

Greyfriars Church, Reading

Specification of planting for CARPARK expansion. Jim Unwin

Details and reference numbers are shown on:-

Latest Drawings issued for Condition Discharge.

1. Introduction:-

1.1 Reading Borough Council require the following information at to discharge conditions:

- 1 Tree pit specifications
- 2 Details of planting establishment
- 3 no *Prunus* species, meaning that T17 would need to change to another species

2. Long-term design objectives:-

2.1 The proposals aim to provide the following benefits:-

- Pleasing amenity spaces for visitors to Greyfriars, and for passers-by.
- Benefit to wildlife by providing nectar, and shelter.
- Easy maintenance.

3. Hard landscaping:

As shown on JBKS latest plans issued for condition discharge.

4. Soft landscape & New planting:-

4.1 Follow relevant recommendations in *BS4428:1989 General Landscape Operations* and *BS 8545:2014 "Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations"*.

4.2 All tree, shrub and hedge work and new planting to be done by suitably qualified, and experienced, tree surgeon, landscape contractor, or volunteer with expert guidance.

4.3 Grass areas will be surfaced with on-site soil, well cultivated, and free of any object >25mm diameter in upper 200mm. Either seed, or add turf. Merge newly-restored areas with existing grassed areas. See 4.5.3 below.

4.4 Existing Trees:-

Refer to ***BJ Unwin Forestry Consultancy Tree Retention & Protection Report and Plans.***

4.5 New Planting:-

4.5.1 Trees:-

- Planting season: September to March.
- Trees to be bareroot or air-pot, minimum 20 litres for ornamentals and conifers.
- Minimum height 0.9m for conifers, 1.2m for hollies, 1.5m for fruit trees, and 3.5-4.25m (Heavy Standard 12-14cm girth) for broadleaved trees.
- Tree pits to be 0.3m greater than root spread in every direction. Ideally dug with mini-digger.
- Sides of holes to be loosened to ensure drainage.
- Holes to be backfilled with 80% topsoil and 20% well-rotted farm manure or tree-planting compost.
- Add one 1.75m x 35mm irrigation pipe to each hole.
- Tree to be staked to allow a small amount of movement.
- Add rabbit guards 60cm tall, using loose tubes of chicken mesh to all trees (and shrubs).
- Add timber or steel tree cage whenever vandalism, or vehicle impact are possible.
- Add mulch of bark or mature (>3-months' old) woodchip minimum area 1.5m diameter x 100mm deep around each tree.

4.5.2 Shrubs & Hedges:-

- Planting season:- At any time of year for potted plants, provided watering regime is maintained. September to March for bare-root plants.
- Shrubs to be potted or air-pot minimum 3litres for ornamentals and bare root for commoner species (eg natives).
- Planting pits to be 0.2m greater than root spread in every direction. Sides of holes to be loosened to ensure drainage.
- Holes to be backfilled with 80% topsoil and 20% tree-planting compost.
- Rabbit guards are needed. We suggest plastic shrub or tree shelters with small stakes.
- Add mulch of bark or mature (>3-months' old) woodchip extending minimum 0.5m from shrub x 75mm deep to each shrub or group. Mulch hedges in strips up to 1m wide where space allows.

4.5.3 Herbaceous / perennial / annual plants:-

- Disturbed ground and edges to be cultivated to remove all objects > 50mm in any dimension from top 150mm depth.
- Seed @ 20g/m² with general-purpose amenity grass mix. Example:
 - 35% ESQUIRE certified Amenity Ryegrass
 - 35% VERTECH certified Amenity Ryegrass
 - 30% MAXIMA 1 certified Strong Fescue
- Water, mow and treat weeds according to existing amenity grass management. See maintenance below.

4.6 Hard & Soft Landscape PROPOSALS:-

See ***JBKS drawings issued for condition discharge.***

5. Maintenance:-

- The site owner will be responsible for landscape management and maintenance.
- All planting to be replaced as required to achieve full stocking by year 5.
- All horticultural work to be carried out by a competent gardener, or landscape contractor.
- The whole site will be kept tidy.
- Herbaceous and shrubby vegetation and hedges will be managed at appropriate times of the year to retain an optimum balance between cost, habitat preservation, screening, and private amenity for the site's users & visitors; according to good horticultural practice.
- Herbicides will be used only on non-vegetated areas, eg Roundup in paths. Herbicide or other pesticide use will otherwise be minimised throughout the property.
- Water weekly, copiously (20 litres per tree, 10 litres per shrub), if no or minimal rain in the preceding seven days, between April and August, for first two years post-planting (applies to original planting or its replacement). **
- **Watering regimes are impossible to specify. Soil at a spade depth near a tree should never become completely dry during first two years.

End.

B J U 27th July 2020.

E: jim@bjunwin.co.uk .