

P/21/0148: WILDFLOWER ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Planning application P/21/0148 proposes a new modular building and playground sited on an area of managed amenity grassland at Greenfield School in Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil.

There are currently two options for the project in terms of its SuDS concept (raingarden) relating to two areas of ground, one to the northwest of the new modular building (OPTION A) and one to the south east (OPTION B) – see diagram below.



Figure 1 – OPTIONS A & B for SuDS concept

A wildflower area will be created in the area NOT chosen for the SuDS scheme for the benefit of pollinators. The following species mix will be used:

- EM₃ – Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture (<https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/4>)

COMPOSITION – see Table 1.

Table 1 – EM₃ seed mix composition.

Wild Flowers		
%	Latin name	Common name
0.4	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
0.4	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
0.1	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch
0.1	<i>Betonica officinalis</i> - (<i>Stachys officinalis</i>)	Betony
3.7	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
2.5	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed
1.5	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
1	<i>Galium album</i> - (<i>Galium mollugo</i>)	Hedge Bedstraw

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0.2	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious
3.2	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy - (Moon Daisy)
0.2	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick
0.1	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Wild Marjoram
0.4	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip
0.6	<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i> - (<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>)	Salad Burnet
2.6	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
0.2	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
0.2	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
0.1	<i>Silaum silaus</i>	Pepper Saxifrage
2	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion
0.5	<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Upright Hedge-parsley
Grasses		
8	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent
28	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dogstail
24	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue
4	<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller Cat's-tail
16	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth-stalked Meadow-grass
100%		

GROUND PREPARATION

Appropriate ground preparation is vital to maximise the number of seeds that successfully germinate and produce mature plants. The first step therefore (before the seed mix can be sown) will be to clear the area of all existing vegetation and then cultivate or break up the soil to produce optimum conditions for germination.

SOWING

Timing: the seed mix will be sown between March - April or August – September. The seeds must be surface sown and can be applied either by machine or broadcast by hand. Seed will then be firmed into the soil with a roller or by treading to allow adequate seed to soil contact.

Sowing rate: 4 g/m²

AFTERCARE/MANAGEMENT

Year 1: most sown meadow wildflower and grass species are perennial and so germination and growth will be slow and they may not flower in the first year. Typically, unwanted annual weeds will appear from the soil during the first growing season, which may outcompete and over-shade the wildflower and grass seedlings. The annual weed growth will be controlled by cutting. The newly sown area will be regularly mown to a height of 40-60mm during Year 1 and the arisings removed.

Management once established: in Year 2, and subsequent years, EM3 sowings can be managed in the following way. The grassland will not be cut from Spring to late July/early August – this gives the wildflower and grass species an opportunity to flower. When the plants have flowered and gone to seed, the area will be cut to c.50mm. The arisings will be left to dry and shed seed for between 1-7 days before being removed from the site. The re-growth will be cut to through to late Autumn/Winter to c 50mm and again in Spring if needed.