Notes on the Establishment of Proposed Planting & Post Planting Maintenance for residential development at Moulton Eaugate, Moulton Chapel, Lincs, PE12 0XJ.

Mr & Mrs Ravell July 2022.

Introduction.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the proposed Planting Plan (Drg no. RAV/22/01), the accompanying Planting Schedule and Landscape & Biodiversity Enhancements document. These 4 documents form the submission to discharge the landscape conditions relating to planning consent H13-1269-21. Note that Condition 5 specifically requires details of post-planting maintenance.

Management Objectives & Regimes

The following sections provide a description and specific management objectives for each landscape component along with the annual and occasional management regimes required. This section should be cross-referenced with the **Schedule of Management Operations** included in the Appendices.

1.0 Existing/Mature Trees

Description – This avenue of trees (T1-14) is located on the northern site boundary, beside a dyke, some with canopies extending into the development site. The reminder of the plantation is a relatively open mixture of juvenile trees and understorey shrubs, with a thick ground layer of ivy. The boundary is planted with non-native evergreen Lonicera which effectively forms a continuous hedge.

Management Objectives

The management objectives for retained trees are to: Maintain the trees in as healthy and attractive condition, to ensure continuity in tree cover and their contribution to the landscape structure, biodiversity, and screening/amenity value of the site; and ensure that trees are healthy and safe, particularly in relation to the farm access, new dwelling, and private garden.

Develop a naturalistic Woodland Garden at the south end of the curtilage with informal paths and an improved ground layer with ferns and spring bulbs. Additional features for wildlife include a concentration of both bird and bat boxes as well as log piles for invertebrates.

Annual Works

i) Visual Inspection: Trees should be regularly visually checked for the presence of any diseased or rotten wood; fungal or other infections/disease; and stability.

ii) Annual Arboricultural Assessment: In any event, an Arboricultural Assessment should be undertaken once annually by a qualified arboriculturist inspecting the condition of existing trees including any cause of increased risk to people or property. Furthermore, during the Arboricultural Assessment, the health of the trees shall be monitored, and any works required for health and safety or to promote the health and sustainability of existing trees shall be identified, scheduled and actioned at a suitable time of year following application and granting of any necessary consents required by the LPA.

2.0 Proposed Specimen Trees

Description - New tree planting is incorporated to provide landscape structure, improve biodiversity, screening and amenity value. The tree planting will also provide a soft foil to the new buildings.

Management Objectives

The management objectives for new tree planting are to: Ensure the satisfactory establishment and growth of new tree planting typical of the respective species; Promote conditions so that trees are healthy and safe; and Ensure continuity of the design approach and amenity value of tree planting.

Annual Works

i) General tree maintenance during establishment: Check all trees for firmness and stability in the ground. Check and adjust tree ties, replacing if necessary. Top up bark mulch levels where necessary around the base of new trees, using the same or similar product to that previously supplied to maintain an approximate depth of 50mm to reduce competition from weeds and retain soil moisture. Where trees are in grass areas, remove weed growth by hand and retain a circle of bark mulch (approximate radius of 500mm) to aid mowing and prevent damage to the main stem. All trees shall be fertilised using a suitable and approved liquid feed (N10:P15: K10) at a rate of 60g/m² during early May and again in late September. Prune back any diseased or rotten wood (including the removal of main stems and limbs) back to sound wood as required. Remove all cut material from site.

ii) Watering trees: Water trees during dry periods (being any period without substantial rainfall for 14 days or more), until trees are successfully established. Water at a rate of 25 litres per tree position into watering tubes, if installed. Apply water at a frequency of once per fortnight from April to the end of September (to a maximum of 15 visits). Increase watering frequency during any continuous hot weather lasting more than 7 days. The frequency of these visits will vary according to climatic conditions. Where restrictions are placed on the use of water, sources and costs of obtaining second class water shall be investigated. Any tree failures or excessive die back from drought stress will be made good.

Occasional Works

i) Checking and removal of tree stakes and ties: Review the need for tree stakes and ties annually for up to 4 years. Remove stakes and ties between 3 to 4 years after planting, but be sure trees are firm and stable. Stakes and ties removed shall be cut at ground level, below lowest grass height (to prevent snagging mower blades) or pulled from the ground and the post holes filled with suitable topsoil. If the tree is found to be weak or unstable after the stakes have been removed, then check the base of the tree for signs of rot. If rotten or unlikely to stabilise, remove the tree and replace. If the tree is free from rot or other cause of its instability, then reinstate a tree support, using 100mm diameter chestnut stake and single tie. The stake should be pushed into the ground with a post rammer, to a depth of 600mm and cut to one third the height of the tree. Fix the tree stem with a rubber tie and spacing device attached to at a point no more than 25-35mm below the top of the post, to prevent chaffing against the post in high winds. Remove old posts and ties and arisings and dispose off site.

ii) Long-term tree surgery works: After 10-20 years of maintenance as above (or earlier if required), newly planted trees will reach semi-maturity and may need corrective surgery. Trees should become subject to the annual Arboricultural Assessment and any works recommended shall be carried out in accordance with previous recommendations.

iii)Tree replacement and enhancement of tree cover: Any tree that dies or is necessarily felled, but which is not removed as part of a programme of tree removals, shall be replaced with a tree of appropriate species and stock size. Such replacement shall be with a tree of either the same or similar species as those existing. The option for replacing with a different species is to allow some flexibility avoiding problems encountered with 'Same Species Disease' and to ensure sustainable tree cover in the interests of visual amenity. Possible damage to drainage/services and adjoining building foundations must be considered before choosing a replacement tree species and location. Where alternative species are being considered, then the species should be suitable to the character of the location and adjoining trees. Once annually the site shall be considered for the need for any strategic replacement or enhancement planting, to broaden the age diversity of trees and tree groups, in the interests of the long-term sustainability of strategically important vegetation. Trees should be a minimum stock size of standards (10-12cm girth) and implemented and maintained in accordance with good horticultural practice. Replacement and enhancement planting are best undertaken during the planting season (November through to March inclusive).

3.0 Proposed Ornamental Shrubs/Groundcover

Description – The limited shrub planting is incorporated to provide landscape structure, amenity value and improve biodiversity. This planting will also provide a soft foil to the principal elevation of the new dwelling and the adjacent hard surfaces/paving. This planting is chosen as a low maintenance option which is attractive particularly attractive to bees.

Management Objectives

The management objectives for new shrub and groundcover planting are to: Ensure the satisfactory establishment and growth of new ornamental planting; Maintain planting in a healthy and attractive condition and ensure continuity of the design approach and amenity value of planting.

Annual Works

i) Weeding: Remove all weed growth by hand as necessary to ensure weed free and tidy planting areas. Eight visits are required per growing season. Visits should occur approximately monthly in the growing season, subject to a weather conditions from April to October, with an extra visit outside of the growing season in December or January to inspect the condition of the beds. Take great care not to disturb sheet or bark mulch; top up bark mulch levels where necessary for the first 3 years, using the same or similar product to that previously supplied. Note: For planting using a nonbiodegradable weed suppressant membrane, reduce visits to 4 times per year in the growing season. Where a biodegradable weed suppressant fabric has been used, this will have disappeared within the establishment phase. Weeding frequency should therefore be varied according to the site and density of vegetation cover and in any event, should be between 4 and 8 i.e. whatever is required to achieve a weed free scheme. All weeds shall be removed from the site.

ii) Spot Herbicides: Where required, persistent perennial weeds can be controlled using herbicide. For planting beds containing herbaceous plants and shrubs, apply a suitable folia-acting systemic translocated herbicide using a weed wiper device to avoid killing wanted plants. The use of herbicides should only be made following a risk assessment to consider potential effects on the environment and on human health, but also spray drift killing the wrong plants. The purchase, transport and storage of herbicides are regulated by Part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985, Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997; the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; the COSHH Regulations, the product COSHH sheet and EC Directive 91/414/EEC (the "Authorization Directive") and the Plant Protection Products Regulations 1995 as amended by the Plant Protection Products (Basic Conditions) Regulations 1997. All herbicides must have an appropriate full or "off-label" approval for use in a relevant situation. Refer to the Pesticide Safety Directive, for which the website is given here for your assistance: www.pesticides.gov.uk. All pesticides shall be applied in suitable calm weather conditions; allow for repeat spraying as required to achieve a complete kill. Apply herbicide as required and at intervals to ensure no regeneration of weed, usually equating to four sprays per year during the growing season at 6-week intervals, from late April onwards. The timing of visits may vary according to weather conditions. Extreme care must be taken to avoid damage to surrounding plants and grass, and to avoid spray drift. Any damage resulting from incorrect usage, spillage, and spray drift, to be rectified immediately.

iii) General planting maintenance: At each visit firm in and straighten any loose plants. Top up bark mulch levels where necessary for the first 3 years, using the same or similar product to that previously supplied to maintain an approximate depth of 50mm to reduce competition from weeds and retain soil moisture. All shrubs shall be fertilised using an approved liquid feed (N10:P15:K10) at a rate of 60g/m² during early May and late September.

iv) Pruning of ornamental planting: Prune back shrubs in the period between October to March in accordance with sound horticultural practices, pruning back to a node, shoot or bud; prune out dead, leggy and broken branches, without damage to the natural habit or appearance of plant without box clipping or rounding off plants. Prune out crossover branches, invasive suckers, dead wood, damaged stems, any spindly growths and any epicormic growth that will weaken the plant. Prune back Rosaceous and quick and leggy growing plants much harder than other species, but prune back by no more than 30% in any one-year. Cut back Lavender after flowering. In terms of herbaceous plants cut

back all deciduous grasses in spring by removing dead stems before new growth starts to appear.

v) Watering: Water both shrubs and specimens during dry periods (being any period without substantial rainfall for 14 days or more). Water all shrubs to field capacity (minimum 10 litres per m^2) and water all large specimens at 10 litres each. Apply water at a frequency of up to 2 times per week from April to the end of September (to a maximum of 15 visits in any one calendar year) as required during any continuous hot weather lasting more than 7 days. The frequency of these visits shall be dependent upon an assessment of climatic conditions. Where restrictions are placed on the use of water, sources and costs of obtaining second class water shall be investigated. Any plant failures or excessive die back from drought stress shall be made good.

Occasional Works

Replacement and enhancement planting: Cut back any shrubs and herbaceous plants where they have become old, misshapen, leggy or they have lost their vigour. Also, prevent encroachment onto paving or parking areas. Specimens, shrubs or herbaceous plants that fail to show growth or develop full foliage (including plants damaged during management operations), where such plant failure leaves a gap in the foliage not filled by adjacent plants, shall be replaced with stock of the size, species and quality originally specified. Include any plants that are destroyed by vandalism, theft or similar cause. Specimens, shrubs or herbaceous plants so replaced shall be the same as those specified, previously supplied and approved. Nursery stock shall be container grown and shall be a minimum stock size of a 1L pot. Planting should be implemented and maintained in accordance with good horticultural practice. Include any works necessary to enable planting to be properly carried out i.e. removal and disposal of dead material off site and for topping up/replacement of bark mulch. Once annually the site shall be considered for the need for any strategic replacement or enhancement planting, to broaden the age class of vegetation in the interests of the long-term sustainability of strategically important vegetation.

4.0 Proposed Native Hedgerows

Description - New mixed native hedgerows (A-E) are proposed to provide enclosure and act as a leafy back drop to specimen tree planting. The single row planting to the proposed woodland garden (C & D) will be encouraged to freeform to create a varied woodland edge. New hedgerows will consist of a mix of native species providing optimum value to wildlife, providing both shelter and food.

Management Objectives - The management objectives for new hedgerow planting is to: Ensure the satisfactory establishment and growth of new hedgerow planting with specified heights (see below), form and density according to species; Maintain planting in a healthy and attractive condition of value to wildlife.

The following hedge heights are recommended: Hedges B & E - 1.5-1.8; A, C & D 2.5- 3m.

Annual Works

i) Weeding and general maintenance: Remove all weed growth by hand as necessary to ensure weed free and tidy planting areas. Seven visits are required per growing season. Visits should occur approximately monthly in the growing season, subject to weather

conditions from April to October, with an extra visit outside of the growing season in December or January to inspect the condition of the beds. Take great care not to disturb sheet or bark mulch; top up bark mulch levels where necessary for the first 3 years, using the same or similar product to that previously supplied to maintain an approximate depth of 50mm to reduce competition from weeds and retain soil moisture. Note: For planting using a non-biodegradable weed suppressant membrane, reduce visits to 4 times per year in the growing season. Where a biodegradable weed suppressant fabric has been used, this will have disappeared within the establishment phase. Weeding frequency should therefore be varied according to the site and density of vegetation cover and in any event, should be between 4 and 8 i.e. whatever is required to achieve a weed free scheme. All weeds shall be removed from the site.

ii) Cutting / trimming of hedges: Cut native hedgerow is no more than once a year, outside the bird nesting season. Cut larger stems, and prune any diseased rotten wood back to sound wood. Remove all cut material from site.

iii) Watering of hedgerows: Water hedges during dry periods (being any period without substantial rainfall for 14 days or more). Water shrubs to field capacity (minimum 10 litres per m^2) applying water in the morning or early evening to reduce evaporation. Apply at a frequency of up to 2 times per week from April to the end of September (to a maximum of 20 visits in any one calendar year) as required during any continuous hot weather lasting more than 7 days. The frequency of these visits will depend on an assessment of climatic conditions. Where restrictions are placed on the use of water, sources and costs of obtaining second class water shall be investigated. Any transplant/tree failures or excessive die back from drought stress shall be made good.

Occasional Works

Gapping up and replacement of hedgerows: Remove failed plants and replace with a plant of the same species, and appropriate size. Gap up areas of less dense growth with additional plants as required planted in a single row to achieve a continuous hedge alignment, taking due allowance for the natural growth and regeneration of cut material. Include any works necessary to enable planting to be properly carried out i.e. removal and disposal of dead material off site and for topping up/replacement of bark mulch.

5.0 Proposed Wildflower Meadow Strip

Description - The 9m IDB easement Beside the steep sided drain will be seeded to create an area of wildflower grassland. The grassland will incorporate a diversity of wildflower and grass species (appropriate to the microclimate and soil type) to benefit a variety of species including birds, bats and invertebrates. To maximise biodiversity the area will cut once annually. The specified seed mix is EN1 *Special Nectar & Pollen mix* by Emorsgate. Additional suppliers' trade literature is included in the appendices.

Management Objectives

The management objectives for wildflower grassland areas will be to: To ensure the satisfactory establishment of the grass sward; and to maintain a healthy and biodiverse sward suitable for a range of wildlife. This will provide a transition between the small woodland garden, the linear water course on the open countryside beyond.

Annual Works

i) Cutting of wildflower areas: Meadow grass and wildflower areas shall be cut only once a year to a height of 100mm in late August. To ensure that soil fertility is reduced, rake up the arisings immediately, or in hot dry weather, they can be left in situ for a maximum of 2 days to set seed before raking. In a warm and wet year, a second cut may be required and if so this should be carried out either in October or March as appropriate. The timing of all cutting operations should take into consideration any protected species (such as reptiles) that may be present. There may be an additional requirement for monitoring or a watching brief by a qualified ecologist to ensure that no protected species are present. Once cut and raked up, all arisings shall be collected and removed off site as agreed.

ii) General care: Hand weed pernicious, ruderal and aggressive or invasive weeds to maintain the visual amenity of the area. Do not use herbicide or fertilise.

Occasional Works

Replacement of failed wildflower grassland areas: Meadow grass and wildflower sward that is species poor shall be enhanced. In areas of low fertility, closely strimming or mow the existing sward and remove all cuttings in August. Rake or scarify to disturb the ground and overseed with a suitable mix of wildflowers selected to the microclimatic and soil conditions and repeatedly tread over the area. After sowing mow the grass to a height of 60mm in height to allow light and air to the emerging seedlings for a full growing season. In areas where soil fertility is too high or the sward has failed the area will require re-cultivating and re-seeding. Remove dead material and re-cultivate the topsoil to a depth of 100mm. Small areas may be reseeded following the autumn cut by spreading the cut arisings onto the bare soil to set seed. For more wholesale degradation, cultivate the affected area until a fine, level tilth is achieved, removing stones greater than 20mm diameter. Do not fertilise or herbicide. Evenly seed with an appropriate seed mix (80% grasses: 20% wildflowers) selected to the microclimatic and soil conditions at the specified rate. Carefully rake in thoroughly to ensure that the seed is a few millimetres below the surface and roll using a very light roller or a cylinder mower, ensuring the surface is even and level. Water thoroughly and maintain the soil in a moist condition, removing stones, weeding and mowing until the grass is established.

6.0 Proposed Amenity Grass & Bulbs

Description - Areas of cultivated amenity grass with bulbs are incorporated into the lawns around the dwelling and in the elliptical island bed. The mowing frequency will be related to the grass mix and function of the area (please refer to advice note in the appendices). Due to the presence of bulbs these grass areas will generally be subject to a lower frequency cutting regime for aesthetic reasons, the height of the sward can be varied according to amenity and to ensure nature conservation benefits.

Management Objectives

The management objectives for amenity grass areas will be to: To ensure the satisfactory establishment of the low maintenance grass sward and bulbs; and to maintain healthy and suitable grass areas, appropriate to function and use.

Annual Works

i) Mowing and edging: Amenity grass areas shall be mown in order to maintain the visual amenity of the area. Mowing frequency and height shall be adjusted the function and use of each area. All grass shall be mown initially with a rotary mower once during the spring (mid-March), to a height of 50mm and thereafter using a cylinder mower, collecting the arisings each time, and removing off site. Delay cutting of grass areas containing bulbs, (including a 150mm margin) until late June once bulbs have finished flowering and the leaves have wilted after deadheading bulbs in May. Soft edges between grass areas and planting beds shall be kept free from grass by cutting the grass with a 'half-moon' edging tool to ensure a neat, clean-cut finish once per year at the start of the growing season. The edge of paving and shrub beds shall be kept free of grass using strimmers or edge clippers once per month during the growing season.

ii) General lawn care: the application of an approved turf fertilizer, selective weed killer and moss retardant in May and September is optional. If chosen it should be applied strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, Control of Pesticide Regulations, COSHH Regulations and product COSHH sheet in suitable weather conditions. Otherwise, amenity grass areas shall be weeded either by hand or (especially persistent weeds) herbicide treated in order to maintain the visual amenity of the area.

iii) Watering amenity grass areas: During the first 3 years following initial seeding or following re-seeding operations, water amenity grass areas during periods of extreme drought (2 or more weeks without substantial rainfall) to a maximum of 15 occasions. After establishment continue to water only if deemed to be required. To aid the natural establishment of grass areas, only water where unavoidable, where the grass is going brown and appears to be suffering from severe drought stress. When watering, water to field capacity (minimum 20L/m2) in the morning or in the evening to reduce water evaporation, when the water is more likely to reach the roots. The frequency of watering will be dependent upon climatic conditions. Where restrictions are placed on the use of water, sources and costs of obtaining second class water shall be investigated.

Occasional Works

Replacement of failed turf: Small areas of dead, dying or failing grass and bulbs shall initially be made good through changes to the mowing regime or through temporary protection of high wear areas using temporary fencing or similar. Larger areas of degradation may require re-cultivating and reseeding. Cut out sections of distressed and failing or dead areas of turf using a suitable turf-stripping machine or for small areas by hand. Supply and lay new turf of a suitable standard and lay flush with existing sward, filling any cracks and top dressing with a 70:30 ratio mix of sand and screened topsoil. This sand/soil mix shall also contain grass seed of the same or similar species to the turf. For more wholesale degradation of the turf sward, the entire area will require to be re-seeded. Cultivate or power-harrow the affected area until a fine tilth is achieved (removing stones greater than 20mm) and grade until level with adjoining areas. Apply a pre-seeding fertilizer at a rate of 70g/m² and seed with a general amenity seed mix, raking until the seed is a few millimetres below the surface. Water thoroughly and maintain the soil in a moist condition, removing stones, weeding and mowing until the grass is established.

INTEGRATED PEST (WEED, INSECT, AND DISEASE) MANAGMENT

"Integrated Pest Management, or IPM, is an approach to pest control [weeds, insects, and diseases] that uses regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed, and employs physical, mechanical, cultural, and biological tactics to keep pest numbers low enough to prevent intolerable damage or annoyance. Least-toxic chemical controls are used as a last resort."

As well as the benefits to biodiversity there are significant cost savings to be gained by this approach. General IPM Steps and Methods IPM Steps Include:

1) Prevention first: plant vigorous, pest-resistant, site-adapted varieties. Plan cultural practices to minimize pests (watering, mulching, pruning, etc.).

2) Identify/know the pest (weed, etc.) life cycle.

3) Set action thresholds – tolerate some damage.

4) Monitor regularly (keep records of monitoring).

5) When pests exceed threshold, use control method with the least non-target impact. (Try cultural, physical, or biological methods first. Avoid using pesticides if practicable. Any pesticides used must be non-residual/biodegradable. As a last resort, use spot applications of least toxic chemical.) Only treat when the pest is most vulnerable and its natural enemies are in their least susceptible life stage.

6) Keep records of control methods and results, evaluate, and adapt cultural practices.

7) Replace problem plants/designs with more pest, disease, and weed-resistant varieties.

Integrated Pest Management techniques for controlling weeds include mulching, pulling, allowing plantings to grow densely and shade ground, heat and hot water controls. As a preventative measure control all weeds before they go to seed. If herbicides must be used, choose the least toxic available and spot apply on weeds. **The use of pre-emergent herbicides is to be discouraged** – maintaining a thick mulch layer combined with mechanical weeding is as effective.

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Appendices

SOFT LANDSCAPE SPECIFICATION

1.General Matters

All works, materials and operations will be in accordance with relevant legislation, British Standards, Regulations (including the CDM Regulations) and Codes of Practice.

All works shall be carried out in accordance with BS4428, Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations. Where the specification below contradicts forms of any British Standards, the specification below shall take precedence.

2. Herbicides and Pesticides

a. Herbicides and Pesticides shall be listed in the current Agricultural Chemical Approval Scheme, approved under the Control of Pesticide Regulation 1986 treated. All applications of herbicide shall be undertaken in strict accordance with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations and be applied in accordance with current legislation (FEPA) by licensed operators. Rates shall be as recommended by the manufacturer.

b. The estate must take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, creatures and to safeguard the environment. Care must be taken not to damage shrubs, trees, bulbs, grass surfaces or other planted material, whether owned by the Employer, or other parties and damage caused shall be made good at the Contractor's expense. To these ends maximum precautions must be taken to obtain accurate application of herbicides during suitable weather conditions.

3. **Ground Preparations, Topsoil**

a. Imported topsoil – Topsoil whether retained or imported shall comply with BS3882.1994.

b. Subsoil treatment – Prior to spreading topsoil, the subsoil shall be cleared of all rubbish, stones, bricks, concrete and other foreign matter. The subsoil shall then be thoroughly cultivated so that it is loose and free draining to a depth of 300 mm.

c. Finished levels of topsoil in beds after settlement shall be 50 mm below paving level to allow for mulch and 150 mm below the damp proof course level of any adjoining buildings. Turf shall be 50 mm above adjoining pavements, inspection covers and kerbs.

4. **Plant Material**

Plant material shall be good quality, well-shaped and with an adequate root system in compliance with the relevant British Standards BS3936 and BS4043.

5. **Handling of Plant Material**

To be in accordance with the Plant Handling Code by HTA and BS4043 for root balled trees. Adequate protection shall be given to all trees and plants to preclude failure due to lack of moisture of exposure during temporary storage on site. Bare root plants must be heeled in on the day of arrival and no bare roots shall be exposed at any time. All plants be moist at the time of planting.

6. **Planting, Staking Protection**

All work shall be carried out in accordance with BS4428 and BS5236 by qualified or experienced staff in accordance with recognised good horticultural practice.

7. **Trees**

a. Tree planting shall be done before shrub planting commences.

b. Tree pits shall have a width 300 mm greater than the width of the root ball and a depth of at least 200 mm greater than the root ball depth. Bare root tree pits shall be 600 mm cube for standard. The topsoil excavated shall be left alongside the pits for re-use. Any subsoil arising from pit excavations shall be removed off site. Sides of pits shall be roughened and the bottom loosened to a depth of 150 mm.

c. Staking – Stakes to be peeled, 75 mm diameter pointed with no snags or projections as per BS4428. All trees below 10 cm girth shall be single staked, driven in the ground to 900 mm below finished levels, tops to be just below the canopy. Ties to be Rainbow type or similar approved product with a buffer.

d. Trees above 10 cm girth shall be double staked with 50 – 75 mm diameter staked driven vertically into the bottom of the pit close to either side of the root ball to a depth of at least 900 mm below finished level. The tops of the stakes shall be 150 mm below the canopy. Each tree shall be securely fixed to the stakes with two reinforced 2.5 cm wide rubber or Hessian tree tie loops, fixed to the stakes with galvanised clout nails. Along roads the stakes shall be positioned parallel to the kerbs.

8. **Mulch**

All planted areas and 1 m2 around the stem of all trees in grass shall be mulched with a 50 mm layer of graded bark (15 – 50 mm diameter). Bark should be capable of good stability and be subjected to wind blow. Mulch shall be applied after watering. The final level after soil settlement, planting and mulching shall be even with adjacent kerbs and paved surfaces and 50 mm above adjacent lawns.