

Soft Landscaping



TREE PLANTING

Code	Species	Form	Girth cm	Height cm	Root condition	Quantity
AP	Acer platanoides	EHS	14-16	425-600	65/85 L	4
BP	Betula pendula	EHS	14-16	425-600	65/85 L	4
PA	Prunus avium	EHS	14-16	425-600	65/85 L	3

1. GENERAL

- Existing trees on or adjacent to site are to be retained shall be protected in accordance with BS 5837:2012. Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations from commencement to completion of all works on site.
- All excavated areas to be backfilled with imported subsoil to BS 8601:2013 Specification for subsoil and requirements for use (imported subsoil to be laid on site's existing subsoil profiles) and overlaid with topsoil to BS 3882:2015 Specification for topsoil BS 3882 - General purpose grade. All topsoiled areas to be clear of rocks and rubble larger than 50mm diameter and any other debris that may interfere with the establishment of plants. Shrub areas to have a minimum depth of 400 mm topsoil. Grassed area to have a minimum depth of 150mm. Tree pit soil depth/volume in accordance with BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape. Recommendations.
- All plants are to be supplied in accordance with Horticultural Trade Association's National Plant Specification and from a HTA certified nursery. Delivery and backfilling of all plant material to be in accordance with BS4428/JCLI/CPSE Code of Practice for 'Handling and Establishing Landscape Plants, Parts I, II and III.
- All trees shall be planted in accordance with BS: 8545:2014. Trees are to be established / maintained in accordance with BS8545.
- Planting will not be carried out when the ground is waterlogged, frost bound or during periods of cold drying winds.
- If the formation level is compacted it should be ripped through before topsoiling.

2. TREE PLANTING

- ### Ground Preparation and Tree Pit Excavation
- If the formation level is compacted it will be ripped through before topsoiling.
 - Where necessary existing weeds will be treated with a suitable glyphosate-based herbicide and a suitable period allowed to elapse, as recommended by the manufacturer, for the herbicide to take effect.
 - Tree pits will be excavated to at least twice the diameter of the root spread and to be planted in accordance with BS 4428 (1989). The bottom and sides shall be forked to break up the subsoil. All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm diameter in any dimension will be removed from site.

- ### Planting
- Trees are to be placed into the pits and backfilled with local topsoil previously stripped from the site. A general-purpose slow-release fertiliser (at the rate of 75gm/m²) and Tree Planting and Mulching Compost (at the rate of 20litres/m²) are to be incorporated into the top 150mm of topsoil during backfilling. Where tree pits are more than 300mm deep, backfilled material shall be consolidated/firmed in 150mm layers.
 - Trees shall be well firmed-in and secured with stakes, proprietary rubber tree ties and spacers as below.
 - All newly planted trees over 1.5m high will be held so that movement at the root collar is minimised until new roots have developed to anchor the tree. Therefore, low staking (75mm dia x 1.5m length) will be used and attached to the tree at approximately 600mm above ground level. Stakes will be driven 300mm into undisturbed ground before planting the tree, taking care to avoid underground services and cables. The trees will be staked using proprietary rubber ties and must be firmly fixed with a spacing device used to prevent chafing against the tree.
 - Trees shall be double staked. Composted bark mulch will be spread to a depth of 75mm across in a 1.0m diameter circle around all individual trees, ensuring that desirable groundcover plants (where present) are not buried.
 - All trees shall be watered in at the end of each day of planting. Tree moisture levels are to be monitored in accordance with BS8545 11.3 Irrigation.

- ### Maintenance during first growing season
- All dead, dying or diseased trees will be replaced with trees of similar size and species. If the failure of the tree is due to disease and the disease is considered likely to re-occur then an alternative species may be used as replacement if agreed with the LPA.
 - The site is to be visited as required throughout the year to undertake the following operations:
 - Weed clearance:** All planting areas will be kept weed free by hand weeding or herbicide treatment.
 - Checking trees:** All tree ties and stakes will be checked and adjusted if too loose, too tight or if chafing is occurring. Any broken stakes will be replaced.
 - Formative pruning:** Any damaged shoots/branches will be pruned back to healthy wood. Plants will be pruned in accordance with good horticultural practice to maintain healthy well-shaped specimens.

- ### Watering during first growing season
- The requirement for watering of newly planted trees will generally be dependent on weather conditions during the first growing season following planting. In a dry season watering may be required on a fortnightly basis from immediately after planting until the end of the growing season, but in a wet season watering may not be required at all. Therefore, trees shall be monitored regularly by test digging down to root level to assess the water content of the soil, with watering undertaken as required to ensure that the soil is at field capacity 2-3 days after watering.

- ## 3. WATERING
- ### Trees
- Watering is one of the prime keys to successful establishment after planting a tree.
 - Use a watering can with a rose attachment on the end to water, a hose pipe or other such method that will administer water slowly and at a low pressure, mimicking rainfall.
 - Water should be applied to the base of the trees, evenly distributed over the entirety of the root-ball to encourage even root development.

- ### Immediately after planting
- In spring and summer, water newly planted trees immediately (known as 'watering in').
 - In autumn and winter, it depends how wet the ground is, or if rain is due. At this time of year, it's only really necessary to water in if we are experiencing a dry spell, to make sure the roots don't dry out.

3.6 A newly planted tree should be watered when planted, and at the point of bud burst in the spring and should be continued throughout the spring and summer until the leaves have fallen in autumn (for deciduous trees).

In the first year after planting

3.7 From mid-March until the end of September, water trees two to three times a week. Increase this regime if we have a particularly hot and dry spell, and vice versa, reduce if the weather is very wet. Bear in mind that rain doesn't necessarily get to where it's needed, if the leaf canopy creates a 'rain shadow'. Dig down a little into the soil if you want to check how moist it is under the surface. During the height of summer, water should be applied at a rate of 2 domestic buckets full (or 20 litres of water) every other day. This figure is the aim to reach during the height of summer and can be gradually increased to this in the spring and decreased before ceasing watering in the autumn.

3.8 It's best not to water every day, but to let the ground dry out a little bit, encouraging roots to spread out in search of water. If a drought is on the horizon, however, consider beginning to water before things get dry.

3.9 In autumn and winter, watering isn't generally necessary, unless we have an unseasonally warm and dry period.

3.10 Watering is advised for the first 2 summers after planting, further to this the tree should be able to access water from the surrounding soil.

3.11 Use bark mulch at the base of the tree to help retain water, prevent weed growth and also give you an indication of where you need to water.

3.12 Be mindful that newly planted trees do need watering, even if it has been raining! Rain is useful in slowing up the volume of water needed by a newly planted tree, as it is often cooler during such periods, however it is the root-ball of the tree that needs watering and often rainfall will not fall this close to the base of the tree, due to the width of the canopy

3.13 Ensure that water is draining well away after 10 minutes of application of water.

2-3 years after planting

3.14 After the first year, enough roots may have grown into the soil to allow the plant to drink up enough to support itself, but as a precautionary measure carry on watering during dry spells. Monitor the plants to help you decide whether to water. If they begin to look at all floppy, drench them. Yellowing, dropping leaves, on the other hand, can indicate over watering (but not always).

3.15 You can water further away from the stem during this time, as the root zone will have widened out. Watering further away will also encourage roots to spread out.

Peak watering times

3.16 Plants need most water when they are in active growth. Deciduous trees which lose their leaves in autumn, are in this state in spring and summer.

3.17 It's important that trees don't dry out completely, at any time of year.

3.18 Watering in the early morning or in the evening is most efficient.

Note: The original of this drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.
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