

SOFT LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Topsoil · planting · turfing — machines and hand work together

KD-RAMS-EW-002 Rev A0

Statutory basis: HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5; HSE HSG47 (3rd edition, 2014) for any ground penetration; Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992; PUWER 1998; COSHH 2002; CDM 2015 regs 13 and 15.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

Soft landscaping: topsoil placement and grading, planting of trees, shrubs and hedging, turfing and seeding, and establishment care.

This document does not cover: tree felling and surgery (KD-RAMS-EW-003 interface with arborists).

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Manual handling of boards, materials and components

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Mechanical aids first — trolleys, board lifters, hoists. Two-person lifts for boards and long components; order materials in manageable sizes; plan storage close to the workforce; keep carrying routes clear and lit.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Striking hidden services when drilling, cutting or fixing

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Check drawings and the services register, scan with a CAT before drilling or chasing into existing fabric, respect safe zones, and stop and reassess if an unrecorded service is found.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Working at the public boundary

At risk: Public, operatives

Controls: Physical segregation — fencing, barriers, signage; plant movements marshalled at the boundary; materials and tools never left accessible; work affecting footpaths agreed with the authority.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. Slips, trips and housekeeping

At risk: Everyone in the work area

Controls: Keep the workforce clear, remove waste and offcuts as they are created, route leads at high level or under mats, and maintain task lighting.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Lone working during early, late or isolated tasks

At risk: Operatives

Controls: No lone working on higher-risk operations; where low-risk lone work is agreed, a check-in arrangement is in place and the person knows the site emergency arrangements.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

6. Machine and hand-crew interface in the same area

At risk: Ground workers

Controls: Machines and planting crews separated by task area; no hand work within an operating machine's radius; agreed signals for approach.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL H/...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

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4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- 01 Scan planting positions for services before digging pits.
- 02 Place and grade topsoil by machine; hand crews clear of the machine area.
- 03 Dig pits, plant and stake; rootballs moved by machine or team lifts.
- 04 Turf/seed; water established per the schedule.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

Excavator/dumper

Water bowser

Augers

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS

COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

Head protection

High visibility

Eye protection

Safety footwear

Gloves — task-rated

Hearing protection

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-EX-005 — Excavation & Permit to Dig
Where planting pits break ground near services.

PERMIT NUMBER

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION

NEAREST A&E

ASSEMBLY POINT

HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED

EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA

SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

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PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-08-09	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
D1	2026-08-10	material	HSG47 dated to the 3rd edition, 2014. Legislation position reviewed against Product Legislation Register KD-REG-01 Rev R01.3 and the August 2026 horizon scan; cutoff moved to 10 August 2026.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-27	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from D1; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.