



Scope of Works

Works

Temperate House Precinct Project,
Landscape contractor

RBGKEW/291

1. SUMMARY

The Temperate House Precinct Project (THPP) requires the appointment of a landscaping contractor experienced at working on projects with a demanding timescale and engaging with multiple stakeholders. The landscaper must have a strong understanding of the horticultural standards that the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Kew) strives to uphold and the necessity to complete their work on time, as any delay will impact Kew's planting programme. Experience of working in CSCS carded sites is a must, either for or with a main contractor. Demonstration of a strong ability in the co-ordination and managing of different elements of a scheme to deliver on time and to agreed standards is also important. The working area will be the landscape contractors H&S responsibility, but the overall site will be under the construction contractor's H&S regulation. The landscaping work is required to be completed by November 2017 to allow planting to commence on or before this date. The glasshouse will open to the public in May 2018.

2. BACKGROUND

Kew and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLA) engaged Turner Townsend (TT) and ISG to undertake the renovation of the Temperate House, which is the world's largest existing Victorian glasshouse. Over the course of the restoration programme ISG have experienced set-backs, which has led to a reduction of time for Kew's horticultural team to undertake the landscaping and planting within the glasshouse. A decision has therefore been made to contract elements of the work out to a landscaping company in order to ensure the glasshouse is ready for opening to the public in May 2018.

3. RBG KEW CONTACT DETAILS

Scott Taylor
Temperate House Supervisor

Georgina Darroch
Temperate House Project Coordinator

Andrew Williams
Temperate House Project Director

4. SCOPE OF THE REQUIREMENTS

Responsibilities include:

- De-compact existing soil sub base levels, removing extraneous material off site, level and grade.
- Install growing media (provided by Kew), grade and landscape all beds to Kew's specifications (liaising and coordinating with ISG and TT, complying with their site requirements).
- Move from storage previously identified rocks and install in beds as directed by Kew's horticulture staff.
- Assist Kew's horticulturists to bring in and plant specimens over 100 litre pot size, to be completed concurrently with rock and soil installation.

- Install water features, water feature treatment plant and irrigation rings with control equipment. Designs will be provided by Kew, the appointed contractor will need to provide a detailed methodology for how to achieve the desired results.
- Optional additional work of re-turfing or seeding the grass apron round the outside of the building.
- The contractor will work with Kew and ISG to develop the final contract programme.

KEY DATES

Appointment: April 2017

Plans and RAMS submitted: May 2017

Final sign off by Kew: June 2017

Access to North Block: Late July 2017.

Access to South Block: Early September 2017

Access to Centre Block for install of waterfall: Early August 2017

Access to remaining Centre Block sections: October 2017

Work to be completed and snagged: Late November 2017

These delivery dates are to provide an indicative outline. The programme could be subject to delay by construction progress and some flexibility will be required from the landscaping contractor to adapt their programme as required.

5. DEPENDENCIES

RBG, Kew, internal departments:

Director of Horticulture, Learning & Operations (Project SRO)

Horticulture

Design Team

Temperate House Project Office

External:

ISG (main contractor)

Turner & Townsend (client project manager)

6. SECURITY

Whilst on site Kew's Health & Safety policies and procedures must be adhered to. A contractor induction will be provided and all provided H&S documents must be read and signed.

The Temperate House site is managed by ISG and is therefore under ISG's health and safety policy. A site induction will be provided and contractors must have their CSCS certification before operating on the site unaccompanied.

7. STANDARDS

• Install previously procured soil, grade and landscape all beds

The Horticultural team at Kew is currently procuring growing media to replace the old material removed as part of the restoration process.

Growing media will be supplied by Petersfield Products and is specifically tailored to Kew's requirements; it is made up of loam, sand, grit and composed bark. Petersfield will deliver the growing medium to the site and the appointed contractor will then move it into the building and install into the beds. As the Temperate house is a large building the quantity of growing medium will be circa 1300m³ and will need to be delivered in several batches to various sites around the building. It is estimated the quantities will be divided into 200m³ for the north block, 200m³ for the south block and 900m³ for the centre block.

Prior to the installation of the growing medium the bottom of the beds will require some work to alleviate compaction and ensure good drainage throughout the entire planting beds. Once the de-compaction has taken place the growing medium can be installed to an average depth of 50cm (slight variations throughout the site) and consolidated by treading. The installation should be in 10cm batches, treaded to avoid future slumping.

The planting beds will also require landscaping with several features including waterfalls, streams and gullies in a naturalistic fashion in order to recreate natural looking plant displays. The appointed contractor will be expected to install all of these features to the details given by Kew's Horticultural and Design teams.

• Move from rock store previously identified rocks and install in beds

The period prior to construction work taking place saw the removal of many large rocks from the Temperate House to sites across Kew. These rocks will form the basis of the landscape features Kew's horticultural team wish to see created. The transport and installation of these rocks will form part of the appointed contractor's responsibility. Rocks will be placed according to details given by Kew's Horticultural and Design teams.

• Install water features, water feature treatment plant and irrigation rings

The redesigned landscape incorporates three water features: a stream in the north block, a large waterfall in the centre block and a small waterfall, pond and bog in the south block. The main water feature in the centre block has been designed by an external company working with Kew's design and horticultural teams, the appointed contractor will build this feature and its water treatment plant according to plans provided. The other two features are much smaller in size and will be detailed in house by Kew for the contractor to construct.

Kew also requires an irrigation system installed and requests the contractor to install the main ring mains off which drip lines and sprinklers will then be installed by Kew's horticultural team. Plans will be provided to show where the rings need to be installed along with the timers and control boxes.

- **Assist Kew horticulturists to bring in and assist with planting specimens over 100 litre pot size**

A number (approx. 100) of plants grown for this project have reached a large size and help is required to transport them from the on-site nurseries they are located in to the Temperate House and planted according to Kew's guidelines and glasshouse tree planting specification (provided on request). These plants include some large trees and shrubs, bamboos, palms, tree ferns and cycads. Access into the building needs to be considered due to restrictive door size, so details will need to be finalised with the contractor once appointed. A visit to the decant nurseries on the Kew site is required to ascertain the variety of shapes and sizes of the various plants requiring assistance.

8. CONSTRAINTS

- Kew is an access controlled site and passes will be operational between 06.00 and 20.30.
- As the construction phase will be nearly complete, the upmost care must be given to ensure no damage to the fabric of the building (steps, doors, walls, glass, masonry, paving etc.) is sustained. Protection to finishes will be required and discussed further (including site visits) once the contractor has been appointed.
- Access onto the Temperate House site will be through Kew Gardens and rules including speed limits, vehicle escorting, vehicle size etc. must be adhered to.
- Kew is a major visitor attraction with over 1.5M visitors a year enjoying the gardens and it is desired to limit the impact of required work to the visitor experience. Some work may be required outside of Kew's opening hours (10am to 7pm), including early starts to avoid any impacts on visitor enjoyment.
- Once in the Temperate House compound the contractor will be bound to ISG's site safety rules. Information on both ISG and Kew's sets of requirements will be provided.