INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This landscape specification provides a written framework for the establishment, management and maintenance of soft landscape features across the site.

The maintenance and management works set out within this document are principally concerned with the establishment phase (i.e. 1-5 years) of the soft landscape. There is however consideration for measures to ensure the soft landscape matures successfully in perpetuity. It is suggested that this document should be reviewed at five yearly intervals to ensure management aims are still required and relevant to the site.

AIMS

The overall aims of this specification are as follows:

- Present an attractive and safe environment for residents, their visitors, the wider public, and maintenance operatives;
- Provide and maintain access for residents, their visitors, the wider public, and maintenance operatives;
- Ensure the existing site features are appropriately and cost effectively managed so that hard and soft landscape areas are fit for purpose and do not pose a future health and safety concern;
- Ensure new soft landscape establishes successfully;
- Carry out landscape management and maintenance work in accordance with best practice guidelines using sustainable techniques and materials; and
- To retain and enhance the value of noteworthy ecological features through the sensitive undertaking of works to ensure their benefits are maximised

CODES OF PRACTICE & RECOMMENDATIONS

Further to the output provided by New Enclosure, consideration is to be given to the output of other project team consultants (e.g. architect, ecologist, arboriculturalist, etc.), the Local Planning Authority, and relevant statutory and non-statutory guidance, including the British Standards noted below. Discrepancies (or similar) are to be reported to New Enclosure (and where relevant the client, project team, and Local Planning Authority) in writing to seek clarification and/or resolution before proceeding. See title block for contact details for New Enclosure

British Standards of relevance to this specification:

- Works to be carried out with consideration for the current version of 'BS4428 - Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces)'
- Plants (including trees) to be compatible with current versions of the 'BS3936 - Nursery Stock ...' series; turf to be to be compatible with current version of 'BS3969 - Recommendations for Turf for general purposes'
- Transplanting of trees to be undertaken with consideration for the current version of 'BS8545 - Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape'
- Operations involving topsoil to be compliant with the current version of 'BS3882 - Specification for topsoil'
- Operations involving subsoil to be compliant with the current version of 'BS8601 - Specification for subsoil and requirements for use'
- Operations involving existing trees are to be undertaken with consideration for the current versions of 'BS5837 - Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction', and 'BS3998 - Tree work'
- Maintenance to be carried out with consideration for the current versions of the 'BS7370 - Grounds maintenance ...' series

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

HORTICULTURAL PEAT

Horticultural peat is not to be used as mulch, or as part of a compost / organic matter. Likewise, nursery plant stock should not be potted in materials containing peat.

RECYCLED & LOCALLY SOURCED MATERIALS

Wherever possible / appropriate recycled and locally sourced materials should be used e.g. bark mulch, top soils, etc.

PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES

A minimal intervention approach should be used in terms of weed control with hand weeding preferred. Prior approval is required prior to use beyond very minimal spot treatments.

HABITAT & TREES

Works that have the potential to disturb habitat are to be undertaken within the appropriate season or under the supervision of an ecologist, or by following an approved ecological method statement. Similarly works involving trees require prior approval (beyond the implementation and maintenance directions within) and are to be supervised and undertaken by a suitably qualified arboriculturalist.

IMPLEMENTATION

SOIL

General preparation:

- Remove detritus (for example but not limited to; sticks, weeds, pieces of brick, concrete, glass, wire, canes, ties, prunings, wrapping materials, rubbish, stones >25mm)
- Protect soil from migration, compaction, and contamination
- If imported top soil is required, either order as $1m^3$ bags, or storage heaps (heaps to be a maximum of 1.5m high loosely formed from the side only, nothing to be placed on or to pass over storage heap, protective fencing and cover as required to prevent migration, compaction, and contamination, ensure sufficient aeration to avoid hypoxic/anoxic conditions)
- Do not mix topsoil and subsoil
- Grading of soils to be done in dry conditions

Preparation of subsoil:

- If works to subsoil is required in landscaped areas (other than for tree planting outside of RPAs) seek prior approval from New Enclosure in writing prior to proceeding. Under no circumstances shall subsoil be prepared / worked with within RPAs.
- When working with subsoil, in dry conditions break up and loosen to a depth that allows for adequate drainage. Do not prepare in wet conditions.

Preparation of topsoil:
- Notify New Enclosure in writing prior to proceeding with topsoil preparation within RPAs. Generally speaking, in RPAs, only prepare topsoil to a maximum depth of 100mm. Build up of topsoil within RPAs not to exceed 100mm. Hand tools only.
- Compliance with British Standard is required within and outside of RPAs
- Topsoil shall be kept weed free by hand or if absolutely necessary by use of non-residual herbicide
- Break up hard/compacted ground to full depth in areas covered with turf/thick sward plough or rotavate to full depth of topsoil
- Loosen, aerate, and break up topsoil to fine tilth
- Ensure 350mm minimum topsoil depth, except for turfed/seeded areas which is to be 150mm; Low fertility topsoil for wildflower areas, remove top 150mm of existing topsoil prior to application of low fertility topsoil (except in RPAs where a maximum of 100mm of existing topsoil can be removed); incorporate PAS100 certified organic matter as required in planting areas (except in wildflower areas); organic fertiliser to be incorporated as required

PLANTING

General:
- If water supply is or is likely to be restricted, do not carry out planting until instructed. If planting has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering. Keep plants watered and in shade until planted.
- Timing of planting works: if soil and climatic conditions are suitable then: deciduous trees and shrubs - Late October to late March; conifers and evergreens - September/October or April/May; herbaceous plants (including marginals) - September/October or April/May; dried bulbs, corms, and tubers - September/October; green bulbs - after flowering in spring; wildflower plugs - Late August to mid November or March/April - aquatic plants: May/June or September/October; grass seed - March to October; wildflower seed - September/October or March/April; container plant stock - at any time if soil and climatic conditions are suitable
- Regarding plant stock, ensure consideration is given for the relevant British Standards
- Unless otherwise directed, planting areas to be mulched with 50mm settled depth medium grade bark mulch
- Do not use peat or products containing peat
- After planting, ensure stock is lightly firmed in around plants without damaging roots to same level as surrounding ground with gentle cambers and no hollows; water thoroughly (full depth of topsoil) and without damaging or displacing plants or soil

Trees:
- Tree pit to have horizontal bases and vertical sides to a depth that allows for top of rootball to be at ground level; base of tree pit to have slightly raised centre; scarify pit bottom and sides; excavated to minimum 600mm wider than rootball, bareroot stock, or container
- Backfill with subsoil up to ~400mm depth from ground surface, fill with topsoil up to ground level; add mycorrhizal treatment as per supplier instruction; create watering dish around tree
- Where relevant, follow arboricultural advice and supplier instructions for installation of e.g. root barriers
- 10 - 12cm girth trees are to be fitted with a perforated irrigation pipe around the root stock ~250mm below the surface
- Staking (general): drive at least 300mm into the bottom of the pit before planting; cut off stake 200mm above tree tie; secure tie to stake using galvanised nail
- Single staking for bareroot trees: positioned close to the tree on windward or upslope side at a 45˚ angle away from the tree or vertically; secure tree firmly to stake with rubber tree tie ~one third of the way up height of the clear stem
- Double staking for container and rootball trees: vertical uprights positioned either side of the tree and positioned perpendicular to prevailing wind direction; secure tree firmly to cross bar with rubber tree tie ~one third of the way up height of the clear stem

Shrubs, perennials, hedges, and whips:
- All excavation to be done by hand unless otherwise agreed in writing
- 150mm wider than full spread of roots and 75mm deeper than root system depth
- Slot planting is acceptable for whips where it has been possible to suitably prepare the soil as per the specification
- Whips to be protected with 600mm high x 150mm wide biodegradable shrub guards, with 2 pre-fitted releasable cable ties, supported by stake (35mm x 35 x 900) driven 300mm into base of pit; ensure that protection methods do not impede natural movement of shrubs or restrict growth

Grass and wildflower seeding:
- Grass seed to be Blue label certified varieties to EC purity and germination regulations, wildflower seed to be in accordance with Flora Locale´s ´Code of practice for collectors, growers and suppliers of native flora´
- Seed to be cast seed by hand (or machine if appropriate) at density in schedule; firm in with a roll to give good seed-soil contact; do not incorporate or cover seed with topsoil
- First cut to 50mm once growth reaches 75mm in height; see proceeding section for further information

MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

GENERAL

- Generally speaking, the landscape should be maintained to the standard required for its use/application as outlined in the introduction
- Keep records of maintenance visits inclusive of: date, time and duration of visit, operations carried out, equipment used, number of staff, issues encountered
- Consult with landscape, arboriculturalists, ecologists, and other related professions if concerns arise regarding any component of the landscape
- Please refer to the accompanying reports by the project arboriculturalist regarding suggested monitoring/inspection regime for trees
- Reinstate damage or disturbance to soil structure, planting, plant protection, grass, fencing, hard landscaping, structure or buildings to their original condition
- Control pests and invasive species
- Avoid disturbance to wildlife during maintenance
- Water plants (including trees), grass, and wildflower to full depth of topsoil as required upon inspection of topsoil moisture. All planting to be watered for at least for first two growing seasons
- Planting (inclusive of whips after ~3years) to be thinned / re-spaced in order that the plants have sufficient room to develop
- Appropriately dispose of arisings from maintenance. Either to licensed off site premises or utilise in the creation and maintenance of habitat piles in unobtrusive areas of the site.
- Replace plants that fail with the approved species. Plant condition is to be assessed at the end of each growing season. Plants that die, or are diseased, damaged, misshapen by dieback shall be

replaced during the planting season in the year the fault was identified.
- Ensure locally sourced materials are used wherever possible for e.g. mulches, organic fertiliser.
- Prune plants in accordance with good horticultural and arboricultural practice
- Ensure footways, signs, visibility splays, etc. are not obscured
- Planted and mulched areas are to be hand weeded. Avoid use of herbicide. If required then use only non-residual.
- Maintain mulch to a settled depth of 50-75mm
- Leave the maintenance works in a clean and tidy condition

FERTILISING

- Fertilise trees and plants annually in spring, as required, using a suitable slow release fertiliser
- Do not apply fertiliser to wildflower areas

MOWING

- Avoid damage to trees during mowing and general maintenance operations
- After the first cut, mow wildflower (denoted on plan with purple hatch) areas every 6-8 weeks in the first year until November; then mow once in autumn after seeds have dropped. Additional mowing may be undertaken in early spring and throughout summer as desired
- Ensure height of growth in visibility splays does not exceed 600mm
- Remove all arisings

TREES

- Maintain a weed free area around each tree to a minimum diameter of 1m, or the size of the original planting pit. Hand weeding within 300mm of trees. No mechanical tools
- Check, adjust and make good tree stakes and ties at every maintenance visit. Remove stakes once tree is established
- Check irrigation pipes, etc. and make good as required
- Remove any suckers or basal growth to source of stem or root

HEDGES AND WHIPS

- Maintenance to be undertaken outside of bird nesting season
- Allow rapidly establishing hedges to reach planned height as rapidly as possible; trim back lateral branches moderately
- Cut slowly establishing hedges hard to encourage bushy growth down to ground level; allow to reach planned dimensions only by gradual degrees, depending on growth rate and habit
- Trim established hedges carefully and neatly to regular line and shape, with the width at the top less than that at the base; remove current growth rather than old wood
- Remove any whip shrub guards that still remain once the whips are sufficiently established, or after 3 years