

A Site Manager's Guide

ASSESS the site:

- ◆ What is the history of the site? Has a soil survey been carried out? Has the existing site soil been analysed for contamination?
- ◆ Is the soil heavily compacted/waterlogged or contaminated with construction waste?
- ◆ Is de-compaction/clean-up work needed?
- ◆ What imported soil is required – Subsoil? Topsoil? How much?
- ◆ If the onsite soil is suitable for re-use:
 - ◇ First remove any vegetation
 - ◇ Strip the topsoil and store
 - ◇ Strip the subsoil and store
- ◆ Is there a suitable area for storing and weatherproofing the onsite/imported soil?



PREPARE the site:

- ◆ Install any drainage systems required.
- ◆ **Only in dry conditions**, de-compact heavily trafficked/waterlogged areas using a ripper tine attachment on an excavator to rip the soil to depths of between 30cm and 60cm to loosen and break up the compacted layers.
- ◆ Prepare a clean, segregated and fenced off area to store onsite/imported soil, preferably on higher ground to prevent water running into it. Sheet the stockpiles if the soil is to be stored for several weeks.



ORDER your soil:

- ◆ **Talk to your supplier** – use the **checklist below** to make sure you order the right soil in the correct quantities, delivered without incident.



PLACE your soil:

- ◆ Avoid handling soils in wet conditions and minimise all traffic (machinery and pedestrian) on the areas to be landscaped.
- ◆ Place your soil to the correct depth, lightly consolidating with the back of an excavator bucket between different soil levels:
 - ◇ **Subsoil:** Tree pits – 500-700mm; Planting areas – 300mm.
 - ◇ **Topsoil:** Turf and grass areas – 150mm-200mm; Planting areas – 300mm max.
- ◆ Rake, then plant or turf, before cordoning off freshly landscaped areas.



SUPPLIER CHECKLIST

Make sure you ask your soil supplier the following questions before ordering:

1. **What is the source of your soil?** Greenfield/Brownfield/Skip/Manufactured
2. **Do your products comply with the relevant British Standard for Subsoil and Topsoil?**
3. **How is it stored?** Undercover/Outdoors
4. **Do you have enough for the duration of this project?**
5. **Who does your sampling and analysis?**
6. **Can I have a copy of the Declaration of Analysis?**
7. **Are you a member of a reputable industry organisation?**



INFORMATION YOUR SUPPLIER WILL NEED WHEN YOU PLACE AN ORDER

To ensure you order the right soil in the correct quantities, delivered without incident, have the following information ready when you call your soil supplier:

1. **Type of project** – housebuilding, amenity/commercial landscaping, tree planting, turfing etc.
2. **Type of soil (subsoil/topsoil) and quantity required** – calculate the area to be covered and the depth of product required to enable your supplier to calculate the correct tonnage.
3. **Site access** – most suppliers will deliver their soil in loose loads by 20 tonne rigid vehicles or 29 tonne articulated trucks. It is crucial you give them the following information for an incident-free delivery:
 - ◆ **Width of access**
 - ◆ **Width of approach road/driveway**
 - ◆ **Any weight restrictions on the approach/site**
 - ◆ **Any height restrictions on site/overhead services**
 - ◆ **Site access times and any restrictions**
 - ◆ **Any local knowledge regarding adjacent properties/schools/neighbours etc.**
 - ◆ **Onsite contact name and mobile number**
 - ◆ **Order information (e.g. PO number etc.)**

