



Arboricultural Contractors & Consultants

Specialists in the preservation and maintenance of trees

Access Hire | Grounds Maintenance | Tree Maintenance & Reports

Min yr Afon, Cwmavon, Port Talbot

Soft landscaping specification

Tree planting

All works, nursery stock and materials will be supplied, transported, planted and maintained in accordance with the recommendations and guidance in the following British Standards and current industry best practice.

BS3936-1: Nursery Stock – Part 1: Specification for trees and shrubs

BS8545: 2014 Trees – from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations

BS3882: 2015 Specification for topsoil

BS8601: 2013 Subsoil

Site clearance

If present, remove all litter, builders waste and stones larger than 75mm from the areas to be planted. All the above materials are to be removed from site and disposed of or recycled in an environmentally appropriate manner.

Ground preparation

All surface vegetation including the roots will be removed from the entire area of the individual tree pits.

All topsoil will be a multi purpose type and supplied, transported and spread in accordance with BS3882: 2015. During all operations the existing or imported topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate with no mixing of the two forms of soil. Except for the tree planting pits all topsoil will be a minimum depth of 300mm across the planting area and placed on a minimum depth of 300mm of de-compacted subsoil.

All topsoil will be cultivated to ensure a medium tilth. All stones, perennial weeds and debris will be collected and removed from site.

Tree planting

The two trees will be containerised or root balled, of a heavy standard type with a stem girth of 12 to 14 cms measured at one metre above the root collar / ground level. Containerised trees can be planted all the year round but root balled trees will be planted during the trees dormant period between November and March.

All the trees will be planted in a pit of a sufficient width and depth. All tree pits will be excavated to the minimum dimensions of 750mm x 750mm(width) x 600mm(depth). The base of the pit will be loosened and de-compacted to a further depth of 200mm and the sides lightly scarified with a hand fork. All stones and debris will be collected and removed from the site.

All trees will be placed upright in the centre of the excavated pit. If necessary any badly damaged roots will be pruned prior to planting.

The trees are to be supported with the double stake method. All stakes are to be positioned on the prevailing windward side of the tree or on sloping sites following the land contour. The round softwood stakes will be free of bark, pointed, straight in length and free of any snags, pests or disease and a minimum top diameter of 50-75mm. Prior to backfilling all stakes are to be driven into the ground to a minimum depth of 300mm into the base of the pit with a remaining height above ground of between 600 to 800mm. The stake will be positioned as near as possible to the tree but will not interfere or be in direct contact with any part of the tree or its branches which could result in their restriction or free movement.

A *GreenBlue Urban Reroot 1000 root barrier system* will be installed for any trees which are within 3 metres of any buildings, underground services, roads or parking areas. This will be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Trees will be planted to the same soil mark, depth and orientation as the original growing position in the nursery. The topsoil will be backfilled and firmed by foot in layers not exceeding 150 mm in depth. During the backfilling the tree will be gently shaken at regular intervals to settle and ensure that the soil is in contact with the roots of the tree,

The backfill soil will be premixed with an appropriate tree and shrub planting compost such as *Melcourt Topgrow planting compost* to a 5 to 1 topsoil / compost ratio. As an alternative to the planting compost biochar can be mixed with the backfill soil at the manufacturers recommended rates. *Enmag* slow release fertiliser at the rate of 120 grams per planting pit will be evenly and thoroughly mixed with the backfill soil.

During the planting a below ground watering system such as the *GreenBlue RootRain Metro* will be installed. Unless there has been recent heavy rain all trees will be adequately watered directly after planting to ensure that the soil is at field capacity.

The trees will be attached to the supporting stakes with reinforced rubber tree ties and solid rubber spacers positioned 30mm from the top of the stake or as appropriate for the form of the

tree. To secure the position and prevent downward movement of the tie a 25mm galvanised clout nail will be driven through the tie and into the supporting stake.

All trees will be mulched with a pest, disease and weed free organic material such as shredded wood bark. This mulch will be a minimum depth of 100mm and will cover the entire surface area of the planting pit. The depth of the mulch will be checked one month after the planting and if settlement has occurred the mulch will be replenished to ensure a minimum depth of 100mm.

On completion of the planting operations all disturbed ground around the planting areas will be reinstated to their original pre planting condition.

Post planting maintenance

Any trees which are found to be missing, defective, dying, severely diseased, vandalised will be replaced in accordance with the original specification in the first planting season after the original or replacement planting.

Any tree related pest or disease will be identified and an appropriate treatment applied. Depending on the type and severity of the pest or disease the treatment options will include non-intervention, biological control or spraying with an appropriate pesticide by suitably qualified and experienced operators.

All trees will be watered during periods of dry weather. To avoid spillage and evaporation the water will be applied to the underground watering system using a low pressure hose. The minimum volume of water applied to each tree will be 42 litres per visit.

The entire planting pit area will be maintained in a weed free condition by hand weeding and all weeds will be removed from the site. The mulch will be replenished annually to maintain its original 100mm depth and coverage.

Shrub planting areas

All works, nursery stock and materials will be supplied, transported, planted and maintained in accordance with the recommendations and guidance in the following British Standards and current industry best practice.

BS3936-1: Nursery Stock – Part 1: Specification for trees and shrubs

BS3882: 2015 Specification for topsoil

All topsoil will be a multi purpose type and supplied, transported and spread in accordance with BS3882: 2015. During all operations the existing or imported topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate with no mixing of the two forms of soil. All topsoil will be a minimum depth of 300mm across the planting area and placed on a minimum depth of 300mm of de-compacted subsoil.

- a. Prior to planting all shrub beds will be adequately cultivated to produce a medium tilth and all weeds, stones and other debris arising from this work are to be collected and removed from site.
- b. An approved tree and shrub planting compost will be applied to the planting beds at a rate of 20 litres/m² and worked into the top 200mm.
- c. Shrubs will be sited in locations, numbers and densities shown in the planting schedule on the soft landscape drawings. Shrubs will be placed to achieve an even spacing and matching of forms. All shrubs are to be planted at the depth that they have been previously growing allowing for soil settlement after planting.
- d. One day before planting all containerised plants will be watered to ensure that the growing medium is at field capacity. If there has been no recent rainfall on completion of the planting all containerised plants shall be watered with 5 litres of water per plant.
- e. All grass edges to be cut vertically with an edging iron to a depth of 100mm. Resultant edges to be clean and straight or an even smooth radius. Edges to be left neat and tidy with the ground on the shrub side meeting the cut face at an even gradient. All cuttings will be removed from the site.
- f. A 70mm layer of matured conifer bark will be spread on the surface of all the planting areas with a minimum 60mm particle size and shall contain a minimum of wood particles, the bark is to be pest, disease and weed free.

Grass Seeding

- a. All grass seeding areas will have a minimum depth of 150mm of topsoil. Wildflower seeded areas do not require topsoil and the seed will be sown directly on to the subsoil.
- b. To produce a fine tilth grass seeding areas will be cultivated to a depth of 100mm followed by raking to remove undulations, stones, weeds and debris. The finished surfaces will then be lightly compacted with a garden roller.
- c. All weeds, stones and other debris arising from this work shall be collected and removed from site to the contractors tip.
- d. Before sowing all grass and broad-leaved plants which emerge between cultivations and seeding will be treated with an approved translocated herbicide.

Minor grading

- a. Finished levels of amenity grass areas will be 25mm above the adjoining paving or kerbs. Levels will be arranged to allow for natural settlement.
- b. New grass areas will be blended into any existing areas.

Final Cultivations

- a. The final surface for seeding will be 25mm deep and free from weeds, stones and debris.

Sowing

Grass seed mixes

- a. Germinal seeds ref "WFG20 Eco Species Rich Lawn" sown at recommended rate of 10g/m² or a similar approved mixture.

Procedure

- a. The contractor shall purchase fresh grass seed each season throughout the contract period. The grass seed shall be made up of certified seeds under the current plant health regulations. The seed shall have a certified germination of not less than 10% and a certificate of purity of not less than 90%. Total weed seed and other crop seeds content shall not be more than 15. Seeds shall be obtained at least 21 days before sowing.
- b. The contractor shall be required to submit certificates for all deliveries of grass seed stating the seed source, mixture percentage, percentage purity and germination period. All seed shall be delivered in their original sealed bags.
- c. Amenity grass seed mixes are to be sown onto a minimum depth of 150mm of topsoil above 300mm of subsoil.
- d. After sowing, all amenity grass areas are to be consolidated using an approved type roller.
- e. Sowing shall be carried out in suitable weather conditions in transverse directions. After sowing the ground is to be lightly raked and all stones over 12mm gauge shall be removed.

Turfed Areas

- a. Ensure soil is prepared correctly, is adequately levelled and if dry lightly watered before laying the turf. Each row of turf should be laid so that joins are offset by min 300mm.
- b. Gaps will be avoided but if they do occur they will be filled with a light soil / sand mixture. To ensure complete contact between the soil and the underside of the turf a flat board or the head of a rake will be used to lightly firm down the turf.
- c. Immediately after laying all turf will be watered. The turf will be regularly and adequately watered until it is established. Once established, weekly watering during dry periods should be adequate. When the grass has reached a height of 6cms the first cut will be undertaken with the mower blades kept at a sufficient height to ensure that only the upper 25% of the grass is cut. The height of the grass will be gradually reduced until the required height is reached (refer Grass cutting section below).

Grass Subsidence Damage

- a. Any subsidence of seeded or turfed areas below the specified levels shall be made good and re-seeded. These works shall be rectified as and when necessary..
- b. The contractor shall make good any damage caused by work personnel, plant or material whilst carrying out and maintaining the work on site.

Watering

- a. Contractor shall be entirely responsible for all watering necessitated by dry weather and it shall be undertaken by manual watering or stationary rotary sprays.

Completion

- a. Grass areas shall be accepted as having reached practical completion only when germination has proved satisfactory and healthy weed free swards have been established.

General maintenance

- a. The contractor shall be responsible for the maintenance of the planting and grassed areas for a 12 month period following the completion of works and will be responsible for any defects due to faulty materials, including plant failures or poor workmanship during this time.
- b. The contractor shall carry out maintenance work at suitable intervals and in suitable weather conditions.
- c. A minimum time period of 48 hours notice shall be given before commencement of any maintenance operations. Failure to do so will result in non payment for any supposed work carried out.

Defects Liability Period

- a. Any trees, shrubs and grass found to be defective or missing for any reason before practical completion shall be replaced by the contractor.
- b. Thereafter any failures within 12 months of the date of practical completion shall also be replaced to the original specification by the contractor in the next planting season.
- c. Thereafter any failures within the next 4 years shall be replaced to the original specification in accordance with the planning conditions.

Weed Control

- a. Keep shrub beds and areas around trees free from any annual and perennial weeds by hand weeding. All arisings to be removed from site.

- b. Apply an approved translocated herbicide to the shrub beds using a weed wiper with dead weed growth being removed after each visit.

Mulch

- a. Bark mulch to be reinstated to original depths at the start of each growing season.

Watering

- a. All planting shall be watered with a low pressure hose pipe during dry spells, within the first two years of growth and to the following rates :-
 - Feathered/Standard trees - 36 litres per tree/visit
 - Heavy standard trees - 42 litres per tree/visit
 - Semi-mature trees - 48 litres per tree/visit
 - Shrubs - 5 litres per plant/visit

Fertiliser

- a. At the end of the establishment period i.e. end of year 2, 30gms of slow release fertiliser will be applied around each plant.

Grass cutting

- a. Areas sown with amenity mix - grass areas will be cut to a height of approximately 40mm. NB. In drought conditions cutting height should be increased to approximately 60mm. In very wet conditions all operations involving grass cutting shall cease until conditions allow operations to continue without damaging the surfacing, levels and contours of the ground. After each mowing all paths and roads will be cleared of grass cuttings.
- b. All arisings are to be removed from the site.

Firming in

- a. All plants and tree stakes loosened by maintenance operations, wind or frost shall be adequately firmed in.

Litter collection

- a. The entire site is to be kept in a clean and tidy condition throughout the establishment period. All litter will be removed from the site.

TREE PLANTING SCHEDULE				
<i>No.</i>	<i>Pot size</i>	<i>No per m2</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Total no. of trees</i>
T1	N/A	N/A	Sorbus aucuparia 'Joseph Rock'	1
T2	N/A	N/A	Acer campestre 'Elsrijk'	1
TOTAL				2

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Copyright 2023 **The Arb Team**, Trem y Dderwen, Llanedi, Pontarddulais, Swansea. SA4 0YT.
All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior permission from **The Arb Team**. If you have received this report in error please destroy all copies in your possession or control.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and unless otherwise agreed in writing by **The Arb Team** no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of this report.

No liability is accepted by **The Arb Team** for any use of this report other than for the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in this report are on the basis of **The Arb Team** using due skill, care and diligence in the preparation of the same and no warranty is provided as to their accuracy.

Surveys are undertaken on the understanding that nothing in the final report will be omitted, amended or misrepresented by the client or any other interested party.

This report and its contents remain the property of **The Arb Team** until payment has been made in full. It should be noted and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to **The Arb Team** has been made.