

BARN LANDSCAPING

PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS & POST PLANTING MAINTENANCE FOR LANDSCAPE SCHEME AT PROPOSED HOLIDAY LETS, SEAS END ROAD, MOULTON LOOSEGATE, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

Introduction

This submission has been prepared on behalf of D.Brown Builders Ltd to satisfy Condition 7 of planning consent H13-0618-10. This document should be read in conjunction with the Landscape Master Plan (Drawing No. DBB/12/01) and the Courtyard Planting Plan (Drawing No. DBB/12/02).

General Planting Specification.

All Woodland planting to follow the recommendations of the Forestry Commission Practice Note 8. All tree and shrub planting to be certified as native British stock. All planting stock should comply with the Horticultural Trades Association National Plant Specification (N.P.S.). All planting preparation, planting, handling and maintenance should be in accordance with CPSE Code for handling and establishing plants. All trees and shrubs to comply with BS 3936 Part 1:1992, planted to BS 4043:1989 & BS 4428:1989. All tree, shrub and hedgerow planting to be kept weed free using 1 m wide proprietary polypropylene mulch mat pegged into position. All planted areas (except for the courtyard) to be protected from rabbit damage using wire netting fixed to the outside face of the post & rail fencing, buried 150 mm below ground level and finishing a minimum of 900 mm above.

All planting to be set out on site as directed by the project landscape architect.

Each standard tree is to be tied and staked securely into position. Stakes to be 60-75 mm diameter peeled and pointed softwood driven in diagonally. Each to finish no higher than 600 mm above finished ground level. Each tree tied using one number 15 inch (37.5 cm) long by 7/8 of an inch wide Supersoft tree tie or similar approved. Larger standard trees may be secured using a pair of stakes set 500mm apart with a soft wood bar complete with a tree pad and tie.

Hedgerow Planting.

Native hedgerow planting to be notch planted at 450 mm centres in 2No. staggered rows 250 mm apart. Blackthorn to be planted in groups of not less than 5. Mix for hedgerows to be generally 20% blackthorn. The short infill hedgerow in front of the builder's yard to be solely blackthorn.

Orchard Planting.

All top fruit trees to be planted as standards; staked, tied and mulched as per Woodland Specification. Each tree to be fitted with a proprietary spiral strimmer/rabbit guard (colour brown). All tree pits to be backfilled with one part organic compost to two parts topsoil.

Courtyard Planting

Planting beds to be backfilled with a good quality silt loam with a good organic content, free of weeds, stones and builder's rubble.

All climbing shrubs to be supported using wires and vine eyes fixed into mortar joints at 450mm horizontal centres, tied with twine of proprietary plastic clips. The climbing rose to be planted 450 mm away from the face of the wall.

Lavender and box hedges to be planted at 300mm (12 inch) centres.

All planting beds to be mulched with a 50mm depth of bark chippings.

All planting to be carried out after the construction of the barns and vehicular access is complete.

Meadow Mix

A meandering 4 to 6 meter wide belt around the perimeter of the large field will be seeded with EM2 *Standard General-Purpose Meadow Mix* by Emorsgate Seeds sown at a rate of 2-4 g per metre squared. This will create a large swathe of wildflower meadow which will have less intense maintenance than the larger central area which will be planted with EG22 *Wear Tolerant Turf Grass Mixture*.

Both mixes will be sown into bare soil cleared of all vegetation and annual weeds. Please refer to the supplier's Advice Note 3 *Site Preparation*. The '*Stale seedbed technique*' is to be used. Seeding will be carried out between March and April directly into the open ground. It will be sown by hand or seed fiddle in transverse directions.

Subsequent maintenance and aftercare will be in accordance with the supplier's Advice Note 4 *Meadows & Grassland*.

EM2 and EG22 mixes to be supplied by Emorsgate Seeds Ltd, Lynn Road, Tilney All Saints, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 4RT. Telephone number 01553 829028.

Maintenance & Aftercare

This section will endeavour to provide brief guidance on post-planting maintenance for all planting as specifically required by Condition 7 of planning consent H13-0618-10. It is not intended as a comprehensive management plan as that has not requested. It will, where appropriate, make reference to guidance and advice provided by relevant suppliers of plant material.

The maintenance operations proposed are intended as a guide for the first five years of the scheme. After this establishment phase it would be appropriate to review the success of the initial scheme and consider the need for a new management approach. This may identify the need for additional planting which may be necessary to improve age and structural diversity of the site.

The detailed planting proposals have been prepared with reference to the original proposals and the management objectives contained therein, namely:

To enhance the landscape value of the site

Improve nature conservation

Create new wildlife habitats and enhance biodiversity

Provide an attractive setting for the holiday units

Provide shelter and screening for buildings and parking

This will be achieved by the varied proposals which aim to create structure planting and wildlife corridors by the use of native hedgerows. Other habitats will include a broadleaf spinney to the north of the site, parkland and orchard planting. The meadow mix has been chosen to provide a wildflower rich grass sward suitable for improved loam soil which will be maintained as a summer meadow with mown paths.

To ensure the success of the initial planting and seeding it will be carried out taking various measures to reduce weed competition, pest and vermin damage. This in turn will encourage vigorous and healthy growth. These measures include mulch matting in preference to herbicides; rabbit proof fencing and specimen tree guards. Natural regeneration of the field layer will be allowed between the rows of mulch matting. This growth will help soften the impact of the mulch matting within the landscape. Tall ruderal species and brambles may need to be removed as and when they appear.

The programme of maintenance and aftercare will be intensive for the first three years during the establishment phase. Beating up (the assessment of tree and shrub losses) will be carried out after the first year and also for years two and three. Scattered losses of up to 20% of transplants would be acceptable. However, concentrated losses or losses greater than this will require replanting. Any losses of light standard specimen trees during years one to three will require an identical replacement.

Trees and shrubs can be pruned in the dormant season to remove dead, dying or diseased wood and suckers to help promote healthy growth and a natural shape. Please note that feathered trees are not to be pruned. The light thinning out or coppicing may be appropriate after year 4.

Tree ties and stakes should be inspected in spring, summer, autumn and winter and additionally after strong winds and severe gales. Stakes should be checked for firmness and all tree ties should be adjusted accordingly to prevent chafing of the stem. Ideally all stakes and ties should be carefully removed at the end of the second season.

The mulch matting and pins can be removed from within the woodland planting areas after year 4 to enable the development of both a field and ground layer beneath a higher tree canopy and under story shrub level.

Maintenance and management of the new hedgerow planting will be in accordance with the South Holland District Council guidance note *Development and Hedgerow Planting-Maintenance*.

Maintenance and management of the meadow grass will be in strict accordance with the Emorsgate Seeds advisory notes.

Areas planted with daffodil bulbs are not to be cut back until six weeks after they have flowered and died back.

Litter collection will be on a weekly basis. Collected items will be sorted for appropriate recycling/disposal.

All tree, shrub and hedgerow planting will be watered during extended periods of drought.

Any disease or infestation of plant material should be reported immediately to the landscape architect.

Prepared by
Jonathan Biggadike
Chartered Landscape Architect
6 Scoldhall Lane
Surfleet
Spalding
Lincs
PE11 4 BJ

Tel: (017750 680595
E-mail: jonathan@jbiggadike4.wanadoo.co.uk

5th July 2012.