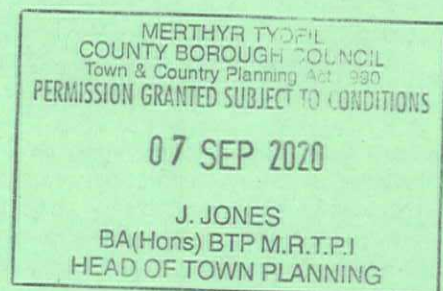


REFURBISHMENT AND EXTENSION
of
THE FORMER CYFARTHFA VICARAGE
ABERDARE ROAD
MERTHYR TYDFIL

LANDSCAPE SPECIFICATION
and
5 YEAR LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT PLAN

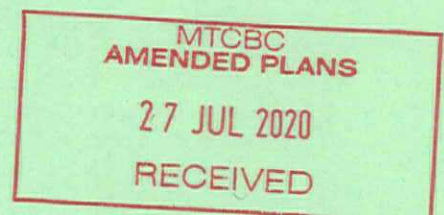
REVISION A - 22/7/20



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Refurbishment and Extension of

The Former Cyfarthfa Vicarage, Aberdare road, Merthyr Tydfil

LANDSCAPE SPECIFICATION (to be read in conjunction with drawing 9037-05G)

Context and General Approach

The existing grounds to the Former Cyfarthfa Vicarage are roughly divided into two areas:-

1. The Southern half of the site comprises the Vicarage building itself and the cultivated lawns and planting beds that surround it. Inasmuch as the property has been vacant for some time, the lawns and shrubs have not been maintained and are generally overgrown and unkempt.
2. The Northern half of the site comprises a mainly wooded area which is currently perceived by the Local Authority as "ancient woodland" and is protected by a "Tree Preservation Order". Where this area abuts the cultivated Southern area, there is an overgrown holly and privet hedge separating the two. There is a row of mature and semi-mature beech trees within the area which, it is obvious, were once a beech hedge but have been left to grow and are now crowded and unsightly. A flat roofed, masonry garage is located within the area together with a small timber shelter.

The clients intentions are :-

- a) To restore the cultivated lawns and planting beds to the Southern area of the site.
This will involve:-
 - relaying the lawn to the existing lower garden area as a "wildflower lawn"
 - Forming a new "wildflower lawn" to the upper garden area
 - Forming "rain garden" water features in various locations
 - pruning and shaping the existing overgrown shrubs
 - planting new shrubs where necessary using recommended native species.
 - Forming a new hedge to Eastern boundary to give privacy to Llwyn Dic Penderyn.
- b) In the short term, to leave the Northern woodland area untouched with the exception of forming "habitat pile" in various locations to encourage wildlife. In the long term, a separate management plan would be produced for the woodland area.
- c) To protect, maintain and reinforce the existing hedge barrier between the Southern and Northern areas.

Ground Preparation

To existing lawn areas:-

- Break up and reduce topsoil to a tilth suitable for blade grading, depth: 300mm .
- Remove stones and clay balls larger than 50 mm in any dimension, roots, tufts of grass, rubbish and debris.

To Grass and Wildflower seeded Areas:-

Where necessary, all grass seeded areas to receive 150mm depth of topsoil from on site stockpile previously stripped from the site and stored prior to construction work.

The topsoil will be lightly compacted prior to cultivation.

Topsoil will then be cultivated, raked level, all debris and stones over 50mm in diameter removed.

Grass and Wildflower Seed:-

All seeded areas to be sown with a seed mixture comprising 20% wildflowers and 80% grasses. Seed sown at 2 to 3 grams per square metre using the following species:-

Wild Flowers

- 0.5% Achillea millefolium - Yarrow
- 1.6% Centaurea nigra - Common Knapweed
- 3.0% Daucus carota - Wild Carrot
- 3.0% Galium verum - Lady's Bedstraw
- 0.3% Knautia arvensis - Field Scabious
- 0.3% Leontodon hispidus - Rough Hawkbit

- 2.5% *Leucanthemum vulgare* - Oxeye Daisy - (Moon Daisy)
- 3.0% *Malva moschata* - Musk Mallow
- 0.8% *Plantago lanceolata* - Ribwort Plantain
- 1.0% *Poterium sanguisorba* - (*Sanguisorba minor*) - Salad Burnet 0.6% *Primula veris* - Cowslip
- 0.3% *Prunella vulgaris* - Selfheal
- 0.8% *Ranunculus acris* - Meadow Buttercup
- 1.2% *Rhinanthus minor* - Yellow Rattle
- 1.1% *Rumex acetosa* - Common Sorrel

Grasses

- 8.0% *Agrostis capillaris* - Common Bent
- 28% *Cynosurus cristatus* - Crested Dogstail
- 24% *Festuca rubra* - Slender-creeping Red-fescue
- 4.0% *Phleum bertolonii* - Smaller Cat's-tail
- 16 % *Poa pratensis* - Smooth-stalked Meadow-grass

Planted Areas

To existing shrub planted areas:-

- Remove: Dead flower heads, fallen leaves, litter and debris.
- Thoroughly hand weed.
- Cultivate: Lightly hoe.
- Trim: Clip grass edges.
- Apply Fungicide and Insecticide
- Gaps in planting: Refill by replanting.
- Trim: Older flowering stems of herbaceous perennials.
- Remove: Redundant plant supports, litter, debris and arisings.
- Cultivate: Fork over the soil, taking care not to cause undue disturbance to plants.

Pruning Generally

To existing shrub planted areas:-

- Removing branches: Do not damage or tear the stem or bark.
- Wounds: Keep as small as possible and cut cleanly back to sound wood.
- Cutting: Make cuts above and sloping away from an outward facing healthy bud, angled so that water will not collect on cut area.
- Larger branches: Prune neither flush nor leaving a stub, but using the branch bark ridge or branch collar as a pruning guide.
- Appearance: Thin, trim and shape each specimen appropriately to species, location, season, and stage of growth, leaving a well balanced natural appearance.
- Tools: Use clean sharp secateurs, hand saws or other approved tools. Trim off ragged edges of bark or wood with a sharp knife.
- Disease or infection: Give notice if detected.
- Growth retardants, fungicide or pruning sealant: Do not use unless instructed.

Removing trees

- Standards: To BS 3998, Appendix A and Health Safety Executive (HSE)/ Arboricultural and Forestry Advisory Group Safety Leaflets.
- Existing services: Check for below and above ground services. Give notice if they may be affected.
- Shrubs and smaller trees: Cut down and grub up roots.
- Tree stumps to be removed. Give notice. Do not use other trees as supports or anchors.
- Protection: See Tree Protection Plan
- Work near retained trees: Where tree canopies overlap and in confined spaces generally, take down trees carefully in small sections to avoid damage to adjacent trees that are to be retained.
- Filling holes: Use as-dug material and/ or imported soil as required.
- Finishing: Consolidate and grade to marry in with surrounding ground level.

Shrubs

To new hedges (formed in areas shown on drawing) to comprise:-

- 75% Beech *fagus Sylvatica*), bare root stock, 450 to 600mm high.
- 25% Holly (*Ilex Aquifolium*), containerised, 300 to 400 mm high.

Hedge formed in staggered rows set 300mm apart with density of at least 8 plants per square metre. To be planted in 600mm wide trenches and back filled with topsoil and bonemeal fertilizer at 50 g/sq.m.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

(to be read in conjunction with drawing 9037-05G)

Management Objectives — Short Term

To new and Existing Shrubs:-

Any plants that die (leaving obvious gaps) within 2 years to be replaced.

The ground around the plants is to be bark mulched to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth. This mulch would be retained until there is sufficient vegetative ground cover. Weed growth would be removed to avoid competition with the planted shrubs.

Management Objectives — Long Term

To trees and shrubs:-

Weed growth would be removed to avoid competition with the planted shrubs.

Shrubs would be pruned to prevent one species encroaching on another or on to paths and roads and to keep the correct shape.

Replacement planting would be undertaken to fill any gaps in planted beds caused by existing shrub failure.

Management Regimes

Shrubs are maintained by:

- fertilising for continued healthy growth
- pruning to maintain correct shape of plant and prevent plants encroaching on paths or roads
- weed control
- watering

Grass and Wildflower Areas

Grassed areas within the cultivated garden will be mowed to 60mm height in the first year and, thereafter, at the client's discretion, generally, 3 times per annum.

Maintenance - General Standard of Work

The landscape maintenance is to be carried out to a high standard. Planted areas must be kept neat and clean in appearance at all times, weed and litter free, with all planting in a healthy state. The client shall ensure that the works themselves do not cause inconvenience or danger to the general public or visitors.

Protection to Property

Prevent damage to and protect as necessary existing paving, buildings, fittings, utilities and all existing plants.

Protection to People

Ensure that any chemical application is undertaken by a trained operative who has the NPTC certificate and in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and with the Approved Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides for Non-Agricultural Purposes where they apply. He shall ensure at all times that the public, visitors, occupants and his own staff are not subject to any hazard from the use of chemicals, and that all equipment, containers and materials are kept in a secure place when on site and not in use, and that all empty containers, etc are removed from site at the end of each day. He will be liable for any loss or damage caused by misuse of chemicals, especially with regards to third persons, and will keep a daily record of all chemicals used and their dosage.

Cleanliness

Remove from site all rubbish, trimmings and superfluous materials, leaving the garden areas in a clean and tidy condition.

Particular attention shall be paid to ensuring all areas of hard surfacing are left in a clean condition, free from any soil, mud, leaves, cuttings and plant prunings.

Operating Conditions

Maintenance works shall be organised to take account of any specific ground and weather conditions required for maintenance works.

Chemical applications shall only be undertaken in suitable weather conditions as described by the manufacturers.

Watering

Ensure that all planting is sufficiently watered to maintain healthy growth. When necessary, water plant and trees using bowsers or a fire hydrant riser and a fine rose or sprinkler until the full depth of topsoil is saturated.

Pest and Disease

Any pest or disease problems occurring which affect the vegetation on site shall be treated as agreed to coincide, where possible, with normal maintenance visits. All operations shall comply with statutory safety requirements. All diseased wood, prunings, etc shall be removed from site and burnt.

Replacements

In September of each year, list all trees and plants that are dead or dying from any cause other than malicious or accidental damage or vandalism. These are to be replaced during the months of November to February following that growing season or for evergreens April/May of the following year. All plants shall be planted at the size as shown in the planting schedule.

All replacement planting shall be in accordance with the specification/planting schedule

Site Visits

Undertake maintenance in accordance with the maintenance schedule as specified in this document. This will be a minimum of once every month and once every two weeks April to October.

Mulching

Mulched areas are to be topped up once per year using the same material as was originally specified to maintain 50mm depth until such time as canopy closure occurs.

Fertilizer

In March/April apply a slow release fertiliser to all ornamental shrub/hedge/grass areas and tree pits - 400 gr/tree and 100gr/sqm for shrubs of Vitax Q4 or equal and approved.

In March/April an application of 15:10:10 spring turf fertilizer at 35 g/m2 or equivalent to all grass areas.

Weed Control

Undertake weed control as necessary to keep the site in a neat and tidy and weed free condition and to allow specified species to develop free from unnecessary competition. Weeding may be carried out by hand, by machine, by herbicide or by a combination of all three consistent with the other requirements of this maintenance specification. Where a herbicide is to be used, ensure that the herbicide proposed is appropriate for the purpose and location. Use of herbicides will be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and in strict accordance with the latest Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations. Unless otherwise approved only contact/ trans-located herbicides shall be used.

Specific areas where weed control will be necessary include weeds/moss in paving areas, weeds in tree/hedge/shrub beds

Weeds and other debris will be removed from site at the end of each visit.

Shrub Pruning

Pruning shall be carried out as required to maintain good form and vigour, to encourage bushiness and to remove dead, diseased or dying branches. Some shrubs need to be cut back hard to encourage growth from the base. Cyclical pruning shall be carried out to maintain an attractive shrub bed where necessary. Shrubs shall be cut back where they encroach on pedestrian routes including all paved and grassed areas. Pruning shall be in accordance with good horticultural practice and in the appropriate month/season to maintain flowering and fruiting.

Litter

Remove all litter from planted areas and dispose at a licensed tip. Concentrate particularly on the removal of litter and debris within planting beds.