

**SUPPLEMENTARY LANDSCAPE INFORMATION FOR:**

**PROPOSED SOLAR FARM  
LOWER PENNINGTON, LYMINGTON**

For:  
WEST SOLENT SOLAR COOPERATIVE

October 2013

## **I – IMPLEMENTATION**

Refer to ILA drawings 481-01/02/03

### **General planting specification**

It is recognised that the site is generally free draining with gravelly soil and in a windswept, coastal location, providing challenging conditions for plant establishment. The specification has therefore been devised to minimise any impact from these conditions, by providing a high degree of shelter and especially ameliorated soil conditions.

All works shall to be undertaken to recognised horticultural practice and to relevant British Standards. The quality of all landscape works shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard 4428:1989 'Code Of practice For General Landscape Operations'. All trees and other plants included within the approved details shall be healthy, well-formed specimens of a minimum quality that is compatible with British Standard 3936:1992 (Part 1) 'Specifications For Trees & Shrubs' and British Standard 4043 (where applicable). The following specification shall be strictly adhered to:

- In all planting areas, existing grass and weeds shall be completely eradicated by treatment with an appropriate herbicide.
- The underlying subsoil shall also be broken up / ripped to relieve any underlying compaction and ensure adequate drainage within the planting areas.
- All new hedgerow planting to be planted into the existing topsoil, which was re-spread following site restoration. The soil shall be thoroughly rotovated and ameliorated with additional organic matter, slow release fertiliser and water retaining polymer gel.
- PAS 100 peat free organic matter shall be incorporated into the soil in shrub planting areas at a ratio of 1 cubic metre per 20 cubic metres and thoroughly mixed in to the top 300mm of soil, prior to planting.
- Similarly, an appropriate slow release fertiliser and water retaining polymer shall be thoroughly mixed into the top 300mm of soil – quantities as per manufacturer's recommendations.
- Planting pits for hedge plants to be 200mm larger than pot size / root spread, with roots spread out evenly within the planting holes.
- New hedges to be planted as double staggered rows, 5 plants per linear metre.
- All plants to be dipped into micorrhizal root dip, with gel, prior to planting.
- Tree pits to be excavated to a minimum size of 500mm diameter larger than the 'rootball', with base broken up to minimum 250mm depth, below 'rootball'. Watering 'dishes' to be created around the base of each tree, to hold water directly over 'rootball' during watering.
- Tree planting backfill to be ameliorated to the same specification as planting areas, incorporating, PAS 100 compost, slow release fertiliser and water retaining polymer.

- All trees over 1.2m high shall be fully containerised to minimise stress when planting.
- Container grown trees up to 3.0m high to be single staked at an angle. Trees over 3.0m high shall be double staked, with a low cross bar, fixed with rubber tree ties.
- All shrub planting and hedgerows to be mulched with 75mm minimum compacted depth medium grade woodchip mulch to completely suppress weeds and retain soil moisture.
- All hedge plants to be planted within 0.6 m high shelterguards, (12mm recycled plastic mesh with polythene lining) *minimum* diameter 170mm. Eg as supplied by Tubex.
- In addition, 2m high dark green 60%, high strength, uv stable, windbreak netting shall be erected along the south / western sides of all hedgerow and copse areas to provide additional shelter for establishing planting.
- Wildflower meadow areas – areas to be completely sprayed off to eradicate all existing grass and weed growth and prepared to fine tilth and before seeding. Seed mix shall be Emorsgate seeds EM2 ‘Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture’, sown as per suppliers’ recommendations.

### **Timing and monitoring of planting works**

All planting shall be undertaken, at the latest, within the first planting season (1st November to 31st March inclusive) following substantial completion of the major construction works. If possible however, planting work will be programmed to be completed ahead of the main construction works. All tree, hedgerow and shrub planting works will be undertaken and / or supervised by a competent landscape contractor / professional.

## **2- LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Long term design objectives**

The general intent of landscape maintenance of the site is to ensure that over a period of time the planting develops to maturity, to the concept that has been approved by the local planning authority.

Management and maintenance is to be undertaken in such a way as to allow healthy plants to develop, unhindered by unwanted weed growth, overwhelming competition from neighbouring plants or other inhibiting factors.

### **Landscape maintenance schedules**

Landscape maintenance work is to be undertaken / or supervised by an experienced landscape maintenance / agricultural contractor / professional. Maintenance visits will typically be undertaken monthly or more regularly between April and October, if weather conditions (eg drought) necessitate a higher degree of input. A guide minimum number of 12 visits shall therefore be undertaken. The primary maintenance operations will include:

- Watering plants as necessary to aid establishment during the early years after planting.
- Checking and firming all plants and shelterguards.
- Checking windbreak fencing.
- Keeping planting areas free from weeds. All planted / mulched areas shall be hand weeded or treated with an appropriated herbicide as appropriate / as required.
- General trimming to ensure plants do not obscure routes and access tracks
- Fertilising of planting once yearly in spring using a suitable slow release fertiliser.
- Topping up of all mulched areas annually to ensure a minimum 75mm depth of mulch remains in situ.
- Replacing plants that fail where required, with the approved species on an annual basis for at the least the first five years.

In addition the following landscape management operations would include:

- General pruning to encourage dense, bushy, growth and ensure hedgerow plants develop appropriately according to their species. Eg. Tops of hedge plants to be pruned back in February.
- Mowing wildflower meadows annually in late autumn, removing the clippings from site / composting on site.
- Managing the height of the western boundary hedge to 2.5m in height.
- Allowing the eastern boundary hedge to grow to at least 3 – 3.5m.
- Coppicing the Hazel planting on the eastern boundary to ground level on a five yearly cycle