

**LIDL STORE, BRITON FERRY ROAD,  
NEATH**

**PLANTING METHODOLOGY AND AFTERCARE  
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Site comprises 2 buildings, which are an existing Lidl Store and a Retail Unit and associated parking and landscaping. The site is accessed from a traffic light controlled road from Briton Ferry Road which is a main road connecting Neath and Briton Ferry. This access road is shared with Castle Bingo and its carpark which are north of the site.

The Site is centred at Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SS 74656 96458, in Neath in Neath Port Talbot Borough County area and postal code SA11 1AS. The Site is roughly triangularly shaped and covers an area of 1.12 hectares (ha).

The development is the demolition of the two buildings and providing a single larger Lidl store with associated parking.

## 1.1 SCOPE OF LANDSCAPE WORKS

The proposals are

- felling of selected trees.
- reducing crowns and cutting back branches.
- knotweed treatment to small knotweed stand on the north boundary.
- removal of existing planting beds.
- proposed hedgerow.
- proposed planting beds.
- proposed rain gardens.
- proposed trees.
- management for 5 years
  - maintenance of landscaping for one year in landscape contract
  - four years by Client agent five years total.

## 1.2 DOCUMENTS

The design information provided by the Landscape Architect has overlaps with architectural work, civil and structural engineering work and mechanical and electrical engineering. The subcontractor should be aware that information required to undertake the landscape works will require reference to the documents prepared by other consultants.

The Planting Methodology and Aftercare was produced using information from the following resources.

- Drawing No CA BF 2022-01 Rev A Lidl Briton Ferry Tree Survey and Existing Features
- Drawing No CA BF 2022-02 Rev A Lidl Briton Ferry Overlay & Tree Protection Plan
- Drawing No CA BF 2022-03 Lidl Briton Ferry Landscape Proposals
- Drawing No CA BF 2022-04 Lidl Briton Ferry Landscape Sections
- Tree Survey Briton Ferry Road Neath 14-12-2021 rev 9Jan 2022
- CA 2022 Lidl Briton Ferry Planting Schedule 11Jan2022
- DR Lidl Briton Ferry Neath Arboricultural Method Statement rev11January2022

## 1.3 GENERAL CONDITIONS

EXISTING STRUCTURES ON OR ADJACENT TO SITE:

- Network Rail Land and railway tracks
- Tarmacadam car park areas
- Esso Filling Station
- Castle Bingo and its associated caraprck.
- Alder woodland block around Cryddan Brook
- Briton Ferry Road and associated footpaths
- Traffic light junctions
- Electricity sub-station
- Service boxes, lampposts, and underground services.
- Existing banks on west and northern site boundary areas

- 1.4 SERVICE DRAWINGS: Any service information on landscape drawings is notional only. The Contractor MUST obtain confirmation of all services from the Principal Contractor and relevant authorities. There are extensive services. Services may require the adjustment of tree positions in certain areas and care with excavations and a requirement for root barriers where necessary.

NOTIFY: All service authorities including the Employer/Principal Contractor of any proposed works which could affect services not less than one week before commencing site operations and observe service authorities' recommendations for work adjacent to existing services.

ACCESS TO THE SITE: - Permission must be gained from the Site Agent for access to visit the site. . The Contractor's vehicles should not cause obstruction to the Highway and all necessary regulations relating to Highway working must be followed.

Other users who will require access through the landscape contract area are:-

- Principal contractor and other sub contractors
- Access will be required by sub contractors
- Statutory Authorities

WORKING AREA, WORKING HOURS, PARKING, ADVERTISING , HEALTH AND SAFETY Refer to the Principal Contractor's site requirements and attend site inductions and carry out all health and safety instructions required by the Principal Contractor. Provide all Health and Safety information and Method Statements required by Principal Contractor.

#### 1.5 RISKS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

The nature and condition of the site cannot be fully and certainly ascertained before it is all opened up. However the following risks are or may be present:

- Work close to service covers, street lights, service boxes and markers
- hazardous materials gas and electricity.
- Work close to live services and working with live services.
- Site must be left safe at the completion of each day's work eg open trenches made safe,
- During the day all working areas are to be kept safe and all notices and safety procedures followed including temporary fencing where necessary
- Working on steep slopes
- Works on access roads eg drop kerbs, footpaths and road cushions will require traffic and pedestrian management important
- Maintenance during the maintenance period will need to take into account the security required.
- Work close to service covers, street lights, service boxes and markers and overhead electricity posts, hazardous materials, gas and electricity.
- Work close to live services
- Working on steep slopes.
- Other site users on site
- Use of solvents, inflammable substances, and chemicals
- Use of machinery with moving parts, cranes, drilling rigs, electrical equipment and general use of machines.
- Likelihood of chemical drift
- Making noise or dust during Works
- Excavations danger of underground services
- Hazards due to cold/wet windy weather - Manual handling and lifting operations
- Other contractors working on site.

#### 1.6 PROPRIETARY NAMES: The phrase 'or equivalent approved' is to be deemed included whenever products are specified by proprietary name. Where the specification permits the substitution of a product of a different manufacture or type to that specified such a substitution requires approval from the CA and where necessary documentary verification that the alternative product is equivalent in respect of material, safety, reliability, function and where necessary of appearance to the specified product.

BRITISH STANDARDS: All materials, workmanship and plant material must comply with the relevant British Standard unless otherwise indicated.

SIZES: Unless otherwise stated the size indicated is size required

#### NOTIFICATION OF RECORDS:

The Contractor shall notify the CA of the date of commencement and completion of the operations outlined below and provide the CA with all necessary documentation required within 7 days to record and verify the Works as follows:

- a daily distribution return showing the number and description of men employed on the works including those employed by Contractors
- a daily distribution return showing the number, type and capacity of all plant excluding hand tools currently employed on works.
- record of actions taken to protect biodiversity and monitor their effectiveness.
- record of weather conditions and other factors having material effect on progress of Works.
- record sheets of pesticide applications as required under Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986
- notification of dates of commencement and completion of operations, including all records of rates of application or use of materials, etc of application of fertilisers, pruning, mowing, litter picking and other maintenance visits etc.

**Provide all necessary technical submissions, method statements and risk assessments at least one week in advance of relevant operation.**

#### 1.7 SUPERVISION/INSPECTION/DEFECTIVE WORK

**SUPERVISION:** In addition to the constant management and supervision of the Works provided by the Principal Contractor's person in charge, all significant types of work must be under the close control of competent trade supervisors to ensure maintenance of satisfactory quality and progress.

## 1.8 SAFETY/PROTECTION

Commonplace hazards which should be controlled by good management and site practice are not listed.

### GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Site rules from Principal Contractor's Health and Safety Plan – use of PPE etc
- Continuing liaison :

### OPERATIONS AND MATERIALS

- Hazard – Working on Highways
- Hazard - Use of Chemicals, paints, solvents, timber stain etc
- Hazard - machines or workers slipping down steep slopes
- Hazard – services
- Hazard - mechanical and manual handling
- Hazard – Tree felling and treeworks- working at height
- Hazard – protection of public and site users

### MAINTENANCE

- Hazard – Working on Highways
- Hazard - Use of Chemicals
- Hazard - machines or workers slipping down steep slopes.
- Hazard - mechanical and manual handling
- Hazard – Protection of public .

**HSE APPROVED CODES OF PRACTICE:** Comply with the following:

- Management of Health and Safety at Work
- Managing Construction for Health and Safety

## 1.9 PROTECT AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

### 1.10 POLLUTION:

The contractor / landscape operatives must be conversant with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Pollution, Prevention and Control Regulations 2000, Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 and the Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989 for the Carriage of Controlled or Special Wastes. landscape contractors must be registered with a relevant Regulation Authority (Environment Agency) and be in possession of a valid Certificate of Registration or Certificate of Registration as a Broker of Controlled Waste under the Act.

### 1.11 USE OF CHEMICALS

The contractor/ landscape operatives must comply with 'The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986', 'The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1988' and any other current legislation and subsequent revisions.

All chemicals must be products on the current list of Agricultural Chemicals Approval Scheme and used strictly in accordance with the conditions of approval. The landscape contractor must comply with all relevant Codes of Practice issued by MAFF.

All pesticides/herbicides transported or stored in the landscape contractor's vehicles or on site (regardless of quantity) shall be locked in a separate storage compartment or within lockable containers which is secured to the floor of the vehicle. All storage lockers must be sealed and clearly marked as containing pesticides and bear a standard black and yellow hazard sign.

Apply pesticides/herbicides strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in calm, dry weather conditions. Chemicals should not be applied in wet, frosty or windy conditions.

The contractor/ landscape operatives must hold a BASIS Certificate of Competence, or work DIRECTLY under the supervision of a certified holder.

Notify the site operator at least 24 hours in advance of the location, type of pesticide/herbicide, active ingredient and timing of application prior to commencing work. The contractor/ landscape operatives shall erect warning signs at all entrances to the areas to be treated. When restricted to planting beds, warning signs shall be placed within close proximity in clearly visible locations. Details of application and contact person to be shown.

In accordance with COSHH Regulations the contractor shall protect employees and other persons, including the general public and adjacent land owners who may be exposed to substances hazardous to health.

Dispose of waste chemicals and containers in accordance with the 'Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986', 'Control of Pollution Act 1974' and the 'Water Act 2014' and any subsequent revisions.

The contractor / landscape operatives shall be responsible for making good and or compensation for any damage how so ever caused resulting from negligence in application, handling and/or storage of pesticides and herbicides. He shall also be responsible for keeping up to date with all legislation and regulations governing there use and inform the site operator of any changes that may affect the contract in any way.

The contractor / landscape operatives shall ensure that all property and utilities are protected against accidental or negligent damage that may occur. Any damage incurred by the contractor in carrying out their duties is to be made safe immediately and repaired to the satisfaction of the client or Utilities Company at the earliest convenient time, or as agreed, at the cost of the contractor.

It shall be the contractor / landscape operatives responsibility and liability for any damage to person or property, however caused. All operatives shall be trained according to the task to be undertaken.

**1.12 EXISTING MAINS/SERVICES: GENERAL:** The Contractor shall:

- Ascertain the exact location of all existing services and the like in, under or over the site or adjacent thereto. The Contractor will be held responsible for any damage or disruption to such services crossing the site or those used during the performance of the Contract. Any such damage as may occur must be made good to the satisfaction of the CA, Employer, Service Authorities and adjoining owners or occupiers, at the Principal Contractor's own expense.
- Check the positions of all services before starting work.
- Adequately protect and prevent damage to all existing services. Do not interfere with their operation without the consent of the Service Authorities or private owners.
- If any damage to services result from the execution of the Works, notify the CA and the appropriate Service Authority without delay. Make arrangements for the work to be made good without delay to the satisfaction of the Service Authority or private owner as appropriate.
- Replace any marker tapes or protective covers disturbed during the site operations to the Service Authorities' Recommendations.
- In the event of a service marker being disturbed for any reason it shall not be replaced other than in the exact position and to its former depth unless the repositioning is carried out at the direction and under the supervision of the Service Authority.
- Check all emergency and contact details for the varied service contacts and emergency numbers are up to date.

**1.13 NOISE:** Ensure that all measures to control noise produced by the Principal Contractor's operations required under or by virtue of the provisions of any enactment or regulations, or the working rules of any industry are strictly complied with.

- Fit all compressors, percussion tools and vehicles with effective silencers of a type recommended by the manufacturer's of the compressor, tools or vehicles.
- Do not use or permit the use of radios or other audio equipment which may cause nuisance

**1.14 NUISANCE:** Take all necessary precautions to prevent nuisance from dust, rubbish and other causes. Remove daily, and if it should occur on the highway carriageway immediately to avoid any hazard to road users from site rubbish and debris generated from the Works for disposal. Comply with all instructions from the CA in this respect.

**1.15 FIRE:** Take all precautions necessary to prevent personal injury, death and damage to the Works or other property by fire. Comply with Joint Code of Practice 'Fire Prevention on Construction Sites' published by Building Employer's Confederation and the Loss Prevention Council and National Contractors Group. Advise the CA immediately if drought, arisings or other circumstances evident give rise to a fire risk.

**1.16 BURNING:** Burning is not permitted on site

**1.17 WATER:** Prevent damage from storm and surface water. Keep site and excavations free of water

**1.18 WASTE/ARISINGS:**

- Remove debris, rubbish, surplus material and spoil regularly, daily where arisings are from a specific process or work item and keep the site and Works clean and tidy.
- Remove all rubbish, dirt and residues from excavations before infilling.
- Ensure that non-hazardous material is disposed off at a tip approved by a Waste Regulation Agency.
- Remove all surplus hazardous materials and their containers for disposal off site in a safe and competent manner as approved by a Waste Regulation Agency and in accordance with relevant regulations.
- Retain waste transfer documentation on site.

**1.19 EXISTING FEATURES:** Prevent damage to existing structures, fences, walls, roads and paved areas and other site features which are to remain in position during the execution of the Works. If damage occurs make good at the Contractor's own expense and to the satisfaction of the CA.

## 1.20 TIMING OF WORKS AND ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

### *European Protected Species*

#### *Bats*

All UK bat species are protected under Schedule 5 of The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This legislation implements the EC Habitats & Species Directive in the UK making it an offence to:

- Deliberately take, injure or kill a bat;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost;
- Damage or destroy the breeding site or resting place of a bat (even if it is not occupied at the time);
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.

If evidence of bats is encountered during development, work must cease immediately and the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist or Natural Resources Wales (NRW) sought before continuing with any work (01792 634960 / 0300 065 3000)

#### *Nesting Birds*

It is an offence under The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to intentionally:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; and
- Take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

Additionally, bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act are also protected from intentional or reckless:

- Disturbance while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; and
- Disturbance to dependent young of such a bird.

#### *Management*

No clearance of trees, shrubs, scrub or buildings shall be undertaken during the bird nesting season (late February-early September). Where this is not possible, a check for active nests by a suitably qualified ecologist will be required prior to clearance. Any active nests will be left in situ until chicks have fledged or the nest is no longer active. If any nests of Schedule 1 species are found, additional measures to avoid disturbance will be required.

#### *Hedgehog*

There is the potential for hedgehogs to be present in the area. Hedgehogs are protected under Schedule 6 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which prohibits killing and trapping by certain methods. They are also listed on Section 7 of The Environment (Wales) Act 2016. This is a list of the living organisms of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales.

#### *Management*

In order to retain habitat connectivity for Species of Principal importance, such as hedgehogs, boundary treatments should not be flush to the ground, or suitably sized gaps 13 x 13 cm should be left at strategic points. See

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/hedgehog-friendly-fencing/>

All trenches and excavations must be fenced off or covered-over at night to prevent any animals (hedgehogs, and other species) from falling in and becoming trapped. If this is not possible an adequate means of escape must be provided (i.e. a gently graded side wall or provision of gently sloped wooden plank or equivalent). Any exposed pipes and trenches must be checked for trapped wildlife each morning before starting construction activities.

#### *Otters*

**Conservation Status:** Otters are strictly protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and cannot be killed, kept or sold except under licence. In the late 1950s and early 1960s otters underwent a sudden and catastrophic decline throughout much of Britain and Europe. Otters require clean rivers with an abundant, varied supply of food and plenty of bank-side vegetation offering secluded sites for their holts. Riversides often lack the appropriate cover for otters to lie up during the day. Such areas can be made more attractive to otters by establishing "otter havens," where river banks are planted-up and kept free from human disturbance

## 2.0 INITIAL WORKS

### CLEARANCE AND INITIAL ENABLING WORKS

- Demolition of existing Buildings and tarmacadam is by others
- Felling of selected trees.
- Reducing crowns and cutting back branches.
- Knotweed treatment to area of knotweed on the edge of the northern alder woodland boundary.
- Removal of existing planting beds.
- Topsoil and subsoil is to be imported for new planting beds and to make up any shortages in bank areas
- Protection of retained trees.

## 2.1 TREE REMOVALS

No clearance of trees, shrubs, scrub or buildings shall be undertaken during the bird nesting season (late February-early September). Where this is not possible, a check for active nests by a suitably qualified ecologist will be required prior to clearance. Any active nests will be left in situ until chicks have fledged or the nest is no longer active. If any nests of Schedule 1 species are found, additional measures to avoid disturbance will be required.

**TREE REMOVALS**

The following trees are to be removed to facilitate the design and these occur within the site boundary.

- T1 Whitebeam B2
- T2 Whitebeam C2
- T3 Whitebeam B2
- T4 Whitebeam B2
- T10 Birch B2
- T12 Birch B2

The tree removals have to consider bat roosts and bird nesting. The felling and clearing of the trees will be undertaken between 1 October and 1 March inclusively. On site all trees felled to be stump ground out.

**TREWORKS**

The T8 and T9 Wild Cherries if crown reduction is required it is imperative that the work is undertaken when they are in full leaf June/July, to reduce sap bleeding and possible disease infection. The roots are obviously a trip hazard and a trip rail barrier is to be indicated to deter access.

The canopies T11 Birch the crown may be cut back as they will be close to the proposed building. This crown reduction should not be undertaken in Spring as the cut branches may bleed profusely.

All tree work is to be to BS3998-2010

**TREE ROOTS CUT BACK**

T11 Birch will have its roots cut back when the new store is built. The extent of root cutting back is indicated on Drawing No CA 2022-02 Lidl Briton Ferry Overlay & Tree Protection Plan. These roots are underneath existing tarmac carpark bays.

Hand-dig a trench alongside the kerb edge cutting back roots as the trench progresses those below 2.5cm diameter can be trimmed back to the edge of the trench with secateurs. Roots with a diameter greater than 2.5cm cut back with 100mm back into trench side and plug gap with soil.

**2.2 PROTECTIVE FENCE TO TREES, ALDERWOOD AND KNOTWEED SECTION BY NETWORK RAIL BOUNDARY**

The installation of the protective fencing shall be located as shown on Drawing No CA 2022-02 Lidl Briton Ferry Overlay & Tree Protection Plan for protection against damage to trees to be in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to Construction is to be a Heras Fence installed to the Figure 2 default specification.

A tree protection barrier was to be erected prior to any site activity starting and the construction exclusion maintained until the end of the construction period when the landscape works are undertaken.

No development shall take place except in complete accordance with the approved scheme, and works required by that scheme are in place. All protective fencing, etc shall be retained intact for the full duration of the development hereby approved, and shall only be removed, or altered in that time with the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.

Principal Contractor to maintain fence intact until construction works are complete and hand works may only commence within the protected and exclusion zone

**2.3 JAPANESE KNOTWEED**

It is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant species listed on Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or Schedule 2 of The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019.

The site has a large Knotweed stand of branches on Network Rail land which has branches growing through the boundary palisade fence with the site and some stems spread through the fence. Network Rail have confirmed that they have 5 Year Treatment programme in progress for this Knotweed.

There is a small stand of Knotweed on the Alderwood land edge which is to be treated by a Knotweed specialist.

**2.4 IMPORTED TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL****2.5 IMPORTED TOPSOIL**

- Quantity: All topsoil that is to be imported is to conform to this specification
- Standard: To BS3882 2015. Plus the following:
- Source: Submit proposals.
- Classification: Multipurpose.
- Texture to BS3882: Medium loam.
- Reaction, to BS1377-3: pH 6 - 7.5.
- Crumb structure: Made up of discernible crumbs.



- Stones:
- Size in any dimension (maximum): 20mm.
- Stone content by dry weight (maximum): 15%.

In addition to conforming to the above BS standard the soil should also conform to the following.

**Visual Examination:-**

Provide the CA a 1kg sealed sample bag of representative soil, for approval of the physical structure of the soil, before chemical analysis is progressed. Obtain approval of a sample load on site of not less than 2m<sup>3</sup>. Retain for comparison with subsequent loads. Provide a full analysis from an approved testing station in accordance with 'Analysis for Topsoil'.

**Physical Parameters:-**

Clay (less than 0.05mm) 5-27%

Silt (0.002 – 0.05mm) 5-45%

Sand (0.05 –2.00mm) 45-85%

(At least 50% of the total soil fraction should fall within the medium to coarse sand range)

Permeability 10<sup>-5</sup> – 10<sup>-6</sup> m/sec

**Chemical Parameters:-**

PH value (1:2.5 soil/water) 6-7.5 pH

Electrical Conductivity (1:2.5 soil/water) <1500 µS/cm

Electrical Conductivity (1:2.5 CaSO<sub>4</sub>) <2800 µS/cm

Organic Matter (Walkey Black) 4.0 – 10.0%

Total Nitrogen (Dumas) >0.2%

Extractable Phosphorus (RB427) >26 mg/l

Extractable Potassium (RB427) >220 mg/l

Extractable Magnesium (RB427) >50 mg/l

- TOPSOIL ANALYSIS• All imported topsoil is to be analyzed
- Soil analyst: Submit proposals.
- Samples: Collect in accordance with BS3882.
- Submit:
- Declaration of analysis:
- Chemical analysis and contaminants;
- Maximum stone content, stone size and pH value;
- Nutrient content, pH value and textural classification;
- PH value and textural classification;
- Phytotoxic and CLEA elements; and
- Textural classification and maximum stone content.
- Report detailing soil analyst's recommendations.

The Landscape Contractor shall obtain a sample for analysis, to determine all of the requirements listed above.

The results and a brief analysis and interpretive report making comment on suitability of material in comparison to BS3882 and the specification included within this document, including recommendations for additives and/or amendments to bring sub-grade soil up to the required specification standard. Topsoil requirements and to support broadleaf native trees with particular reference to the requirement identified above and levels of metals and the likely effects of these on nutrient availability and protection of plant growth.

A certificate of Analysis should also be provided shall be submitted to the LA who may adjust the composition of any specified fertiliser or soil ameliorant and the rate of application, after examination of the Landscape Contractors cost. Where suitable amelioration is not possible the CA may reject the topsoil.

**SANDY LOAM TOPSOIL**

All sandy loam topsoil is to be imported to be used in Rain Gardens

All imported sandy loam topsoil to comply with BS3882 2015 with the following textural class

SANDY LOAM TOPSOIL Textural Class

55% Sand

30% Silt

15% Clay

**2.6 IMPORTED SUB-SOIL**

- Quantity: All subsoil that is imported is to conform to this specification.
- Standard BS 8601 – 2013 Subsoil.
- Source: Submit proposals.
- Crumb structure: Made up of discernible crumbs.

**Visual examination:-**

The subsoil shall have a defined granular, crumb or blocky structure and shall be reasonably free from non-soil material, brick and other building materials and wastes, hydrocarbons, plant matter, roots of perennial weeds and any other foreign matter or material or substance that would render the sand unsuitable for use. Provide the Landscape Architect (CA) a 1kg sealed sample bag of representative soil, for approval of the physical structure of the soil, before chemical analysis is progressed.

**Physical Parameters:-**

Clay (less than 0.05mm) 5-27%

Silt (0.002 – 0.05mm) 5-50%

Sand (0.05 –2.00mm) 40-85%

Max. Stone Content (2 –50 mm) 50% by weight

Max. Stone size in any dimension 75mm

**Chemical Parameters:-**

PH value (1:2.5 soil/water) 5.0-8.2

Electrical Connectivity (1:2.5 soil/water) <2000 µS/cm

Electrical Connectivity (1:2.5 CaSO<sub>4</sub>) <2800 µS/cm

Organic Matter (Walkey Black) % <2.0

**Potential Contaminants:-**

Refer and comply with Integral Geotechnique's Specific Target Level for the imported Capping Layer Soils List attached at the end of this specification.

Subsoil is to be naturally occurring material, excavated from a level immediately below the vegetable topsoil down to a maximum depth of 2.0m from the original ground level with no stone or rubble material larger specified. The material shall be a friable consistency, free draining, free from extraneous material and pernicious weeds. The subsoil must contain no chemical or domestic refuse or pollutants that would be harmful to short term or permanent plant or animal life. The material will not be extreme in either alkalinity or acidity. It is not acceptable to use topsoil within subsoil layers.

All sources of material shall be stated and a 2m<sup>3</sup> minimum sample shall be provided for analysis, inspection and approval prior to deliveries to site. All supplies thereafter shall conform to approved samples. The CA may reject any subsoil with high stone or rubble content.

**SANDY LOAM SUBSOIL**

All sandy loam subsoil is to be imported to be used in Rain Gardens

All imported sandy loam subsoil is to comply with BS8601-2013 with the following textural class

SANDY LOAM SUBSOIL Textural Class

55% Sand

30% Silt

15% Clay

**2.7 RIP SUBGRADE BEFORE LAYING SUBSOIL**

Scarify subgrade to promote free drainage. The surface on which subsoil is to be placed will be thoroughly ripped to a depth of 200mm before subsoil placement. A cross-ripping effect will be achieved by two passes at an angle of 45 degrees to the edge of the strip at 90 degrees to one another. Remove all stones with largest dimension exceeding 50mm. ***If standing water is present on ripped surface inform the CA before placing subsoil***

**3.0 LANDSCAPE WORKS**

The proposed landscape works are

The proposals are

- proposed hedgerow.
- proposed planting beds.
- proposed rain gardens.
- proposed trees.
- management for 5 years
  - maintenance of landscaping for one year in landscape contract
  - four years by Client agent five years total.

**3.1 PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS**

**3.2 TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL**

Topsoil and sub-soil for use on site is to be existing bank materials, with imported topsoil and subsoil for new planting beds and top up to make up any shortages on existing banks.

Topsoil and subsoil depths required for the soft landscaping

300mm topsoil 300mm subsoil in planting beds

300mm topsoil 600mm subsoil in tree pits

250mm sandy topsoil and 250mm sandy loam subsoil to shrub beds in rain gardens.  
Existing bank topsoil and subsoil to retained around retained trees

### LANDSCAPE TO RAIN GARDEN AREAS WITH SHRUBS

#### Planting Beds

Permeable Root Barrier, 250mm Sandy Loam Topsoil, 250mm Sandy Loam Subsoil,

### 3.3 AMELIORANTS

**ROOTDIP:** Root-balled trees are used a solution of one part Seanure Root Dip to ten parts water be applied around the roots as part of the puddling-in planting system. Rootballed trees to be dipped in root dip solution.

**ANTIDESSICANTS:** All trees and evergreen plant material on arrival at site shall be sprayed with an appropriate antidesiccant approved by the CA unless the temperature is below 10degC.

**GREEN COMPOST:** Green recycled compost shall be used which will have an organic and fibre content and some trace elements It shall improve soil structure and help retain moisture. Green Compost to be made under strictly controlled conditions from green, organic recycled material. PAS 100 standard. Sample to be approved before full orders made. The supplier is to provide a sample and details of the compost components and approved by the Client before use on site.

Spread 50mm depth of compost on surface of all planting beds work into full topsoil depth.  
Green Compost to be 10% tree pit and work into full topsoil depth.

To be obtained from a local supplier and sample approved before full load brought to site.

#### NETGUARDS

Provide 12cm diameter 600mm high netguards to all hedging and native block plants with two releasable ties and a ratchet tie to close rim and an appropriate stake. Use black netguards. Provisional

#### SLATE MULCH:

To be 40mm Blue Slate chipping 50mm thick laid over Geotextile weed membrane

#### GEOTEXTILE WEED MEMBRANE

Terram Weedguard to be used in all planting beds except the Bed 1 Ecological Buffer Strip where it will be omitted.

Terram

Tel:-01621 874200

Email:-info@terram.com

#### BED 1 BARK MULCH

50mm layer Melcourt Amenity Bark Mulch to be used.

#### PERMEABLE ROOT BARRIER

Permeable root barriers to be used where tree planting is less than 2.00m away from service runs

The root barrier is to be Terram Rootguard which is a permeable root barrier.

Terram

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### 3.4 ACCESSORIES

**TREE TIES:** Tree ties are to be Hessian webbing 50mm wide, wrapped around tree stem and nailed to the stakes with 40mm galvanized nails according to tree type.

**TREE STAKES:** Tree stakes shall be larch or sweet chestnut poles celcure treated, 75mm in diameter, straight with butt end Extra Heavy Standard Trees will have 3No stakes. The stakes are to be set 1200mm above ground.

**AERATION AND WATERING UNIT** Root Rain irrigation and aeration system pipe diameter system or other approved equivalent.

### 3.5 PLANT MATERIAL SUPPLY

#### PLANTS GENERALLY

Trees and plants are to conform to the relevant section of BS 3936 (publication series) and the National Plant Specification No substitutes are to be accepted without the consent of the landscape architect and the local planning authority. All plants

shall be true to size specified on the planting plan and schedule. All plants shall be healthy, bushy, pest and disease free and not pot-bound, dry, water logged, leggy or weak. A minimum of five breaks per shrub is required. Trees shall be vigorous, of good shape and with a well-branched head.

Plants that are container grown (CG):

- Supplied in a growing medium with adequate nutrients for the plant to thrive until permanently planted.
- Centred in the container, firmed and well-watered.
- With root growth substantially filling the container, but not root bound, and in a condition conducive to successful transplanting.
- Grown in the open for at least two months before being supplied.
- Grown in containers with holes adequate for drainage when placed on any substrate commonly used under irrigation systems.

**HANDLING AND DELIVERY:** The Contractor shall comply with the recommendations of the booklet 'Plant Handling' published by the Committee for Plant Supply and Establishment in July 1985.

The Contractor shall include for packing, loading and transporting plant material, trees, etc from the source of supply to the site. All plant material shall be carefully packed and protected to survive transport to site without damage in lifting from the nursery, loading, transit or unloading. Any plant material which sustains major damage shall be rejected and replaced at the Contractor's expense, but slight mechanical damage may be corrected by careful pruning and wounds exceeding 25mm diameter shall be treated with fungicidal sealant.

If plants are not planted within 24 hours of delivery they shall be heeled in by placing the roots in a prepared trench covering them with fine soil and well firming and watering to prevent air pockets.

**PLANT INSPECTION:** The CA reserves the right to inspect all plant material prior, during and after planting and reject any plants that fail to meet a satisfactory standard.

**TREES:** They shall have either a well balanced head or well defined central leader with branches growing from the stem with reasonable symmetry and shall comply with the following definitions:

- Extra Heavy Standard Trees shall be rootballed. They shall be of a minimum height of 4.00-4.50m with a sturdy taper and reasonably straight stem minimum 1.75- 2.00m in height from ground level to the lowest branch with a minimum girth of 14-16 cms when measured 1.00m from ground level

#### CONTAINER STOCK TREES

Container stock trees are **not** to be used. Tree planting is to be undertaken in season.

#### BAREROOT PLANTS

These are to be strong well-rooted nursery stock evenly developed with a single well defined, straight and upright central leader. The main stem shall be furnished with lateral shoots. The plant shall be self supporting with a stem circumference at the root collar of 30-50mm. Overall heights as specified in the Plant Schedule.

**POT GROWN SHRUBS:** A shrub which is pot-grown or container-grown may, according to species, be cut back or trimmed to encourage bushiness. The size of pot shall be as stated in the Plant Schedule. The height of shrubs shall be measured from the ground level, excluding rootball or any container.

## 4.0 WORKMANSHIP - LANDSCAPE

### 4.1 SITE CONDITION

The Contractor shall be held responsible for the keeping of the Works in a neat, tidy and litter free condition through the duration of the Contract.

Litter means arisings or residues from the Works, cans, bottles, paper and other extraneous objects.

### 4.2 WATERING: Water is to be provided by the Principal Contractor and access without cost to the private water system. The Landscape Contractor is to supply hoses and sprinklers and ware as necessary up to Practical Completion and as necessary during the defects/maintenance period.

Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.

Application: Even and without displacing plants, mulch or soil.

Frequency: As necessary to ensure the establishment and continued thriving of all seeding/turfing and planting.

Watering for planting of trees, shrubs and whips after planting and if dry conditions occur

**DROUGHT CONDITIONS:** If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation:- inform the CA without delay of the additional cost of second class water supply from a sewerage works or other approved source.

- if planting has not been carried out, do not do so until instructed.
- if planting has been carried out, obtain instructions on supply of water.

PERMANENT DRAINAGE SYSTEM: This is not to be used for disposal of water from excavations without approval.

#### 4.3 FORMATION OF GENERAL GROUND LEVELS

The levels of the site of the site will be as the Architect's or engineer's details

New ground levels need to be as required by the Engineer for paving edges and other hard surface edges and left ready for soil profiling if required to the required depth for the finish of shrub or shrub and tree planting so that the finished topsoil levels can be 50mm below finished hard edging adjacent to the building and within the carpark areas.

The areas shall be excavated or filled to the correct depth for the soil profile.

The subbase material in the excavated bed areas, grass areas and planting pits are to be broken up to a depth of 200mm as required,

#### 4.4 SOIL PROFILE FORMATION

LOOSE TIP FILLING FOR LANDSCAPE AREAS

SUBSOIL FILL

Do not firm, consolidate or compact when laying.

Tip and grade to approximate levels in one operation with minimum of trafficking by plant.

PLACING FILL GENERALLY

- Ensure that areas to be filled are free from loose soil, rubbish and standing water.
- Do not use frozen material or materials containing ice. Do not place fill on frozen ground.
- Take all necessary precautions to secure the stability of adjacent structures.
- Place fill against structures, or buried services in a sequence and manner that will ensure stability and avoid damage.
- Plant employed for transporting, laying and compacting must suit the type of material. ie light earth moving plant to be used for all subsoil areas.
- Earthmoving equipment: Vary route to avoid rutting.
- Filling: Layers not more than 300 mm thick.
- Lightly compact each layer to produce a stable soil structure when grading them to an even level..

#### 4.5 HANDLING TOPSOIL

Standard: To BS 3882 : 2015.

- Ensure topsoil is free of aggressive weeds weed species: Included in the Weeds Act, section 2 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 9, part II.
- Give notice: Obtain instructions before moving topsoil.
- Multiple handling: Keep to a minimum. Use topsoil immediately after stripping.
- Areas to be topsoiled are to be laid over the finished subsoil levels.
- Topsoil areas to be graded to be 50mm below finished edging levels.
- Do not use topsoil contaminated with subsoil, rubbish, oil based products or other materials toxic to plant life.
- Dispose of contaminated topsoil to the Contractor's tip
- Apply herbicide to perennial weeds and allow period of time recommended by manufacturer to elapse before cultivating

SPREADING TOPSOIL DEPTH to the depths specified

Once spread the topsoil shall be kept free of weeds by physical means or by spraying with an approved weedkiller until such a time as planting is carried out.

GREEN COMPOST

PLANTING BEDS

- Spread 50mm layer of Green Compost and cultivate into full depth of topsoil.
- Reduce top 100mm of all topsoil to a fine tilth suitable for final grading
- Remove all undesirable material brought to the surface, including stones larger than 50mm in any dimension, roots, turf or grass and foreign matter.
- Cultivation and planting shall not be carried out when the soil is very wet or waterlogged, or during periods of frost.
- At all times during ground preparation care shall be taken not to re-compact the soil.

#### 5.0 PLANTING GENERAL

##### 5.1 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS: Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable for the relevant operations. Do not plant during periods of frost or strong winds. Plant only during the following periods:

- Deciduous trees and shrubs: Late October to late March

- Container grown plants: At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable.
- Ensure that adequate watering and weed control is provided.

**NOTICE**

Give notice before:

- Setting out.
- Delivery of plants/ trees.
- Planting shrubs.
- Planting trees

**5.2 TREE, SHRUB PLANTING**

Planting shall be carried out in accordance with the Plant Schedules and the Contract Drawings.

**SETTING OUT:** All areas shall be set out in accordance with the Contract Drawings.

**PLANT SPACING:** Plant spacing shall be carried out in accordance with the Contract Drawing. The CA reserves right to adjust the exact position of all plant material after it has been set out.

The aim will be to space the plants evenly so that when established they will completely fill the areas indicated as fully as possible.

**NEW PLANTING AREA**

Prior to the placing of topsoil and subsoil ensure existing ground under is thoroughly broken up to a depth of 200mm to allow free drainage.

Remove all rubble, concrete washings, and other builder's debris to provide sufficient depths for topsoil placement. Cut back excessive haunching where it restricts topsoil depths. Excavate tree pits into subgrade prior to top soiling to ensure sufficient depths of soil. Mark tree pit locations with timber stakes.

**PLANTING AND CULTIVATION:** All planting shall comply in all respects with BS 4428: 1968 General Landscape Operations and for Tree Planting BS 8545: 2014. All plants shall be planted in accordance with good horticultural practice, upright with the roots well spread out at same depth at which they had been previously grown in the nursery. Care being taken to avoid damage to root systems and stems. The plants shall be placed in position in accordance with the Contract Drawings showing their best side to the front. Suspended planting and cultivation when weather or soil conditions are unsuitable.

Cultivations are as previously specified. Soil to be free of weeds prior to commencing planting works, where necessary the topsoil will have weeds removed by physical means or will be treated with weedkiller where necessary to destroy weed growth prior to commencing planting.

Evergreens to be dipped in or thoroughly sprayed with antidessicant after planting. Do not apply in rainy or frosty weather. Ensure full coverage of underside of foliage.

**ROOT BARRIERS**

Root barriers are to be used where trees are within 2.00m of service runs. The root barriers are to be either installed vertically or laid to line service trenches where appropriate. The root barrier is to be Terram Rootguard which is a permeable root barrier.

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**5.3 EXTRA HEAVY STANDARD TREES**

These are to be planted in Planting Beds as indicated.

Break up the base to a depth of 300mm to ensure drainage.

At planting the localized tree pit dug shall be not less than minimum dimensions or 1500 x1500mm x 900mm depth. Allow the tree at planting to have the root flare at finished topsoil level. (this may be the soil mark on the nursery stock. Check this is the root flare point before planting. Correct planting depth is important.)

Water rootball of rootballed trees with seaweed extract root dip.

All wires hessian and other rootball wrapping to be removed at planting.

Trees need to be orientated for the best crown development. It might be found that due to the nature of growing trees on nursery lines crowns develop asymmetrically.

Supply and fix an aeration and watering unit to the rootball.

Tree pit is backfilled with existing or imported subsoil 600mm thick and existing or imported topsoil 300mm thick. 10% Green Compost is to be mixed in thoroughly into top 150mm of the topsoil backfill. The returned soil shall be lightly consolidated by treading as filling proceeds layer by layer with subsoil replaced first and then topsoil in layers above the subsoil

The tree shall be set upright in the centre of the tree pit so that the soil level after settlement will be at the original soil mark on the tree stem. The three stakes shall be driven into the pit 300mm from edges and fixed before backfilling

The returned soil shall be finely broken down and placed around the roots gently shaking the tree to allow particles to work around the rootball and ensure close contact with all rootball and prevent air pockets. The returned soil shall be lightly consolidated by treading as filling proceeds layer by layer, care being taken to avoid damaging the rootball. Soil around the root flare of the tree shall be consolidated firmly with the heel.

Secure the tree to the three tree stakes with Hessian webbing 50mm wide wrapped around tree stem and nail the webbing to the stakes with galvanised nails. The stakes are to be 75mm diameter, 1200mm above ground level.

Water tree thoroughly after planting.

Provide permeable root barrier where trees are within 2.00m of services

#### 5.4 PLANTING BEDS EXCEPT PLANTING BED 1

Supply and plant shrubs at spacing indicated on the Contract Drawings and of species and sizes indicated on the Plant Schedule.

Excavate planting beds to a depth of 600mm, break up ground under to a depth of 300mm and spread 300mm depth of existing or imported subsoil and 300mm depth of existing or imported topsoil over area.

Cultivate planting beds and work in Green Compost, 50mm layer spread over area to full topsoil depth. Remove any debris arising from cultivations.

Supply and lay a geotextile weed membrane with a minimum overlap of 200mm and holes cut for planting. Sufficient pins to be installed to prevent membrane lifting.

All pot grown shrubs shall be well-soaked in water with alginure root dip in the water prior to planting and planted into the bed area.

Supply and spread a layer of Slate Mulch 50mm deep over the area in all planting beds except Planting Bed 1 which is an ecological buffer strip and a 50mm layer of bark mulch to be spread over this bed area.

Water plants thoroughly after planting.

#### 5.5 PLANTING BED 1 ECOLOGICAL BUFFER STRIP

Make 200mm holes at 1000mm centres along the existing chain link fence at ground level to give otter access to Buffer Strip.

Excavate planting beds to a depth of 600mm, break up ground under to a depth of 300mm and spread 300mm depth of existing or imported subsoil and 300mm depth of existing or imported topsoil over area.

Cultivate planting beds and work in Green Compost, 50mm layer spread over area to full topsoil depth. Remove any debris arising from cultivations.

All pot grown shrubs and bare rooted plants shall be well-soaked in water with alginure root dip in the water prior to planting and planted into the bed area.

Supply and spread a 50mm layer of bark mulch to be spread over this bed area.

Water plants thoroughly after planting.

Net guards shall be fixed to all bare root plants PROVISIONAL

#### 5.6 OTTER HOLT

Supply and install a recycled otter holt from Filcris Ltd products.

[www.filcris.co.uk](http://www.filcris.co.uk)

01954 718327

[sales@filcris.co.uk](mailto:sales@filcris.co.uk)

Liaise with the ecologist to confirm the location for the holt.

The holt two openings, one to face the brook the other to face north west. Form earth channels from the holes to the brook  
Cover with the top with pieces of turf and brash.

## 5.6 PLANTING IN RAIN GARDEN

Supply and plant shrubs at spacing indicated on the Contract Drawings and of species and sizes indicated on the Plant Schedule.

Supply and lay a permeable root barrier over the Engineer's drainage layer.

Supply and spread 250mm Sandy Loam Topsoil, 250mm Sandy Loam Subsoil for the planting bed area.

Cultivate planting beds and work in Green Compost, 50mm layer spread over area to full topsoil depth. Remove any debris arising from cultivations.

Supply and lay a geotextile weed membrane with a minimum overlap of 200mm and holes cut for planting. Sufficient pins to be installed to prevent membrane lifting.

All pot grown shrubs shall be well-soaked in water with alginure root dip in the water prior to planting and planted into the bed area.

Supply and spread a layer of Slate Mulch 50mm deep over the area.

Water plants thoroughly after planting.

## 5.7 NATIVE HEDGE

The hedge is along the frontage of Planting Bed 1 the Ecological Buffer Strip  
There will be a rabbitproof mesh fence through the hedge centre line.

The planting of this Hedgerow is barerooted material

Root dip all the plants in seaweed extract.

### PLANTING

Excavate a hredge trench 1000mm wide to a depth of 600mm, break up ground under to a depth of 300mm and spread 300mm depth of imported subsoil and 300mm depth of imported topsoil across the trench. Cultivate the trench and work in Green Compost, 50mm layer spread over area to full topsoil depth. Remove any debris arising from cultivations.

Supply and plant the native hedgerows at 0.30m centres in a double staggered row.

Water the hedge plants thoroughly after planting.

Supply and spread a layer of Bark Mulch 50mm deep over area of trenches

Net guards shall be fixed to all bare root plants PROVISIONAL

## 5.8 WIRE MESH FENCING TO HEDGEROW

The fence will be in the hedge centre line.

To BS1772 Part 1.

Fence Height : 1050mm

Mesh: Galvanized rabbit proof mesh 1200mm x 31mm 1.2mm (18g) Wire netting galvanized

Mesh to be set 150mm into the ground

Wire: 4No straining wires, mild steel (8SWG) galvanized to BS 443, clipped to woven wire at 500mm intervals.

Staples: 30 (8SWG) galvanized or sheradised. Angle all staples; securely knock in at all posts.

Posts and struts: Natural debarked softwood round struts and 75 x 75mm square section posts.

Treatment: Pressure impregnated to BS 4072 and BS 5589

Maximum centres of posts.

Straining posts: 100m in straight runs, or adjusted equidistant if end sections are less; at ends, corners, changes of direction or acute changes in level.

Intermediate posts: 3.0m centres

Method of setting posts:

End Posts 100 x100 Square section timber post length 1750mm set into the ground to be 1050mm above ground with concrete foundation 450mm diameter by 400mm depth with struts

Struts: 75mm section x 2000mm strut, notched to straining post and set in hole, backfilled with 375 x

850 x 500mm well rammed aggregate and remainder 100mm to surface with topsoil arising from excavation.

Intermediate posts 75 x 75 square section posts set in well rammed earth



**5.9 PROTECTIVE FENCING**

If necessary protective fencing will be erected to protect completed works where necessary where other adjacent works are in progress and there is a risk of damage by others of completed landscape works

**5.10 DEFECTS LIABILITY**

All tree, hedge and shrub planting is to be maintained for 5 Years after Practical Completion (1 Year as part of contract and 4 years with managing agent).

All planting completed prior to Practical Completion of the whole soft Landscape works is to be maintained as per maintenance requirements until Practical Completion.

After planting remove all soil from hard surfaces and grass areas and leave all areas in a clean and tidy condition at Practical Completion.

**FAILURES OF PLANTING:** Post Practical Completion maintenance of the planting is to be carried out by the Contractor as specified. Any tree/shrubs/plants which are dead, dying or otherwise defective at the end of each growing season within the Defects Liability Period will be regarded as defects due to materials or workmanship not in accordance with the Contract. They must be replaced by approved equivalent tree/hedge/shrub/plant material at the next suitable planting season unless otherwise instructed.

This will not apply if defects are caused by malicious damage after Practical Completion.

**6.0 LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE**

MAINTENANCE PERIOD FIVE YEARS: CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE PERIOD IS YEAR 1.

**6.1 Definitions**

**CA:** Contract Administrator shall mean the agent appointed by the Client

**6.2 Programming and site attendance**

**PROGRAMME OF WORKS:** The Contractor shall provide a programme of maintenance works at the commencement of the Contract The Contractor shall maintain an operation plan that demonstrates the monthly progress and the month in advance. The operational plan is to include management objectives to achieve this plan.

**SITE ATTENDANCE:** The aim of this item is to ensure that small matters are corrected.

The Contractor shall attend to incidental matters which are defined as follows:

- inspect the site and undertake as necessary litter picking, sweeping, leaf clearance and other maintenance items which require attention in key areas such as at the site entrance, car parking areas and entrances to Buildings
- 'making-safe repairs' to such items as staked trees, fencing etc
- 'making safe' any hazardous items on site eg damaged service covers etc (full repair to be undertaken by Employer's CA.
- reporting to CA any matters requiring more than one hours attendance or requiring specialist work.

**MAINTENANCE RETURNS**

The Contractor shall submit a monthly maintenance return issue this to CA and copy it to the CA.

**6.3 Removal of arisings:**

The Contractor shall remove all leaves, litter, rubbish, dirt and other arisings shall be swept up, collected and disposed of on the same day as the various items of work are undertaken. These arisings shall be collected and unsuitable material disposed off at the Contractor's tip. The Contractor shall take sole responsibility for providing a tip and for all charges, fees, transport and any other expenses in connection with tipping unless otherwise specified in writing by the LA.

Planting beds and trees within ornamental areas arisings are to be removed from site.

Note all green waste arisings is to be recycled via local recycling facilities as the site has not suitable locations for composting material or operations for reusing composted material.

**6.4 Inspections**

During maintenance operations the Contractor shall note and report without delay to the CA any of the following:

- activities by others which prevent the normal maintenance operations proceeding in the site areas egg Statutory Authorities work, new constructions, storage of materials and parking on landscape areas etc.
- damage caused to the site areas by the activity of others on site.
- missing gulley covers or damaged service covers noted during the course of the works.
- damage to boundary fences, other fences, railings and other features for which the Employer is responsible.
- persistent litter problems

- theft or malicious damage, or clearly unauthorized use of the site areas
- damage to building structures within site area

Inspect trees after high winds. Refix newly planted trees upright as necessary.

**7.0 TREE MAINTENANCE: GENERAL** The Contractor is to take care not to damage tree stems, any damage or tree death resulting from damage shall be made good at the Contractor's expense.

### 7.1 Staked trees

#### INSPECTING TREES

- Inspection of new trees should be monthly in the first year and EVERY 2 months thereafter and after high winds to assess remedial work needed due to storm damage, clearing of dead trees, prevention of trees overhanging roads and footpaths.

**PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL:** The Contractor shall report to the CA any indications that pest or disease control treatment is required. Allow for one application of a treatment approved by the CA. Report any squirrel damage noted to CA.

**TREE REMOVAL:** Remove dead or dying or trees which are poorly located after obtaining approval from the CA. Where the tree is removed from a grass area reinstate soil levels to marry with adjacent levels and seed with an approved mix.

**REFIRMING:** Ensure that all trees remain firmly bedded in the ground after strong winds, frost and other disturbances. Refirm by treading around the base. Any 'collars' forming at the base of the trees shall be broken up and then backfilled with topsoil.

#### STAKED TREES

- Check tree stakes for firmness and signs of rot or damage.
- Refirm or replace as required. Tree stakes to be supplied by the Contractor at his sole cost to be suitable for the size of tree to be staked, fully tanalised, round, peeled and pointed at one end.
- Tree stakes should be removed after three growing seasons. If the tree has failed to anchor at this time the tree is to be replaced.
- Check all tree ties. Remove, adjust, refix or replace if broken. Ties to be supplied by the Contractor at his/her own expense. The make of replacement ties must be approved by the CA before use on site. Ties to be nailed securely to the stake/crossbar.. - Provide aeration where compaction is considered to be one cause for poor tree condition.
- Trees are within planting beds,

#### GENERAL

- Water as necessary during dry periods
- Any trees which die or are otherwise defective during the 5 year Defects/Maintenance Period shall be replaced at the Contractor's cost in the next November and March planting season.

These works to staked trees are to be carried out **between September and February each year unless specified otherwise and when necessary during the remaining part of the year – work should be undertaken when trees are dormant.**

#### PRUNING TREES as follows:

- Remove dead or damaged branches and cut back any ragged edges of wounded bark back to healthy tissue.
- Remove side growths beneath the crowns and any suckering growth from tree base. All cuts to be pared back flush to the stem, trunk or scar tissue.
- Where tree in very poor condition tree removal may be required.
- Pruning shall be undertaken once per year during between October and February. The use of chainsaws and the like will not be permitted, unless instructed by the CA.

### 8.0 MAINTENANCE OF PLANTING BEDS: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

**PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL:** The Contractor shall report to the CA any indications that pest or disease control treatment is required. Allow for one application of a treatment approved by the CA. Pest and disease control includes for the control of slugs, snails or any other pest (not vermin) which adversely affects plant material. Repeat treatments are to be made as necessary. Report any rabbit damage noted to CA.

**REFIRMING:** Ensure that all shrubs remain firmly bedded in the ground after strong winds, frost and other disturbances. Refirm by treading around the base. Any 'collars' formed at the base of the shrubs shall be broken up and then backfilled with topsoil.

**AERATION :** Where the bed is compacted or the soil water logging aerate the soil avoiding damage to any underground plant rhizomes etc and avoid damage to underground services where these occur.

- 8.1 WEEDING PLANTING BEDS:** All planting beds are to be kept weed free at all times. The Contractor is to provide a list of suitable herbicides for use in planting beds and obtain the written approval of the CA.

CONTROL WEEDING - Control weeding means applying an appropriate weedkiller at the beginning of the growing season and thereafter the areas are to be checked once a month in season and any weeds spot treated with an appropriate weedkiller. Initial weedkiller application to be undertaken during mid/late Spring each year **and be completed by 10 June**. This treatment is for newly planted beds .

NOTE CHECK THAT HERBICIDE USED IS SUITABLE FOR USE ACCORDING TO THE PLANT COMPOSITION OF THE BE IF NOT HANDWEED.

**WEEDING RAIN GARDEN PLANTING BEDS:** All rain garden planting beds are to be kept weed free at all times. All beds to be hand weeded no chemicals to be used.

#### **WEEDING ECOLOGICAL STRIP**

**All weeding in this area is also by hand and minimised so that the area is left as undisturbed as possible for potential otter use.**

#### **8.2 BED MAINTENANCE**

MAINTAINING SLATE MULCHED BEDS: During weeding and maintenance operations do not incorporate mulch into the underlying soil. Each Autumn rake over the slate mulch to provide a neat and tidy appearance

PLANTING BED EDGES: On one occasion per year the soil at edges of planting beds shall be reduced to 50mm below the adjacent hard or grass surface. The resulting soil shall be removed. Care shall be taken to ensure that the bed edges against grass areas are well defined unless otherwise directed by the CA.

NOTE; Where good horticultural practice for the particular shrubs/plants within a bed require a specific fertiliser treatment this shall be applied.

DISEASES: The CA shall be notified of any pest or disease outbreaks. If cutting out diseased material all implements shall be sterilized between shrubs to prevent spreading the pathogen

#### **CONTROL OF UNSUITABLE VEGETATION**

During routine visits inspect plantings for sucker growth, and unsuitable/atypical growths and feathers on stems and remove at the point of origin.

- 8.3 PRUNING SHRUBS, NATIVE PLANTS AND GROUND COVER:** All pruning is to be carried out in accordance with the correct horticultural practice for the type of shrub. Vary the amount and nature of the pruning, trimming and shaping according to the species, stage of growth, season and required visual effect.

#### **GENERAL**

The Contractor shall allow for pruning once a year, and trimming of vigorous species as necessary through the year.

**In all cases dead, diseased and damaged material shall be removed.**

**Where necessary remove growth encroaching onto footpaths, roads, hard areas, grassed areas, signs, lights, sightlines and other features and if directed by the CA.**

- Trim as necessary the species to prevent straggly growth or growth beyond the bed limits, reduce the height of shrubs to free tree stems as directed, trim to maintain tall shrubs at a defined height and round off the planting as directed to provide a neat appearance.
- Any plants which die or are otherwise defective during the 5 year Defects/Maintenance Period shall be replaced at the Contractor's cost in the next October and March planting season.

ALL ARISINGS FROM PRUNING SHALL BE SHREDDED AND REMOVED FROM SITE AS GREEN WASTE.

PRUNING GENERALLY: The CA will give directions on site for all planting beds to indicate the approach to be adopted for pruning beds and the effect required.

PRUNING EQUIPMENT: The Contractor shall use only two bladed secateurs or other cutting equipment approved by the CA. All cut ends shall be left with a clean finish.

The adjacent plantings should not over run one another and judicious pruning of the shrubs should be undertaken to achieve the best visual effect.

Where netguards have been used. Check these regularly. Refix and replace as necessary and remove them as plants establish. Remove netguards in Year 3.

#### **9.0 HEDGES**

Trim carefully and neatly to regular line and shape, with the width at the top less than that at the base, using suitable

mechanical cutters unless otherwise directed by the CA. Side facing into the site and top of hedge shall be cut back to previous year's growth. The Contractor is to finish all work to give a neat and tidy appearance over the whole hedge and remove arisings.

All cuts shall be cleanly made, without tearing.  
Remove all grass and weed growth from the base of the hedge together with any litter.

Hedges to be maintained at a height of 1.20m generally.

Any plants which die or are otherwise defective during the 5 year Defects/Maintenance Period shall be replaced at the Contractor's cost in the next October and March planting season.

Where netguards have been used. Check these regularly. Refix and replace as necessary and remove them as the hedge plants establish. Remove netguards in Year 3.

#### **10.0 JAPANESE KNOTWEED NORTHERN BOUNDARY BY ALDER WOOD.**

Spray Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) with glyphosate at the end of the vegetation season (September and beginning of October). Monitor treated sites and apply spot herbicide treatments to any surviving plants.

Japanese Knotweed off site on southern boundary. NOTE The Knotweed can have a root spread 7.00m from the visible stand. Treat any Knotweed regrowth or re-infestation from off-site..

#### **10.1 INVASIVE NON NATIVE SPECIES**

In the event that invasive plant species become established on site they will be controlled at the nearest opportunity using approved methodology and guidance (<http://www.nonnativespecies.org> ) to avoid the risk of further contamination and spread. Common examples include:

- Cut Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), by hand or machine below the lowest node to prevent the formation of flowers and seeds.
- Spray giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) with herbicide as a spot treatment when the plants are growing actively but still less than 1m high. Control on a catchment basis, working downstream to prevent seed recolonisation.

**LIDL STORE, BRITON FERRY : NEATH  
LANDSCAPE AFTERCARE AND MANAGEMENT**

12-Jan-22

TASK DESCRIPTION	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan- Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan- Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan- Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan- Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec
PLANTED TREES	Check the trees and after high winds																			
	Check to include health/disease/pest etc and remedial measures Refirm																			
	Aeration if necessary																			
	Check trees refix upright as necessary. Cut ties loose and remove stakes in Year 3.																			
	Remove weeds for first three years - Water as necessary during drought periods,regularly in dry periods during first two years of establishment																			
	Apply foliar or liquid fertiliser if necessary in first two years																			
EXISTING TREES	Check trees after high winds																			
	Prune as necessary to remove deadwood and as necessary to keep the tree in good health and safe for site users.																			
	Check to include health/disease/pest etc and remedial measures Refirm																			
	Remove weeds for first three years. Thereafter as necessary with spotweeding																			
	Remove weeds by hand in Rain Garden areas																			
	Top up slate mulch for first two years only																			
PLANTING BEDS AND RAIN GARDENS	Reduce depth of soil at edge of planting bed once per year																			
	Aeration if necessary																			
	Water as necessary during drought periods																			
	Replace defective plants as necessary each year																			
	Prune as necessary according to species type																			
	Check and remove suckers and inappropriate plants																			
ECOLOGICAL BUFFER STRIP BED 1	Check to include health/disease/pest etc and remedial measures Refirm																			
	Water as necessary during drought periods																			
	Replace defective plants as necessary each year																			
	Prune as necessary according to species type in year 2																			
	Minimal maintenance behind the fence in the buffer area																			
	Minimise disturbance around Otter Holt																			
HEDGEROWS	Check to include health/disease/pest etc and remedial measures Refirm																			
	Remove weeds until hedge establishes. Thereafter as necessary																			
	Top up mulch for first two years only																			
	Net guards if applied refix and replace, cut back as necessary to allow balanced growth. Remove netguard in Year 3																			
	Water as necessary during drought periods																			
	Replace defective native hedge plants as appropriate																			
JAPANESE KNOTWEED ON ALDER WOOD BOUNDARY	Trim hedges in September/October - top and side fencing into site																			
	Spotweed and spray knotweed as necessary to contain encroachment into the site																			
JAPANESE KNOTWEED ON NETWORK RAIL LAND	This is being treated by Network Rail																			
MONITORING	MONITORING																			
FINAL CERTIFICATE	A detailed inspection will be made at the end of the first year of maintenance and a final defects report will be issued																			
MONITORING	This will include progress on all biodiversity recommendations																			
ECOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE MONITORING	Annual defects checks to be made in following 4 years to assess defects replacements.																			
ECOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE MONITORING	At the defects checks the maintenance procedures will be reviewed and any revision to procedures to achieve the biodiversity aims will be forwarded to the client for action.																			



# Otter holts

An artificial otter holt using component kit parts made from recycled plastic is available from Filcris Ltd at <http://www.filcris.co.uk/products/product-details/otterholt>.

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## Flat Pack Otter Holt Kit Black 1200 x 830 x 380

Price: **€320.00** Inc VAT

Model Number: OTTERHOLTFFP

In Stock (Average lead time: 2 - 3 weeks)

Quantity

### Product Description

**NEW:** We now offer our unique otter holt as a flat pack version. They are easy to assemble with full instructions provided. Being flatpacked they have the following advantages:

- Lower cost
- More manageable - can be fitted into the boot of an average car.
- Cheaper to ship in bulk - we can fit up to 10 on a single pallet for the same price that one assembled otter holt is shipped.
- Ideal for use as a volunteer or training activity

AS FEATURED ON BBC SPRINGWATCH & COUNTRYFILE! Recycled plastic otter holt kit designed in conjunction with Surrey Wildlife Trust.

The holt has both a front and rear entrance hole and an internal chamber 600mm x 600mm. While this may appear small, research has confirmed that female otters prefer a confined space in which to rear their young.

The top is cranelated to improve ventilation, so the holt can be partially buried and the top covered in turves or brash.

It is a safe, low cost and easy to install alternative to concrete artificial otter holts and a long lasting alternative to timber holts.

**Note:** we do not supply the corrugated entrance tunnels since the 26cm diameter drainage pipe we used to use are no longer available. We have recently been informed by a wildlife trust customer that 20cm diameter pipe fits well and can be attached with cable ties as shown in the images to the left. This smaller pipe is still large enough for a female otter and is too small for a fox. They can be purchased from drainage contractors and builders' merchants.

Weight is 40kg.

This product is cut to order with a lead time 14 days.

CODE:	OTTERHOLTFFP
CATEGORY:	Otter holts
AVAILABILITY:	Available Now
WIDTH:	830mm
LENGTH:	1200mm
HEIGHT:	380mm
COLOUR:	Black
WEIGHT:	50kg