

Client	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	File Ref	156967-STL-XX-XX-SP-L-09001- Outline Soft Landscape Specification
Project	Cheadle Market	Date	03.07.2026
Status	Planning	Rev	PL01

1.0 Site Preparation and Earthworks

1.1 Generally, all earthworks shall be executed, and topsoil and subsoil in accordance with BS4428:1989 'General Landscape Operations', DEFRA Construction Code for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites (2009), BS 3882:2015 'Specification for topsoil'

1.2 In line with BS 3882:2015 (p11), topsoil shall be spread to the following depths, with subsoil to make up the minimum overall rooting depth:

	<u>Topsoil depth</u>	<u>Subsoil depth</u>	<u>Drainage layer</u>	<u>Minimum rooting depth</u>
Planters (shrubs & perennials):	300mm	200mm	100mm	= 400mm

1.3 Subsoil to be broken and loosen to reduce bulk density in accordance to BS 8545:2014, Annexe B

1.4 Ground profiles to be left with smoothly flowing contours, free from localised depressions, high spots and abrupt angles. Cultivate topsoil to produce a fine tilth and even surface free from lumps and clods. Sides of tree pits that have been smeared or smothered during excavation should be scarified.

2.0 Planting

2.1 Handling and transportation of all plants shall be carried out in accordance with Horticultural Trade Association's current guidance and BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations, Section 9 and Annexe E.

2.2 **Shrubs:** All shrubs shall be supplied in accordance with the plant schedules by approved nurseries. Shrub pits to be excavated to allow a 75mm clearance around the edges of the root system. Sides and bottom of pits shall be loosened to relieve any compaction. Backfill for each plant to include fertiliser enhancement only following recommendations from topsoil analysis results.

2.3 **Bark mulch** shall consist of FSC organic bark mulch (derived from single tree species, such as Prunus and Crataegus) with an even particle size distribution between 5-35mm. The mulch is to be General Landscape Grade Bark Mulch or equal equivalent, and a representative sample of the mulch shall be supplied for approval prior to delivery to site. Mulch layer to be spread at a consistent even depth of 75-100mm.

2.4 **Watering:** All planting and shrub beds shall be thoroughly watered prior to application of mulch and subsequent maintained in a moist condition as per BS 7370-4:1993 Grounds maintenance. Recommendations for maintenance of soft landscape.

2.5 **Ongoing maintenance:** Routine assessment and maintenance of planting should take place during the defect period (normally 12 months) and after care, in accordance to BS 7370-4:1993 Grounds maintenance. Recommendations for maintenance of soft landscape