

## Soft landscaping & Planting Specification

**Site – The Fox Public House, Haverhill Road, Little  
Wrating, Cambs**

**Client – Martyn Pattie Associates**

**Contact – Martyn Pattie Architects & Designers,**

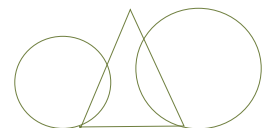
**Date - 29-01-2020**

**To be read in conjunction with –  
Landscape proposals drawing number MP/FOX/02**

**Prepared by J M Moore BSc (hort) Dip Arb (RFS) TechCert (ArborA) MArborA**

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Blue House Cottage  
Maldon Rd Mob - 07912 617939  
Bradwell on Sea  
Essex CM0 7HR  
judith.moore@moorepartners.co.uk  
www.moorepartners.plus.com



**Moore Partners Ltd**

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## **Site Preparation**

### **1 De-compaction and grading of sub soil**

- 1.1 Prior to the spreading of any topsoil, the sub soil is to be graded to smooth flowing contours.
- 1.2 Areas of compaction are to be treated as follows:
  - 1.2.1 Compaction zones within the root protection area of existing trees are to be carried out with a compressed air lance, should it be required.
  - 1.2.2 For areas of open ground 5m or wider, a tractor mounted sub-soiler may be used, where access permits. A sub soiling tine to a depth of 450mm and at 600mm centres should be used.  
Where the beds are less than 5m, the area is to be de-compacted by hand breaking up the sub soil to a depth of 450mm with a fork.

### **2 Top soiling**

- 2.1 Topsoil to conform to *BS3882, 1994*. Topsoil is to be free from rocks over 50mm in diameter, pernicious weeds, wire, roots and bricks.
- 2.2 On planted areas topsoil to be a minimum of 300 mm deep. Tree pits to be minimum 750 x 750 x 750mm. All levels to be flush with any adjacent kerbs or hard surfaces after settlement, and not less than 150mm below the damp proof course of adjacent buildings.
- 2.3 Top soil should not be handled after heavy rainfall or when it is wetter than the plastic limit defined by *BS3882, annex N2*

### **3 Setting Out**

- 3.1 Planting shall be laid out in line with drawing number MP/FOX/02 and measured from existing fixed points.
- 3.2 The supervisor is to check that all beds conform to the plan, prior to cultivation. Failure to do so may result in rejection of the work by the client, making good will be at the contractors' own cost.

### **4 Cultivation**

- 4.1 Planted areas are to be cultivated to a minimum depth of 300mm, in line with *BS4428:1989 Code of practice for general landscape operations*. This is to be carried out by hand where beds are less than 5m wide. A tractor mounted rotavator with low ground pressure may be used on beds 5m or wider where access permits. The beds are to be levelled or graded to an evenly running fall and finish flush with adjacent hard surfaces. All weeds, grass and rubbish exposed during cultivation are to be removed from site.
- 4.2 Turfed or seeded areas are to be cultivated to a minimum depth of 100mm, by hand or with a mechanical rotavator for areas 5m wide or less. A tractor mounted rotavator with low ground pressure may be used on beds 5m or wider where access permits. Finished levels are to be 25mm higher than surrounding hard surfaces.

## **Planting**

### **5 Container shrubs**

- 5.1 All plants to be true to the type and to be container grown to the size specified on drawing number MP/FOX/02. No substitutions are to be excepted unless previously agreed. Any plants that are rejected are to be replaced by the contractor at his own cost.
- 5.2 All shrubs and herbaceous material are to be in line with *BS 3936:1980 Nursery stock specification for trees and shrubs*, planting operations to be in line with *BS4428:1989 Code of practice for landscape operations*.
- 5.3 Immediately before planting the pots are to be well watered. Holes are to be hand excavated to a sufficient size to take the entire container. The plant is to be planted to the depth of the root-collar. The soil is to be back filled and then firmed around the plant. The surface of the bed is to be left cultivated and free from weeds, debris and stones. Any broken or unhealthy growth to be pruned from the plant after planting. The hedges will be spaced at 3 per liner metre in a double staggered row 450mm apart
- 5.4 All plants are to be watered in thoroughly to field capacity of the soil, directly after planting. Planted areas are to receive an application of slow release fertiliser, to manufacture's specifications.

### **6 Trees**

- 6.1 All trees to be of the size specified, true to type and free of pests and diseases. The trees are to be planted in the locations shown on drawing number MP/FOX/02. The plants are to conform *BS 3936:1980 Nursery stock specification for trees and shrubs*. Planting to be in line with *BS4043:1989 Recommendations for transplanting root balled trees*. All trees are to be container grown during the months of March – November, or root balled during the months of December to February. An area of 1m x 1m x 500mm deep will be excavated and filled with good quality topsoil in the location of each tree pit, to reduce the potential for compaction around proposed tree planting. Trees are to be planted in hand dug pits a minimum of 750mm x 750mm x 750mm or 300mm larger than the spread of the roots. The bottom and sides of the pit are to be broken up using a fork. The tree is to be planted to the depth of the root-collar and the pit back filled, with the soil firmed in layers of 150mm. All trees are to receive an application of slow release fertiliser to manufacture's specifications. All trees are to be double staked and tied, with a biodegradable tie, to a height of no more than a third of the tree. Stakes are to be peeled timber that has been pressure treated.

### **7 Mulching**

- 7.1 To minimise weed competition, all beds are to be mulched to a depth of 75mm with medium grade bark mulch. An area of 1m diameter will be mulched around each bare root shrub. The hawthorn hedge to be mulched in a strip 1m wide.

## **Grass Areas**

### **8 Turf**

Areas are to be cultivated in line with section 4 of this specification. Turf is to be cultivated in origin, weed and disease free in line with *BS3969: 1998 Recommendations for turf for general purposes*. Laying of the turf to be in line with *BS4428:1989 Code of practice for landscape operations*.

The area is to be raked to level, in line with the existing contours and prepared to a fine tilth. Slow release fertiliser is to be applied prior to laying the turves.

Turves are to be laid from boards on to the prepared ground, with the edges butted together firmly. The joints are to be staggered, in a stretcher bond between rows. The turf is to be compacted with a turf thumper once laid.

It is then to be watered in thoroughly to field capacity until the turf has rooted.

## **Maintenance for the establishment period of 5 years**

### **9 Shrub planting**

- 9.1 Planted areas are to be hand weeded fortnightly during the growing season of March to October. All weeds are to be removed by hand and any bark mulch disturbed replaced.
- Planting beds are to be watered fortnightly during March to October if climatic conditions are dry. The ground is to be watered to field capacity.
- Shrub beds are to be formatively pruned during the appropriate time of year for the species. Hedges will be trimmed twice a year to 1.2m high. An annual application of slow release fertiliser applied to manufactures recommendations is to be applied in May.
- Bark Mulch is to be topped up annually to ensure specified coverage is maintained.
- Remove all litter fortnightly
- Dead or dying shrubs are to be replaced during the planting season of November to March and are to be of the same size and species as the original specification for the first 3 years

### **10 Turf areas**

- 10.1 Areas of newly laid turf are to be watered as required during establishment, dependant on climatic conditions. Ground is to be watered to field capacity.
- Grass areas are to be mown fortnightly throughout the growing season. After mowing all adjacent hard surfaces are to be swept clean of cuttings.
- Grass edges abutting planting beds are to be edged on each occasion with edging shears and with a half moon edging tool twice during the growing season in May and September.
- A spring and autumn application of fertiliser is to be applied to all grass areas. Remove all litter fortnightly.

### **11 Tree planting**

- 11.1 All trees are to be watered once a fortnight during the growing season of April to September, this may need to be adjusted during extreme climatic conditions.
- Tree stakes and securing systems are to be checked once a month through out the year.
- All trees are to be formatively pruned annually if required during the winter months.
- Dead or dying trees are to be replaced during the planting season of November to March and are to be of the same size and species as the original specification for the first 3 years
- Tree stakes and ties are to be removed after 2 years.