CONTRACTS AND WORKING ON SITE
RIBA 4-5

Biosecurity and plant health
INTRODUCTION

PRINCIPLES TO IMPROVE BIOSECURITY

APPOINTMENT - Making the most of us
BRIEFING - Making the most of the project
CONTRACTS - Using the contract as a tool
DIALOGUE - Making the most of the team
**PROGRESS AND TIME**

- Champion for Landscape to be appointed early
- Control Value Engineering
- Frontload design and specification - ensure fee proposal accommodates this approach
- On-site last-minute decision making can compromise BIOSECURITY
- Foresee the issues
Descriptive specification

- Quality of Materials or Workmanship described
- Eg. materials, dimensions, weights, colour, finishes and construction methodology

“All plants to be healthy, with a dense, fibrous root system and well formed and balanced branch and root system to suit species type, and with an attractive shape and without elongated shoots, all in accordance with the National Plant Specification.

All plants are to be true to name, form, dimensions and other criteria as scheduled and defined in the National Plant Specification.

No trees to have been heavily top pruned within the previous 12 months.

All plants to be materially undamaged, sturdy and vigorous.

Obtain from approved source(s) with soil and climatic conditions similar to those prevailing on the site. All plants to be fully hardened off and wind hardy.

Do not use plants which have been winter protected by polythene, net tunnels or cold glass.

All plants to be free from pests and diseases, discolouration, weeds and physiological disorders.”

Performance Specification

- Result or performance known
- Method of construction unknown

“An avenue of native trees, planted at 5m centres, to define the arrival space...........”
SPECIFICATION

- Container grown stock can mitigate risk of plant damage on site

- Ensure handling and supply requirements are listed

- Detail request for plant provenance, size, stock, availability

- Ask for certification/supply/delivery notes

- Ask for written audit trail for seed source and any propagation techniques

- Promote and champion Plant Healthy scheme - sets standards for plant production and handling
SITE INSPECTIONS

- Ensure sufficient number of site visits are allowed for within fee proposal
- Brief junior members of the team on Biosecurity
- Request programme to keep up to date with delivery and planting arrangements
- Request delivery notes/provenance paperwork/Plant Passports
- Use COW or ECOW for daily/specialist monitoring
- Visually inspect plant stock, irrigation, wood palettes, bark, topsoil and organic matter
- Ask Contractor for photographs for records
- Keep referring back to SPECIFICATION - Contractually binding
CONTRACTS

TRADITIONAL CONTRACTS

- Easier to control contract
- Direct opportunity to influence and educate Client and design team
- Be familiar with Contract clauses that can be used to push non-conformities
- Build up a strong relationship with Landscape Contractor
- Value Engineering - VE holistically understanding knock-on factors
- Request to review PTE - Pre-Tender Estimate/ Cost Plan to ensure costs and Provisional Sums are sufficient
- Highlight changes to biosecurity measures to Contract Administrator during variations
CONTRACTS

DESIGN & BUILD

- Ensure Contractors Proposals (CP’s) match Employers Requirements (ER’s) - this is your tool for leverage.... “in accordance with drawings and specification”.

- Frontload design and specification with important Biosecurity principles - it should not be an afterthought

- Educate Contractor on Biosecurity principles using time and cost as factors

- Lack of control over nursery/landscape contractor selection - Liaise and advise using lessons learned

- Highlight changes to biosecurity measures to Contract Administrator during variations

- Novation implications: NEW Client that may need educating in importance of Biosecurity measures
CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION TOOLS

1. Hold off/ advise against Practical Completion approval until all softworks has been implemented

2. Include notes/ impacts to Biosecurity principles at pre-start and progress meetings/ minutes to ensure its recorded

3. Only issue Certificate of Making Good once satisfied softworks defects/ snags have been remedied

4. Clearly set out biosecurity measures in maintenance and management plan and push for 24 month maintenance period as standard within contract

5. Flag-up potential risks to Plant Health as a result of all variations/ instructions to Contract Administrator

6. Foresee the need for Contract Growing and allow 12 months from placing order to delivery - eliminates change

7. Suggest a long-term management and maintenance plan as additional scope
COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- Change your approach for large scale Design and Build projects
- Talk the language of the team - cost certainty, programme delay and quality
- Understand communication channels and where best to concentrate influence
- Push for scope and fee for full RIBA services to Handover
- Advise on form of Contract
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