



# Chapter **10.2**



## Drives, paths and landscaping

This chapter provides guidance on meeting the Technical Requirements for drives, paths and landscaping, including:

- **private roads**
- **shared private drives**
- **private drives**
- **car parking areas.**

10.2.1	Compliance	02
10.2.2	Provision of information	02
10.2.3	Stability	02
10.2.4	Freestanding walls and retaining structures	02
10.2.5	Guarding and steps	03
10.2.6	Drives, paths and landscaping	03
10.2.7	Materials	08
10.2.8	Garden areas within 3m of the home	09
10.2.9	Garden areas	09
10.2.10	External decking	10
10.2.11	Landscaping	10



## Figure reference table

<b>Figure Reference Table 10.2</b>			
<b>Fig No</b>	<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Clause</b>	<b>Page</b>
Figure 1	Retaining structure requiring guarding	10.2.5	3
Figure 2	Transition adjustment requirements at top and bottom of steep gradients	10.2.6.1	4

## Definitions for this chapter

<b>Commercial vehicles</b>	Commercial vehicles are typically vehicles weighing in excess of 3.5 tonnes or capable of moving a payload of more than 1 tonne. Examples are delivery trucks, buses, large vans, bin lorries, and fire trucks.
<b>Flexible retaining walls</b>	Are typically walls that support the soil laterally and allow larger deformations of the unsupported edge of the wall compared to stiff or rigid retaining walls. Typical examples of these include any or a combination of the following: vegetated such as geotextile bagged walls, earth-reinforced and most gravity retaining wall structures such as gabion, crib, block or modular retaining wall systems.
<b>Garden</b>	Is the land within the curtilage up to 20m from the habitable parts of the home (ie, not garages/outbuildings). This distance is measured from the external walls.
<b>Home</b>	Includes a house, bungalow, flat or maisonette.
<b>Light vehicles</b>	Light vehicles are typically vehicles weighing up to 3.5 tonnes, and these include cars, SUVs, vans and minibuses.
<b>Private drives</b>	Are usually located adjacent to a property and typically within the curtilage of that property. Private drives and parking areas where located away from the immediate vicinity of a properties would usually have a barrier to ensure it is only used by cars and/or light vehicles.
<b>Private roads</b>	Are roads that are unadopted or not maintained at public expense. They are usually wide enough for single traffic in opposite directions simultaneously, and may or may not have adjoining footpaths. Private roads will be expected to support frequent use by commercial vehicles.
<b>Shared drives</b>	Are usually single track private 'roads' to access private drives or private properties. Shared drives would be expected to support the occasional commercial vehicles on them.
<b>Shared parking</b>	Are typically communal parking area, which is accessible to the general public but are not adopted. There is usually little or no restriction regarding what type vehicles they are accessible to. They can sometimes act as a turning head at the end of a public/adopted road. Shared parking and access road/areas to them are expected to support frequent use by commercial vehicles.

### 10.2.1 Compliance

Also see: Chapter 2.1

#### Drives, paths and landscaping shall comply with the Technical Requirements.

Drives, paths and landscaping that comply with the guidance in this chapter will generally be acceptable.

All works should be completed in accordance with:

- the design, and
- the ground remediation statement (where applicable).

Formation levels should be set out in accordance with the design.

### 10.2.2 Provision of information

#### Designs and specifications shall be produced in a clearly understandable format, include all relevant information and be distributed to the appropriate personnel.

All works relating to drives, paths and landscaping should be fully specified.

Design and specification information should be issued to site supervisors, relevant specialist subcontractors and suppliers.

### 10.2.3 Stability

#### Precautions shall be taken to ensure stability of the ground.

Where the ground may become surcharged during construction, precautions should be taken to ensure stability.

Flexible retaining walls such as gabion and timber structures should not be used to provide support to homes, garages, roads, drives, car parking areas or drainage systems.

Retaining structures that give support to the foundations of a home should be completed before work starts on the construction of the foundations of the home.

### 10.2.4 Freestanding walls and retaining structures

#### Freestanding walls and retaining structures shall be adequate for their intended purpose.

Freestanding walls should be in accordance with:

- BS EN 1996-1 Design of masonry structures — General rules for reinforced and unreinforced masonry structures
- PD 6697 Recommendations for the design of masonry structures.

Retaining structures should be in accordance with Table 1:

**Table 1:** British Standards, relevant codes of practice and authoritative documents

<b>BS 8002</b>	Code of Practice for earth retaining structures
<b>BS EN 1992</b>	Design of concrete structures
<b>BS EN 1996</b>	Design of masonry structures. All parts
<b>BS EN 1997-2</b>	Geotechnical design. Ground investigation and testing

All retaining structures, more than 600mm high, should be designed by an engineer in accordance with Technical Requirement R5.

Where timber structures more than 600mm high are used for retaining ground in boundary situations, they should be designed with a desired service life of 60 years and have a satisfactory third-party certification from an approval body acceptable to NHBC.

Where planters are provided, they should be designed to support the volume of retained soil and the plant species.

### 10.2.5 Guarding and steps

#### Retaining structures and steps shall be adequately guarded and allow safe use.

Guarding should be provided where:

- structures are retaining land more than 600mm high to which people have access
- a retaining structure is more than 600mm high and the dimension from the top of the retaining wall to the higher ground level is less than 300mm, or
- a path is adjacent to a vertical difference in level of more than 600mm (including where ground adjacent to the path falls away at an angle of more than 30° from the horizontal).

The guarding should:

- be a minimum of 1,100mm high
- not be readily climbable by children
- not allow a 100mm diameter sphere to pass through
- be capable of resisting a horizontal load of at least 0.36KN/m at its minimum required height, in accordance with BS 6180.

External steps that are not considered under relevant Building Regulations should:

- have a maximum rise of 220mm
- have a minimum going of 220mm
- be reasonably uniform.

A handrail should be provided where the total rise of a flight of external steps is more than 600mm and the going of individual steps is less than 600mm.

For details of external staircases in and around dwellings, see Chapter 6.6 Staircases.

Guidance for the provision of handrails to steps that form an accessible approach can be found in supporting documents to relevant Building Regulations.

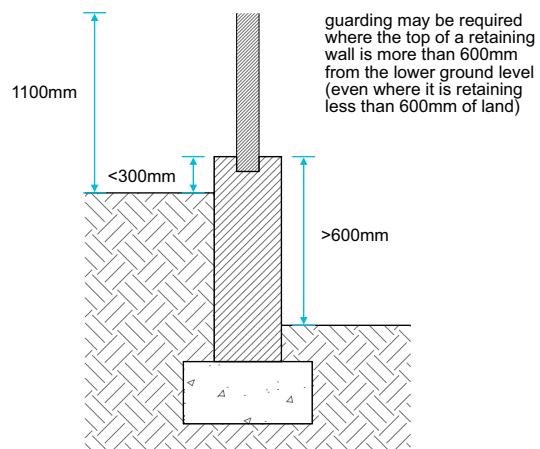
### 10.2.6 Drives, paths and landscaping

#### Appropriate access (including private roads, shared private drives, private drives, car parking and paths) shall be provided to and around the home. Issues to be taken into account include:

- 1) general construction considerations
- 2) drainage
- 3) construction details
- 4) minimum sub-base thickness
- 5) house paths and patios.

Homes should be provided with suitable access through the provision of private roads, shared private drives, private drives, car parking areas and paths, as appropriate.

Figure 1: Retaining structure requiring guarding



### 10.2.6.1 General construction considerations

Private roads, shared private drives, private drives, car parking areas and paths should comply with relevant Building Regulations. Where abutting the home, they should be at least 150mm below the DPC, and laid to fall away from the home (unless a channel or other suitable means of collection and disposal is provided).

All vegetable matter should be removed from the area of the proposed works.

Only suitable fill material comprising clean, well-consolidated crushed rock, hardcore, slag or concrete should be used to make up levels.

Sub-bases should be mechanically consolidated in layers not exceeding 225mm.

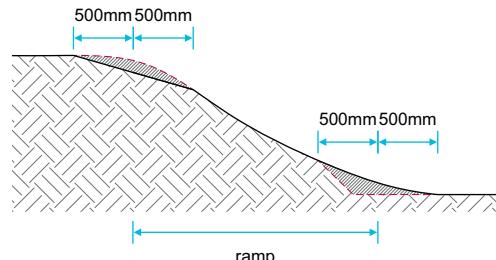
Finished ground levels should be compatible with:

- DPC levels
- cover levels of drainage access points
- depth of underground services (gas, electricity, water and drains)
- adjacent surfaces.

Private roads, shared private drives and private drives should:

- be appropriate for the loads
- provide reasonable access to and from a garage or car parking area
- have a maximum gradient of 1:6
- where the gradient is more than 1:10 and the gradient changes, have suitable transition lengths to reduce the risk of vehicles grounding.

Figure 2: Transition adjustment requirements at top and bottom of steep gradients



Underground drainage or services that are below a private road, shared private drive, private drive, car parking area, path or patio should be protected against damage, as described in Chapter 5.3 Drainage below ground.

Edge restraint or kerbing should have a profile and foundation, which is suitable to form a permanent supporting edge for the expected vehicle loads on the road or drive.

Pedestrian access should be provided via a path within the curtilage of each home to the main entrance and the secondary entrance where present:

- where entry to the home can be gained directly from a garage, a path to a secondary access door is not required
- where the secondary entrance is to a mid-terrace home or ground floor flat, a path to a secondary access door is not required
- where a garage, carport or car parking area is provided within the curtilage, a path should be provided to it from the home.

Where appropriate, a drive can be regarded as a path for the provision of access.

Paths should have a maximum slope of 1:6. On steeper sloping ground, steps may be required.

**Table 2:** Suitable path widths

Location and use	Minimum width of hard standing (mm)	Minimum overall width (mm)
Within curtilage to main entrance, or any entrance designated by relevant Building Regulations	900	900
Paths used for the removal of refuse to the collection point	750	900
Paths adjoining a home (with hard standing 100mm or more from the wall of the home)	450	700
All other cases	450	600

### 10.2.6.2 Drainage

Private roads, shared private drives and private drives should have adequate rainwater drainage and disposal.

Paved areas should:

- have vertical alignment, finished levels, transition arrangements and gradients in accordance with the design
- have surfaces with adequate falls, cross-falls and drainage to ensure that surface water is suitably drained
- have sub-base levels with the same longitudinal gradient and cross-fall as the finished level
- have surfaces not flatter than 1:40 or have a camber of 1:40 where no fall is available to avoid 'flat spots'
- have surfaces with a minimum finished fall of 1:80 where they form private drives and paths
- drain away from the home (and garage), or drain to a channel or other suitable means of collection and disposal adjacent to the home
- not drain surface water from private areas onto adopted areas
- not be within 2m of a soakaway.

Where paving slabs are laid abutting drainage channels and gully grates, etc the upper surface of the paving slab should be set approximately 5mm above the grating.

Where it is intended to use porous or permeable surfaces as part, or all, of the rainwater drainage system, reference should be made to CIRIA Report C753 — The Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) manual.

### 10.2.6.3 Construction details

The construction of private roads, shared private drives, private drives and car parking areas should be constructed in accordance with the tables below and/or other published/approved design procedure.

**Table 3a:** Private road having frequent use by commercial vehicles

Construction — road type <sup>(1)</sup>		Road	Footpath	
		Bituminous mixtures (asphalt)	Block pavers	Bituminous mixtures
Sub-base	MCHW Volume 1 SHW Clause 803 Type 1 Unbound mixtures Granular sub-base material Type 1 to Table 8/2	Table 4	Where California Bearing Ratio (CBR) is $\geq 5\% = 150^{(3)}$ Where CBR is less than 5% = Table 4	225mm <sup>(3)</sup>
Base (road base)	Asphalt concrete to BS EN 13108-1 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	100mm (AC 32 dense base 100/150 des)	N/A	N/A
	Concrete designation (BS 8500-2:2015+A2:2019 Table 6)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Binder course (base course)	Asphalt concrete to BS EN 13108-1 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	60mm (AC 20 dense bin 100/150 des)	60mm (AC 20 dense bin 100/150 des)	60mm (AC 20 dense bin 100/150 des)
Surface course (wearing course)	Stone mastic asphalt to BS EN 13108-5 and PD 6691 with aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6692-2	30mm (SMA 10 surf 40/60)	N/A	20mm (AC 6 dense surf 100/150 des)
	Hot rolled asphalt to BS EN 13108-4 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6692-2	40mm (HRA 55/10 surf 40/60 des)	N/A	N/A
	Concrete designation (BS 8500-2:2015+A2:2019 Table 6)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bedding course	Coarse sand to BS 7533-3 category II of annex D	N/A	50mm	N/A
Pavers	Block pavers to BS EN 1338 of Class 2 weathering resistance and Class 3 abrasion, as well as being of low potential for slip (Ref: Table NA.2 of BS EN 1338) <sup>(7)</sup>	N/A	80mm	N/A

**Table 3b:** Shared parking and associated access areas having frequent use by commercial vehicles

Construction — road type <sup>(1)</sup>		Bituminous mixtures (asphalt)	Block pavers
Sub-base	MCHW Volume 1 SHW Series 800 <sup>(2)</sup> Clause 803 Type 1 Unbound mixtures granular sub-base material Type 1 to Table 8/2	Table 4	Table 4
Base (road base)	Asphalt concrete to BS EN 13108-1 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	80mm (AC 32 dense base 100/150 des)	N/A
	Concrete designation (BS 8500-2:2015+A2:2019 Table 6)	100mm grade GEN2 <sup>(4)</sup>	N/A
Binder course (base course)	Asphalt concrete to BS EN 13108-1 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	60mm (AC 20 dense bin 100/150 des)	N/A
Surface course (wearing course)	Stone mastic asphalt to BS EN 13108-5 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	30mm (SMA 10 surf 40/60)	N/A
	Hot rolled asphalt to BS EN 13108-4 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	N/A	N/A
	Concrete designation (BS 8500-2:2015+A2:2019 Table 6)	N/A	N/A
Bedding course	Sharp sand to BS 7533-3 category II of annex D	N/A	50mm
Pavers	Block pavers to BS EN 1338 of Class 2 weathering resistance and Class 3 abrasion, as well as being of low potential for slip (Ref: Table NA.2 of BS EN 1338) <sup>(7)</sup>	N/A	80mm

**Table 3c:** Shared drives having infrequent use by commercial vehicles

Construction — road type <sup>(1)</sup>		Bituminous mixtures (asphalt)	Concrete	Block pavers	Gravel
Sub-base	MCHW Volume 1 SHW Series 800 <sup>(2)</sup> Clause 803 Type 1 Unbound mixtures granular sub-base material Type 1 to Table 8/2	Table 4	Table 4	Table 4	Table 4
Base (road base)	Asphalt concrete to BS EN 13108-1 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	<sup>(5)</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Concrete designation (BS 8500-2:2015+A2:2019 Table 6)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Binder course (basecourse)	Asphalt concrete to BS EN 13108-1 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	80mm (AC 20 dense bin 100/150 des <sup>(6)</sup> )	N/A	N/A	N/A
Surface course (wearing course)	Stone mastic asphalt to BS EN 13108-5 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	30mm (SMA10 surf 40/60)	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Hot rolled asphalt to BS EN 13108-4 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	40mm (HRA 55/10 surf 40/60 des)	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Concrete designation (BS 8500-2:2015+A2:2019 Table 6)	N/A	150 grade PAV2	N/A	N/A
Bedding course	Sharp sand to BS 7533-3 category II of annex D	N/A	N/A	50mm	N/A
Pavers	Block pavers to BS EN 1338 of Class 2 weathering resistance and Class 3 abrasion, as well as being of low potential for slip (Ref: Table NA.2 of BS EN 1338) <sup>(7)</sup>	N/A	N/A	80mm	N/A

**Table 3d:** Private drives and parking areas having use by cars and light vehicles

Construction – road type <sup>(1)</sup>		Bituminous Mixtures (asphalt)	Concrete	Block pavers	Gravel
<b>Sub-base</b>	MCHW Volume 1 SHW Series 800 <sup>(2)</sup> Clause 803 Type 1 Unbound mixtures granular sub-base material Type 1 to Table 8/2	Table 4	Table 4	Table 4	Table 4
<b>Base (road base)</b>	Asphalt concrete to BS EN 13108-1 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Concrete designation (BS 8500-2:2015+A1:2019 Table 6)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Binder course (base course)</b>	Asphalt concrete to BS EN 13108-1 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	60mm (AC 20 dense bin 100/150 des)	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Surface course (wearing course)</b>	Asphalt concrete to BS EN 13108-1 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	25mm (AC 6 dense surf 100/150 des)	N/A	N/A	<sup>(8)</sup>
	Hot rolled asphalt to BS EN 13108-4 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Stone mastic asphalt to BS EN 13108-5 and PD 6691 using aggregate to BS EN 13043 and PD 6682-2	25mm (SMA 6 surf 40/60)	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Concrete designation (BS 8500-2:2015+A1:2019 Table 6)	N/A	100 grade PAV1	N/A	N/A
<b>Bedding course</b>	Sharp sand to BS 7533-3 category II of annex D	N/A	N/A	50mm	N/A
<b>Pavers</b>	Block pavers to BS EN 1338 of Class 2 weathering resistance and Class 3 abrasion, as well as being of low potential for slip (Ref: Table NA.2 of BS EN 1338) <sup>(7)</sup>	N/A	N/A	50mm	N/A

## Notes

1. In the first column, European harmonised names for the pavement layers are with the old UK designations included in brackets.
2. Where a capping layer is specified, sub-base thickness can be reduced. Pavement Design CD 225 Revision 1 gives guidance on capping and sub-base thickness design based on CBR values with and without a capping layer.
3. For the minimum thickness of the sub-base for different CBR values, refer to Table 4.
4. Bond coat in accordance with BS 594987 should be applied to ensure effective bonding of the asphalt layers.
5. Bituminous mixtures/asphalt can be used as a partial replacement of a full thickness granular sub-base Type 1 material.
6. If the binder course is subjected to an extensive period of trafficking before the surface course is applied, a recipe mixture containing a higher bitumen content will be more durable/resistant to fretting/raveling under traffic.
7. Where laid to either a 90 or 45 degree herringbone pattern, the edge perimeter should be laid with one single row of stretcher bond set parallel to the edge restraint. Where block pavers are laid abutting drainage channels, gulley grates, etc the upper surface of the block pavers should be set 3-6mm above the grating. Manufacturer's declared value markings W3 and S4 are acceptable. Where W3 is 1.0kg/m<sup>2</sup> or less and S4 is 45 or more based on 'C scale unit' (for abrasion, class A2 = maximum result is 23mm, class A1 = no performance determined).
8. A 38mm thickness of graded 15/20mm unbound aggregate to BS EN 13242 (gravel), well rolled and compacted, should be used.
9. Reference to clauses are in relation to the relevant European and/or British Standards.
10. Asphalt contractors should be certified in accordance with the National Highway Sector Schemes for Quality Management in Highway Works — Scheme 16.

**10.2.6.4 Minimum sub-base thickness**

The thickness of any required capping layer and the sub-base should be determined after investigations and on-site tests have been carried out, with consideration to the:

- CBR value
- frost susceptibility of the sub-grade; where susceptible to frost, a suitable capping layer should be included below the sub-base to a suitable depth to ensure that the construction will not be affected by frost heave
- granular sub-bases should be tested and certified as being non-frost susceptible and non-plastic.

**Table 4:** Minimum sub-base thickness for paved areas

CBR values	Minimum thickness (mm) of sub-base <sup>(1)</sup> (consolidated in accordance with MCHW Volume 1 Clause 801, Table 8/4)
Less than 2%	Subgrade requires improvement <sup>(2)</sup>
2-<3%	325
3-<5%	250
5-<7%	150
7-20%	100

Notes

1. Minimum thickness of sub-base may be considered for reduction when using proprietary geogrid, provided they can be adequately justified and designed by an engineer in accordance with Technical Requirement R5.
2. Specialist advice should be sought to improve the subgrade.

#### 10.2.6.5 House paths and patios

The following construction will be generally acceptable for house paths and patios:

- the sub-base comprising of a 100mm thickness of clean, non-frost susceptible well consolidated crushed rock, hardcore (maximum size 50mm), slag or concrete, the surface of which is blinded with 25mm of sand
- paving slabs fully bedded in 25mm 1:4 cement:sand mortar or suitable alternative.

Concrete paths and patios should be not less than 75mm thick and have a tamped or textured finish. The concrete mix should be suitable to give a durable and frost-resistant surface, as described in Chapter 3.1 Concrete and its reinforcement. Movement joints, not less than 10mm wide, should be provided across the full width of the path at not more than 4m centres. A movement joint is not required at the abutment with a wall unless the opposite edge of the concrete is also restrained.

#### 10.2.7 Materials

**Materials shall be suitable for their intended use. Concrete shall be of a mix design which will achieve sufficient strength for its purpose and be sufficiently durable to remain unaffected by chemical or frost action.**

Sub-base material should be Type 1 to Clause 803 Table 8/2, MCHW Volume 1 SHW Series 800.

Hot rolled and mastic asphalts and macadam should comply with relevant standards, including those in Table 5:

**Table 5:** British Standards and authoritative documents for asphalts

BS EN 13108-1	Bituminous mixtures. Material specifications. Asphalt Concrete
BS EN 13108-4	Bituminous mixtures. Material specifications. Hot Rolled Asphalt
BS EN 13108-5	Bituminous mixtures. Material specifications. Stone Mastic Asphalt
PD 6691	Guidance on the use of BS EN 13108
BS 594987	Asphalt for roads and other trafficked areas

Aggregates used in asphalt and macadam mixtures and unbound aggregate (graded 15/20mm gravel) for surfacing should comply with relevant standards, including those in Table 6:

**Table 6:** British Standards and authoritative documents for aggregates

BS EN 13043	Aggregates for bituminous mixtures and surface treatments for roads, airfields and other trafficked areas
PD 6682-2	Guidance on the use of BS EN 13043
BS EN 13242	Aggregates for unbound and hydraulically bound materials
PD 6682-6	Guidance on the use of BS EN 13242

Blocks, slabs, pavers, edgings, etc should comply with relevant standards, including those in Table 7:

**Table 7:** British Standards and authoritative documents for pavers

BS EN 771	Specification for masonry units
BS EN 1344	Clay pavers. Requirements and test methods
BS EN 1339	Concrete paving flags. Requirements and test methods
BS 7533	Pavements constructed with clay, natural stone or concrete pavers

Topsoil and subsoil should be of a quality that will not present a hazard to users of the garden area. BS 3882 (Topsoil), BS 8601 (Subsoil) and the Contaminated Land Exposure Assessment (CLEA) guidelines provide advice on determining the suitability of topsoil and subsoil.

**10.2.8 Garden areas within 3m of the home**

**In order to provide for adequate access to and utility immediately around the home areas up to 3m from the habitable parts of the home shall not be waterlogged.**

Waterlogging of garden areas within 3m of the habitable parts of the home should be prevented by appropriate soil selection and management, and if necessary, by drainage or other suitable means.

**10.2.9 Garden areas**

**Garden areas within 20m of habitable accommodation shall be adequately prepared, stable and provided with reasonable access. Issues to be taken into account include:**

- 1) slope stability
- 2) subsoil decompaction and preparation
- 3) garden finishes.

**10.2.9.1 Slope stability**

The stability of new or existing slopes in garden areas should be determined by an engineer in accordance with Technical Requirement R5. Alternatively, the following maximum gradients should apply:

- unsupported granular soil should be 5° less than its natural angle of repose
- unsupported cohesive soil should not exceed 9° (1:6).

**10.2.9.2 Subsoil decompaction and preparation**

Where garden areas are to be cultivated, the area should:

- have old foundations, concrete bases and similar obstructions removed from within 450mm of the finished ground surface
- be appropriately decompacted and free draining, to restore physical condition (eg soil structure) and drainage characteristics of the subsoil that has been compacted during construction. Rotavating is unlikely to be effective to decompact panned subsoil to a minimum depth of 300mm. Further guidance is provided in BS 3882 on the depths, handling, management and preparation of topsoil and subsoil for landscaping
- be re-graded to conform with design and generally in harmony with the adjacent ground where ground was disturbed or reprofiled during construction.

Subsoil should not be placed over topsoil. Construction rubbish and debris should be removed from the garden and other areas around the home during decompaction and before topsoiling.

**10.2.9.3 Garden finishing**

Gardens should be finished in accordance with the design. Gardens may be finished using materials other than turf or seeding, including paving or artificial grass. Subsoil materials to receive any finishing should be adequately prepared and suitable for the specific finish to be adopted.

Where the gardens are to be finished in turf or seeding, the area to receive this material should have:

- a minimum thickness of 100mm topsoil provided
- topsoil should be suitable for general landscape purposes and should also not contain contaminants which may present a hazard to the occupants
- topsoil that is disturbed or compacted after placement should be fully reinstated before planting, turfing or seeding.

Access is not required to small, isolated garden areas, such as narrow strips of land at the top or bottom of retaining walls but should be provided to other areas where appropriate by steps or other suitable means.

### 10.2.10 External decking

Also see: Chapter 3.3

#### **Patios and decking shall be suitable for their purpose.**

Timber decking, including support, should be naturally durable or treated with preservative to Use Class 4 classification.

Decking that is more than 600mm above ground level should be:

- in accordance with guidance published by the Timber Decking and Cladding Association (TDCA), or
- designed by an engineer in accordance with Technical Requirement R5.

Decking from other materials other than timber including wood composite materials and their support made from the same or similar materials, should be suitably durable and have the following:

- a satisfactory assessment by an independent technical approvals authority acceptable to NHBC and
- designed by an engineer in accordance with Technical Requirement R5.

### 10.2.11 Landscaping

#### **Planting shall be completed in a manner appropriate for the site conditions and layout. Possible future damage to the home caused by planting shall be minimised.**

Where trees or shrubs have been removed, are to be retained or are to be planted by the builder, precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of future damage to homes and services in accordance with Chapter 4.2 Building near trees.

**Technical Disclaimer**

The NHBC Standards are produced by NHBC as guidance solely for our builder customers as to how to interpret the technical requirements in relation to the warranty cover provided by NHBC under its Buildmark, Buildmark Choice, Buildmark Link, Buildmark Solo, Buildmark Connect or any similar product from time to time. It has not been created or intended for distribution or use outside of that purpose. The information contained in the NHBC Standards do not constitute advice and is not to be relied upon by any third party. Nothing in the NHBC Standards is intended to, nor should it be taken to, create any legal or contractual relationship. Any third party who chooses to rely upon the information contained in the NHBC Standards shall do so entirely at their own risk and NHBC accepts no duty of care or liability, however caused, in connection with its use or reliance by any third party.