 The contractor must take adequate precautions to ensure protection of streams and waterways from pollution caused by carrying out the works.

1.7 The contractor shall take all necessary measure to protect the work handed over on completion.

### 2.0 SPECIFICATION

#### 2.1 GENERAL CLAUSES

2.1.1 All plants supplied by the contractor shall be obtained from a reputable nursery. Before stock is purchased the Landscape Architect reserves the right to inspect the nursery or to approve samples. All material supplied will be similar in size and quality to the approved samples and in accordance with the relevant parts of BS 3936.

2.1.2. The contractor is to ensure that all plant material is to be handled in accordance with the Plant Handling Code, from collection at the nursery to planting on site.

2.1.3. All areas to be grassed or planted will be roughly graded and topsoiled by the main contractor, with a minimum depth of soil of 600mm-1000mm to trees, 600mm for shrubs and 450mm for grass. Topsoil shall be supplied and handled in accordance with BS 3882.

2.1.4 The main contractor will also carry out ripping of subsoil to relieve compaction and allow free drainage. The existing ground levels within an area up to 3m beyond the branch spread of existing trees shall not be varied. The landscape contractor is to satisfy himself that the soil levels and quality are adequate before work commences.

2.1.5 Attention must be paid to watering, particularly to containerised material before, during and after planting and to grassed areas, notwithstanding any restrictions by the Statutory Authorities on the use of water for plants which may prevail at the time.

#### 2.2 GRASSED AREAS

2.2.1 All topsoil areas including undisturbed ground to be grassed shall be cleared of weeds and rubbish then rotavated to a depth of 100mm, cross harrowed with a chain harrow to produce a fine tilth and consolidated lightly with a Cambridge roller and all stones removed from the surface. Do not carry out ploughing, ripping or tipping of soil within the branch spread of existing trees and hedges.

2.2.2 Unless otherwise stated, finished levels of grassed areas shall be 50mm above adjoining paving or

kerb levels, 150mm below the damp proof course of adjoining buildings and married in with previous soil levels adjoining existing trees and shrubs. Levels shall be arranged to give gentle falls for drainage and any hollows developing after completion of cultivation shall be made good. The finished surface shall have a smooth and even fall.

2.2.3 The contractor shall supply and spread a pre-germination fertiliser (for turfed areas only) at the manufacturers recommended rate and method. The Landscape Contractor reserves the right to inspect and approve cultivations before turfing is carried out, and the contractor is to supply a certificate of analysis if required.

2.2.4 If necessary, an approved herbicide shall be applied to the topsoiled areas in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

2.2.5 The contractor shall supply turf in accordance with BS 3969.

2.2.6 Turves from the stack should be wheeled to turf layers on planks laid closely side by side. Adequate planks should be provided to support workmen and barrows and provide access. Turves should be laid on the prepared soil bed and firmed into position in consecutive rows with broken joints closely butted and to the correct levels. The turves should be laid off planks working over previously laid turf. Where necessary the turves should be lightly and evenly firmed with wooden beaters. A dressing of fine sandy soil should be applied and brushed into the joints. Any inequalities in finished levels due to variations in turf thickness or uneven consolidation of soil should be adjusted by raking and packing fine soil under the turf. A roller should not be used. Turf edges and margins should be laid with whole turves. The Landscape Architect reserves the right to suspend turfing operations when weather conditions are considered unsuitable. If shrinkage occurs, fine sandy topsoil shall be brushed in the joints and well watered.

2.2.7 Banks exceeding 30 degree slope; lay turves diagonally or horizontally and secure with pointed softwood pegs, 25mm square and 200mm long. Remove pegs when turf is established.

2.2.8 The specified grass seed shall be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and when weather and soil conditions are suitable.

2.2.9 All necessary watering is to be carried out with oscillating sprays or sprinklers to avoid washing soil from joints.

2.2.10 The contractor is to carry out the first cut of turfed and grassed areas, not allowing for any future maintenance which may be agreed.

2.2.11 The contractor shall make good, at his own expense, all areas of grass which fail to establish, other than where failure is due to vandalism, and for making good depressions and sinkages which appear in the first twelve months.

### 2.3 PLANTING GENERALLY

2.3.1 Planting areas shall be pegged out in accordance with the planting plans, using figured dimensions if given, or otherwise scaled dimensions.

2.3.2 Where the shrub beds are weedy, the beds will be hand weeded and rubbish removed.

2.3.3 On newly topsoiled areas or undisturbed ground, beds shall be dug by hand or cultivated by machine to a depth of 300mm. Break down all lumps, fork and rake, collect and remove from site all weeds and debris to a cambered surface 50mm below surrounding levels. Well rotted farmyard manure or other approved organic material shall be spread at a rate of 1m<sup>3</sup> per 20m<sup>2</sup> and thoroughly incorporated.

2.3.4 Any additional topsoil required for making up levels and backfilling shall be free from weeds, roots and stones over 50mm diameter, and shall conform to BS 3882.

2.3.5 Planting shall be carried out in the correct season and weather conditions as BS 4428, 8.2. The Landscape Architect reserves the right to suspend planting when the ground is frozen or waterlogged.

2.3.6 If specified the contractor shall supply and erect a 1.2m high cleft chestnut pale fence to BS 1722 part 4, to all exposed edges of shrub planting as indicated on the planting plans.

## 2.4 TREES

2.4.1 Tree stakes shall be set out on site according to the plan and approved by the agent to avoid damage to drainage and service runs. The Landscape Architect also reserves the right to adjust the exact position of the trees.

2.4.2 Tree pits shall be 600mm x 600mm square and 600mm deep for feathered or half-standard trees, and 1000mm x 1000mm square and 1000mm deep larger trees. The bottom of the pits shall be broken up to 150mm deep and backfilled with 50% Fisons Tree Planting Compost and 50% site topsoil. Planting shall be in accordance with BS 4428, 7.6 and 7.7.

2.4.3 Stakes shall be straight, pointed softwood stakes, 75mm diameter maximum.

- i) Feathered trees up to 1.5m shall be unstaked.
- ii) Feathered and ½ standard trees up to 1.8m high, shall have one stake 600mm below ground level and 300mm above ground.
- iii) Standard trees, girth 8-10cm, height 2.75-3m, shall have one stake 600mm below ground level and 300mm above ground.
- iv) Selected standard trees, girth 10-12cm, height 3-3.5m, shall have one stake 600mm below ground level and 102m above ground level.
- v) Heavy standard and Extra Heavy Standard trees shall have two stakes, 1.8m above ground level and 600mm below ground.

2.4.4 Toms rubber tree ties or other approved ties shall be fixed, 50mm down from the top of the stake, two ties to heavy standard trees, and one tie to others.

2.4.5 The contractor shall apply 100mg of Enmag around the base of each tree, immediately after planting.

2.4.6 Where trees are planted in grass they are to have an area of 500mm diameter around the base free of grass and weeds, and mulched as the shrub bed specification.

## 2.5 SHRUBS

2.5.1 Shrubs shall be set out in accordance with the planting drawing at uniform densities, and planted as detailed in BS 4428, 8.5.1.

2.5.2 Climbing plants shall be planted in pits 600x600x450mm deep and backfilled with topsoil. Self-clinging climbers should have the supporting cane removed. Climbers requiring support should have the cane retained or have shoots fanned out and tie to supports or wires with soft rot proof twine.

2.5.3 Herbaceous plants shall be set out in accordance with the planting plan, and planted with a hand trowel, carefully fuming the roots.

2.5.4 The contractor is to apply 25gm of Enmag around the base of each plant immediately after planting.

2.5.5 Shrub beds are to be covered with a minimum of 75mm mulch immediately after fertilising. Soil to be covered must be moist and if not, should be thoroughly saturated with water before mulching. The bark must have been stacked for an appropriate period to allow toxic tanins to break down. The mulch must not contain wood strips or peelings and must be of a uniform colour. A sample must be submitted for the approval of the Landscape Architect if requested, prior to delivery on site.

## 2.6 BULBS

2.6.1 Bulbs shall be thrown on the ground in loose drifts to ensure natural spacing and carefully planted where they fall with a hand trowel or bulb planter to a depth of at least twice their height and in accordance with BS 4428, 8.5.4.

## 3.0 AFTERCARE

3.1 The following schedule of maintenance operations shall be carried out during the establishment period:

- Weed control - 6 visits per growing season using hand and/or chemical weeding to keep weed free at all times.
- Check and re-firm plants each visit
- Selective pruning - 1 visit per year
- Hard cutting back - 1 visit per year
- Trimming- continuous.
- Check and adjust tree stakes and ties- 3 visits per year.
- Watering as necessary and where practicable.
- Selective treatment of any pests and diseases as necessary and appropriate.
- Reinstatement of all losses at the end of the first growing season.
- Apply 50mm depth of bark mulch to all tree pits, shrub beds and hedge trenches at end of first growing season.

### 3.2 Plant Replacements and Hand Over to Long Term Maintenance

3.3 Prior to the end of the Defects Liability Period all plant losses will be reinstated using stock of equal quality to that originally specified. Thereafter there will be an annual inspection of planting and beating up where required for a further 4 years.

3.4 At the end of the establishment maintenance period and prior to hand over to the factor who will be charged with on-going maintenance, all defects which have been made good and all soft and hard landscape areas will be in a neat and tidy condition. Trees, hedges and shrub beds will be free of all weeds and litter. Staked trees will have been inspected and ties adjusted as appropriate and any minor damage to branches neatly pruned. Grass areas will be neatly mown and edged and will have good even grass cover free from annual and perennial weeds.

### ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATION FOR THE PLANTING OF HEAVY STANDARD AND EXTRA HEAVY STANDARD TREES

#### **Plant handling, storage and transport**

Lifting, packaging and transporting shall be to CPSE (Committee for Plant Supply and Establishment) 'Handling and establishing landscape plants' (obtainable from the Horticultural Trades Association) Part I, Part II, and part III, paragraphs 1.3.3 to 1.3.6., 3.0 & 4.0. with the following additional conditions.

- (i) Trees shall only be lifted from nursery lines between mid-October to mid-March.
- (ii) Trees shall be lifted in such a manner as to avoid damage to the roots, stem and shoot system.
- (vi) Standard material from 2.25 - 2.75 m. in height shall be protected and labelled, encased and labelled as in (iv).
- (vii) Standard material in excess of 2.65 m shall be individually packed and protected, encased and labelled as in (iv).

#### **Planting pits**

The preparation of planting pits is to be carried out only during periods of suitable weather. All trees and shrubs are to be planted in pits, the sizes of which are specified below.

	Diameter (mm)	Depth (mm)
Standard	600 x 600	600
Extra Heavy Standard	1000 x 1000	750

Tree pit sizes should be increased where necessary to ensure pits are at least 300mm wider and 75mm deeper than the tree root system when fully spread. Fork over the bottom of tree pits to a depth of 225mm and leave slightly domed to assist drainage. Roughen any smooth sides to pits. Topsoil excavated from planting pits is to be mixed with compost and used for backfilling. Any subsoil excavated is to be removed from site to an approved landfill site.

- (a) Standard and selected standard tree pits:

Excavate pit 1 m. x 1 m. x 0.66 m. deep below lowest adjacent site levels. Break up the soil forming the base of the pit to a depth of 150 mm. Refill pit with topsoil mixed with 80 litres of tree planting compost

to be provided by the Contractor, and lightly firm by treading. Sufficient topsoil/compost mixture shall be returned to the pit to raise the surface level to a minimum of 75 mm. and a maximum of 150 mm. above adjacent surface levels.

(b) Extra Heavy Standard tree pits

Over the area of each planting pit, remove all turf to one side for re-use. Excavate pit 1 m. x 1 m. x 1 m. deep below lowest adjacent site levels. Break up the soil forming the base of the pit to a depth of 150 mm. Refill pit with topsoil mixed with 100 litres of tree planting compost to be provided by the Contractor, and lightly firm by treading. Sufficient topsoil/compost mixture shall be returned to the pit to raise the surface level to a minimum of 75 mm. and a maximum of 150 mm. above adjacent surface levels.

**Staking trees:**

Standard trees shall be supplied with one tree stake. The overall length of the stake shall be sufficient to ensure that they are firm when driven into the soil and that the top of the stake extends above ground level to approximately one third of the tree's height. Stakes are to be hammered into the ground before the tree is positioned in the pit. Stakes shall be whole sections of softwood timber 50 mm. to 75 mm. top diameter, peeled and pressure treated in accordance with BS 4072. Ties shall be of a type approved by the Employer. One tree tie shall be positioned approximately 50 mm. from the top of the stake to hold the tree, ensuring that tree and stake do not touch in any place.

Heavy standard trees shall be provided with two tree stakes. The overall length of the stakes shall be sufficient to ensure that they are firm when driven into the soil and that the top of the stake extends above ground level to approximately one third of the tree's height. Stakes are to be hammered into the ground before the tree is positioned in the pit. Each stake shall be whole sections of softwood timber of 75 mm top diameter, peeled and pressure treated in accordance with BS 4072. A 100mm x 30mm section cross spar shall be fixed to the posts with galvanised nails. Ties shall be of a type approved by the Employer. One tree tie shall be a rubber strap overlapped and fixed to the timber cross spar by galvanised clout nails. A rubber collar shall ensure that tree and stake do not touch in any place.