

Landscape Maintenance Plan

Osier Dell, Manor Farm, Hayling Island

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1. Introduction

The site is situated in the rural, North-West side of Hayling Island and is enclosed on three sides in a loose courtyard formation by the existing farmhouse buildings and boundary flint and brick walls. A secondary smaller garden to the East of the plot is largely enclosed on all four sides.

There are a number of existing trees surrounding the site but there are currently no trees situated on the site itself.

The soft landscape contract incorporates a 12-month maintenance period which includes the replacement of any grass, shrubs, perennials or trees that fail to establish. Following on from this it is anticipated that maintenance responsibilities will be taken over by the client

Management Specification

2.1 GENERALLY

All materials and workmanship are to be to the highest possible standards in accordance with relevant good practice.

All operatives must be appropriately skilled and experienced for the type and quality of work.

Operatives shall have the appropriate qualifications and Certification for application of herbicides and pesticides. All chemicals will be non-residual in the soil and non-toxic to humans and animals and shall be applied in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations. Chemicals shall be approved under 'The Control of Pesticides Regulations (as amended) 1986'.

Note: as of 1st March 2009 herbicides containing dichlobenil have been withdrawn from the market and products such as Casoron G, Casoron G4, Midstream GSR, etc should not be used.

Carry out work while soil and weather conditions are suitable.

Use only machinery and tools suitable for site conditions and the work carried out. Use hand tools around existing trees and in confined places.

Particular care taken to avoid damage to base of trees planted in grass by trimmers and if required trees to be supplied with black trimmer guards.

Remove soil and arisings from hard surfaces and leave area in clean and tidy condition after maintenance operations are complete.

Collect litter from all soft and hard landscape areas and cart offsite.

2.2 NEW TREES

Management objective:

Establish a stable and healthily growing tree within three years from planting with a well-shaped framework for future healthy growth. Keep overall appearance neat and tidy including the base of the trees.

Management operations:

- a) Maintain a 1.2 metre diameter circle of weed-free soil around the base of the tree using approved herbicide. Allow for herbicide treatment once in the winter or spring to maintain a weed-free mulch.
- b) In the first two years following planting, new trees are to be closely monitored on a monthly basis to ensure upright, firm and stable and in good health. Heavy watering shall be undertaken in dry periods.

In further years water the newly planted trees throughout the summer months (May to August) at fortnightly intervals after any period of four weeks without significant rainfall (less than 5 mm).

Notwithstanding any prevailing restrictions by the Statutory Undertakers on the use of water for watering any plants, the Contractor shall be deemed totally responsible for making any special arrangements which may be necessary to ensure regular and adequate watering of plant material to ensure successful establishment. Lack of availability of water will not release the contractor from his obligation to water the works and to replace all dead or dying plants which have suffered visually from lack of water.

Water shall be kept free from any impurities at all times.

All drainage points and vertical inspection tubes shall be regularly checked. Any plants lost due to waterlogging or drought shall be replaced at no additional cost to the Contract.

- c) Check any underground guying, stakes, ties & rabbit guards for firmness and support and adjust as necessary. Allow for checking once a year preferably in late spring.

Underground guying & tree stakes shall be maintained tight at all times, re-tensioned periodically to prevent excessive windrock and to compensate for settlement. Allow for removing tree stakes and ties once trees are established (Years 3 - 5).

- d) Firm the soil around the roots to ensure that the plant is securely planted in the ground and upright. All plant material shall be re-firmed in the spring period following planting. Ensure that all trees remain firm in the

ground, and any trees loosened due to late frosts, strong winds or surface water movement are firmed as required.

- e) Prune the tree to remove any dead, diseased or damaged shoots and create a balanced form for future growth. Allow for pruning once in the second or third year after planting.
- f) Top up mulch levels each spring to maintain specified 75 mm depth with new material to match.

2.3 SHRUBS

Management objectives:

Establish healthy thriving plants and encourage ornamental characteristics.

Management operations:

- a) Maintain the area substantially free of weeds (less than 5% of weed cover, with no unsightly weed growth even if less than 5% cover) by applying an annual dressing of an approved residual herbicide in the winter months and removing or spot treating any emergent weeds during the growing season with Glyphosate, or approved equivalent.
Residual herbicide is not likely to be needed after the first two years after planting. (Spot treatment or weed removal at approximately 4-weekly intervals in the main growing season five times a year, - frequency to drop, as the plants establish, down to once a year).
- b) Selectively thin shrubs to allow room for growth and avoid 'overcrowding'. Care to be taken to avoid overthinning and so creating obvious 'gaps' in shrub beds.
- c) Replace any dead or damaged plants with matching species.
- d) Top up mulch as required to maintain continuous 75mm deep cover.
- e) Allow for watering plant material during dry periods to ensure vigorous growth.
- f) Allow for re-firming soil around roots to ensure plants are securely planted and upright especially following periods of extreme winds.

2.4 HEDGE PLANTING

Management objectives:

Establish healthy thriving plants and encourage hedge characteristics. The hedging is an important element of this scheme and should be kept trimmed to the maximum heights specified on the planting plan.

Management operations:

- a) Maintain hedgeline substantially free of weeds (less than 5% of weed cover, with no unsightly weed growth even if less than 5% cover) by applying an annual dressing of an approved residual herbicide in the winter months and removing or spot treating any emergent weeds during the growing season with Glyphosate, or approved equivalent.
- b) Cut hedge twice a year to encourage healthy bushy growth and formal tidy shape (See notes on the plant schedule for heights of hedges). Cut hedge to ensure base is left wider than top (to avoid gaps appearing in the base of the hedge).
- c) Ensure that tools used are sharp and cut hedge so that top is narrower than the base to ensure base will remain clothed in leaves.
- d) Replace any dead or damaged plants with matching species.
- e) Top up mulch as required to maintain continuous 75mm deep cover.
- f) Allow for watering plant material during dry periods to ensure vigorous growth.
- g) Allow for re-firming soil around roots to ensure plants are securely planted and upright especially following periods of extreme winds.

2.5 GRASSPLANTING

Management objectives:

Establish healthy thriving plants and encourage ornamental characteristics.

Management operations:

- a) Maintain the area substantially free of weeds (less than 5% of weed cover, with no unsightly weed growth even if less than 5% cover) by applying an annual dressing of an approved residual herbicide in the winter months and removing or spot treating any emergent weeds during the growing season with Glyphosate, or approved equivalent.
Residual herbicide is not likely to be needed after the first two years after planting. (Spot treatment or weed removal at approximately 4-weekly intervals in the main growing season five times a year, - frequency to drop, as the plants establish, down to once a year).
- b) Prune grass either in late autumn or early spring to remove dead growth and to ensure fresh, shapely new growth.
- c) Selectively thin planting to allow room for growth and avoid overcrowding'. Care to be taken to avoid overthinning and so creating obvious 'gaps' in shrub beds. Over time divide perennial plants and

replant within border to 'fill' any gaps in the planting.

- d) Replace any dead or damaged plants with matching species.
- e) Top up mulch as required to maintain continuous 75mm deep cover.
- f) Allow for watering plant material during dry periods to ensure vigorous growth.
- g) Allow for re-firming soil around roots to ensure plants are securely planted and upright especially following periods of extreme winds.

2.6 MOWN GRASS AREAS

Management objective:

To provide an even stand of vegetation of uniform height and colour comprising predominantly grass species, although a small percentage of dicotyledenous plants – no more than 5% would be acceptable.

Management operations:

- a) Mowing shall be carried out using approved machinery to maintain the vegetation length within the limits of 20 mm and 40 mm during April to August inclusive and between 30 mm and 50 mm during the rest of the year. (This will normally require mowing at up to once a week in the peak of the season, say minimum 20 times per year total). The clippings shall be let fly but must be distributed evenly over the surface and at no time shall the layer of clippings be of such a depth that will effect the growth of vegetation. Clippings should not be left on paths or roads.
- b) All edges of grass areas, against footpaths, roadways, trees, posts, shrub borders and any other obstruction shall be kept neat and tidy. To include existing grass areas adjacent to all new plantings within 2m distance.
- c) Grass areas may be sprayed with a suitable approved selective herbicide in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Alternatively, spot weeding of isolated weed infestation may be carried out.
- d) Reinstatement by re-turfing or re-seeding of areas damaged by trampling, abrasion or scalping during mowing.
- e) Remove litter and fallen leaves to maintain neat appearance.

NOTE: Do not allow machinery closer than 100mm to any tree stem.

Avoid damage to stems by trimmers.

2.7 HARD LANDSCAPE

Brick Pavers /

Management objective:

To ensure that the paving is kept clean and stable.

Management operations:

Check annually for stability/condition/trip edges and re-set or replace where necessary. Sweep paving at least monthly to remove leaves and litter. Where necessary rake gravel level and ensure weed suppression sheet buried.

EXTERNAL LIGHTS

Management objective:

To ensure that the lights are kept clean & in good repair.

Management operations:

Change bulbs as required. Check regularly for stability/condition and re-set where necessary. Clean lights regularly using water and detergent.

CLOSEBOARD FENCING

Management objective:

To ensure that the fencing & are kept in good repair.

Management operations:

Check annually for stability/condition and re-firm or repair where necessary. Re-paint or re-stain as required with matching colour.