



# Graven Hill Health Hub

## BNG Offsite Planting Landscape Specification

April 2022

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**Client Name:** ASSURA PLC  
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### Quality Assurance – Approval Status

This document has been prepared and checked in accordance with Waterman Group's IMS (BS EN ISO 9001: 2015, BS EN ISO 14001: 2015 and BS EN ISO 45001:2018)

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Issue	Date	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
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Comments

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## Disclaimer

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## Q31

### External planting

#### General information/ requirements

##### 112 Site clearance generally

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1. General: Remove rubbish, concrete, metal, glass, decayed vegetation and contaminated topsoil.
2. Stones: Remove those with any dimension exceeding .....
3. Contamination: Remove material containing toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life.
4. Vegetation:
5. Large roots: Grub up and dispose of without undue disturbance of soil and adjacent areas.
6. Additional requirements:

##### 118 Soil conditions

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1. Soil for cultivating and planting: Moist, friable and (except in aquatic/ marginal planting) not waterlogged.
2. Frozen or snow covered soil: Give notice before planting. Provide additional root protection. Prevent planting pit sides and bases and backfill materials from freezing.

##### 120 Climatic conditions

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1. General: Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable.
  - 1.1. Strong winds: Do not plant.

##### 125 Times of year for planting

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1. Deciduous trees and shrubs: Late October to late March.
2. Conifers and evergreens: September/ October or April/ May.
3. Container grown plants: At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable.
  - 3.1. Watering and weed control: Provide as necessary.

##### 130 Mechanical tools

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1. Restrictions: Do not use within 100 mm of tree and plant stems.

##### 145 Watering

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1. Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
2. Application: Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
3. Frequency: As necessary to ensure establishment and continued thriving of planting.

##### 146 Watering

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1. Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
2. Application: Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
3. Frequency:

##### 150 Water restrictions

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1. General: If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation, do not carry out planting until instructed. If planting has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering.

## 160 Notice

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1. Give notice before
  - 1.1. Setting out.
  - 1.2. Applying herbicide.
  - 1.3. Applying fertilizer.
  - 1.4. Delivery of plants/ trees.
  - 1.5. Planting shrubs.
  - 1.6. Planting trees into previously dug pits.
  - 1.7. Watering.
  - 1.8. Visiting site during maintenance period.
2. Period of notice: Two working days

## 200 Plants/ Trees – general

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1. **Condition:** Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous.
2. **Appearance:** Of good shape and without elongated shoots.
3. **Hardiness:** Grown in a suitable environment and hardened off.
4. **Health:** Free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders.
5. **Budded or grafted plants:** Bottom worked.
6. **Root system and condition:** Balanced with branch system.
  - 6.1. **Standard:** The National Plant Specification
7. **Species:** True to name.
8. **Origin/ Provenance:** As plant schedule
9. **Definition:** Origin and Provenance have the meaning given in the National Plant Specification.

## 215 Plants/ Trees – specification criteria

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1. **Name, forms, dimensions, provenance and other criteria:** As scheduled and defined in the National Plant Specification (available on CS Design Software Limited's website).

## 216 Plants/ Trees – specification criteria

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1. **Name, forms, dimensions and other criteria:** To the relevant part of BS 3936.

## 235 Container grown plants/ Trees

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1. **Growing medium:** With adequate nutrients for plants to thrive until permanently planted.
2. **Plants:** Centred in containers, firmed and well watered.
3. **Root growth:** Substantially filling containers, but not root bound, and in a condition conducive to successful transplanting.
4. **Hardiness:** Grown in the open for at least two months before being supplied.
5. **Containers:** With holes adequate for drainage when placed on any substrate commonly used under irrigation systems.

## 245 Labelling and information

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1. **General:** Provide each plant/ tree or group of plants/ trees of a single species or cultivar with supplier's labelling for delivery to site, showing:
  - 1.1. Full botanical name.
  - 1.2. Total number.
  - 1.3. Number of bundles.

- 1.4. Part bundles.
  - 1.5. Supplier's name.
  - 1.6. Employer's name and project reference.
  - 1.7. Plant specification, in accordance with scheduled National Plant Specification categories.
2. Additional information: Submit on request: Date supplied and consignment details or reference.

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## **246 Labelling and information**

1. Standard: To BS 3936.

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## **255 Plants/ Trees reserved at supplier's premises**

1. Types/ Species: As plant schedule
2. Predelivery inspection: Give notice.
3. Labelling: Identify inspected plants/ trees as reserved for use on this project.

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## **260 Plant/ Tree substitution**

1. Plants/ trees unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at time of ordering: Submit alternatives, stating:
  - 1.1. Price.
  - 1.2. Difference from specified plants/ trees.
2. Approval: Obtain before making any substitution.

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

1. Standard: To CPSE 'Handling and establishing landscape plants'.
2. Frost: Protect plants from frost.
3. Handling: Handle plants with care. Protect from mechanical damage and do not subject to shock, e.g. by dropping from a vehicle.
4. Plant packaging: Black polyethylene bags
5. Packaging of bulk quantities: Pallets or bins sealed with polyethylene and shrink wrapped
6. Planting: Upright or well balanced with best side to front.

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## **280 Treatment of tree wounds**

1. Cutting: Keep wounds as small as possible.
  - 1.1. Cut cleanly back to sound wood using sharp, clean tools.
  - 1.2. Leave branch collars. Do not cut flush with stem or trunk.
  - 1.3. Set cuts so that water will not collect on cut area.
2. Fungicide/ Sealant: Do not apply unless instructed.

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## **285 Protection of existing grass**

1. General: Protect areas affected by planting operations using boards/ tarpaulins.
  - 1.1. Excavated or imported material: Do not place directly on grass.
  - 1.2. Duration: Minimum period.

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## **290 Surplus material**

1. Subsoil, stones, debris, wrapping material, canes, ties, temporary labelling, rubbish, prunings and other arisings: Remove.

## **Plant containers - Not Used**

### **Preparation of planting beds/ planting materials**

#### **305 Weed control**

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1. **Description:** FOR INVASIVE NON-NATIVE WEEDS
2. **Locations:** All planting areas
3. **General:** Prevent weeds from seeding and perennial weeds from becoming established, by contractor's choice of herbicide by hand weeding.

#### **385 Mulch matting/ Geotextile fabric**

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1. **Description:** Mulch Mat to native shrub and tree planting
2. **Manufacturer:** Green-Tech, or similar approved
  - 2.1. **Product reference:** Greenfix Mulch Mat
3. **Type:** Type 11
4. **Recycled content:** Made from starch
5. **Timing:** Lay before planting.
6. **Watering:** Water soil thoroughly before laying.
7. **Laying:** In close contact with soil surface. Lap or butt joints as recommended by manufacturer, with no gaps.
8. **Fixing::** Mulch mats fixed with Green-Tech Degradable Bio Weed Fabric Fixing Pegs, or similar approved. 5 pegs per mulch mat.
9. **Planting:** Cut neat slits or flaps. Refit closely around plant stems.
10. **Overlay:** Bark mulch, 50mm depth

### **Planting shrubs/ herbaceous plants/ bulbs**

#### **401 Regular plant layout**

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1. **Description:** TO WOODLAND PLANTING
2. **Spacing:** As plant schedule on drawing WIE16470-ZZ-XX-DR-L-74-110\_BNG
3. **Density:** As plant schedule on drawing WIE16470-ZZ-XX-DR-L-74-110\_BNG

#### **405 Shrub planting pits**

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1. **Timing:** Excavate 1-2 days (maximum) before planting.
2. **Sizes:** As plant schedule on drawing WIE16470-ZZ-XX-DR-L-74-110\_BNG
3. **Pit bottom improvement** Break up to a depth of 150 mm, incorporating 25 g of slow release fertilizer per planting pit.

#### **471 Naturalized hedges**

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1. **Planting:** In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly.

#### **480 After planting**

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1. **Watering:** Immediately after planting, thoroughly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
2. **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.
3. **Top dressing:** Mulching and top dressing system, as section Q28
  - 3.1. **Depth:** 50 mm



## **486 Shrub protection**

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1. **Manufacturer:** Green-Tech or similar approved
  - 1.1. **Product reference:** Tubex Shrub Shelter Guard and Stake
2. **Type:** As per manufacturers details
3. **Material:** As per manufacturers details
4. **Size:** As per manufacturers details
5. **Colour:** As per manufacturers details
6. **Support:** Single timber stake and ties as per manufacturers details
7. **General:** Ensure that protection methods do not impede natural movement of shrubs or restrict growth.

## **Planting trees**

### **500 Tree planting**

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1. **Standard:** Prepare trees and transplant in accordance with BS 8545

### **505 Tree pits**

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1. **Sizes:** As per drawing WIE16470-ZZ-XX-DR-L-74-110\_BNG
2. **Sloping ground:** Maintain horizontal bases and vertical sides with no less than minimum depth throughout.
3. **Excavated material:** Remove arisings
4. **Pit bottoms:** Excavate with slightly raised centre: Break up base to a depth of 150 mm.
  - 4.1. **Treatment:** Soil ameliorant worked into pit bottoms
5. **Pit sides:** Scarify.
6. **Backfilling material:** Proprietary tree backfilling material, as section Q28

### **520 Cellular structural soil system**

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1. **Locations:**
2. **Manufacturer:**
  - 2.1. **Product reference:**
3. **Geotextile membrane:**
4. **Installation:** Ensure all void spaces are filled with lightly compacted growing medium prior to installation of further layers or sub-bases.

### **535 Tree stakes**

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1. **Stakes:** Softwood, peeled chestnut, larch or oak, straight, free from projections and large or edge knots and with pointed lower end.
  - 1.1. **Preservative treatment:** Not required
2. **Stake size (minimum):** 75 mm diameter
3. **Stake length (minimum):** 1500 mm

### **546 Single vertical staking for**

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1. **Description:** WHIPS AND FEATHERED TREES
2. **Staking**
  - 2.1. **Position:** Close to tree position on windward side.
  - 2.2. **Driving:** Vertically at least 300 mm into bottom of pit before planting.
  - 2.3. **Backfilling:** Consolidate material around stake.

- 2.4. **Firming:** Sufficiently firm to prevent movement of the rootball/ rootstock.
3. **Height of stakes:** Cut off to approximately 600 mm above ground level
4. **Ties:** Biodegradable natural fibre
  - 4.1. **Number of ties:** Submit proposals
5. **Tying:** Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to stake with ties. Prevent tree from touching stake using spacer blocks or cushions if required.
  - 5.1. **Position:** Top tie within 25 mm of top of stake and additional ties equally spaced along the stake.
6. **Nails:** To BS 1202-1, galvanized, minimum 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads.

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## **566 Tree protection**

1. **Manufacturer:** Green-Tech or similar approved
  - 1.1. **Product reference:** Tubex Tree Shelter Guard and Stake
2. **Type:** As per manufacturers details
3. **Material:** As per manufacturers details
4. **Size:** As per manufacturers details
5. **Colour:** As per manufacturers details
6. **Support:** Single timber stake and ties as per manufacturers details
7. **General:** Ensure that protection methods do not impede natural movement of trees or restrict growth.

## **Woodland/ matrix/ buffer zone planting**

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### **600 Woodland work generally**

1. **Services:** Check for below and above ground services, including land drainage, in the vicinity. Give notice if they may be affected and obtain instructions before proceeding.
2. **Safety:** Comply with Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group Safety leaflets.

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### **605 Existing vegetation/ Weed clearance**

1. **Surface vegetation clearance:** Screef an area one metre diameter around each planting location
2. **Arisings:** Remove.

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### **615 Existing trees/ Seedlings/ Coppice shoots**

1. **Existing trees and seedlings:** Retain.
2. **Coppice shoots:** Remove all stems and treat with suitable herbicide to prevent regrowth

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### **625 Cultivation**

1. **General:**
2. **Consolidation:**
3. **Soil within root spread of trees to be retained:** Do not plough or cultivate.

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### **665 Setting out**

1. **Distance between trees:** As drawing WIE16470-ZZ-XX-DR-L-74-110\_BNG

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### **680 Setting out**

1. **Planting density:** As drawing WIE16470-ZZ-XX-DR-L-74-110\_BNG
2. **Layout:** Random groups of no less than 3 or more than 7 of the same species, ensuring that no three plants are aligned in any one direction.

## **Protecting/ maintaining/ making good defects**

### **710 Maintenance**

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1. **Duration:** Carry out the operations in the following clauses from completion of planting until the end of the rectification period.
2. **Frequency of maintenance visits:** In accordance with the agreed maintenance schedule

### **720 Failures of planting**

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1. **Defects due to materials or workmanship not in accordance with the Contract:** Plants/ trees/ shrubs that have failed to thrive.
  - 1.1. **Exclusions:** Theft or malicious damage after completion.
  - 1.2. **Rectification:** Replace with equivalent plants/ trees/ shrubs.
2. **Replacements:** To match size of adjacent or nearby plants of same species or match original specification, whichever is the greater.
3. **Timing of making good:** During the next suitable planting season

### **730 Protective fencing**

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1. **Fencing type:** As detailed in Arboricultural documentation
2. **Erection:** On completion of planting.
3. **Removal:** After planting is well established

### **740 Cleanliness**

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1. **Soil and arisings:** Remove from hard surfaces and grassed areas.
2. **General:** Leave the works in a clean tidy condition at completion and after any maintenance operations.

### **750 Planting maintenance generally**

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1. **Weed control:** Maintain weed free area around each tree and shrub.
  - 1.1. **Diameter (minimum):** The larger of 1 m or the surface of original planting pit.
  - 1.2. **Keep planting beds clear of weeds:** By hoeing  
By maintaining full thickness of mulch
2. **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.
3. **Precautions:** Ensure that trees and shrubs are not damaged by use of mowers, nylon filament rotary cutters and similar powered tools.
4. **Firming up:** Gently firm loosened soil around trees/ shrubs. Straighten leaning trees/ shrubs.
5. **Trees:** Spray crown when in leaf during warm weather.
  - 5.1. **Timing:** After dusk.
6. **Tree accessories:** Check condition of stakes, ties, guys, guards and irrigation and ventilation systems.
  - 6.1. **Broken or missing items:** Replace.
  - 6.2. **Loose stakes:** Re-firm in the ground or replace as necessary to provide support to the tree.
  - 6.3. **Loose guys:** Re-firm anchor points and adjust as necessary to provide support to the tree.
  - 6.4. **Ties:** Adjust to accommodate growth and prevent constriction or abrasion.
  - 6.5. **Damage to bark:** Cut back neatly with sharp knife. Prevent further damage.
  - 6.6. **Frequency of checks:** At each scheduled maintenance visit
7. **Watering:** As required for healthy establishment, depending on weather conditions

## **760 Planting maintenance – pruning**

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1. General: Prune to promote healthy growth and natural shape.
  - 1.1. Dead, dying, diseased wood and suckers: Remove.
  - 1.2. Timing: In accordance with the agreed maintenance schedule
  - 1.3. Trees: Favour a single central leading shoot.
2. Arisings: Remove.

## **770 Woodland planting maintenance**

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1. Watering: Only as necessary to prevent plants wilting.
2. Loose plants: Refirm surrounding soil, without compacting.
3. Weed control: Cut down and remove weeds prior to setting seed in a 1 m diameter area around each tree.
4. Vegetation except trees and coppice shoots to be retained: Cut within the plantation area.
  - 4.1. Height (maximum): 25 mm
  - 4.2. Arisings: Leave between rows.
5. Mechanical, chemical or mulching methods of vegetation control: Submit proposals.
6. Ditches and drains: Keep clear.
7. Watering:

## **780 Maintenance instructions**

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1. General: Before end of the maintenance period, submit printed instructions recommending procedures to be established by the Employer for maintenance of the planting work for one full year: Provide a schedule of any ongoing maintenance problems experienced during the rectification period.

## **790 Final mulching**

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1. Timing: At end of the maintenance period.
2. Watering: Ensure that soil is thoroughly moistened prior to remulching, applying water where necessary.
3. Planting beds: Remulch.
4. Depth (minimum): 50 mm
5. Trees: Remulch.
6. Depth (minimum): 50 mm

Ω End of Section

## **Q35**

### **Landscape maintenance**

#### **Generally**

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#### **130 Reinstatement**

1. Damage or disturbance to soil structure, planting, grass, fencing, hard landscaping, structures or buildings: Reinstatement to original condition.

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#### **155 Watering**

1. Supply: No site supply available, submit proposals
2. Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil
3. Application: Do not damage or loosen plants.
4. Compacted soil: Loosen or scoop out, to direct water to rootzone.
5. Frequency: As necessary for the continued thriving of all planting.

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#### **160 Water restrictions**

1. General: If water supply is, or is likely to be, restricted by emergency legislation, submit proposals for an alternative suitable source of water. Obtain instructions before proceeding.

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#### **170 Disposal of arisings**

1. General: Unless specified otherwise, dispose of arisings as follows:
  - 1.1. Biodegradable arisings: Remove to recycling facility
  - 1.2. Grass cuttings: Remove to recycling facility
  - 1.3. Tree roots and stumps: Remove from site
  - 1.4. Shrub and tree prunings: Remove to recycling facility
  - 1.5. Litter and nonbiodegradable arisings: Remove from site

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#### **180 Chipping or shredding**

1. General: Not permitted on site.

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#### **181 Mechanical equipment**

1. General: Minimize.
2. Prohibited equipment: Chippers
3. Timing: Use of mechanical equipment allowed between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm only

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#### **190 Litter**

1. Extraneous rubbish not arising from the contract work: Collect and remove from site.

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#### **195 Protection of existing grass**

1. General: Protect areas affected by maintenance operations using boards/tarpaulins. Do not place excavated or imported materials directly on grass.

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#### **197 Cleanliness**

1. Soil and arisings: Remove from hard surfaces.
2. General: Leave the works in a clean, tidy condition at completion and after any maintenance operations.

## Grassed areas

### 210 Maintenance of grassed areas

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1. General: Maintain turf in a manner appropriate to the intended use.
2. Soil and grass
  - 2.1. Condition: Maintain a healthy vigorous sward, free from disease, fungal growth, discolouration, scorch or wilt.
  - 2.2. Waterlogging and compaction: Prevent.
  - 2.3. Damage: Repair trampling, abrasion or scalping.
3. Ornamental lawns: Maintain reasonably free from moss, excessive thatch, weeds, frost heave, worm casts and mole hills.
  - 3.1. Edges: Neat and well defined, in clean straight lines or smooth flowing curves.
4. Litter and fallen leaves: Remove regularly to maintain a neat appearance.

### 211 Maintenance of grassed areas

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1. Standard: To BS 7370-3. Carry out maintenance appropriate to each category of turf, as follows:
  - 1.1. Objectives: To BS 7370-3, Table 6.
  - 1.2. Programme: To BS 7370-3, clause 11.
  - 1.3. Mowing methods: To BS 7370-3, Table 3.

### 220 Grass cutting generally

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1. Before mowing: Remove litter, rubbish and debris.
2. Finish: Neat and even, without surface rutting, compaction or damage to grass.
3. Edges: Leave neat and well defined. Neatly trim around obstructions.
4. Adjoining hard areas: Sweep clear and remove arisings.
5. Drought or wet conditions: Obtain instructions.

### 225 Tree stems

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1. Precautions: Do not use mowing machinery closer than 100 mm to tree stems. Use nylon filament rotary cutters and other hand held mechanical tools carefully to avoid damage to bark.

### 226 Tree stems

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1. Precautions: Do not allow nylon filament rotary cutters and other mechanical tools closer than 100 mm to the stem of any tree.
  - 1.1. Operations close to stems: Complete using hand tools.

### 270 Mowing rough grassed areas

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1. Grass height: 75 mm maximum
2. Arisings: Remove

### 340 Spot weedkilling in rough grass areas

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1. Herbicide: Suitable non-residual herbicide
2. Operations: Spot treat as per maintenance schedule.

### 345 Control of Japanese knotweed

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1. Operations: Spot treat in June and September during suitable weather conditions and when plants are growing vigorously.

2. **Herbicide:** As deta LEMP In accordance with the INNSA 'Code of practice. Managing Japanese knotweed'
3. **Application:** In accordance with the INNSA 'Code of practice. Managing Japanese knotweed'
4. **Arisings:** In accordance with the INNSA 'Code of practice. Managing Japanese knotweed'

## **Flower beds/ seasonal beddings**

### **460 Beds of perennials or perennials and annuals**

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1. **Plant supports:** Stake and tie plants using .....
  - 1.1. **Length:**
  - 1.2. **Maintain** throughout the growing season.
2. **Gaps in planting:** Refill by replanting.
3. **Watering**
  - 3.1. **New plants:** Before and after planting out.
  - 3.2. **Ongoing:** As necessary for the continued thriving of all planting.
4. **Operations at end of growing season**
  - 4.1. **Trim:** Older flowering stems of herbaceous perennials.
  - 4.2. **Remove:** Redundant plant supports, litter, debris and arisings.
  - 4.3. **Cultivate:** Fork over the soil, taking care not to cause undue disturbance to plants.
  - 4.4. **Top dress:** Apply .....

### **490 Thinning by removal of surplus plants**

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1. **Plants to be thinned:** As per LEMP
2. **Standard:** BS 7370-4, clause 3.5.17.1.
3. **Timing:** Thin when foliage of adjacent plants has begun to touch.
4. **Roots**
  - 4.1. **Disturbance to adjacent plants:** Minimize.
  - 4.2. **Soil:** Refill holes with topsoil to leave an even graded surface.
  - 4.3. **Mulch:** Maintain mulch as original specification.
5. **Adjacent plants:** Make good any minor damage immediately.
6. **Plants for retention:** Select plants with a strong healthy habit.

## **Shrubs/trees/hedges**

### **500 Establishment of new planting**

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1. **Duration:** 2 years
2. **Weed control**
  - 2.1. **Method:** Keep planting beds clear of weeds by hoeing and screening and maintaining full thickness of mulch.
  - 2.2. **Area:** Maintain a weed free area around each tree and shrub, minimum diameter the larger of 1 m or the surface of the original planting pit.
3. **Soil condition:** Fork over beds to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Do not reduce depth or effect of mulch.
4. **Watering:** Keep plants watered as necessary before planting out and water in after planting.

### **510 Tree stakes and ties**

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1. **Inspection/ Maintenance times:** As scheduled and immediately after strong winds
2. **Stakes**

- 2.1. Replace loose, broken or decayed stakes to original specification.
- 2.2. If longer than half of clear tree stem height, cut to this height in spring. Retie to tree firmly but not tightly with a single tie.
3. Ties: Adjust, refix or replace loose or defective ties, allowing for growth and to prevent chafing.
  - 3.1. Where chafing has occurred, reposition or replace ties to prevent further chafing.
4. Removal of stakes and ties: When instructed
  - 4.1. Fill stake holes with lightly compacted soil.

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## 520 Refirming of trees and shrubs

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1. Timing: After strong winds, frost heave and other disturbances.
2. Refirming: Tread around the base until firmly bedded.
3. Collars in soil at base of tree stems, created by tree movement: Break up by fork, avoiding damage to roots. Backfill with topsoil and refirm.

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## 525 Tree guards

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1. Loose or defective guards: Adjust, refix or replace to original specification and to prevent chafing.

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## 530 Tree shelters

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1. Loose or defective shelters: Adjust, refix or replace to original specification and to prevent chafing.
2. Removal: When instructed

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## 537 Nesting wild birds

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1. Survey: Before starting hedge or tree work during the period of February to August (inclusive), carry out a survey by a qualified ecologist and submit report
2. Accidental disturbance: Report immediately.

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## 540 Pruning generally

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1. Pruning: In accordance with good horticultural and arboricultural practice.
  - 1.1. Removing branches: Do not damage or tear the stem or bark.
  - 1.2. Wounds: Keep as small as possible and cut cleanly back to sound wood.
  - 1.3. Cutting: Make cuts above and sloping away from an outward facing healthy bud, angled so that water will not collect on cut area.
  - 1.4. Larger branches: Prune neither flush nor leaving a stub, but using the branch bark ridge or branch collar as a pruning guide.
2. Appearance: Thin, trim and shape each specimen appropriately to species, location, season, and stage of growth, leaving a well-balanced natural appearance.
3. Tools: Use clean sharp secateurs, hand saws or other approved tools. Trim off ragged edges of bark or wood with a sharp knife.
4. Disease or infection: Give notice if detected.
5. Growth retardants, fungicide or pruning sealant: Do not use unless instructed.

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## 555 Pruning trees and shrubs

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1. Standard: To BS 7370-4.
2. Special requirements: None

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## 570 Formative pruning of young trees

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1. Standard: Type and timing of pruning operations to suit the plant species.
2. Time of year: Do not prune during the late winter/ early spring sap flow period.



3. Young trees up to 4 m high
  - 3.1. Crown prune by removing dead branches and reducing selected side branches by one third to preserve a well-balanced head and ensure the development of a single strong leader.
  - 3.2. Remove duplicated branches and potentially weak or tight forks. In each case cut back to live wood.
4. Whips or feathered trees: Do not prune.
5. Operatives: Member of the Arboricultural Association

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### **575 Pruning ornamental shrubs**

1. **General:** Prune to encourage healthy and bushy growth and desirable ornamental features, e.g. flowers, fruit, autumn colour, stem colour.
2. **Suckers:** Remove by cutting back level with the source stem or root.

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### **580 Pruning flowering species of shrubs and roses**

1. Time of year
  - 1.1. Winter flowering shrubs: Spring.
  - 1.2. Shrubs flowering between March and July: Immediately after the flowering period.
  - 1.3. Shrubs flowering between July and October: Back to old wood in winter.
  - 1.4. Rose bushes: Early spring to encourage basal growths and a balanced, compact habit.

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### **620 Removal of dead plant material**

1. **Operations:** At the end of the growing season, check all shrubs and remove all dead foliage, dead wood, and broken or damaged branches and stems.

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### **630 Dead and diseased plants**

1. **Removal:** As soon as possible
2. **Replacement:** In the next suitable planting season

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### **645 Weed control generally**

1. **Weed tolerance:** At all times, weed cover less than 5% and no weed to exceed 100 mm high
2. **Adjacent plants, trees and grass:** Do not damage.

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### **650 Hand weeding**

1. **General:** Remove weeds entirely, including roots.
2. **Disturbance:** Remove the minimum quantity of soil, and disturb plants, bulbs and mulched surfaces as little as possible.
3. **Completion:** Rake area to a neat, clean condition.
4. **Mulch:** Reinststate to original depth.

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### **655 Weed cutting by hand or machine**

1. **Undesirable grass, brambles and herbaceous growth:** Cut down cleanly to a maximum height of 25 mm.
2. **Herbicides:** Do not use

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### **680 Soil aeration**

1. **Compacted soil surfaces**
  - 1.1. **Prick up:** To aerate the soil of root areas and break surface crust.
  - 1.2. **Size of lumps:** Reduce to crumb and level off.

- 1.3. Damage: Do not damage plants and their roots.

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### **685 Soil level adjustment**

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1. Level of soil/mulch at edges of beds: Reduce to 50 mm below adjacent grass or hard surface.
  - 1.1. Arisings (if any): Spread evenly over the bed.

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### **690 Maintenance of loose mulch**

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1. Thickness (minimum): 50 mm
  - 1.1. Top up: Annually or as required to maintain 50mm depth
2. Mulch spill on adjacent areas: Remove weeds and rubbish and return to planted area.
3. Weeding: Remove weeds growing on or in mulch by hand weeding.

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### **693 Maintenance of mulch matting/ Sheet mulches**

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1. General: Inspect and reattach or refirm mulch mats and sheet mulches.
2. Type: Geotextile
  - 2.1. Remove: After 1 year.

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### **710 Woodland planting maintenance**

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1. Watering: In exceptional circumstances to prevent plants dying.
2. Loose plants: Refirm surrounding soil, without compacting.
3. Vegetation: Except trees and coppice shoots to be retained, cut down to 100 mm above ground level within the plantation area.
  - 3.1. Arisings: Leave between rows.
4. Ditches and drains: Keep clear.

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### **715 Woodland thinning**

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1. Mature planting density: As per drawing WIE16470-ZZ-XX-DR-L-74-110\_BNG
2. Timing: Thin in stages in accordance with the agreed management plan.

## **Tree work**

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### **810 Tree work generally**

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1. Identification: Before starting work agree which trees, shrubs and hedges are to be removed or pruned.
2. Protection:
3. Standard: To BS 3998.
4. Removing branches: Cut vertical branches similarly, with no more slope on the cut surface than is necessary to shed rainwater.
5. Appearance: Leave trees with a well-balanced natural appearance.
6. Chain saw work: Operatives must hold a Certificate of Competence.
7. Tree work: To be carried out by an approved member of the Arboricultural Association.

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### **815 Additional work**

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1. Defective, diseased, unsafe or weak parts of trees additional to those scheduled for attention: Give notice if detected.

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### **820 Prevention of wound bleeding**

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1. Standard: To BS 3998.

## 825 Prevention of disease transmission

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1. Standard: To BS 3998.

## 830 Cleaning out and deadwooding

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1. Remove
  - 1.1. Dead, dying, or diseased wood, broken branches and stubs.
  - 1.2. Fungal growths and fruiting bodies.
  - 1.3. Rubbish, windblown or accumulated in branch forks.
  - 1.4. Wires, clamps, boards and metal objects, if removable without causing further damage and not part of a support structure that is to be retained.
  - 1.5. Other unwanted objects, e.g. tree houses, swings.

## 835 Cutting and pruning generally

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1. Tools: Appropriate, well maintained and sharp.
2. Final pruning cuts
  - 2.1. Chainsaws: Do not use on branches of less than 50 mm diameter.
  - 2.2. Hand saws: Form a smooth cut surface.
  - 2.3. Anvil type secateurs: Do not use.
3. Removing branches: Do not damage or tear the stem.
4. Wounds: Keep as small as possible, cut cleanly back to sound wood leaving a smooth surface, and angled so that water will not collect on the cut area.
5. Cutting: Cut at a fork or at the main stem to avoid stumps wherever possible.
6. Large branches: Remove only with prior approval
  - 6.1. Remove in small sections and lower to ground with ropes and slings.
7. Dead branches and stubs: When removing, do not cut into live wood.
8. Unsafe branches: Remove epicormic shoots and potentially weak forks that could fail in adverse weather conditions.
9. Disease or fungus: Give notice if detected. Do not apply fungicide or sealant unless instructed.

## 855 Cutting tree roots

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1. Excavating: Use hand tools only.
2. Protected area: Do not cut roots within an area which is the larger of:
  - 2.1. The branch spread of the tree.
  - 2.2. An area with a radius of half the tree's height, measured from the trunk.
3. Outside protected area: Give notice of roots exceeding 50 mm in diameter. Do not cut without approval.
4. Cutting
  - 4.1. Cutting: Make clean smooth cuts with a hand saw.
  - 4.2. Wounds: Minimize. Avoid ragged edges.
  - 4.3. Finishing: Pare cut surfaces smooth with a sharp knife.
5. Backfilling
  - 5.1. Protection: Cover cut roots with clean sharp sand.
  - 5.2. Material: Backfill with original topsoil.

## 865 Bark damage

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1. Wounds

- 1.1. Do not attempt to stop sap bleeding.
  - 1.2. **Bark:** Remove ragged edges using a sharp knife.
  - 1.3. **Wood:** Remove splintered wood from deep wounds.
  - 1.4. **Size:** Keep wounds as small as possible.
2. Liquid or flux oozing from apparently healthy bark: Give notice.

### **Water areas - Not Used**

### **Hard landscape areas/fencing - Not Used**

Ω End of Section

# UK and Ireland Office Locations

