

Planting Timings and Maintenance Schedule for:

Seacon Group Limited,
Tower Wharf, Northfleet,
Kent DA11 9BD

1. **Timing:** The planting season shall normally be during the dormant period i.e. October to March inclusive. Specially prepared trees may however be transplanted at all times of the year with approval from the Client. Trees that are translated out of the normal season will require extra attentions during early establishment i.e. watering on a regular basis until the next dormant period. We are planning to the planting early in 2025.
2. **Weed growth:** It is recommended that where persistent or excessive weed growth exists there shall be an application of systemic contact herbicide. This should be completed a minimum of four weeks prior to sit disturbance. Herbicide containing glyphosate as the active ingredient will be used for this task and it must only be applied using experienced personnel who hold a current "National Certificate for Pesticide Application". We shall check weed conditions in the growing season this year.
3. **Weather Conditions:** Planting should only be carried out if weather and ground conditions are suitable. No planting shall be carried out when the ground is frozen, when it is covered in snow, or when it is waterlogged.
4. **Site Preparation:** The contractor shall satisfy himself with regard to the general circumstances and ground conditions at each site in relation to the works to be carried out. In addition to any specific work required, the contractor shall be responsible for the removal of any vegetation and debris which may impede or restrict the planting operations or detract from the visual appearance of the completed works.
5. **Maintenance and aftercare (Trees)**
6. **General:** All trees planted by the contractor shall be maintained by the contractor and clients' operatives in such a way as to ensure that it becomes vigorously established in its location as quickly as possible. The contractor shall carry out all necessary and appropriate maintenance work on all such trees throughout the contract period.
7. **Annual and Seasonal Maintenance:** Maintenance shall be described as annual (to be carried out once per year), or seasonal (to be carried out during certain periods of the year, usually more than once).
8. **Annual Maintenance – Standards:** To be normally carried out in the period January to mid-March and might comprise some or all the following tasks:
9. **Formative Pruning:** This operation shall comprise the selective pruning of double leadered trees if appropriate, to leave the most suitable single leading stem, the removal of basal growth, epicormic stem growth and crossing branches, the removal of dead, diseased or damaged wood and/or the pruning back of long side branches as appropriate

to the individual tree in order to promote the development of a well formed, balanced specimen of the desired shape and habit. Where minor damage has occurred to the bark of the tree, the contractor shall cleanly cut any dead, damaged or loose bark back to undamaged tissue or the line of the newly formed callus growth. In either case, the size of the wound shall be kept to a minimum and its final shape, as far as possible, shall be rounded or elliptical and free of sharp corners.

10. Adjustment and Removal of Stakes and Ties: During the time that the tree is supported, the following checks shall be made: -

- a. The tie shall not restrict the growth of the tree and shall be correctly positioned to ensure that chafing does not occur between the tree and the stake. Adjustments to the tie should be made as necessary.
- b. Damaged, missing or non-functioning stakes and ties shall be replaced or re-positioned as necessary.

11. Stake Removal: When the tree's stem is rigid, supports its crown and stands independently, the stake and tie shall be completely removed and the resultant hole backfilled with topsoil according to BS3882: 1965 (1978), with all arisings suitably disposed of.

12. Firming In: The contractor shall ensure that the tree is an upright and correctly planted position and shall firm in as necessary over the area of each tree's root spread.

13. Adjustment of Protective Guard: Supporting stakes shall be checked, firmed, straightened and replaced as necessary. If the tree is being chafed or restricted by the guard, it should be expanded and if the guard is damaged, it shall be repaired. Where a guard is missing or damaged beyond repair, a new guard will be provided to the appropriate specification.

14. Mulching: The contractor shall be responsible for maintaining a 75mm deep area of suitable mulch of two metres diameter around each tree.

15. Weed Control: The contractor shall ensure that a circular area of two metres diameter around each tree is maintained free from grasses, broadleaved and woody weeds. This shall be achieved by the use of appropriate hand tools and the contractor shall ensure that as little disturbance as possible occurs to roots of planted trees.

16. Watering: The contractor shall, when required water all newly planted trees and shrubs at a frequency dictated by the prevailing weather conditions. The contractor shall apply a minimum of 75 litres to each tree at each application.

17. Before the first application of water or after any break of more than 3 weeks, the ground surface around the tree for a radius of 500mm shall be loosened with a fork to aid penetration into the soil. The contractor shall ensure during any forking that there is as little disturbance as possible to the roots of planted trees. The water shall be applied at a steady rate to avoid run-off to the surrounding area.

18. Maintenance and aftercare: (Hedging)
19. Hornbeam hedges: need pruning once or twice a year to keep their shape, once they've hit maturity. Pruning is best done by hand with shears, instead of a hedge trimmer. Make sure you cut from the stem to avoid killing leaves. If you slice a leaf, it will die and turn brown, discolouring the hedge. You should not prune a Hornbeam hedge in winter. This is when it is most vulnerable, and you could cause leaves to die. It will drop its leaves naturally when it's time for new leaves to grow.
20. Maintenance and aftercare: (Perennials)
21. In most cases, the key to success with perennials is keep them well watered. This particularly applies in the first year, even if they are described as drought tolerant. Aim to keep the ground moist, but not soggy, using either a watering can or hose. Apply the water under the foliage.
22. There are 15 varieties of perennials being used on site. Where possible seed heads should be kept through winter. However, as the site is windy it may be that for aesthetic reasons they are tidied up in late Autumn. Some varieties will benefit from being cut back mid-summer to promote a longer flowering period which is attractive visually and promotes wildlife.
23. The gardens should be maintained fortnightly from March till December.
24. Twice a year the beds should be checked, and extra plants added if needed.