SOFT LANDSCAPE SPECIFICATION PHASES 3 & 4, OLD PARK FARM, WATERLOOVILLE

December 2011

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1 LANDSCAPE SUB-CONTRACTOR

1.1 The works described in this specification shall be carried out by a suitable Landscape Contractor employed as a domestic sub-contractor by the Main Contractor.

1.2 The proposed Landscape Contractor shall (unless otherwise agreed) be agreed with the client / Landscape Architect.

1.3 The works described in this specification shall be carried out under supervision by suitably qualified Member of the Landscape Institute or other approved supervisor.

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

2.1 The Main Contractor, as part of the preliminary and base external site works, will:

- Carry out the initial site clearance
- Clear existing vegetation to be removed
- Erect protective fencing for existing vegetation to be retained
- Strip soil, store soil and/or remove soil from site
- Remove surplus subsoil from site
- Prepare sub-grade, and excavate to depths stated

Additional elements:

- *Provide and install formal tree surround guards & grilles, root barriers and any below ground root systems.*
- *All street furniture, fencing and ground mounding*

2.2 The Soft Landscape Contractor will carry out the following works as listed within the Soft Landscape Specification:

- Supply and deliver specified plants, as listed in the Plant Schedule.
- Prepare and grade subsoil to planting beds and tree pits.
- Import / spread and cultivate topsoil including required soil analysis and any amelioration.
- Provide drainage medium to tree pits.
- Carry out all planting works including associated works.
- Carry out all grass seeding or turf laying works.
- Provide maintenance up to Practical Completion.
- Provide 12 months maintenance and defects period post Practical Completion for shrubs and trees.

2.3 Protect against the following:

2.3.1 Existing Topsoil / Subsoil

Protect existing topsoil and subsoil from over-compaction in those areas which may be damaged by construction traffic, parking of vehicles, temporary site accommodation or storage of materials and which will require reinstatement prior to completion of the Works. Agree extent of reinstatement with the CA and bear any costs arising.

2.3.2 Retained Trees/Hedges/Shrubs/Grassed Areas

- Adequately protect and preserve, except those which are to be removed.
- Replace to approval or treat as instructed any species or areas damaged or removed without approval.

- Trees and shrubs which, due to the Contractor's negligence, are uprooted, destroyed, or in the opinion of the CA, damaged beyond reasonable chance of survival in their original shape, must be replaced with those of a similar type and age at the Contractor's expense.

2.3.3 Trees to be Retained

Unless agreed otherwise by the CA, **do not**:

- Remove or cut existing trees or vegetation without specific instructions.
- Dump spoil or rubbish, excavate or disturb topsoil, park vehicles or plant, store materials or place temporary accommodation within the branch spread.
- Sever roots exceeding 50 mm in diameter or branches from growing trees, without express prior permission.
- Change level of ground within an area 3m beyond the branch spread.

2.3.4 Protection of Existing Trees

- The contractor shall maintain existing protective fencing or where necessary erect a temporary protective barrier in accordance with Figure 2 of BS 5837:2005 Trees in relation to construction. The barrier shall consist of a 2.3m high vertical and horizontal scaffold framework, well braced to resist impacts with vertical tubes driven into the ground at a maximum interval of 3m. Secure weldmesh panels onto framework and apply sign stating 'NO ENTRY: TREE PROTECTION FENCE'. The contractor shall take all necessary precautions to protect in the course of his work all existing trees or vegetation from malicious or accidental damage.

- The temporary fence will be retained intact for the whole duration of the works unless otherwise instructed by the Contract Administrator. On issue of the practical completion certificate the protective fencing shall be removed and the ground made good and post holes filled with soil and lightly compacted.

3 SUBSOIL AND TOPSOIL

3.1 All excavations, cultivations and grading required beneath the canopy of retained trees or within 3m of a hedge line shall be carried out by hand using hand tools taking extreme care not to damage or disturb any tree roots.

3.2 **Subsoil**

3.2.1 Subsoil grading of the site shall leave landscape areas with smooth flowing contours to achieve the specified finished levels when topsoiled.

- Prior to placing topsoil subsoil formation should be loosened and/or ripped to a depth of 300mm. Check for presence of underground services prior to commencing any ripping. The contractor shall satisfy himself as to the presence of any services prior to any ripping or cultivation operations – if in doubt advise CA and seek further instruction.
- Any areas compacted during construction works shall be ripped and de-compacted to ensure surface water drainage.
- Any areas found to be wet or waterlogged shall be alleviated by positive land and/or tree pit drainage as necessary to ensure all tree and shrub planting areas are free draining.

3.3 **Topsoil**

3.3.1 Topsoil Analysis For: Existing topsoil to be re-used on site.

- Collect a sample in accordance with BS 3882, Annex A from locations throughout the site.
- Provide the following:
  - pH level
  - Organic matter
  - Confirmation of soil grade as defined by BS 3882
  - Recommendations for making good any deficiencies and fertiliser treatment
  - Confirmation as to whether the soil is suitable for general amenity planting and lawn establishment
- A report detailing the soil analyst's recommendations
- Carry out any recommendations from the soil analyst for soil amelioration and/or soil handling to the approval of the CA.

3.3.2 Imported Topsoil

It is anticipated that the landscape contractor will need to import topsoil to make up deficiencies on site. However if the main contractor so chooses any existing topsoil may be removed from the site and either returned or replaced in accordance with the specification, at no additional cost.

- Provide as necessary to make up any deficiency of existing topsoil available on site to complete the work.
- To BS 3882: 2007, grade: General Amenity.
- Free from aggressive weeds, debris or other potentially hazardous foreign matter.

3.3.3 Spreading Topsoil

IN ALL CASES THE CONTRACTOR SHALL ENSURE THAT THE SUBSOIL / FORMATION LAYER IS FREE DRAINING PRIOR TO PLACING TOPSOIL. ADVISE THE CA IF THIS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED AND SEEK INSTRUCTION BEFORE PROCEEDING.

- Remove temporary surfaces before spreading topsoil.
- Spread over prepared subsoil in layers not exceeding 150mm and gently firm each layer before spreading the next.
- Overall minimum depths after firming and settlement to be:

Turfed and Seeded areas	150mm
Native hedgerow areas	300mm
Amenity shrub areas	350mm
Tree pits as specified	varies (see below)

- Do not compact topsoil. Preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs whenever possible.

3.3.4 Finished Levels of Topsoil after settlement, unless otherwise stated, to be:

- 50mm below adjoining paving or kerbs,
- Unchanged within the root spread of existing trees,
- Not less than 150mm below dpc of adjoining buildings,
- Where mulch is specified, topsoil is to be neatly pulled back at edges minimum 75mm deep to allow retention of mulch.
- Married in with adjoining soil areas.

4 PLANTING

4.1 Generally planting should be carried out in accordance with the following British Standards:

- BS 4043: 1989 Recommendation for Transplanting Root Balled Trees
- BS 4428: 1989 Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations

4.1.1 Times of Year for Planting

- Seeding – mid March to the end of April or late August to mid October.
- Root balled/Bare root Deciduous trees and Shrubs – late November to late March.
- Root balled Conifers and evergreens – September - November or March - May.
- Turf, Container grown shrubs and trees (including spring ringed) – At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable. Ensure that adequate watering, drainage and weed control is provided.
- Waterlogging shall be avoided through proper ground preparation and tree pit excavation.

4.1.2 Watering

- Quantity – where required to field capacity.
- Application – Even and without displacing seeds, seedlings or soil.
- Frequency – As necessary to ensure the establishment and continued thriving of all seeding/ turfing and planting.

4.1.3 Setting Out

Clearly mark boundaries of seeding / turfing and planting areas and location of trees and obtain approval before starting work.

4.1.4 Tree Surgery to Existing Trees

- Where scheduled, or as instructed, existing trees shall have all dead, dangerous or damaged branches removed. Lower branches shall be removed to a clear stem height of 2.0m. Ivy shall be severed at the base and removed to a minimum height of 1.5m.
- All tree surgery shall be carried out by an approved tree surgeon in accordance with BS 3998: 2010.
- Branches to be removed should be cut in accordance with BS 3889:1989, where suitable “target” prune, without exaggerating the size of the wound. This will usually coincide with the limit of branch buttressing. The size of the wound shall be as small as practicable, therefore flush pruning should be avoided; pruning which leaves a small collar at the base of the branch is preferred.
- All pruning works should seek to maintain an even, balanced crown form.

4.2 Preparation Generally

4.2.1 Peat

Do not use peat or products containing peat.

4.2.2 Cultivation

- Compacted topsoil: Break up to full depth.
- Incorporate specified compost and fertiliser.
- Tilth: Within a few days before seeding / turfing or planting cultivate topsoil using a suitable mechanical cultivator until a fine tilth is achieved to a depth of:
  - 350mm – Shrub planting areas
  - 300mm – Hedgerow areas
  - 150mm – Turf / grass seeded areas
- Remove from site undesirable material brought to the surface including stones and clay balls larger than 50 mm in any dimension, roots, tufts of grass, rubbish and debris and foreign matter.
- Any areas which remain waterlogged after cultivation, shall receive additional remediation or positive drainage to maintain suitable aerobic growing conditions.

4.3 Planting Bulbs

- Spacing: Randomly. Bulbs to be thrown onto the ground to ensure natural spacing and planted where they fall.
- Density: As scheduled.
- Bulbs to be planted with base in contact with soil at depth of 150mm. Where planting in grassed areas carefully lift plugs of turfs and replace after planting.

5 SEEDING/TURFING

5.1 Grass Areas

5.1.1 Fertiliser for Grass Areas

- Type: Fisions PS5 pre-seeding fertiliser.
- Application: Before final cultivation and three to five days before seeding.
- Coverage: Spread evenly at 70 g/m².
- **FERTILIZER IS NOT TO BE USED ON MEADOW GRASS AREAS**

5.1.2 Final Cultivation

- Timing – After grading and fertilising.
- Seed bed - Lightly rake to a true, even surface. Remove surface stones/earth clods exceeding 50 mm.
- Adjacent levels: Extend cultivation into existing adjacent grassed areas sufficient to ensure full marrying in of levels.
- The contractor should allow for all cultivation operations to achieve a good seedbed, including hand raking and hand digging on slopes and banks inaccessible to machinery, and against the backs of kerbs and paths.

5.1.3 Turf for all areas

- Supplier: Rolawn ltd, Tel: 0845 6046050 or similar and approved.
- Type: Medallion
- Rolawn Medallion® turf to BS3936. See also Rolawn STRI testing programme. To be obtained from Rolawn Limited, Elvington York YO41 4XR

5.1.4 Grass seed For Amenity Grass & Meadow Areas

<u>Amenity grass areas</u>

- Supplier: British Seed House Tel: 01179 823 691, or similar to approval.
- Type: Mixture reference: BSH A4 – Low maintenance grass mix
- Application rate: 35g/m2.

<u>Meadow areas</u>

- Supplier: British Seed House Tel: 01179 823 691, or similar to approval.
- Type: -
  - 75%: BSH WF3 - General purpose wildflower mix
  - 25%: BSH A4 – Low maintenance grass mix
- Application rate: 4g/m2.

5.1.5 Laying turf

- Laying turf, preferably along a straight side in a row, butting closely end to end. On subsequent rows, stagger the joints in brickwork fashion. Do not leave gaps between the turf.

5.1.6 Seed Quality

- Freshness: Produced for the current growing season.
- Certification: Blue label certified varieties.

  - Standard: EC purity and germination regulations.
  - Official Seed Testing Station certificate of germination, purity and composition:

5.1.7 Seed sowing

- General: Establish good seed contact with the root zone.
- Method: To suit soil type, proposed usage, location and weather conditions during and after sowing.
- Distribution: Seed shall be evenly distributed at the rates specified and shall be immediately followed by lightly raking the soil surface to cover the seeds, by use of a chain harrow or other suitable plant.

5.1.8 Seedbed germination

- Seeding shall be repeated as necessary until an evenly distributed dense sward is established over the seeded area to the satisfaction of the CA. The Contractor / Supplier shall allow for maintenance of all grass areas (as specified below) until this is achieved.

5.2 **Protecting / Cutting**

5.2.1 Protective Fencing

- Protect newly turfed/seeded areas with 1.5m high chestnut pale fencing.
- Maintain fencing until grass is well established then remove and reinstate ground.

5.2.2 Watering

During establishment of grass areas ensure that sufficient water is applied using a fine rose sprinkler to maintain healthy growth.

5.2.3 First Cut of Amenity Grassed & Meadow Areas

- Timing: When grass reaches 75 mm high and is reasonably dry.
- Before cutting, remove debris, litter, and stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension and roll with a light roller.
- Method: 48 hours later cut with a suitable cylinder box mower, or suitable rotary mower on slopes and banks.

- Height of first cut:
  - Amenity grass and turfed areas - 60 mm.
  - Meadow areas – 75mm
- Arisings: Remove and dispose of all arisings.

5.3 **Maintenance**

Between the first cut and Practical Completion the height of growth for amenity grass areas must not exceed the maximum height prior to first cutting. Cut as many times necessary with machinery and to heights as specified for the first cut.

5.3.1 Failures of turf

Bare areas and areas of dead grass which become apparent before the end of the Defects Liability Period will be regarded as defects due to materials or workmanship not in accordance with the Contract.

5.3.2 Maintaining Grassed Areas

5.3.3 Maximum height of growth at any time: 60mm

5.4 Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris.

- Cutting: Cut at two weekly intervals as required through the growing season.
- Arisings: Remove and dispose of all arisings.
- Trimming: At the time of each cut, trim all grass edges, including round the base of trees, manholes, etc and remove arisings.
- Weed control: Keep the sward substantially free of broad-leaved weeds by applying an approved selective herbicide.

- Where excessive annual weed growth threatens to smother new grass areas, cut back growth to a height of 50mm with a scythe or rotary cutter and carefully rake off cuttings. Spot treat coarse perennial weeds with a suitable herbicide such as Glyphosate gel.
- Watering: To be undertaken at the frequency necessary to ensure establishment and survival of the grass sward.

5.4.1 Maintaining Meadow Areas

- Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris. Do not apply fertilisers at any time to areas of Meadow Grassland.
- Cutting: As follows:
  - After initial establishment cut annually during July/August to a height of 100mm following flowering. Cut using suitable machinery such as a sickle-bar mower, motor scythe or a two-wheel strimmer.
  - Arisings: Leave on the ground for a couple of days to allow seed dispersal, removing thereafter. If this cannot be accommodated remove at time of cutting.
- Weed control: Substantially free of broadleaved weeds.
  - Method: Spot treat any persistent/ aggressive weeds with a Glyphosate based herbicide as approved with the CA.

- Stones brought to the surface: Remove regularly.
- Watering: To be undertaken at the frequency necessary to ensure establishment and survival of the meadow grassland sward.

5.4.2 Fertiliser for Turfed & Amenity Grass Areas **ONLY**

- March application: 11:6:9 Spring/summer turf fertiliser at 35-50 g/m² or equivalent.

6 TREES AND SHRUBS

6.1 Supply and Storage

6.1.1 Trees and Plants Generally

- Condition: Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous.
- Appearance: Of good shape and without elongated shoots.
- Hardiness: Grown in a suitable environment and hardened off.
- Health: Free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders.
- Root system and condition: To requirements of the relevant parts of BS 3936 and balanced with branch system.
- Species: True to name.

6.1.2 Plant / Tree Substitution

- Plants/ trees unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at time of ordering: Submit alternatives stating proposed substitutions.
- Obtain approval before making any substitution.

6.1.3 Plant / Tree Handling, Storage and Transport

To CPSE '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, and 4.0.

6.1.4 Planting Generally

To CPSE 'Handling and establishing landscape plants' (obtainable from the Horticultural Trades Association) Part III, paragraphs 6.2 to 6.6. Plant upright or well balanced with best side to front.

6.2 Preparation of Planting Beds / Planting Materials

6.2.1 Soil Ameliorant / Conditioner

- Locations: Planting Beds.
- Type: Compost.
- Supplier/ Source: Sinclair Horticulture and Leisure, Tel: Lincoln (01522) 537561. Reference: SHL peat free tree and shrub compost or similar and approved.
  - Coverage: 1m3 of material per 60m2.
  - Timing: Apply prior to cultivation.

6.3 Planting Shrubs

6.3.1 Plant Layout

- Spacing: Evenly
- Density: As scheduled.

- Edging row to each species to be set out to clearly define single species areas.
- Ornamental hedgerows to be laid out in planted border 800mm wide, planted in single central row.

6.3.2 Shrub Planting Pits

To BS 3936: Part 1: 1980 (1992)

- Timing: Excavate immediately prior to planting.
- Sizes: 150 mm wider than roots when fully spread and 400 mm deep.
- Additional requirements: Increase dimensions where necessary to ensure that pits are at least 75 mm deeper than root system and wide enough to accommodate roots when fully spread.
- Finished level to be at original soil mark on shrubs

6.3.3 Antidesiccant for Conifers/ Evergreens

- Dip in or thoroughly spray with approved antidesiccant.
- Application: Dip before delivering to site. Spray again soon after planting. Do not apply in wet or frosty weather.
- Ensure full coverage of underside of foliage.

6.3.4 Herbaceous Plants

- Well rooted, healthy, hardy and not less then one year of full growth.
- Evenly space at the rate stated over the allocated area avoiding straight lines.
- Plant carefully in generously sized holes with finely broken soil returned around the roots.
- Lightly firm the soil.

6.3.5 Climbing shrubs

- Provide a cane for early support of climbing shrubs, tie shrub gently to cane using garden twine, lean toward wall / fence
- Fix two eye screws, one to top and other to bottom of fence / wall and strain garden wire between fixings as support / guy for climbing shrubs.

6.3.6 Drainage to Planting Beds

Any areas which are not free draining the Soft Landscape Contractor shall supply and install land drainage to ensure plant areas are not waterlogged. Where necessary after planting lightly fork over the soil to alleviate any surface compaction.

6.3.7 Backfilling Material

Composition: Previously prepared mixture of topsoil and additives excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required.

6.3.8 After Planting

- Watering: Immediately after planting, thoroughly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
- Firming: Lightly firm soil around plants and fork and/ or rake soil, without damaging roots, to a fine tilth with gentle cambers and no hollows.
- Immediately after planting shrubs carefully cut back any damaged, dead or diseased branches and remove any weak, thin or malformed growth.
- When directed and to the extent appropriate for the species cut back to encourage growth.

6.3.9 Mulching Planting Beds

- Bark Nuggets (15-65mm) as supplied by Melcourt Industries Tel: 01731 502711 or equal approved.
- Fire resistance to BS 4790 - 1987.
- Sample to be provided and approved by LA before delivery to site.
- Coverage: settled depth of 75mm

6.3.10 Plant Protection

- Bareroot plants within native hedge planting mixes to be protected from rabbit damage with the installation of 1No. shrub shelter and 25mm softwood stake per shrub / tree. Type 'Shelterguard Plus', colour 'green' from Acorn Planting Products Tel 01621 874210. Shrub species to receive 130-160mm diameter x 60cm high shelter, hedgerow tree species to receive a clear spiral guard.

- Amenity planting, structural shrub and groundcover mix planting to be protected where necessary against rabbit damage. In certain locations rabbit proof fencing maybe required to limit rabbit access into defined planted areas.

6.4 **Planting Trees**

6.4.1 Antidesiccant for Conifers/ Evergreens

- Dip in or thoroughly spray with approved antidesiccant.
- Application: Dip before delivering to site. Spray again soon after planting. Do not apply in wet or frosty weather.

6.4.2 Tree Pits

Sizes and location as scheduled below:

i) Extra Heavy & Heavy standard trees = 1100 x 1100 x 750mm deep

ii) Standard and Multi-stemmed trees = 900 x 900 x 750mm

iii) Feathered = 750 x 750 x 600mm deep

6.4.3 Tree Pit Aeration/Irrigation Pipe

- Locations: All trees 8cm girth and above.
- Type: PVC pipe, black, 50mm diameter x 2500mm maximum length with associated end cap.
- Insert during backfill around the rootball; one end shall be placed in the drainage layer and the top end shall be cut off at a height of not more than 25mm above finished ground level and capped.

6.4.4 Tree Pit Drainage

- Aggregate layer: Clean gravel or broken stone, with no fines, graded 50 to 20 mm. Depth: 100mm.
- Cover drainage layer with 100m of clean horticultural sand.

6.4.5 Deciduous and Coniferous Advanced Nursery Stock Trees

Rootballed stock shall be supported by straps, frames or wire mesh baskets and shall be protected against drying out by wrapping firmly with hessian, plastic film or other recommended material. Wrapping shall be firmly tied over the top of the rootball.

Air pot / spring ringed stock shall be suitably protected with hessian to prevent damage and drying out as soon as the air pot has been removed.

6.5 Tree Support

6.5.1 Extra Heavy, Heavy standard and standard trees: Short double staking

- Staking: Drive stakes vertically at least 300 mm into bottom of pit on either side of tree position before planting. Fix half circle timber cross brace with 2 galvanised nails. Consolidate material around stakes during backfilling.
- Height of stakes: Cut to approximately 800mm above ground level or 1/3 the height of the tree whichever is the lowest.
- Ties: see below

iv) Feathered & Multi stem trees: Short single staking

- Staking: Drive stake diagonally at least 300 mm into bottom of pit on before planting. Consolidate material around stake during backfilling.
- Height of stake: Cut to approximately 800mm above ground level or 1/3 whichever is the lowest.
- Tie: see below

v) Tree ties : Biodegradable webbing

- 100% natural hessian from sustainable sources; 50mm wide x 1.5mm deep such as 'Naturetie' as supplied by Greenleaf Tel: 01424 717 797.

- Webbing to be used to secure the tree to stake as well as form the spacers. Exact tieing detail to be agreed with landscape architect; typically - securely fix end of hessian to stake using 2 galvanised nails. Form spacer by repeatedly twisting the hessian; finish by cutting to the hessian to length and secure to the stake with 2 galvanised nails as above.

6.5.2 Backfilling Material

Ensure that all tree pits are free draining prior to backfilling. Do not back fill pits that are not free draining – notify Landscape Architect and CA of any pits retaining water.

Topsoil shall NOT be used at a depth greater than 500mm unless agreed with the landscape architect.

Backfill prepared tree pit 100mm layer of clean gravel, followed by 100mm of washed coarse sand (not builders sand) or horticultural grit. Place rootball onto sand and backfill with a further 100mm washed coarse sand to within 500mm of the finished ground level. Backfill remainder of pit with previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required, together with –

- Ameliorant/ Conditioner: Planting Compost at the following rates:
  - Extra Heavy & Heavy Standard trees: 50 litres
  - Multi-stemmed, Standard and Feathered trees: 35 litres
  - Fertiliser: Fisons Ficote 180 (16:10:10) at a rate of 22 grms/cm girth.
  - Broadleaf P4 water storing granules at manufacturers recommendations (typically 4gms per litre of compost)

6.5.3 Mulching Trees

- Material: Generally as planting beds.
- Trees in grass: Amenity Bark Nuggets as supplied by Melcourt Industries or similar and approved.
  - Fire resistance to BS 4790 - 1987.
  - Purity: Free of pests, disease, fungus and weeds.
  - Preparation: Clear all weeds. Apply pre-emergent herbicide.
  - Coverage: 75mm depth, in a circular area of 500mm radius measured from the tree stem.

7 PROTECTING/ MAINTAINING/ MAKING GOOD DEFECTS

7.1 Maintenance Works

7.1.1 Maintenance

- Duration: Carry out the operations in the following clauses from completion of planting until the end of the defects liability period.
- Frequency of maintenance visits: fortnightly during growing season.

7.1.2 Failures of Planting

- General: Plants / trees / shrubs that have failed to thrive (unless due to theft or malicious damage after completion) during period stated, will be regarded as defects due to materials or workmanship not in accordance with the Contract. Replace with equivalent plants/ trees/ shrubs.
- Replacements: To match size of adjacent or nearby plants of same species or match original specification, whichever is the greater.
- Timing of making good: In the earliest appropriate planting season.
- Landscape contractor shall seek approval of any substitutions with CA / LPA prior to implementation.

7.1.3 Planting Maintenance Generally

- Weed control: Maintain weed free area around each tree and shrub, minimum diameter the larger of 1 m or the surface of original planting pit.
- Keep planting beds clear of weeds, by cultivation, use of approved herbicides and maintaining full thickness of mulch.
- Planted areas: Fork over beds as necessary to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Take care not to reduce depth or effect of mulch.
- Precautions: Ensure that trees and shrubs are not damaged by use of mowers, nylon filament rotary cutters and similar powered tools.
- Staking: Check condition of stakes, ties, guys and guards. Replace broken or missing items. Adjust if necessary to allow for growth and prevent rubbing of bark. Cut back any damaged bark.
- Frequency of checks: 3 months.
- Trees: Spray crown when in leaf during warm weather. Carry out in the evening.
- Standard Trees: Maintain the clear stem of standard trees by pruning away any new growth which may appear along the trunk or basal areas of the tree.

7.1.4 Re-firm Planting

- Re-firm plants that have been disturbed by wind rock or frost, particularly after heavy winds or storms.

7.1.5 Pest Control

- Allow for pest control by spaying with a suitable approved pesticide in cases of severe insect and pest infestation. All spraying must be carried out in accordance with manufacturers written recommendations.
- All damage that occurs, as a result of spraying, shall be made good at the Contractor's own cost.

7.1.6 Planting Maintenance – Fertiliser

- Time of year: March or April.
- Fertiliser to planting beds: Manufacturer: Fisons Ficote. Product reference: 180 16:10:10.
- Application: Evenly spread, carefully incorporating below mulch materials.
- Coverage: 112 grms/m2.
- Year 3 slow release fertiliser application to trees and shrubs in March or April.

7.1.7 Planting Maintenance – Pruning

- General: Prune at appropriate times, to remove dead or dying and diseased wood and suckers, to promote healthy growth and natural shape.
- Prune trees to favour a single central leading shoot.

7.1.8 Planting Maintenance – Watering

- Ensure that sufficient water is applied to maintain healthy growth. Carry out as and when necessary using a fine rose or sprinkler until full depth of topsoil is saturated. Regularly water plants in shadow of roof overhangs.
- Spray crown of trees when in leaf during warm weather. Carry out in the evening.
- Water trees from above ensuring root ball is sufficiently saturated to maintain healthy growth – do not rely on watering pipe alone.
- Where applicable carry out regular inspections of the ‘vertical inspection pipe’ to monitor conditions within the pits. Should standing water appear and nor dissipate quickly allow for pumping out as necessary to the satisfaction of the landscape architect.

7.1.9 Final Mulching

- Timing: At end of the maintenance period stated.
- Watering: Ensure that soil is thoroughly moistened prior to remulching, applying water where necessary.

- Planting beds: Re-mulch as specified. Coverage: minimum 65mm depth required at handover.
- Trees: Re-mulch as specific