DOWNEY
29 Merrion Square, D02RW64

SPECIFICATION OF SOFTWORKS & MANAGEMENT / MAINTENANCE PLAN

Muldowney's Pub,
Main Street,
Rathcoole,
Co. Dublin

Applicant: Lorat Trading Ltd.

Additional Information Stage: Reg. Ref. SD22A/0096

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The preparation of this response commenced following the Council's request for additional information on the 30th of May 2022 (deadline for response extended under request to the 8th of March 2023). DOWNEY, Chartered Town Planners and Architects, have reviewed the proposals as submitted to the Council & the documentation in support of this additional information request and compiled this response.

Please note that works specification to be read in conjunction with the following drawings:

- 436-003-AI-610-Proposed Landscape Layout Plan_A1
- 436-003-AI-611-Typical Hard & Soft Landscape details_A1
- 436-003-AI-615-Proposed Boundary Treatment Plan_A2

2.0 SPECIFICATION FOR SUPPLY OF NURSERY STOCK

2.1 Supply of nursery stock:

The nursery stock material will be delivered following consultation between the employer's representative, landscape Contractor and the selected nursery. It is intended to serve notice of delivery by means of phased orders at least two months prior to commencement of the dormant season in November of that year. Delivery will be at all times by means of covered vehicles, and all plant material will be clearly labelled. The source of origin must be from the selected nursery, as no other additional stock from other nurseries will be permitted without prior inspection and approval.

2.2 Nursery stock:

All plant material shall be good quality nursery stock, free from fungal, bacterial or viral infection, aphids, red spider or other insect pests and any physical damage. It shall comply with the requirements of B.S. 3936: Parts 1-10: 1965 Specification for Nursery Stock, where applicable.

All plants shall have been nursery grown in accordance with good practice and shall be supplied through the normal channels of the wholesale nursery trade. They shall have the habit of growth that is normal for the species. Country of origin must be shown in all cases for species grown from seed.

2.3 Species:

All plants supplied shall be exactly true to name as shown in the plant schedules. Unless stipulated, varieties with variegated and/or coloured leaves will not be accepted, and any plant found to be of this type upon leafing out shall be replaced by the contractor at his/her own expense.

Bundles of plants shall be marked in conformity with B.S. 3936: Part 1: 1965 and B.S. 3936: part 4: 1966. The nursery supplier shall replace any plants which, on leafing out, are found not to conform to the labels. Definitions of all terms used are in accordance with the following British Standards: -

B.S. No. 3936: Part 1: 1992 entitled "Nursery Stock- Trees and Shrubs"

B.S. No. 3936: Part 4: 1984 entitled "Nursery Stock- Forest Trees"

B.S. No. 3936: 1992 entitled "Specification for Nursery Stock".

2.4 Tree and Shrub Specifications:

Trees shall have a sturdy, reasonably straight stem, and a well-defined straight and upright central leader, with branches growing out of the stem with reasonable symmetry. The crown and root systems shall be well formed. Roots shall be in reasonable balance with the crown and shall be conductive to successful transplantation. All trees shall be clearly labelled.

2.4.1 Root-Balled Trees

Trees shall have a clear stem from ground level to the lowest branch and a total height as appropriate to the girth size, and the minimum girth as specified shall be measured at 1.0m above ground level– all as required under BS3936: Part 1. Trees shall be well furnished with lateral fibrous roots and shall be lifted without severance of major roots. All nursery stock trees shall have been undercut and provided with a root ball of min. diameter appropriate to girth and height. All root balls shall be wire and hessian- wrapped.

2.4.2 Multistem Trees - Rootballed

Multistem trees shall have a minimum of 3no. stems originating from or near ground level (<0.3m) and be of reasonable bushiness and health, with a well grown root system and a total height as specified on the drawings and schedules. Trees shall be well furnished with lateral fibrous roots and shall be lifted without severance of major roots. All root balls shall be wire and hessian wrapped. All multistem trees stock trees shall have been undercut a minimum of 3no. times and provided with a root ball of sufficient size and diameter to enable healthy transplanting and successful establishment and growth. All root balls shall be wire and hessian wrapped.

2.4.3 Container grown Shrubs, Ferns, Grasses, Perennials, Bamboo, Hedging

Containerized Shrubs and Climbers shall be of the size specified in the schedules, with several stems originating from or near ground level and of reasonable bushiness, healthy, vigorous and with a sound root system. Pots or containers shall be appropriate to the size of shrub supplied and clearly labelled. Shrubs shall not be pot bound or with girdled or restricted roots. Shoots and aerial parts shall be free of disease, and/or damaged leaves or shoots.

2.4.4 Hedging Stock – Bare-Root

Hedging stock shall be of size specified in the schedules, with several stems originating from or near ground level, with reasonable bushiness, healthy, vigorous and with a sound root system. Shoots, roots, and aerial parts shall be free of disease, and/or damaged leaves or shoots. Transplants shall be not less than one year old. Trees of species not listed in B.S. 3936: Part 4: shall be sturdy, with a balanced root and shoot development. Size shall conform to the schedules. Trees shall be well furnished with lateral fibrous roots and shall be lifted without severance of major roots. Roots shall be of the habit normal for the species, without deformation. Transplants shall be clearly labelled and

wrapped in polythene from the time of lifting until planting to conserve moisture. Shoots, roots and aerial parts shall be free of disease, and/or damaged leaves or shoots.

2.4.5 Hedging Stock – Rootballed

Hedging stock shall be of size specified in the schedules, with several stems originating from or near ground level, with reasonable bushiness, healthy, vigorous and with a sound root system. Shoots, roots, and aerial parts shall be free of disease, and/or damaged leaves or shoots. Such hedging shall be provided with a root ball of sufficient size and diameter to enable healthy transplanting and successful establishment and growth. Root balls shall be hessian-wrapped only for any plant under 1m in height.

3.0 SPECIFICATIONS FOR CARE OF NURSERY STOCK

3.1 Protection:

The interval between the lifting of stock at the nursery and planting on site is to be kept to an absolute minimum. Plants shall be protected from drying out and from damage in transport. All stock awaiting transport shall be protected from the wind and frost and from drying out.

3.2 Damage

On completion of lifting of plants in the nursery, any broken shoots or severed roots shall be pruned, areas of damaged bark neatly pared back to sound tissue.

3.3 Inspections

The Employer's representative will inspect the hardy nursery stock during the execution of the works. Only plants selected and approved in the landscape contractors selected nursery will be accepted on the site.

3.4 Delivery and heeling in

All plants will be delivered on a phased basis as called up in advance in agreement with the Employer's representative and the appointed Landscape Contractor. In the event of the Employer's representative being dissatisfied with the care and attention given to the stocks, following heeling-in or arrival on site, he shall notify the Landscape Contractor who shall take steps to ensure careful heeling-in procedures. Any damaged plants must be replaced by the Landscape Contractor entirely at his own expense.

The preparation of the heeling-in area and its subsequent maintenance is the sole responsibility of the Landscape contractor. No responsibility for the maintenance of stock delivered to site will attach to the employer whilst stock is protected on site, even if the stock requires protection beyond the normal planting season.

4.0 SPECIFICATIONS FOR SITE OPERATIONS

4.1 Setting out:

Setting out shall be in accordance with site meetings with the Employer's Representative, and the drawings listed in the preliminaries. No planting works shall take place when the soil /fill is in a waterlogged condition or the ground is frozen. Transplants in mixtures shall be planted in staggered rows. Species shall be planted in groups, as indicated in the planting drawings. No planting shall take place until all planting holes (with ameliorants) have been inspected and approved by the Employer's Representative, or a person appointed by him as a representative, to ensure accordance with the specifications. No planting shall take place when ground conditions are frozen or waterlogged. All planting holes shall be opened and closed on the same day.

4.2 Earthworks, Soil and Grading

4.2.1 Stripping and storage of existing soil on-site

All soil removed during grading works is to be placed in storage bunds on-site. Topsoil must be stripped separately from subsoil for re-use in landscape works and must be fit for purpose. Topsoil would be defined as soil that has a high content of organic material, usually corresponding to the 'O' and/or 'A' horizon of the soil profile. Subsoil would be all mineral soils that do not have a substantial organic component. Where the difference between topsoil and subsoil is unclear, consult the Employer's Representative.

Subsoil that is excess to fill requirements is to be stored on-site in a designated location, to be agreed with the Employer's Representative. Subsoil shall be stored in stable mounds with side slopes of gradient no more than 1:2 and an overall height of no more than 2m. Mounds to be seeded with wildflower seed as per clause 3.3.3.

Topsoil shall be stripped using a tracked vehicle to avoid subsoil compaction. Avoid tracking over or compaction of the topsoil. Topsoil should be stripped and dumped to form the berms using the dump and back-actor method. Double handling of topsoil is to be avoided. Topsoil that has been compacted shall be removed off site and replaced at the contractor's expense.

Topsoil shall be stored in stockpiles of dimensions no greater than 10m long x 5m wide x 0.5m high, such that a long, narrow, and low berm is created to preserve the intrinsic qualities (structure and soil life) of the topsoil whilst in storage. The topsoil shall be loose tipped to create the berm and lightly compacted with the back of a digger bucket to create a degree of compaction suitable for storage, with side slopes of gradient no more than 1:2. No machinery shall be run over the soil berm. Berms shall be seeded with grass seed as per clause 3.3.2.

4.2.2 Subsoil

(a) Supply of Subsoil

Existing subsoil shall be used for all grading works.

Imported subsoil – if required - shall be sourced from a reputable source and be free of

waste, chemicals, large stones, builder's rubble, and any other detritus.

(b) Formation of Slopes/Mounds

Subsoil to be used to form even slopes or mounding to contours shown on drawings. Subsoil to be formed to smooth contours to 150mm below finished levels indicated on drawings, where the area is to be grassed or 300mm.

(c) Formation of Grassed Areas

Subsoil to be graded accurately to contours / levels / falls / crossfalls shown on drawings.

4.3.3 Topsoil

(a) Supply of Topsoil

Existing topsoil may be used for all grading and planting works, if it complies with the following specification, which would also apply to imported topsoil, as required. It is expected that imported topsoil will be required for all planting areas.

Topsoil shall be sourced from a reputable source and be free of waste, chemicals, large stones, builder's rubble and any other detritus. Topsoil shall have good structure, be friable, fresh and free-draining with at least 20% organic content. Imported topsoil shall comply with BS3882: 1994, and shall be free draining sandy loam, clay or other approved. It shall be free of stones over 40 mm diameter, and stones over 10 mm diameter shall not exceed 5% by weight. It shall be free from subsoil, sods, roots of trees and shrubs, and rubbish. Topsoil shall be from the original surface layer of grassland or cultivated land, to a maximum depth of 200 mm. Soils from woodland, heathland, bog or contaminated land will not be acceptable.

(b) Removal of topsoil:

In areas to be regraded, all topsoil should be stripped and stored as per following clauses.

(c) Weather and Soil Conditions

All work involving topsoil shall not be carried out, unless the Employer's Representative

permits otherwise:

Where areas have been exposed to a cumulative rainfall exceeding 60mm over the preceding 28 days measured at a point approved by the Employer's Representative: or

- Where soil moisture content is wetter than the Plastic Limit (PL) of the soil less 3%. The PL of the soil can be assessed in the field as the minimum moisture content at which the soil can be rolled and moulded into a thin thread approximately 3mm in diameter without breaking or cracking and in a laboratory according to BS 1377: Part 2.
- When heavy rain is falling.
- During periods of severe frost when the soil is frozen. Handling frozen soil will cause damage to the soil structure.

(d) Topsoil Spreading

Topsoil shall be moved and spread only in dry weather. Before topsoiling, remove all stones, rubble, and rubbish over 75mm diameter from the surface of the subsoil formation. Dig out any areas polluted by oil or chemicals and make up with clean soil. Loaders shall load from the base of the soil storage berm only. Placement of soil should be carried out using a tracked vehicle to avoid subsoil compaction. Reinstated areas of topsoil shall not to be tracked over. The topsoil shall be allowed to settle to a thickness of 300mm and the contractor shall make full allowance for such settlement in applying the topsoil. Uneven areas shall be topped up as necessary.

(e) Topsoil Depths & Provision

The following depths should be provided for topsoiled areas:

(i) Grassed Areas: 150mm

(ii) Bare-root planting: 300mm

(iii) Shrub planting: 500mm

(iv) Tree planting: Pit to specified size, depending on size of tree (see relevant Clauses)

(f) Grading

Topsoil to be graded accurately to contours / levels / falls / crossfalls shown on drawings. Glazed / compacted areas of subsoil to be roughened or ripped as necessary. (Drainage to be installed where necessary to Engineer's specification.) Any compacted areas to be ripped after placing of soil.

Unless otherwise stated, finished levels of grass and shrub planting areas will be 50mm above adjoining paving or kerbs, retaining wall copings, manhole covers etc., and levels will be arranged to give gentle falls for drainage and to avoid ponding hollows. Any area unduly compacted during the work of grading will be loosened by forking or harrowing. The use of heavy rollers to roll out mounds will not be permitted.

Unless otherwise stated, finished levels of topsoil, after settlement, to be:

1. 50mm above adjoining pavements and kerbs
2. 300mm higher for shrubs than for adjoining grass areas
3. married in with adjoining soil areas
4. all stones above 50mm diameter to be removed off site by the landscape contractor.

4.3 Seeding:

4.3.1 Amenity Grass Areas

Fine cut areas to be sown with Coburns 'Greenlawn' Grass Seed Mixture as detailed below or equal at a rate of 40g/sq.m together with fertiliser 10:10:20 at a rate of 50g/Sq.m

15% Dwarf Perennial Ryegrass 15% Dwarf Perennial Ryegrass 20% Dwarf Perennial Ryegrass 25% Strong Creeping Red Fescue 20% Chewings Fescue

5% Browntop Bentgrass

5.0 SPECIFICATIONS FOR PLANTING OPERATIONS

5.1 Tree Support:

All trees in pavement tree pits shall be anchored by means of root ball guying. Root ball is anchored by a timber frame (or equivalent support system – e.g., Platipus system) located around the top surface of the root ball, which is fastened by wires (4mm galvanised cable guying wire) to 'dead man' anchors, kerbstones or timber beams located below the root ball.

5.2 Stakes:

Round stakes shall be of peeled larch, pine or Douglas fir, preserved with a water-borne copper chrome arsenic composition in accordance with I.S. 131. All trees to be double staked with crossbar 100x25mm securely attached to uprights with galvanised nails. Stakes shall be round, 1.8m long, 75mm in diameter. Stakes shall be pointed at the butt end. Set stakes vertically in the pit and drive before planting. Drive stake with a wooden maul or cast-iron headed drive. Sledgehammer should not be used. Stakes shall be driven into the excavated planting pit to a depth of 1000mm.

5.3 Tree ties:

Tree ties shall be of rubber, PVC or proprietary fabric laminate composition and shall be strong and durable enough to hold the tree securely in all weather conditions for a period of three years. They shall be flexible enough to allow proper tightening of the tie. Ties shall be min. 25mm wide for 120cms – 150cm height trees and min. 38mm for larger sizes. They shall be fitted with a simple collar spacer to prevent chafing. Two ties per tree shall be applied to standards; for staked transplants, one tie per tree is required.

5.4 Protection:

The interval between the lifting of stock at the heeling-in area and planting on site is to be kept to an absolute minimum. Plants shall be protected from drying out and from damage in transport. All stock awaiting planting on site shall be stored in a sheltered place protected from the wind and frost and from drying out.

All transplants shall be wrapped in polythene from the time of lifting to conserve moisture. Except when heeled-in, they shall be protected in polythene at all times until planted into their final position on site.

5.5 Damage:

On completion of planting any broken branches shall be pruned, areas of damaged bark neatly pared back to sound tissue.

5.6 Watering / Fertilisers:

All trees and shrubs shall be soaked in water for one hour prior to planting. Fertilisers shall conform to BS 5581: 1981. Fertiliser must be mixed through and incorporated into the base of the planting hole and covered with soil in order to avoid roots of plants coming in direct contact. Follow manufacturer's instructions for all chemical products.

5.7 Tree planting:

Trees shall be planted at the same depth as in the nursery, indicated by the soil mark on the stem of the tree. They shall be planted in the centre of the planting pit and planted upright. Stones or other rubbish over 75mm shall be removed. Supply and install the staking / guying system as per clauses 4.1-4.4. Backfill planting hole with excavated topsoil, and remove all stones and debris, firming plant into position. Upon completion of planting, all pits shall be raked over lightly to leave an even surface and neat appearance. All stones greater than 25mm dia. to be removed. Provision should be made for the watering of root-balled trees in the first year following planting.

5.7.1 Specimen Trees

Excavate tree pits to 1200mm x 1200mm x 1000mm deep. Farmyard manure 80mm deep and 100g of 0.10.20 shall be applied to each tree pit prior to planting. Farmyard manure shall consist predominantly of faecal matter and shall be free of loose, dry straw and undigested hay. It shall be free of surplus liquid effluent. Install tree support system as per clause 4.1. Fill planting hole with topsoil as per clause 3.2.2, and remove all stones and debris, firming plant into position.

5.7.2 Small Trees / Large Shrubs

Excavate tree pits to 750mm x 750mm x 750mm deep. Farmyard manure 60mm deep and 100g of 0.10.20 shall be applied to each tree pit prior to planting. Farmyard manure shall consist predominantly of faecal matter and shall be free of loose, dry straw and undigested hay. It shall be free of surplus liquid effluent. Install tree support system as per clause 4.1. Fill planting hole with topsoil as per clause 3.2.2, and remove all stones and debris, firming plant into position.

5.8 Container Grown Shrubs, Grasses, Ferns, Perennials P9 / 20-30 / 30-40cm.

Excavate planting hole to a depth of 300mm x 300mm x 300mm deep; the base to be broken to a depth of 50mm and glazed sides roughened. Apply FYM to base of hole to a depth of 150mm and 30g of 0:10:20 per planting pit. Backfill planting hole with excavated topsoil, and remove all stones and debris, firming plant into position.

5.9 Containerised Shrubs, 40-60cm

Excavate planting hole to a depth of 500mm x 500mm x 500mm deep; the base to be broken to a depth of 50mm and glazed sides roughened. Apply FYM to base of hole to a depth of 150mm and 50g of 0:10:20 per planting pit. Backfill planting hole with excavated topsoil, and remove all stones and debris, firming plant into position.

5.10 Hedging 90-120cm

Excavate trench to a depth of 500mm x 500mm wide; the base to be broken to a depth of 50mm and glazed sides roughened. Incorporate 200mm depth of well-rotted FYM into base and cover with 150mm soil min. Apply 100g 0:10:20 per Sq.m into backfill. Backfill planting hole with excavated topsoil, and remove all stones and debris, firming plants into position.

5.11 Aquatic Plants

Any aquatic plants are to be planted into the topsoil in accordance with specifications above for container-grown plants, excluding fertiliser. Following planting, the area is to be flooded with water and kept topped up to at least 50mm depth throughout the plant establishment period.

5.12 Ground finish:

Upon completion of planting, all ground finish shall include for the removal of stones greater than 25mm excavated during the course of the digging for planting purposes. All soil surfaces should be even and free of mounds, rutting or hollows.

5.13 Spraying:

Following planting, weed free circles to be formed around individual plants, as directed, using an approved broad-spectrum contact herbicide, as approved by the Employer's representative, in mid-spring following planting. Herbicide to be applied using controlled drop applicator. The contractor shall be responsible for keeping the ground (1m diameter circle) around all planted material weed free by means of herbicidal application, using approved sprays, during the course of the contract. Weeds to be removed include grasses, broad-leaved annual and perennial weeds and all noxious weeds.

5.14 Weed control fabric.

The weed control fabric shall be 105gsm and shall suppress weeds whilst allowing water, air, and nutrients to pass through. MypexTM, PlantexR or equal woven fabric product acceptable. Cut with a scissors or knife. All sharp objects should be removed from the surface soil prior to laying the weed suppressing geotextile. Overlap adjacent rolls by at least 10cm. Membrane to be pegged to ground using proprietary plastic pegs.

When planting into the geotextile membrane an 'X' shaped notch should be cut into the membrane for each individual plant, to allow for excavation. Planting should resume as per species specification. Excavated material should not be stored on geotextile and the membrane area should be thoroughly swept of any residual material prior to application of finished aggregate or mulch.

Membrane to be applied to all planting and gravel areas.

5.15 Bark mulch

Bark Mulch to be 'Golden Pine Bark' by Growise or equal and approved. The product shall consist of matured Conifer Bark with an even nominal particle size distribution of 5- 75mm with less than 5% dust and fines and less than 15% wood content. The pH to be between 4.5 and 5.5. The product shall

be pest, disease and weed free and not have been treated with Methyl Bromide or any additives. The product shall have been tested in accordance with the requirements of BS 4790:1987, for fire resistance.

The natural heat treatment maturing process shall have been sufficient to ensure that excess volatile substances are driven from the product. During the process, temperatures within the product heaps must exceed 50°C for a minimum 14-day period, followed by a further period of stabilisation.

Lay Bark Mulch to a finished depth of 75mm allowing at least 10% for settlement after 30 days. All such mulch of good quality from an approved source will be inspected by the Employer's representative prior to delivery. All product volumes to be calculated using The Bulk Density method, as set out in BS EN 12579:2000 and BS EN 12580:2000. Slow-release Nitrogen fertiliser to be applied to soil prior to mulching.