

Shields Arboricultural Consultancy

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Tree Planting Scheme

Reference:

CDA/06/12/TPS.

Rev:

6th June 2012

At the Site of:

Land at
Cheshire Cottage
Acrefair
Wrexham

Commissioned by:

Mr Williams

Inspection commenced:
May 2012

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- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ▪ Trees, Litigation & the Law | ▪ Tree-related Environmental Impact Assessments |
| ▪ Planning & Appeals | ▪ Subsidence Risk Assessment |
| ▪ Mortgage Surveys | ▪ Trees & Development Sites (BS 5837) |
| ▪ Tree Preservation Orders | ▪ Tree Hazard & Risk Assessment |



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Tree Planting Scheme **Maintenance Specification and Schedule**

Land at
Cheshire Cottage
Delph Road
Acrefair
Wrexham

Introduction

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a Machinery and Hay Store and Stables on land at the above address, under planning ref: P/2012/0050. This permission is subject to a landscape planting scheme being prepared, agreed in writing by the Local Authority and implemented.
- 1.2 The planting scheme aims to extend on existing woodland at the site, helping to screen the new building from the public highway.
- 1.3 The schedule is to be read in conjunction with the attached Tree Planting Plan ref: CDA/TPP/05/12/01

Site Description

- 2.1 The development is to be situated on top of a small mound created from mining spoil, located within an old open cast mining site to the north east of Cheshire Cottage. The area is characterised by small areas of woodland and open grazing. The mound is 3m – 4m high and extends to approximately 0.3 ha. It is roughly rectangular in shape and is flat topped with side slopes of about 30deg. The mound has become consolidated over the years, with the plateau area appearing to be heavily compacted with little ground vegetation. The side slopes have been colonised by birch and oak and this has formed into a small, rudimentary woodland around the site. A few trees have become established on the plateau. It is proposed to extend the existing woodland by planting in drifts of trees and shrubs on the north side of the mound, thus screening it from the road.
- 2.2 Soils on the site appear to be rudimentary but are free draining with little evidence of water logging. The site is at an elevation of 170m ASL and moderately exposed.

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Tree Planting and Maintenance Specifications

- 3.1 It is proposed to plant 6 specimen trees of species sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) and a number of birch trees (*Betula pendula*) and broom shrubs (*Cytisus scoparius*) in drifts extending out across the base of the mound on the north side (see map for locations). Each drift will comprise 5 – 10 trees and 3 – 5 shrubs, planted on a 1m x 1m matrix. The trees and shrubs will be selected and planted in accordance with the following specifications. All planting is to take place during the dormant season, between the end of November and the end of March.

Planting Stock

- 3.2 The specimen oak trees should be container grown in 2 litre containers and 90cm – 120cm in height. Trees must conform to the relevant British Standard Specifications for nursery planting stock, including BS 3936 Part1, BS 3936 Part 4, BS 4043 BS 5236. The birch trees and broom is to be sourced from selected natural regeneration found in abundance across the site. The selected trees should be 30cm – 60cm in height with root collar girths of 2cm – 4cm.
- 3.3 The tree should be supplied packed in accordance with the recommendations of the relevant British Standard. The trees must be delivered in good condition and be free from damage. Root systems must be moist and protected during transport. Trees should be inspected and approved prior to accepting delivery. If planting is not undertaken immediately after delivery, the tree should be placed in a sheltered location and the rootball or container covered with sand or moist peat to prevent drying or freezing. Where trees and shrubs are transplanted from within the site, they are to be lifted using a planting spade and taking a plug of soil around each tree of approximately 10 cm radius and 10cm depth. Trees are to be stored in a bucket or planting bag out of the wind until planted. Time between lifting and planting must not exceed 1 hour. The trees should be watered 24 hours before lifting, using 2 – 3 litres of water per tree.

Site Preparation

- 3.4 During the construction phase of the development it is important to protect the soils in the areas surrounding the tree planting positions to prevent its physical properties and nutrient status being degraded or contaminated by development activities. In particular it is important to prevent compaction of the soil and ensure that the top soil is not disturbed by excavation. To safeguard the soils it is recommended that the areas of soft landscaping

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around the tree planting positions are fenced off during the construction phase. The tree protection fencing should remain in position until all construction activities are completed. No materials that are likely to have an adverse effect on soil condition such as oil, bitumen or cement will be stored or discharged within 10m of the tree planting location.

- 3.5 Given the nature of the soils at the site it would be beneficial to undertake some soil improvement and cultivation works in the planting areas prior to planting the trees. The areas for the specimen trees and the planting drifts are to be enriched using well rotted green compost dug into the upper layers of the soil to a depth of 30cm and at a ratio of approximately 1 part compost to 5 parts soil (20% by volume). A slow release organic fertiliser, such as fish, blood & bone is to be applied at a rate of 70g/m² and dug through the upper layers of the soil. In addition to the above a proprietary water retaining polymer such as "SwellGel" (*Glowcroft Ltd, Williamsport Way, Lion Barn Ind Est, Needham Market, Suffolk, IP6 8RW*) is to be added to the soil mix. All trees are to be pit planted and the pit is to be prepared as follows. The tree pit must be excavated to a size 2x diameter and 1.5x depth of root ball or container of the stock to be planted. The bottom and sides of the pit should be lightly cultivated with a fork to assist drainage and root penetration.
- 3.6 The specimen oak trees are to be planted in 2m high proprietary tree shelters secured with stakes. Stakes should be free from bark, snags, pests & diseases and should be of sufficient size to support the weight and loading of the tree when subjected to normal prevailing winds on the planting site.

Planting

- 3.7 It is recommended that trees are planted during the dormant season, usually end of the November through to March. Trees should not be planted when the ground is frozen or water logged. Prior to planting, remove any damaged or rubbing branches in accordance with BS 3998 practice guidelines. Remove and tags or labels and any stem wrapping. The tree must be planted at its original root collar soil depth. The soil mark on the stem is an indication of this and it should be maintained on the finished level, allowing for settling of the soil after planting. The pit should be partially backfilled to 'bed up' the tree to the desired height. The compost / growing medium in container grown trees must be moist before planting and before containers are removed. Once the container or rootball wrapping is removed, immediately before planting, any broken or damaged roots must be cut back to sound growth and to an appropriate point; heavily coiled or spiralling roots should be eased from the rootball or pruned back. Once the tree is satisfactorily positioned the tree pit should be back filled using the mix of topsoil and compost previously prepared. The backfill should be lightly firmed in layers to ensure close

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contact with the roots. Each tree or shrub should have 5 – 10 litres of water applied around the base after planting.

- 3.8 Once planted the trees need to be protected from rabbits using either tree guards and canes or by fencing off areas of planting with rabbit fencing.
- 3.9 A layer of well rotted green compost is to be used as mulch, spread to a depth of 5cm over the area around each tree and shrub, taking care not to pile up mulch around the stem base.
- 3.10 Remove all debris leaving site clean and tidy

On going maintenance

- 3.11 All newly planted trees should be inspected in the first few weeks after planting and after periods of frost or strong winds. The trees should be re-firmed where heave or movement has occurred and ties adjusted as necessary.
- 3.12 The mulch around the trees is to be inspected and maintained in good and the area covered maintained free from weeds, grasses or other vegetation for a period of 5 years after planting. Tree stakes, guards, shelters and ties require regular inspection and adjustment to ensure that they are not causing abrasion or constricting the stem.
- 3.13 The trees are to be watered during dry spells, periods of more than 10 days without significant rain fall. This should be achieved by applying 10 litres of water around the base of each birch tree and shrub and 20 litres around each specimen oak tree every second day until the dry spell ends.
- 3.14 Trees are to be formatively pruned to remove crossing, dead and rubbing branches and to single any multiple leaders. This is a one off operation and should be performed in the third year after planting. At this time tree guards and canes should be removed. Tree shelters and stakes can also be removed at this time.
- 3.15 Trees which fail to establish or become weakened, damaged or die must be replaced in the following planting season.

Schedule of Operations

Date / Stage	Operation
Prior to commencement of	Erect protection fences around tree planting locations to protect soils. (3.4)

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development.	
On completion of construction activities.	Take delivery of trees and or lift trees from selected stock on site. Trees must be stored correctly on site. (3.3)
	Prepare tree planting areas. (3.5)
	Plant trees. (3.7 – 3.10)
Two weeks after planting.	Undertake inspection of trees and check for instability. Re-firm soil and check shelters, stakes and canes, if used.
Three months following planting, and then every April, August and October for first five years after planting.	Check and adjust tree guards and shelters. Check mulch layer and make good if required. Clear any weeds from around the base of the trees.
August of third year.	Carry out formative pruning of the tree. This should be in accordance with BS 3998 guidelines. Remove tree guards, shelters and canes / stakes.
As required during summer months for first five years after date of planting.	Water trees as specified. (3.13).
As required.	Trees that become seriously weakened, damaged or die are to be replaced. (3.15)

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Chartered Forester

6th June 2012

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