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landscape architecture

## **Outline Landscape Works Specification**

### **Incorporating a Landscape Management Plan**

For

**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT  
MARGARET'S FIELDS  
CALLAN RD  
KILKENNY**

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## 1 SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF NURSERY STOCK

### 1.1 Supply of nursery stock:

The nursery stock material will be delivered following consultation between the employer's representative, landscape Contractor and the selected nursery. It is intended to serve notice of delivery by means of phased orders at least two months prior to commencement of the dormant season in November of that year. Delivery will be at all times by means of covered vehicles, and all plant material will be clearly labelled. The source of origin must be from the selected nursery, as no other additional stock from other nurseries will be permitted without prior inspection and approval

### 1.2 Nursery stock:

All plant material shall be good quality nursery stock, free from fungal, bacterial or viral infection, aphids, red spider or other insect pests and any physical damage. It shall comply with the requirements of B.S. 3936: Parts 1-10: 1965 Specification for Nursery Stock, where applicable.

All plants shall have been nursery grown in accordance with good practice and shall be supplied through the normal channels of the wholesale nursery trade. They shall have the habit of growth that is normal for the species. Country of origin must be shown in all cases for species grown from seed.

Unless otherwise stated, the plant materials shall be supplied in accordance with the following codes where stated:

1+0	1 Year old seedling
1+1	1 Year old seedling lined out for 1 year
1+2	1 Year old seedling lined out for 2 years
1+1+1	1 Year old seedling lined out for 1 year, lifted and lined out for one further year
2+2	2 Year old seedling lined out for 2 years
0/1	1 Year old Hardwood cutting
0/2	2 Year old Hardwood cutting
2X	Twice transplanted tree
3X	Three times transplanted tree
4X	Four times transplanted tree
P9	Containerised plant in 9cm pot
CG / c/g	Containerised plant
gt.	Girth
ht.	Height
RB / r/b	Rootball
BR / b/r	Bareroot
MS	Multi-stemmed
Ftd	Feathered trees

### 1.3 Species:

All plants supplied shall be exactly true to name as shown in the plant schedules. Unless stipulated, varieties with variegated and/or coloured leaves will not be accepted, and any plant found to be of this type upon leafing out shall be replaced by the contractor at his/her own expense.

Bundles of plants shall be marked in conformity with B.S. 3936: Part 1: 1965 and B.S. 3936: part 4: 1966. The nursery supplier shall replace any plants which, on leafing out, are found not to conform to the labels. Definitions of all terms used are in accordance with the following British Standards: -

**B.S. No. 3936: Part 1: 1992 entitled "Nursery Stock- Trees and Shrubs"**

**B.S. No. 3936: Part 4: 1984 entitled "Nursery Stock- Forest Trees"****B.S. No. 3936: 1992 entitled "Specification for Nursery Stock"****1.4 Tree and Shrub Specifications:**

Trees shall have a sturdy, reasonably straight stem, and a well-defined straight and upright central leader, with branches growing out of the stem with reasonable symmetry. The crown and root systems shall be well formed. Roots shall be in reasonable balance with the crown and shall be conducive to successful transplantation. All trees shall be clearly labelled.

**1.4.1 Root-Balled Trees**

Trees shall have a clear stem from ground level to the lowest branch and a total height as appropriate to the girth size, and the minimum girth as specified shall be measured at 1.0m above ground level– all as required under BS3936: Part 1. Trees shall be well furnished with lateral fibrous roots, and shall be lifted without severance of major roots. All nursery stock trees shall have been undercut and provided with a rootball of min. diameter appropriate to girth and height. All rootballs shall be wire and hessian-wrapped.

**1.4.2 Multistem Trees - Rootballed**

Multistem trees shall have a minimum of 3no. stems originating from or near ground level (<0.3m) and be of reasonable bushiness and health, with a well grown root system and a total height as specified on the drawings and schedules. Trees shall be well furnished with lateral fibrous roots, and shall be lifted without severance of major roots. All rootballs shall be wire and hessian-wrapped. All multistem trees stock trees shall have been undercut a minimum of 3no. times and provided with a rootball of sufficient size and diameter to enable healthy transplanting and successful establishment and growth. All rootballs shall be wire and hessian-wrapped.

**1.4.3 Container grown Shrubs, Ferns, Grasses, Perennials, Bamboo, Hedging**

Containerised Shrubs and Climbers shall be of the size specified in the schedules, with several stems originating from or near ground level and of reasonable bushiness, healthy, vigorous and with a sound root system. Pots or containers shall be appropriate to the size of shrub supplied and clearly labelled. Shrubs shall not be pot bound or with girdled or restricted roots. Shoots and aerial parts shall be free of disease, and/or damaged leaves or shoots.

**1.4.4 Hedging Stock – Bare-Root**

Hedging stock shall be of size specified in the schedules, with several stems originating from or near ground level, with reasonable bushiness, healthy, vigorous and with a sound root system. Shoots, roots and aerial parts shall be free of disease, and/or damaged leaves or shoots. Transplants shall be not less than one year old. Trees of species not listed in B.S. 3936: Part 4: shall be sturdy, with a balanced root and shoot development. Size shall conform to the schedules. Trees shall be well furnished with lateral fibrous roots, and shall be lifted without severance of major roots. Roots shall be of the habit normal for the species, without deformation. Transplants shall be clearly labelled and wrapped in polythene from the time of lifting until planting to conserve moisture. Shoots, roots and aerial parts shall be free of disease, and/or damaged leaves or shoots.

#### **1.4.5 Hedging Stock – Rootballed**

Hedging stock shall be of size specified in the schedules, with several stems originating from or near ground level, with reasonable bushiness, healthy, vigorous and with a sound root system. Shoots, roots and aerial parts shall be free of disease, and/or damaged leaves or shoots. Such hedging shall be provided with a rootball of sufficient size and diameter to enable healthy transplanting and successful establishment and growth. Rootballs shall be hessian-wrapped only for any plant under 1m in height.

## **2 SPECIFICATIONS FOR CARE OF NURSERY STOCK**

### **2.1 Protection:**

The interval between the lifting of stock at the nursery and planting on site is to be kept to an absolute minimum. Plants shall be protected from drying out and from damage in transport. All stock awaiting transport shall be protected from the wind and frost and from drying out.

### **2.2 Damage**

On completion of lifting of plants in the nursery, any broken shoots or severed roots shall be pruned, areas of damaged bark neatly pared back to sound tissue.

### **2.3 Inspections**

The Employer's representative will inspect the hardy nursery stock during the execution of the works. **Only plants selected and approved in the landscape contractors selected nursery will be accepted on the site.**

### **2.4 Delivery and heeling in**

All plants will be delivered on a phased basis as called up in advance in agreement with the Employer's representative and the appointed Landscape Contractor. In the event of the Employer's representative being dissatisfied with the care and attention given to the stocks, following heeling-in or arrival on site, he shall notify the Landscape Contractor who shall take steps to ensure careful heeling-in procedures. Any damaged plants must be replaced by the Landscape Contractor entirely at his own expense.

The preparation of the heeling-in area and its subsequent maintenance is the sole responsibility of the Landscape contractor. No responsibility for the maintenance of stock delivered to site will attach to the employer whilst stock is protected on site, even if the stock requires protection beyond the normal planting season.

### 3 SPECIFICATIONS FOR SITE OPERATIONS

#### 3.1 Setting out:

Setting out shall be in accordance with site meetings with the Employer's Representative, and the drawings listed in the preliminaries. No planting works shall take place when the soil /fill is in a waterlogged condition or the ground is frozen. Transplants in mixtures shall be planted in staggered rows. Species shall be planted in groups, as indicated in the planting drawings. No planting shall take place until all planting holes (with ameliorants) have been inspected and approved by the Employer's Representative, or a person appointed by him as a representative, to ensure accordance with the specifications. No planting shall take place when ground conditions are frozen or waterlogged. All planting holes shall be opened and closed on the same day.

#### 3.2 Earthworks, Soil and Grading

##### 3.2.1 *Stripping and storage of existing soil on-site*

All soil removed during grading works is to be placed in storage bunds on-site. Topsoil must be stripped separately from subsoil for re-use in landscape works and must be fit for purpose. Topsoil would be defined as soil that has a high content of organic material, usually corresponding to the 'O' and/or 'A' horizon of the soil profile. Subsoil would be all mineral soils that do not have a substantial organic component. Where the difference between topsoil and subsoil is unclear, consult the Employer's Representative.

Subsoil that is excess to fill requirements is to be stored on-site in a designated location, to be agreed with the Employer's Representative. Subsoil shall be stored in stable mounds with side slopes of gradient no more than 1:2 and an overall height of no more than 2m. Mounds to be seeded with wildflower seed as per clause 3.3.3.

Topsoil shall be stripped using a tracked vehicle to avoid subsoil compaction. Avoid tracking over or compaction of the topsoil. Topsoil should be stripped and dumped to form the berms using the dump and back-actor method. Double handling of topsoil is to be avoided. Topsoil that has been compacted shall be removed off site and replaced at the contractor's expense.

Topsoil shall be stored in stockpiles of dimensions no greater than 10m long x 5m wide x 0.5m high, such that a long, narrow and low berm is created to preserve the intrinsic qualities (structure and soil life) of the topsoil whilst in storage. The topsoil shall be loose tipped to create the berm and lightly compacted with the back of a digger bucket to create a degree of compaction suitable for storage, with side slopes of gradient no more than 1:2. No machinery shall be run over the soil berm. Berms shall be seeded with grass seed as per clause 3.3.2.

##### 3.2.2 *Subsoil*

###### *(a) Supply of Subsoil*

Existing subsoil shall be used for all grading works.

Imported subsoil – if required - shall be sourced from a reputable source and be free of waste, chemicals, large stones, builder's rubble and any other detritus.

*(b) Formation of Slopes/Mounds*

Subsoil to be used to form even slopes or mounding to contours shown on drawings. Subsoil to be formed to smooth contours to 150mm below finished levels indicated on drawings, where the area is to be grassed or 300mm.

*(c) Formation of Grassed Areas*

Subsoil to be graded accurately to contours / levels / falls / crossfalls shown on drawings.

**3.2.3 Topsoil***(a) Supply of Topsoil*

Existing topsoil may be used for all grading and planting works, if it complies with the following specification, which would also apply to imported topsoil, as required. It is expected that imported topsoil will be required for all planting areas.

Topsoil shall be sourced from a reputable source and be free of waste, chemicals, large stones, builder's rubble and any other detritus. Topsoil shall have good structure, be friable, fresh and free-draining with at least 20% organic content. Imported topsoil shall comply with BS3882: 1994, and shall be free draining sandy loam, clay or other approved. It shall be free of stones over 40 mm diameter, and stones over 10 mm diameter shall not exceed 5% by weight. It shall be free from subsoil, sods, roots of trees and shrubs, and rubbish. Topsoil shall be from the original surface layer of grassland or cultivated land, to a maximum depth of 200 mm. Soils from woodland, heathland, bog or contaminated land will not be acceptable.

*(b) Removal of topsoil:*

In areas to be regraded, all topsoil should be stripped and stored as per following clauses.

*(c) Weather and Soil Conditions*

All work involving topsoil shall not be carried out, unless the Employer's Representative permits otherwise:

Where areas have been exposed to a cumulative rainfall exceeding 60mm over the preceding 28 days measured at a point approved by the Employer's Representative; or

- Where soil moisture content is wetter than the Plastic Limit (PL) of the soil less 3%. The PL of the soil can be assessed in the field as the minimum moisture content at which the soil can be rolled and moulded into a thin thread approximately 3mm in diameter without breaking or cracking and in a laboratory according to BS 1377:Part 2.
- When heavy rain is falling;
- During periods of severe frost when the soil is frozen. Handling frozen soil will cause damage to the soil structure.

*(d) Topsoil Spreading*

Topsoil shall be moved and spread only in dry weather. Before topsoiling, remove all stones, rubble and rubbish over 75mm diameter from the surface of the subsoil formation. Dig out any areas polluted by oil or chemicals and make up with clean soil. Loaders shall load from the base of the soil storage berm only. Placement of soil should be carried

out using a tracked vehicle to avoid subsoil compaction. Reinstated areas of topsoil shall not to be tracked over. The topsoil shall be allowed to settle to a thickness of 300mm and the contractor shall make full allowance for such settlement in applying the topsoil. Uneven areas shall be topped up as necessary.

*(e) Topsoil Depths & Provision*

The following depths should be provided for topsoiled areas:

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| (i) Grassed Areas:       | 150mm   |
| (ii) Bare-root planting: | 300mm   |
| (iii) Shrub planting:    | 450mm   |
| (iv) Tree planting:      | Pit to specified size, depending on size of tree (see relevant Clauses) |

*(f) Grading*

Topsoil to be graded accurately to contours / levels / falls / crossfalls shown on drawings. Glazed / compacted areas of subsoil to be roughened or ripped as necessary. (Drainage to be installed where necessary to Engineer's specification.) Any compacted areas to be ripped after placing of soil.

*(g) Compacted areas*

Any areas identified as compacted following completion shall be deep ripped and re-graded or re-soiled as necessary, to ensure a free-draining soil gradient and to avoid anaerobic conditions developing in the topsoil.

**3.2.4 Surface cultivation**

Surface cultivation will consist of ploughing or rotovating the topsoil to a minimum depth of 450mm over shrub areas or 150mm over grass areas. Care to be taken to ensure that the subsoil is not brought to the surface. It shall then be worked to reduce the topsoil to a fine tilth. After cultivation, all debris, perennial weeds and stones over 25mm in any dimension are to be removed off site.

Final grading is to be carried out to ensure the true specified level and slope and to avoid minor ridges, dishing or other depressions where water may collect.

Unless otherwise stated, finished levels of grass and shrub planting areas will be 50mm above adjoining paving or kerbs, retaining wall copings, manhole covers etc. and levels will be arranged to give gentle falls for drainage and to avoid ponding hollows. Any area unduly compacted during the work of grading will be loosened by forking or harrowing. The use of heavy rollers to roll out mounds will not be permitted.

Unless otherwise stated, finished levels of topsoil, after settlement, to be:

1. 50mm above adjoining pavements and kerbs
2. 300mm higher for shrubs than for adjoining grass areas
3. married in with adjoining soil areas
4. all stones above 50mm diameter to be removed off site by the landscape contractor.



### 3.3 Seeding:

#### 3.3.1 *Amenity Grass Areas*

Fine cut areas to be sown with Coburns 'Greenlawn' Grass Seed Mixture as detailed below or equal at a rate of 40g/sq.m together with fertiliser 10:10:20 at a rate of 50g/Sq.m

15% Dwarf Perennial Ryegrass

15% Dwarf Perennial Ryegrass

20% Dwarf Perennial Ryegrass

25% Strong Creeping Red Fescue

20% Chewings Fescue

5% Browntop Bentgrass

## 4 SPECIFICATIONS FOR PLANTING OPERATIONS

### 4.1 Tree Support:

All trees in pavement tree pits shall be anchored by means of root ball guying. Rootball is anchored by a timber frame (or equivalent support system – e.g. Platipus system) located around the top surface of the rootball, which is fastened by wires (4mm galvanised cable guying wire) to 'dead man' anchors, kerbstones or timber beams located below the rootball.

### 4.2 Stakes:

Round stakes shall be of peeled larch, pine or Douglas fir, preserved with a water-borne copper chrome arsenic composition in accordance with I.S. 131. All trees to be double staked with crossbar 100x25mm securely attached to uprights with galvanised nails. Stakes shall be round, 1.8m long, 75mm in diameter. Stakes shall be pointed at the butt end. Set stakes vertically in the pit and drive before planting. Drive stake with a wooden maul or cast-iron headed drive. Sledgehammer should not be used. Stakes shall be driven into the excavated planting pit to a depth of 1000mm.

### 4.3 Tree ties:

Tree ties shall be of rubber, PVC or proprietary fabric laminate composition and shall be strong and durable enough to hold the tree securely in all weather conditions for a period of three years. They shall be flexible enough to allow proper tightening of the tie. Ties shall be min. 25mm wide for 120cms – 150cm height trees and min. 38mm for larger sizes. They shall be fitted with a simple collar spacer to prevent chafing. Two ties per tree shall be applied to standards; for staked transplants, one tie per tree is required.

### 4.4 Protection:

The interval between the lifting of stock at the heeling-in area and planting on site is to be kept to an absolute minimum. Plants shall be protected from drying out and from damage in transport. All stock awaiting planting on site shall be stored in a sheltered place **protected from the wind and frost and from drying out.**

All transplants shall be wrapped in polythene from the time of lifting to conserve moisture. Except when heeled-in, they shall be protected in polythene at all times until planted into their final position on site.

### 4.5 Damage:

On completion of planting any broken branches shall be pruned, areas of damaged bark neatly pared back to sound tissue.

### 4.6 Watering / Fertilisers:

All trees and shrubs shall be soaked in water for one hour prior to planting. Fertilisers shall conform to BS 5581: 1981. Fertiliser must be mixed through and incorporated into the base of the planting hole and covered with soil in order to avoid roots of plants coming in direct contact. Follow manufacturer's instructions for all chemical products.

#### **4.7 Tree planting:**

Trees shall be planted at the same depth as in the nursery, indicated by the soil mark on the stem of the tree. They shall be planted in the centre of the planting pit and planted upright. Stones or other rubbish over 75mm shall be removed. Supply and install the staking / guying system as per clauses 4.1-4.4. Backfill planting hole with excavated topsoil, and remove all stones and debris, firming plant into position. Upon completion of planting, all pits shall be raked over lightly to leave an even surface and neat appearance. All stones greater than 25mm dia. to be removed. Provision should be made for the watering of root-balled trees in the first year following planting.

##### **4.7.1 Specimen Trees**

Excavate tree pits to 1200mm x 1200mm x 1000mm deep. Farmyard manure 80mm deep and 100g of 0.10.20 shall be applied to each tree pit prior to planting. Farmyard manure shall consist predominantly of faecal matter and shall be free of loose, dry straw and undigested hay. It shall be free of surplus liquid effluent. Install tree support system as per clause 4.1. Fill planting hole with topsoil as per clause 3.2.2, and remove all stones and debris, firming plant into position.

##### **4.7.2 Small Trees / Large Shrubs**

Excavate tree pits to 750mm x 750mm x 750mm deep. Farmyard manure 60mm deep and 100g of 0.10.20 shall be applied to each tree pit prior to planting. Farmyard manure shall consist predominantly of faecal matter and shall be free of loose, dry straw and undigested hay. It shall be free of surplus liquid effluent. Install tree support system as per clause 4.1. Fill planting hole with topsoil as per clause 3.2.2, and remove all stones and debris, firming plant into position.

#### **4.8 Container Grown Shrubs, Grasses, Ferns, Perennials P9 / 20-30 / 30-40cm**

Excavate planting hole to a depth of 300mm x 300mm x 300mm deep; the base to be broken to a depth of 50mm and glazed sides roughened. Apply FYM to base of hole to a depth of 150mm and 30g of 0:10:20 per planting pit. Backfill planting hole with excavated topsoil, and remove all stones and debris, firming plant into position.

#### **4.9 Containerised Shrubs, 40-60cm**

Excavate planting hole to a depth of 500mm x 500mm x 500mm deep; the base to be broken to a depth of 50mm and glazed sides roughened. Apply FYM to base of hole to a depth of 150mm and 50g of 0:10:20 per planting pit. Backfill planting hole with excavated topsoil, and remove all stones and debris, firming plant into position.

#### **4.10 Hedging 25-30cm, 40-60cm**

Excavate trench to a depth of 300mm x 300mm wide; the base to be broken to a depth of 50mm and glazed sides roughened. Incorporate 200mm depth of well-rotted FYM into base and cover with 150mm soil min. Apply 100g 0:10:20 per metre into backfill. Backfill planting hole with excavated topsoil, and remove all stones and debris, firming plants into position.

#### **4.11 Hedging 90-120cm**

Excavate trench to a depth of 500mm x 500mm wide; the base to be broken to a depth of 50mm and glazed sides roughened. Incorporate 200mm depth of well-rotted FYM into base and cover with 150mm soil min. Apply 100g

0:10:20 per Sq.m into backfill. Backfill planting hole with excavated topsoil, and remove all stones and debris, firming plants into position.

#### **4.12 Aquatic Plants (N/A)**

Any aquatic plants are to be planted into the topsoil in accordance with specifications above for container-grown plants, excluding fertiliser. Following planting, the area is to be flooded with water and kept topped up to at least 50mm depth throughout the plant establishment period.

#### **4.13 Ground finish:**

Upon completion of planting, all ground finish shall include for the removal of stones greater than 25mm excavated during the course of the digging for planting purposes. All soil surfaces should be even and free of mounds, rutting or hollows.

#### **4.14 Spraying:**

Following planting, weed free circles to be formed around individual plants, as directed, using an approved broad-spectrum contact herbicide, as approved by the Employer's representative, in mid-spring following planting. Herbicide to be applied using controlled drop applicator. The contractor shall be responsible for keeping the ground (1m diameter circle) around all planted material weed free by means of herbicidal application, using approved sprays, during the course of the contract. Weeds to be removed include grasses, broad-leaved annual and perennial weeds and all noxious weeds.

#### **4.15 Weed control fabric**

The weed control fabric shall be 105gsm and shall suppress weeds whilst allowing water, air and nutrients to pass through. Mypex™, Plantex<sup>R</sup> or equal woven fabric product acceptable. Cut with a scissors or knife. All sharp objects should be removed from the surface soil prior to laying the weed suppressing geotextile. Overlap adjacent rolls by at least 10cm. Membrane to be pegged to ground using proprietary plastic pegs.

When planting into the geotextile membrane an 'X' shaped notch should be cut into the membrane for each individual plant, to allow for excavation. Planting should resume as per species specification. Excavated material should not be stored on geotextile and the membrane area should be thoroughly swept of any residual material prior to application of finished aggregate or mulch.

Membrane to be applied to all planting and gravel areas.

#### **4.16 Bark mulch**

Bark Mulch to be 'Golden Pine Bark' by Growise or equal and approved. The product shall consist of matured Conifer Bark with an even nominal particle size distribution of 5-75mm with less than 5% dust and fines and less than 15% wood content. The pH to be between 4.5 and 5.5. The product shall be pest, disease and weed free and not have been treated with Methyl Bromide or any additives. The product shall have been tested in accordance with the requirements of BS 4790:1987, for fire resistance.

The natural heat treatment maturing process shall have been sufficient to ensure that excess volatile substances are driven from the product. During the process, temperatures within the product heaps must exceed 50°C for a minimum 14 day period, followed by a further period of stabilisation.

Lay Bark Mulch to a finished depth of 75mm allowing at least 10% for settlement after 30 days. All such mulch of good quality from an approved source will be inspected by the Employer's representative prior to delivery. All product volumes to be calculated using The Bulk Density method, as set out in BS EN 12579:2000 and BS EN 12580:2000. Slow release Nitrogen fertiliser to be applied to soil prior to mulching.

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## Landscape Management Plan

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## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this Landscape Management Plan is to provide guidance and specifications for the maintenance requirements of the landscape elements of the proposed development. This will cover all of the landscape typologies on-site to ensure that all maintenance operations required for the efficient and effective management of the landscape are characterised and defined. The plan will provide a set of measurable performance standards that can be applied to evaluate landscape maintenance works carried out on the site.

## **2. Nature of Site**

Landscape works proposed include extensive planting: specimen trees, shrubs.

Hard landscape works include feature paving.

## **3. Timeframe & Programming**

The proposed development, including the landscape works, will be managed and maintained by the applicant until they are deemed suitable for Taking in Charge by Kilkenny County Council.

A detailed programme of works will be agreed with the Contractor prior to maintenance operations commencing, in each year. A sample maintenance programme is contained at Point 8.

## **4. Aims & Objectives**

### **4.1 General**

Fundamentally, the aim of landscape management is to ensure that all external areas are kept in good condition, as perceived and expected by the users. The Landscape Management Plan aims to provide a manual for the maintenance requirements of the park and adjacent landscapes. It will define and specify all necessary operations for the efficient and effective management of the landscape in order to ensure that each area is appropriately and sustainably maintained.

### **4.2 Horticultural / Sylvicultural Objectives**

Horticultural and sylvicultural aims relate to the appropriate management operations for all plants and trees. The specific horticultural objectives are as follows:

- All plants to be maintained so that they remain in good health;
- All plants to have a habit and form consistent with species type and aesthetic objectives;



- Specialist operations for particular types of plants where necessary to achieve the aesthetic or functional objectives, e.g. pruning, dead-heading of flowering plants, formative clipping, etc. are included in the plan;
- Areas surrounding plants are to be maintained in such a way that potential threats to plant viability are addressed, e.g. weed control (particularly invasive and noxious weeds);
- Recognition of planting (including trees) at the end of its viable life is important to ensure that it is removed and replaced in a timely manner to avoid eyesores.

### 4.3 Performance Standards

Performance Standards can be defined as follows in the context of this plan: **written specifications of the conditions that will exist when satisfactory works are completed.** Performance standards will be measurable against the specified outcomes required for a particular operation, within a particular area. Performance standards must be upheld by the contractor at all times and will be monitored on an ongoing basis through regular site inspections.

Performance standards are specified in section 5 of this document. All required maintenance operations are defined and detailed to provide both specifications for the landscape contractor to follow and a set of measurable outcomes to appraise and value the contractor's performance against the requirements of the contract.

### 4.4 Environmental Considerations

Responsible and sustainable landscape management is about balancing the performance standards with the required standard of maintenance. The following principles have guided the development of the specification:

- **Minimise use of non-renewable resources**
  - e.g. reduce lawn areas to reduce consumption of fossil fuels, reduce use of chemical inputs such as pesticides, where possible.
- **Utilise low input systems**
  - Includes measures such as: mulching instead of herbicide use, where possible;
- **Use of environmentally friendly products where possible**
  - e.g. biodegradable herbicides, biodegradable tree ties, timber stakes.
- **Control of Invasive Species**
  - It is an objective of this plan to control and prevent the spread of invasive species, and in particular, Giant Hogweed, in order to protect the biodiversity of the landscape.

- **Protection of site resources**

- Appropriate maintenance will result in the protection of existing trees, vegetation and soil resource of the site.

## 5. Specifications for Landscape Maintenance Operations

### 5.1 Shrub Planting

#### (i) Groundcover / Mixed Borders / Mass Shrub Plantation

Criterion	Performance Standards for Designated Level of Prominence		
	High	Medium	Low
Aesthetic / functional requirements	Shrub planting areas shall be kept clean at all times, with an even finish. Plants to have a healthy, lush, neat appearance, typical for plant species and time of year.	Shrub planting areas shall be kept clean at all times, with an even finish. Plants to have a healthy, lush appearance, typical for plant species and time of year.	Shrub planting areas shall be kept clean at all times, with an even finish. Plants to have a healthy appearance, typical for plant species and time of year.
Weed Control	No weeds permitted in the shrub area. Established shrub areas may be treated with an approved residual herbicide to provide year round weed control.	Weeds shall not be allowed to cover more than 5% of the ground at any one time, neither shall weeds exceed 50mm in height. Residual herbicide permitted for established shrub areas.	Weeds shall not be allowed to cover more than 10% of the ground at any one time, neither shall weeds exceed 100mm in height. Residual herbicide permitted for established shrub areas.
Bark Mulch	Required – 75mm deep; to be kept topped up at all times.	Required – min. 50mm deep; to be kept topped up at all times.	Not required in all cases.
Fertiliser	Annual feeding with 50-100g/sq.m of general-purpose fertiliser in February. (Rake back mulch prior to application.)	Annual feeding with 50g/sq.m of general-purpose fertiliser in February. (Rake back mulch prior to application.)	No feeding required unless plants are suffering notable deficiency.

Pruning / Clipping	Regular pruning as necessary to maintain the typical size and form of the plant, for plant health, for sightlines and to maintain best appearance (to include damage by traffic, salt spray, vandalism, etc.); all clippings to be gathered at every pruning and disposed of in designated area or off-site.	Pruning once per annum to maintain the typical size and form of the plant, for sightlines and for plant health; all clippings to be gathered at every pruning and disposed of in designated area or off-site.	No pruning required, unless nuisance is being created by overhanging branches.
Edging	Beds to be edged by hand or edging machine regularly to leave an even, straight edge and to ensure that the shrubs or soil do not protrude past the edge by more than 25mm.	Beds to be edged by hand or edging machine twice per annum to leave an even, straight edge. Shrubs or soil not to protrude past the edge by more than 50mm.	Edging required to prevent soil creep and nuisance only.
Watering	Watering required to ensure consistent availability of water to plants during periods of drought (i.e. after more than 5 days)	Watering required only in periods of prolonged drought (i.e. after more than 2 weeks)	Watering not required unless plants are showing signs of negative physiological effect by drought.
Dead-heading	Remove fading flowers from shrubs regularly during flowering season.	Not required.	Not required.

**(ii) Specimen Shrubs**

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Performance Standards</b>
Aesthetic / functional requirements	Specimen shrub planting areas shall be kept clean at all times, with an even finish. Shrubs to have a healthy, lush appearance at all times, typical for plant species and time of year.
Weed Control	No weeds permitted in the shrub area. Established shrub areas may be treated with an approved residual herbicide to provide year round weed control.
Bark Mulch	Required – 75mm deep; to be kept topped up at all times.
Fertiliser	Annual feeding with 50-100g/sq.m of general-purpose fertiliser in February. (Rake back mulch prior to application.)

Pruning / Clipping	Regular pruning as necessary to maintain the typical size, habit and form of the plant, for health and to maintain best appearance; all clippings to be gathered at every pruning and disposed of in designated area or off-site.
Watering	Watering required to ensure consistent availability of water to plant during periods of drought (i.e. after more than 5 days) - minimum

**(iii) Hedge – Pruned (including topiary)**

Criterion	Performance Standards
Aesthetic / functional requirements	Even, clean finish to ground plane. Hedge to have a healthy, lush appearance, typical for plant species and time of year. Formal habit to be maintained throughout year. Formal habit of hedge to be defined and maintained at all times.
Weed Control	No weeds permitted in the shrub area. Established shrub areas may be treated with an approved residual herbicide to provide year round weed control.
Bark Mulch	Required – 75mm deep; to be kept topped up at all times.
Fertiliser	Annual feeding with 50-100g/sq.m of general-purpose fertiliser in February. (Rake back mulch prior to application.)
Pruning / Clipping	Regular pruning as necessary to maintain the required height and width of the plant, to maintain best appearance; all clippings to be gathered at every pruning and disposed of in designated area or off-site.
Watering	Watering required only in periods of prolonged drought (i.e. after more than 2 weeks)

**5.2 Trees & Woodlands****(i) General:**

- Canopies overhanging a pedestrian path to be maintained to 2.2m and canopies overhanging vehicular access to 4m.
- Limb damage caused by wind, passing traffic, etc. to be pruned resulting in a clean even wound.
- No signs, security boxes, etc. to be attached to trees.
- Surface tree roots not to cause a trip or mowing hazard. In grass areas, top up soil over roots and re-seed.
- Raised paviers or cracked/bulging walls due to root growth are to be reported to the Contract Administrator.
- Exposed roots from construction works to be kept moist by wrapping damp hessian around roots until soil is backfilled and then apply a one off generous application of

water. Root damage to be pruned resulting in a clean even wound prior to backfilling / topsoiling.

- Control of ivy and suckering on the trunks of trees within falling distance of activity
- Informal monitoring of trees for change of condition or evidence of a fungal fruiting body.
- 

#### **(ii) Specimen, Solitary Trees**

All trees to be maintained in accordance with requirements for species and habit to be maintained in accordance typical form for tree. Tree trunk will be kept visible for defect inspection with control of ivy and removal of suckering. Mulch 1m diameter will be maintained around all individual trees within grassed areas. Stakes and ties to be retained for a maximum period of 3 years, with tie loosened annually and both stake and tie to be removed after 3 year period. All nursery marking, bamboo and labels to be removed off all trees. Tree grilles in hard surface areas to be maintained weed free.

Any visible change in condition to be reported.

### **5.4 Herbaceous Perennial Planting (including Ferns and Ivy)**

#### **(i) Bulbs**

Watering: Ensure that bulbs have adequate water throughout growth period, up until cutting back occurs (see below).

Fertiliser: Apply approved general purpose fertiliser to all bulb areas at nominal rate of 35g/sq.m in late February.

Cutting Back: Cut back dead foliage to ground level six weeks after the end of flowering (or earlier if foliage is yellow and straw-like). Do not tie or knot the leaves.

Deadheading: *High prominence areas only.* Deadhead flowers by cutting back spent flowers to the base of the flower stalk.

*Note: Herbicides may not be used in or around bulb areas.*

### **5.5 Hard Landscape Surfaces & Signage**

Hard Standing including roads, paved areas, pavements, and kerb-lines - shall be kept clean at all times, with no growth of weeds and without moss infestation. Roads and kerb lines shall be kept free of litter and build up of grit and debris through the implementation of a regular sweeping program.

#### **(i) Weed Control**

All paved areas such as footpaths, kerb lines, feature paving, gravel areas, etc., throughout the site are to be maintained weed free at all times. The application of a suitable broad-

spectrum herbicide e.g. Glyphosate (*Roundup Bi-Active* or equal and approved – see Point 5.5 below)) shall be applied 3no. times per annum to achieve this. Once per annum a suitable chemical to treat moss shall be applied where it has established on hard surfaces. An initial physical treatment, such as scraping using a spade, will be required to remove existing moss growth prior to spraying.

**(ii) Sweeping**

Sweeping shall mean sweeping of feature paving areas, footpaths and kerb lines along all public roads (edge of road) and removal of all grit, rubbish and leaves from these areas. Soil wash from beds on to paved areas should also be swept. This work to be executed fortnightly. *Note: Particular attention is required during the period of October/ November to deal with leaf fall.*

**(iii) Cleaning**

Cleaning shall mean the removal of paper, plastic bags and all other rubbish. Cleaning shall be carried out as follows:

- Fine cut grass areas, all paved and hard standing areas, footpaths and kerb lines: This work to be executed prior to grass cutting on each grass cutting visit. Cleaning shall be carried out 36no. times per annum, including winter.
- Rough cut grass areas: prior to each scheduled grass cut, minimum 8no. times per annum.
- Tree groups, boundary tree areas, shrub maintenance areas, all other areas: 8no. times per annum.

Cleaning shall also include the removal of grit and rubbish from road gullies, drains, Aco drains and collapsible bollards twice per year.

**(iv) Signage**

All signs are to be cleaned to a high standard 4 times per year.

**(v) Gullies**

All gullies are to be inspected monthly and if full or blocked, must be cleared out as appropriate.

## **5.8 Weed Control**

### **5.8.1 General**

Minimal amount of herbicidal chemicals are to be utilised on the site, with non-chemical means of weed control to be preferred (mulching, mechanical control, hand weeding, etc. where feasible). Biodegradable herbicides are to be preferred where herbicide use is required.

All herbicides to be used on-site must be approved as fit for purpose by a qualified Pesticide Advisor, registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine. Evidence of such approval will be required by the Contract Administrator, along with evidence of compliance with recommended application rates and safety protocols.

Where translocated herbicides are applied, spray drift should be avoided and spray guards fitted to apparatus. Where feasible, spot treatment using CDA (Controlled Droplet Applicator) or glove preferred. Use of residual herbicides shall not be used in areas of herbaceous planting, in the initial year following planting of new shrubs or over areas of bare ground within shrub beds where replacement planting is to be carried out. Hand weeding in planting beds will be required where there is a large component of herbaceous material, bulbs or prostrate groundcover plants.

### **5.8.2 Invasive Weeds**

Invasive weeds of any kind, most particularly Japanese Knotweed, Winter Heliotrope, Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam (all identified on this site) shall not be allowed to establish in any area of the site. It will be the responsibility of the contractor to be able to identify same and treat at first sign of emergence.



## **6. Duties of Contractor; Evaluation & Payment Procedures**

The contractor shall be required to complete a site specific maintenance programme and attend site in accordance with the program agreed with the Contract Administrator. During the course of the contract the contractor shall supply after each visit to site a record of attendance using site attendance record sheets. These should be signed by the contractor's site foreman and manager and retained in a file for use as an appendix to the payment application. Failure to complete works on the prescribed date, may result in determination of the contract, except where an adjustment to program has been agreed in advance with the Contract Administrator.

At the end of every month the contract manager shall complete the monthly report sheets to clarify the completion of works for the particular month. Items of work not completed shall be noted and a timeframe for their completion indicated. The forestalled works must be attended to at the first opportunity in the month following the submission of the monthly report sheet, unless exceptional circumstances or bad weather prevent the work from being completed. In this case the work shall be attended to, as soon as is practicable, and by agreement with the Contract Administrator.

Monthly program sheets shall be signed by the contractor's manager and forwarded to the Contract Administrator for verification. Upon verification the document will be returned to the contractor and shall be attached at the time of payment application. If necessary, a site visit will be undertaken with the contractor to verify completion of works. The completed monthly report sheets shall be used as the basis for payment. Items of work not completed to the required standards shall be excluded from payment for that particular month. Should the Contract Administrator / Property Manager be dissatisfied with the quality of work within a particular month then a reasonable sum of money shall be withheld in proportion to the amount of incomplete work or work that is not up to standard. A minimum of 80% of work must be complete or satisfactory in order for payment to be made for a particular month.

In relation to Health and Safety, the landscape contractor will be appointed Project Supervisor for the Construction Stage under current health and safety legislation. Therefore, a safety file must be maintained by the contractor and be made available for inspection upon request. All possible precautions and risk management strategies must be in place in relation to safety of employees, personal protective equipment, use and maintenance of equipment/vehicles, signage when works are underway, procedures for closing off areas while works are in progress, traffic management, etc. as required. Any incident or accident must be reported to the Contract Administrator and recorded in the safety file.

## **7. Inspections by Employer**

As part of the management of this contract, eight critical inspections per annum shall be arranged with the Contract Administrator in attendance. These may not be notified to the landscape contractor. The Contract Administrator will produce a report of the site visit, commenting on the appearance of the site and examining each aspect of work in detail. The Landscape Architect may also direct resources to a certain area of work, in agreement with the Property Manager. It is at such dates that standards will be reviewed, problems arising rectified and issues of dispute arising from the concerned parties will be settled.

A preliminary schedule of critical inspection dates is as follows:

1. February
2. March
3. April
4. May
5. June
6. July
7. August
8. September
9. October
10. December

## 8. OUTLINE Monthly Maintenance Operations Schedule

The following tables give an indicative outline of the required monthly maintenance operations, based on the specification outlined above.

### Maintenance Program - January

Item	Description
1.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Tree pruning Hedge cutting
1.2	Weed free circles around trees/whips Check tree stakes and ties
1.3	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2 Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2 Road Gulley cleaning

### Maintenance Program - February

Item	Description
2.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Tree pruning Check tree stakes and ties
2.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2  Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2 Road Gulley cleaning

### Maintenance Program - March

Item	Description
3.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Shrub Pruning Tree pruning Hedge cutting Hedgerow cutting Hand Weeding in shrub areas Weed free circles around trees/whips
3.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2 Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2 Weed/Moss control to hard landscape areas Clean all signs

### Maintenance Program - April

Item	Description
4.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Shrub Pruning Hedgerow cutting Herbicide application to shrub/woodland areas Hand Weeding in shrub areas Weed free circles around trees/whips Apply fertiliser
4.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2  Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2 Weed/Moss control to hard landscape areas

## Maintenance Program - May

Item	Description
5.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Hedge cutting Herbicide application to shrub/woodland areas Hand Weeding in shrub areas Apply fertiliser Watering
5.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2  Weed/Moss control to hard landscape areas
5.3	Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2 Watering

## Maintenance Program - June

Item	Description
6.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Tree pruning Herbicide application to shrub/woodland areas Hand Weeding in shrub areas Weed free circles around trees/whips Apply fertiliser Watering
6.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2  Weed/Moss control to hard landscape areas Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2 Clean all signs
6.3	Watering of all trees & shrubs

### Maintenance Program - July

Item	Description
7.1	Yearly maintenance - Shrub and tree planting Hand Weeding in shrub areas Watering
7.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2  Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2
7.3	Watering of all trees & shrubs

### Maintenance Program - August

Item	Description
8.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Shrub Pruning Hand Weeding in shrub areas Weed free circles around trees/whips Watering
8.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2 Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2
8.3	Watering of all trees & shrubs

## Maintenance Program - September

Item	Description
9.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Shrub Pruning Hedge cutting Herbicide application to shrub/woodland areas Hand Weeding in shrub areas Weed free circles around trees/whips Apply fertiliser Watering
9.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2  Weed/Moss control to hard landscape areas Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2 Road Gulley cleaning Clean all signs
9.3	Watering of all trees & shrubs



### Maintenance Program - October

Item	Description
10.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Tree pruning Hedge cutting Hedgerow cutting Herbicide application to shrub/woodland areas Hand Weeding in shrub areas Weed free circles around trees/whips Apply fertiliser
10.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2  Weed/Moss control to hard landscape areas Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2

### Maintenance Program - November

Item	Description
11.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Hedgerow cutting Check tree stakes and ties
11.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2  Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2

## Maintenance Program - December

Item	Description
12.1	Yearly maintenance Shrub and tree planting Tree pruning Check tree stakes and ties
12.2	Hard Standing Maintenance and Cleaning Litter pick 1 Litter pick 2  Road/Paved area sweep 1 Road/Paved area sweep 2 Clean all signs