

Balmerino Abbey: Soft Capping Trials 2016

Soft Capping Specification

To be read with Drawings and Photographs

Generally/Preparation

Scope of work

The soft cappings are to be applied only in the areas shown on the accompanying drawings and photographs, generally comprising consolidated flat and broken wallheads of rubble masonry.

Reviewing scope of the work

Arrange Inspection by NTS Surveyor once scaffolding is in place, but before work commences. Confirm detail and extent of work required with Architect before beginning. Confirm any plants to be retained for re-use.

Removal of plant growths from masonry

Confirm any plants to be retained for re-use before commencement of work. Set aside any sedums and other plants as instructed and maintain for re-use in soft capping.

Plants, root systems and associated soil/ debris: Carefully remove from joints, voids and face work.

Rooty shrubs: cut shrub to 100mm above masonry and treat end with approved systemic herbicide. Leave to die before removing roots. Use dampened temporary wood wedges or other approved method to assist removal of roots. Where growths cannot be removed completely without disturbing masonry seek instructions.

Lichen: Do not remove lichen unless instructed.

Moss: Remove moss and retain for possible re-use.

Workmanship generally

Protection

Protection of masonry: Prevent damage, particularly to arises, projecting features and delicate, friable surfaces. Prevent soil splashes and other staining and marking. Use suitable non-staining covers, boards, etc. Remove at completion.

Protection of ground: Prevent soil spills and build-up of debris on the ground, by use of protective sheets below work. Prevent unnecessary dieback of plants by removing when work not going on above.

Protection of Soft Capping Plants: Transport and store plants by suitable means. Store and maintain plants on site under suitable conditions, avoiding excessive light, shade, damp or dryness. Avoid damage by other works.

Disturbance of existing masonry

Do not disturb existing masonry before installation of soft cappings, except to remove loose cement pointing and to rebed individual loose stones as per masonry preamble.

Operatives

General: Skilled and experienced with the materials and procedures required.

Evidence of training and previous experience: Contractor to provide a list of operatives, certificates and qualifications prior to commencement of works and when personnel are rotated or changed on site, Contractor to submit written notification of the changes to personnel.

Adverse weather for masonry repairs

Frozen materials: Do not use. Do not lay cappings on frozen surfaces.

Air temperature: Do not apply cappings: when at or below 5°C and falling or unless it is at least 3° C and rising.

Rain and snow: Protect new cappings by covering during heavy precipitation while work is not proceeding.

Hot conditions and drying winds: Prevent cappings from drying out by light watering, when approved by CA.

Control samples

General: Obtain approval of the following before proceeding with the remainder: 1m length of soft capping.

SOFT CAPPINGS

Soft capping

Type: fine grass & sedum composite over clay.

Requirements: agree exact location and detail on site with CA.

Preparation of existing masonry wallhead

Ensure masonry is sound and stable before installation of soft cappings. Remove only loose cement pointing and rebed individual loose stones as per masonry preamble prior to laying new soft capping.

Fitting soft cappings

Lay clay mortar, over existing masonry

Lay turf layer

Fit plug plants

Lightly spray with water on completion

Provisional - Fit temporary wide mesh coir netting restraint against wind uplift, if required.

Clay layer

Material: natural clay, tempered with sand/aggregate to suit, mix to a stiff plastic consistency, but not puddled.

Supplier: To approval. Provide sample for approval by CA.

Fitting: Lay in a single layer over masonry to form a continuous surface, gently sloping to the outer edge of the wall, min. 50mm depth. Trim off any excess exposed.

Prevent drying out before covering with growing medium.

Avoid rainwater runoff staining masonry below

Turf

Material: Natural grass turf, cut short before lifting

Supplier: To approval. Preferred source is local turf cut from natural grassland or unimproved (unfertilised) pasture that is dry and shallow to rock and has a well- established dense root mat.

Cutting, cut in even strips, as wide as possible, ensuring good root area. Prevent drying out. Preferred to use a mechanical turf cutter

Fitting: lay across the wallhead, tucking both ends under to avoid an exposed cut edge, but not creating a double layer generally. Peg the edges to the underlying clay with wooden pegs. The turf should gently fall to the outside, with a slight projecting curved lip. Tamp down onto clay to ensure good root contact. Ensure a tight butt joint to next piece.

Plug plants

Press returned plants/ sedums into holes made in turf at regular intervals throughout.