



Landscape management and Maintenance

Soft landscape areas to be maintained in accordance with **B.S. 7370 Part 3:1991** and Part 4:1993. The maintenance of trees should be in accordance with **BS 3998:2010** and **BS 8545:2014**. Maintenance operations to successfully establish plants shall be carried out for the first 5 years after planting.

Maintenance operations for successful plant establishment shall include watering; weed control; fertiliser application; pest and disease control; pruning; and litter picking. Watering for trees should follow an irrigation plan in accordance with BS 8545:2014 and must be in anticipation of drought. Tree pruning should be in the winter months or summer (July-August). Cherries must be pruned only in the summer months after flowering.

The replacement of failed trees should occur once reasons for failure have been identified and amendments to the specification are made as necessary. Shrubs which die, are removed or become seriously damaged shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species, to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. For all new landscape areas, the following maintenance programme shall be undertaken:

Inspections:	January - December. Replace dead plants when necessary.
Watering:	When necessary in accordance with an irrigation plan.
Pest and disease control:	January.
Litter removal:	January - December
Weed control:	February - May; July; and September.
Prune:	Winter months or summer.
Fork over planting beds:	March.
Cut grass and trim edges:	March - October.
Apply fertiliser:	April.
Lightly fork over planting beds:	September.
Rake / scarify grass	September.
Mulch:	Mid to late spring.

Watering: Water trees in accordance with an irrigation plan as per BS 8545:2014. Watering shrubs shall be carried out to maintain vigorous plant growth. Water shall soak into the ground; it is not sufficient to dampen the surface. Water must be applied slowly to avoid damage to plants.

Weed control: Hand weed to remove all weeds and their roots using a hoe, trowel or fork. Apply a herbicide to kill re-growth when required.

Fertiliser: Applications of fertiliser to be carried out early in the growing season. Ensure correct fertiliser application. Inspect once a month and after very heavy winds. Adjust ties if necessary to conform to stem growth or to prevent chafing.

Pruning: At the appropriate season for the species, pruning to be carried out to remove all damaged diseased or dead wood. Prune shrubs to ensure the plant is kept well balanced and in good shape. For trees, pruning shall be in accordance with BS 3998:2010.

Pest and disease control: To be carried out if necessary and in accordance with best practice.

Litter removal: Collect and remove all extraneous rubbish.

Fork over planting beds: Pick up trodden or compacted soil surfaces to aerate the soil without damaging the plants.

Mulching: Mulching to be topped up annually over the duration of the agreed maintenance period. At the end of the maintenance period, undertake a final mulch. Ensure that the soil is thoroughly moistened prior to remulching, applying water where necessary. Planting beds and trees: re-mulch to a minimum depth of 50 mm.

Mowing: Amenity grass areas shall be managed to a height of 40mm. Species rich grass areas to be mowed as advised by the supplier.

Raking/Scarifying: Relieve thatched conditions and remove dead grass in the autumn over all grassed areas.

Spiking (Aeration): Aerate to increase water, nutrient and oxygen movement into the soil.

General: If grass surface is disturbed by over use, restore by firming or lifting with a fork

Any newly planted trees, plants or hedgerows, which within a period of 5 years from the completion of the development die, are removed, become seriously damaged or diseased, or in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority otherwise defective, shall be replaced. Replacement planting shall take place during the first available planting season

Ecological prescriptions and maintenance

St Tydfil's Hospital is known to presently and historically support bat roosts of pipistrelles and brown eared bats. Additionally, the site currently supports some reptile interest for common species. The upper plateau area is predominantly hardstanding and contains a number of trees within and around its boundaries. The ecological aspirations for the upper plateau is centred on delivering enhancements for bats and reptiles because the site supports both. Refer to the drawing and key for ecological mitigation measures.

It is recommended that existing trees are retained and protected and that a scheme of bat boxes are installed on mature specimens. It is recommended that the existing concrete/ parking area to the upper plateau is converted to an area of species rich neutral grassland with hibernacula (minimum dimensions: 4 m long by 2 m wide by 1 m high) and a log/brush pile to be built in a sunny, south facing spot for reptiles.

Semi-Natural Grasslands

New and re-spread topsoils will be lightly harrowed and raked to create a moderately fine tilth. No fertiliser will be added to any of these areas. Areas will be seeded either by hand (broadcasting) or using a light tractor-mounted spinner or drill with drills at 5cm centres, 5mm maximum depth, immediately after preparation which should ideally occur in late summer (ie Aug-Sep). The seed rate will be be 4g/m2 (ie 40kg/ha). Species to include: **Grasses (80%):** Agrostis capillaris, Cynosurus cristatus, Festuca rubra spp rubra, Anthoxanthum odoratum and Alopecurus pratensis. **Wildflowers (20%):** Achillea millefolium, Centaurea nigra, Hypericum perforatum, Leontodon autumnalis, Lotus corniculatus, Potentilla anserina, Ranunculus acris and Veronica chamaedrys.

Where a given species listed above is not available a suitable alternative should be agreed with the supervising ecologist.

All seed material should be of Welsh, or at least UK, native origin. Seed suppliers should be signatories to the Flora Locale Code of Practice for collectors, growers and suppliers of native plants and seed. Initial grass mowing should take place at 6-8 weeks after sowing, with the arisings collected and disposed of off-site. This should be repeated at two-monthly intervals, with the last cut being made in October.

In the second year after sowing and in subsequent years, the grass should be mown twice per annum, comprising a first cut to 50mm in April with a second cut to 100mm in September. All arisings should be collected and removed from the site for disposal.

St Tydfil's Hospital

Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

LEMP.200

Key

- Root protection area
- Trees to be retained
- Trees to be removed

Landscape proposals

- Tree planting
- Shrub planting
- Hedge planting
- Climbing plants
- Specimen shrubs
- Amenity grass (front gardens only)

SuDS

Refer to the drainage engineer's information

- Rain garden
- Swales
- SuDS planter

Ecology mitigation

- Species rich neutral grassland
- Native shrub planting on the existing embankment
- Native tree and shrub planting
- Bat boxes: existing trees to be retained and protected. Bat boxes to be installed on mature trees.
- Hibernaculum (minimum dimensions: 4 m long by 2 m wide by 1 m high) and log/brush pile to be built in a sunny, south facing spot for reptiles