



**McDonald's Merthyr
Tydfil, Heads of the
Valleys Road**

**Landscape and
Ecological
Management Plan**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
McDonald's Restaurants Ltd

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APPENDICES

Appendix EDP 1	Detailed Planting Plan (edp9069_d012h 15 July 2026 JWe/HMc)
Appendix EDP 2	Hard Landscape Plan (edp9069_d013g 06 July 2026 JWe/HMc)
Appendix EDP 3	30 Year Management, Maintenance and Monitoring Schedule

Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) has been commissioned by McDonald's Restaurants Ltd to prepare a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) in relation to the proposed development at Merthyr Tydfil, Heads of the Valleys Road (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- 1.2 EDP is an independent environmental planning consultancy with offices in Cirencester, Cheltenham and Cardiff. The practice provides advice to private and public sector clients throughout the UK in the fields of landscape, ecology, archaeology, cultural heritage, arboriculture, rights of way and masterplanning. Details of the practice can be obtained at our website (www.edp-uk.co.uk).
- 1.3 EDP is a Landscape Institute registered practice and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Registered Practice. All work is prepared and reviewed internally by highly experienced landscape architects, ecologists and/or arboriculturists.

THE SITE

- 1.4 The Site is centred approximately at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OSGR) SO 07929 08447. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is Merthyr Tydfil County Council. The location and extents of the Site are illustrated in **Appendix EDP 1** and described in the material supporting the planning application.
- 1.5 The Site measures 0.3558 hectares (ha) and comprises previously developed land located within an industrial landscape surrounded by existing development. It is accessed predominantly via the recently completed A465/A4060 interchange on Merthyr's eastern edge. The Site has been left largely derelict, with evidence of fly tipping and no current management in place. A number of built structures occupy the far eastern extents of the Site.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.6 In brief, the Proposed Development comprises the construction of a McDonald's restaurant and drive-thru food unit, associated infrastructure, car parking and storage, with adjacent landscaping. While the Site includes a new water attenuation feature, it also includes a new drainage outfall to the west of the Site.
- 1.7 The proposals are to be the subject of a detailed planning application, and the Site's hard landscape proposals are provided in **Appendix EDP 2**.
- 1.8 The ecological and landscape sensitivities of the Site have influenced the final layout through an iterative design process. Thus, the masterplan incorporates a degree of 'inherent' mitigation to avoid or reduce the severity of potential impacts.

MANAGEMENT PLAN AIMS

- 1.9 The LEMP will extend for a period of 30 years.
- 1.10 The LEMP has objectives which ensure the establishment and management of landscape and habitats, existing or newly created on the Site as part of the proposed development, are safeguarded throughout the development and in the future management of the Site. Each objective is outlined below:
- To ensure that the vision for the landscape within the proposed development can be achieved through a long-term, co-ordinated and informed approach to landscape management;
 - To ensure management and maintenance is undertaken to agreed standards;
 - To increase biodiversity of the Site by providing a mosaic of habitats through new planting, grassland creation and management of existing vegetation;
 - To ensure the landscape is managed to create a safe and visually attractive environment;
 - Identify roles and responsibilities of the management of the Site; and
 - Establish procedures for communication, monitoring, audit mechanisms and reporting of control measures.
- 1.11 The LEMP has been produced in accordance with the British Standard (BS) for Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development, BS 42020:2013.

Section 2

Roles and Responsibilities

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Developer

- 2.1 The Developer, or a Principal Contractor acting in their stead, will be responsible for:
- Compliance with legal consents relating to nature conservation;
 - Compliance with planning conditions relating to nature conservation;
 - Appointing a suitably experienced ecologist to act as an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW);
 - Appointing a suitable experienced and qualified landscape consultant to undertake Site inspections;
 - Compliance with instructions and guidance provided by the ECoW;
 - Implementing the details of this LEMP including prescriptions of the management actions. Although the Developer will retain responsibility, the management can be through the appointment of a management company, or passing it onto a third party as detailed below; and
 - Legal and Funding mechanisms.

Contact Details

McDonald's Restaurants Limited
11-59 High Road
East Finchley
London
N2 8AW

Ecological Clerk of Works and Landscape Consultant

- 2.2 A suitably experienced and qualified ECoW and landscape consultant will be appointed by the Developer or the Principal Contractor acting in their stead.
- 2.3 The appointed company/companies will undertake the monitoring and assessment of habitats, trees and landscape/wildlife features set out within this LEMP. They will provide toolbox talks, where identified in this document, and feedback to the Developer or their Principal Contractor. They will also compile the monitoring reports (as identified within this document) that will be submitted to the LPA.

Contact Details

- 2.4 At the time of writing, it is assumed that the ECoW will be:

The Environmental Dimension Partnership
Quarry Barn
Elkstone Studios
Elkstone
Gloucestershire
GL53 9PQ

LEGAL AND FUNDING MECHANISM

- 2.5 The Developer will provide all relevant details of the legal and funding mechanism(s) by which long-term implementation of the LEMP will be secured.
- 2.6 Ongoing funding and management will be the responsibility of the end user tasked with overseeing the Site post-completion. They will be responsible for all communication, monitoring, audit mechanisms and reporting of control measures outlined in this report.
- 2.7 The Site will be managed entirely by a contracted Management Company. They will directly answer to the Developer or Principal Contractor.

The Establishment Period

- 2.8 A maintenance aftercare period is normally included in the implementation contract to cover post-installation maintenance requirements for the whole of the landscape works.
- 2.9 For the duration of this period, the contractor shall be responsible for all horticultural maintenance operations including replacement of dead, dying or diseased plants. At the end of the period all defects in soft landscape due to materials or workmanship shall be rectified by the contractor, and all responsibility handed over to the management company.

Section 3

Habitat Creation and Management Prescriptions

- 3.1 This section sets out the appropriate habitat creation and ongoing maintenance of these habitats as well as those retained within the Site. Habitat creation is to be completed within the implementation phase (up to the first available planting season following completion of construction), to ensure that appropriate measures to provide biodiversity enhancement and visual amenity are implemented from the early stages of the scheme.
- 3.2 A range of new habitats and landscape features are to be established during the construction phase of the development, or by the end of the first planting season following completion. The management set out within this report should be secured for 30 years from the completion of the planting.
- 3.3 For details of the proposed layout and species selection the reader should refer to the Soft Landscape Planting Plan included in **Appendix EDP 1** and the Hard Landscaping Plan included in **Appendix EDP 2**.
- 3.4 This section should be read alongside **Appendix EDP 3**, which provides additional details on the 30-year regime for management, maintenance, and monitoring.

GENERAL MEASURES

- 3.5 Habitats to be created or enhanced and therefore managed are shown in **Appendix EDP 1**.
- 3.6 Refer to detailed National Building Specification (NBS) to provide details regarding ground preparation, topsoiling, cultivation and details of planting/seeding.
- 3.7 The maintenance of all landscape and ecology elements will be undertaken in line with the following:
- All work is to be carried out by appropriately skilled, qualified and experienced operatives for the type and quality of work, and in accordance with good horticultural practice and ecological techniques in line with Legislation, Regulations and Code of Practice;
 - Carry out work while soil and weather conditions are suitable. Soil in which planting is present should be moist, friable and not waterlogged;
 - Only tools suited to site conditions and work carried out are to be used;
 - Transport and handling of plants will comply with Handling and Establishing Landscape Plants (Horticultural Trades Association), including protection from desiccation or any other damage prior to planting out;
 - Soil debris and arisings will be swept from adjacent hard surfaces after each maintenance operation where relevant;

- Ensure the Site is kept free of any vandalism or damage; where this occurs ensure issues are reported and appropriate action taken to rectify;
- Ensure the Site is kept free of litter, dog foul, etc. Fly tipping should be reported and appropriate action taken; and
- Regular leaf clearance should occur during autumn. Ensure paths are kept free of leaves and remove arisings off-site or to an agreed composting area.

RETAINED TREES

Objectives

- 3.8 To maintain existing trees in a healthy and attractive condition, to retain their amenity and ecological value within the proposed development.

General Notes and Key Restrictions

- 3.9 The management prescriptive listed below are generic for retention of trees, refer to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment for any specific management requirements.

Management and Monitoring

- 3.10 Existing trees will be pruned to promote healthy growth and natural shape, and any dead, dying or diseased wood and suckers will be removed where appropriate.
- 3.11 Overhanging branches will be pruned to ensure growth is prevented from encroaching onto paths, signs, sightlines and road lighting. All pruning will be undertaken in accordance with BS 7370 Part 4: 1993 and undertaken between September and February inclusive to avoid the main bird breeding season.
- 3.12 Ensure the safety and structural integrity of trees, especially near areas of public access. A yearly arboricultural inspection will be carried out in all existing mature trees to check for disease/damage and advise accordingly on any required remedial works.
- 3.13 Retain dead trees as standing dead trees or log piles in native areas of the Site, where appropriate, for biodiversity value unless there is a health and safety risk.

SPECIMEN TREE PLANTING

- 3.14 Non-native and ornamental species included within the planting scheme are not invasive and are not anticipated to result in any adverse ecological effects with some providing demonstrable benefits to wildlife through the provision of pollen (e.g. *Betula nigra*) and berries (e.g. *Amelanchier lamarckii*), particularly extending seasonal interest into early spring and winter.
- 3.15 The scheme is native led, with non-native species making a positive supplementary contribution to biodiversity and no negative ecological impacts anticipated.

Objectives

- 3.16 Ensure satisfactory establishment and growth of new tree planting, to provide amenity and biodiversity value as well as reduce visual impacts on the wider landscape.

General Notes and Key Restrictions

- 3.17 Where possible, the native trees species will be sourced from suppliers of local provenance or given the current shortage of tree and hedge stock at best UK grown.

Creation

- 3.18 Refer to detailed NBS to provide details regarding ground preparation, topsoiling, cultivation and details of planting/seeding.

Management

- 3.19 All plants are to be maintained upright and the ground at the base to be firmed up.
- 3.20 All plants will be pruned to promote healthy growth and natural shape, and any dead, dying or diseased wood and suckers will be removed.
- 3.21 Overhanging branches will be pruned to ensure growth is prevented from encroaching onto paths, signs, sightlines and road lighting. All pruning will be undertaken in accordance with BS 7370 Part 4: 1993.
- 3.22 Ensure satisfactory establishment (to BS 8545: 2014) and growth of new tree planting.
- 3.23 Water at least weekly between May and September in years 1 to 2, giving trees up to standard, 10 gallons and all larger trees 20 gallons (unless adequate rain has fallen); water if showing signs of drought stress in the years thereafter. If supply is restricted by emergency legislation, watering will not be carried out unless instructed to do so.
- 3.24 All areas where newly planted trees have failed to thrive (through death, damage or disease) will be identified and plants will be removed and replaced with equivalent species to match the size of adjacent nearby plants in the next appropriate planting season.
- 3.25 Weeding will be undertaken during the main growth period (April to June, inclusive) for three years, achieving and maintaining a weed-free area around each tree of a minimum of 1m radius. Weed control will be by strimming (using appropriate guards to avoid damage to the plant) or removal by hand/hand tools. Care will be taken to avoid damage to trees themselves.
- 3.26 Ensure continuity of design approach, ecological and amenity value.

Monitoring

- 3.27 Inspection of new tree planting will be carried out annually for a period of 10 years from the first spring following planting to ensure adequate establishment, identify the presence of

any undesirable species and disease, and determine whether remedial action is required. Thereafter, an assessment will be carried out every two years.

- 3.28 The condition of all stakes, ties, guards and mats, where applicable, to be checked by the Management Company during each monthly visit and all broken items will be replaced and items regularly adjusted to accommodate plant growth and prevent rubbing. Any bark damage will be cut back neatly with a sharp knife.

Remediation

- 3.29 If disease becomes evident within tree stock, advice from the landscape consultant is to be sought. This may require the need for inspection, appropriate treatment or removal of impacted tree stock.
- 3.30 For a period of five years, trees are to be replaced if lost. Thereafter, advice from the landscape consultant should be sought to advise on whether tree losses impact the design intention for the scheme, including screening for visual purposes.

HEDGEROW PLANTING

Objectives

- 3.31 Ensure satisfactory establishment and growth of new hedgerow planting, and maintain hedgerow in a healthy and attractive condition, to retain its amenity value within the proposed development.

General Notes and Key Restrictions

- 3.32 Hedgerows to be pruned to ensure it is kept clear of pavements and parking spaces.
- 3.33 Hedge bank to be maintained at 3m above structure once whips are established.

Creation

- 3.34 Refer to detailed NBS to provide details regarding ground preparation, topsoiling, cultivation and details of planting/seeding.

Management

- 3.35 Formative pruning of deciduous hedges to encourage bushy growth: in winter in the first two years cut back leading upright shoots by one-third, cutting just above a bud to encourage bushy growth. Cut back side shoots which extend out from main hedge plant also just beyond a well-placed bud.
- 3.36 Ensure the satisfactory establishment and growth of new hedgerow planting, trim to required height/width/shape to develop structure and form as required:
- European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) – Twice or three times during growing season – 60cm width 1m height; and

- Mixed Native Hedgerow – Every second year to allow flowering on previous woody growth - 1m width 2m height.

- 3.37 Maintain planting in a healthy and attractive condition on both sides of their designated position.
- 3.38 No pruning works to hedges undertaken during nesting season from March to August inclusive.
- 3.39 Weed monthly by hand during growing season from March to October inclusive.
- 3.40 Top up bark mulch to a depth of 75mm where there is bare soil visible below hedgerow.
- 3.41 Water to field capacity if plants start to wilt during periods of low rainfall - to the end of year 3.

Monitoring

- 3.42 Inspect hedges in September and replace any dead plants in the following planting season – first five years.

Remediation

- 3.43 If disease becomes evident within stock, advice from the landscape consultant is to be sought. This may require the need for inspection, appropriate treatment or removal of impacted stock.
- 3.44 For a period of five years, stock is to be replaced if lost. Thereafter advice from the landscape consultant should be sought to advise on whether losses impact the design intention for the scheme.

NATIVE THICKET PLANTING

Objectives

- 3.45 Ensure satisfactory establishment and growth of shrub areas, which are maintained in a healthy and attractive condition, to retain its amenity and ecological value within the proposed development.
- 3.46 This mix of native and species will provide opportunities for insects such as butterflies, moths, bees and hoverflies, as well as numerous other invertebrate species. These in turn will attract birds, small mammals and bats.

General Notes and Key Restrictions

- 3.47 When the implemented planting matures, shrub planting will provide cover and nesting sites for birds, and cover for hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) and common amphibians such as common toad (*Bufo bufo*).

- 3.48 Where possible, the native shrub species will be sourced from suppliers of local provenance or given the current shortage of tree and hedge stock, at best, UK grown.

Creation

- 3.49 Refer to detailed NBS to provide details regarding ground preparation, topsoiling, cultivation and details of planting/seeding.

Management

- 3.50 Maintain 600mm diameter weed free area around each planting station approximately three times per annum – in years 1–3, until canopies have closed over, with weeds removed manual by hand or using hand tools.
- 3.51 Strim any grass between planting stations to maintain a neat and tidy appearance and reduce competition.
- 3.52 Replacement of plants that are dead, diseased or damaged will be undertaken as required during the first five years. These will be replaced with the equivalent species to match the size of adjacent nearby plants in the next appropriate planting season.
- 3.53 The requirement for selective thinning of all newly planted woodland/scrub areas will be assessed every three years and undertaken as necessary to ensure that overcrowding is reduced with increasing species maturity and that slower growing climax species are not outcompeted.
- 3.54 All thinning and pruning to be undertaken between September and February inclusive to avoid the main bird breeding season.
- 3.55 If plants are showing signs of drought stress during periods of low rainfall, water to field capacity during establishment in the first three years.

Monitoring

- 3.56 Check shelters, stakes and mats, re-firm if necessary. Any weeds within shelters to be pulled out by hand as necessary.
- 3.57 Inspect annually in September and replace any dead plants in spring for first five years.
- 3.58 Visit at least every three months from March to October inclusive to carry out formative pruning as necessary. Generally pruning should be carried out to remove dead or damaged vegetation but shall be limited in order that the natural shape of the plant is not changed.

Remediation

- 3.59 If disease becomes evident within stock, advise from the landscape consultant is to be sought. This may require the need for inspection, appropriate treatment or removal of impacted stock.

- 3.60 For a period of five years, stock is to be replaced if lost. Thereafter advice from the landscape consultant should be sought to advise on whether losses impact the design intention for the scheme.

ORNAMENTAL PLANTING

- 3.61 Non-native and ornamental species included within the planting scheme are not invasive and are not anticipated to result in any adverse ecological effects with some providing demonstrable benefits to wildlife through the provision of nectar, pollen and berries, particularly extending seasonal interest into early spring and winter.

Some ornamental cultivars (e.g. *Cornus* spp.) support a lower diversity of invertebrates than native species, however they provide structural habitat and do not represent a constraint to biodiversity.

- 3.62 The scheme is native led, with non-native species making a positive supplementary contribution to biodiversity and no negative ecological impacts anticipated.

Objectives

- 3.63 Ensure the satisfactory establishment and growth of new ornamental and groundcover planting to provide amenity and biodiversity benefits, maintaining planting in a healthy and attractive condition, ensuring continuity of design approach.

General Notes and Key Restrictions

- 3.64 Any substitutions to planting specification to be agreed with landscape consultant prior to planting.

Creation

- 3.65 Refer to detailed NBS to provide details regarding ground preparation, topsoiling, cultivation and details of planting.

Management

- 3.66 Top up mulch dressing to full 75mm in April following end of year 1. Thereafter, ensure good coverage whilst plants establish – once canopies meet, mulch top up to be within visible area only, e.g. to edges of beds.
- 3.67 Apply Enmag slow-release fertiliser at 50g/m² in late April.
- 3.68 Hand weed around groundcover planting to prevent damage to leaf form of new plantings in year 1, monthly from March to October inclusive, reducing to twice annually in year 3 when cover should be complete; thereafter, remove weeds as necessary.
- 3.69 Where shrubs overhang footpath edges, they will be cut back to maintain full width of pedestrian access routes.
- 3.70 Deciduous ornamental grasses to be cut back to ground level in late February/early March.

- 3.71 Replacement of plants that are dead, diseased or damaged will be undertaken as required. These will be replaced with the equivalent species to match the size of adjacent nearby plants in the next appropriate planting season.
- 3.72 If a particular plant becomes subject to a fatal pest or disease it shall be replaced by an alternative resistant plant with a similar form and habit.
- 3.73 If shrubs and herbaceous plants are showing signs of drought stress during periods of low rainfall, water to field capacity.

Monitoring

- 3.74 Inspect annually in September and replace any dead plants in spring.
- 3.75 Visit at least monthly from March to October inclusive to carry out formative pruning as necessary. Generally pruning shall be carried out to remove dead or damaged vegetation but shall be limited to the minimum necessary in order that the natural shape of the plant is not changed.

Remediation

- 3.76 If disease becomes evident within stock, advice from the landscape consultant is to be sought. This may require the need for inspection, appropriate treatment or removal of impacted stock.
- 3.77 For a period of five years, stock is to be replaced if lost. Thereafter, advice from the landscape consultant should be sought to advise on whether losses impact the design intention for the scheme.

MEADOW GRASSLAND

Objectives

- 3.78 The meadow grassland to be created within the Site is to be of moderate species diversity. It is designed to promote the floral and structural diversity (sward height) of the area and thereby increasing the foraging potential for the following species: badger (*Meles meles*), hedgehogs, invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, birds, bats and other more common species.

General Notes and Key Restrictions

- 3.79 The location of the meadow flower grassland varies in terms of its proximity to amenity pressure, and the management regime may need to be adapted accordingly.

Creation

- 3.80 The wildflower mixtures should be shallow sown on a seed bed, which is free from perennial weeds or other vegetation. The following should apply:

- Sowing should take place in the late summer/autumn (late August–September) or spring (April–May);
- Seeds must be surface sown at a rate of c.4 g/m², using a seed broadcaster; and
- Seed must not be covered but should be ‘firmed in’ to give good soil-seed contact using either a roller or by treading.

Management

Year 1 – Establishment

- 3.81 For the first year only, the grassland will be cut frequently, aiming to keep the grass short (30–50mm), to stop grass becoming dominant and encourage species diversity.

Long-term Management (Year 2 Onwards)

- 3.82 Areas of meadow grassland are to be managed via rotational cutting based around a traditional summer hay cut, with spring/autumn cutting as required and no cutting between April and mid-July unless required and agreed with the ECoW.
- 3.83 Cutting will be undertaken once a year to keep a low, uniform sward height and based around a traditional summer hay cut. In any one year, 25% of the extent of this area should be left uncut. The uncut portion should be rotated on a four-year cycle, so as to ensure that each section will be subject to cutting for no more than three years before being left uncut for one year. This will result in mosaic of rough grassland achieving differing sward heights and structures. Arisings will be removed from Site and appropriately disposed of.

Monitoring

- 3.84 Monitoring should be done between May and July (inclusive) in years 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 30 following creation. Monitoring should be done by a suitably experienced ecologist.
- 3.85 Success should be measured in relation to the habitat type (other neutral grassland) as set out within the UK Habitat Classification definition as well as the Condition Assessment for non-acid grassland types within the Grassland Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness) tab of the Statutory Metric Condition Assessment Sheets. Moderate condition is targeted so at least three of the six criteria need to be passed, including essential criterion A.
- 3.86 ‘Moderate’ condition will not be achieved immediately after creation. For example, the average number of species per m² will likely increase year-on-year throughout the 30-year period. Instead, the ECoW must consider the natural succession of this habitat type and ensure that the trend of the grassland is such that Moderate condition will be achieved well within the 30-year period.

Remediation

- 3.87 If ‘Moderate’ condition Other Neutral Grassland is not achieved and the trend of the grassland enhancement after creation is showing that it will not be achieved, then remediation will be required. The ECoW will consider the cause of this failure and

set out appropriate remediation to address it. This could for example include a change of mowing frequency, removal of recreational disturbance, targeted scrub/bracken/weed removal.

AMENITY GRASSLAND

Objectives

- 3.88 To ensure a managed short sward establishes adjacent to public use areas.

Management and Monitoring

- 3.89 Regular mowing to maintain dense short sward resistant to recreation disturbance. Monitoring in line with other habitat types to ensure successful establishment and the need for remedial action such as changes in the cutting frequency or additional sowing of seeds. Arisings will be removed from Site and appropriately disposed of.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Objectives

- 3.90 To ensure invasive species do not establish within the Site.

Management and Monitoring

- 3.91 Ongoing ecology surveys should monitor the Site for any invasive species. Should invasive species begin to establish, areas should be fenced off to prevent access and reduce spread. Expert advice should then be sought for the removal.

Section 4

Detailed Maintenance Requirements for Sustainable Drainage Features

- 4.1 The Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) incorporated within the development, primarily comprises a detention basin as a site control feature.
- 4.2 The attenuation basin has been designed for easy maintenance to comprise:
- Regular day-to-day care: In line with soft landscape maintenance requirements elsewhere on-site; litter collection/grass cutting, but also to include checking of inlets and outlets of SuDS features;
 - Occasional tasks: Managing vegetation and removing any silt that builds up within the features; and
 - Remedial work: Repairing damage where necessary.
- 4.3 The detention basin has been included within the area of Public Open Space (POS), as an attenuation feature for larger storm events. This has been designed to store surface water run-off and hold water for a short period before releasing at a slower rate to the final discharge point. The basin is seeded with a matrix of grasses including areas of wetland grass to the base and general meadow mixes to the banks of the basin.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- 4.4 To maintain open area for storage of surface water run-off whilst providing amenity and biodiversity value, including a permanent water element.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIVE

Regular (Monthly or as Stated)

- 4.5 Grasses within basin to be maintained as per management prescriptive for various vegetation typologies in soft landscape section.
- 4.6 Remove any litter from the banks/base of basin.
- 4.7 Inspect infalls and outfalls and remove litter/leaves to prevent blockages.

Occasional – Annually or as Required

- 4.8 Wildflower mixes to base/banks to be maintained with two cuts annually in July and September OR one cut annually in September (to be agreed with the ecologist).
- 4.9 If marsh conditions establish in the base due to wet conditions, cut annually or as required removing to wildlife piles on site.

- 4.10 Where a build-up of silt accumulates to more than 150mm, a phased removal of silt should be undertaken, subject to client approval. Remove no more than 30% of the area at any one time to an agreed depth but not subsoil layer. Retain as much representative vegetation as possible to ensure rapid recolonisation. spread on-site to agreed area to the top of banks to allow de-watering of silt and then remove in accordance with Environment Agency waste exemption guidance. Undertake when the ground is damp in the autumn or early spring.
- 4.11 Should invasive species such as bull rush (*Typha*) self-colonise the basin through natural seed dispersal, do not allow to colonise more than 50% of the base of pond to prevent out competing other native species. Under-take removal during September/October to minimise damage to protected species and allow re-growth of other vegetation and review bi-annually.

Section 5

Detailed Maintenance Requirements for Hard Landscape and Ecological Enhancement Measures

- 5.1 The hard landscaping proposals are provided in **Appendix EDP 2**.

OVERARCHING MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES FOR HARD LANDSCAPE

- 5.2 To provide a clean and safe environment for those using the Site and the amenity provision provided within.
- 5.3 To provide a clear and safe network of paths and access routes around the Site, to allow enjoyment of the landscape and accessibility throughout the development.
- 5.4 Ensure a good system of monitoring and timely scheduling of any repairs required; The relevant British Standards should be referred to where necessary, this is to:
- Provide clean and tidy paved surfaces, which remain in good physical repair and do not form a health and safety hazard;
 - Ensure manufacturer's guidelines/advice used/sought where appropriate for replacement paving repairs, etc.;
 - Ensure the Site is kept free of any litter vandalism or damage. Where this occurs, ensure the issues are reported and appropriate action taken to rectify; all litter is to be cleared at each maintenance visit. Litter to be removed and disposed of off-site by approved waste contractor; Reporting any fly tipping and appropriate action taken; and
 - To enhance habitats throughout the Site and encourage flora and fauna into residential areas.

WILDLIFE FEATURES

Reptiles, Amphibians and Hedgehogs

Objectives

- 5.5 Create suitable grassland, hedgerows and scrub habitat for a range of wildlife on-site.

Creation

- 5.6 Grassland habitat and scrub habitat will be created, retained and enhanced as shown in **Appendix EDP 1**. The grassland and scrub will be managed to provide a diverse structure that suits a range of wildlife through a varied management regime including periods of no cutting.

Monitoring

- 5.7 No monitoring or remediation required.

Bats

Objectives

Habitat Creation

- 5.8 The landscape scheme includes the addition of new hedgerow, shrub and tree planting that will enhance foraging opportunities and habitat connectivity for commuting bats, as illustrated in **Appendix EDP 1**. In addition, the proposals include an attenuation feature, which will hold permanent water and be attractive to invertebrate prey species.
- 5.9 Replacement and additional roosting opportunities will be provided through the erection of six 1FF Schwegler (or similar) bat boxes, mounted to poles within the native hedge and shrubs, as shown in **Appendix EDP 2** and advised by the project ecologist. Woodcrete (or similar) material is recommended for longevity. The final bat box locations and type are to be confirmed in line with the requirements of the NRW Development Licence and on the advice of the project ecologist.

Habitat Enhancement

- 5.10 As well as hedgerow, tree and scrub creation, grassland will be enhanced as shown in **Appendix EDP 1**.

Monitoring

- 5.11 All wildlife features planted within the Site, and erected bat boxes, should be visually assessed in years 1, 2, 5 and 10. Any monitoring is to be completed by bat licensed surveyors in line with the requirements of the Natural Resources Wales Development Licence, and to be superseded by any approved licence.
- 5.12 Success should be considered to be that the feature is functioning as designed.

Remediation

- 5.13 If the planting has not been successful, then failed saplings should be replaced like-for-like. If bat boxes are damaged or look unsuitable for use, then they should either be replaced or repositioned as advised by the project ecologist.

Breeding Birds

Objectives

- 5.14 Increase bird breeding habitat and foraging on-site.

General Notes and Key Restrictions

- 5.15 No management operations should take place to habitats that could support breeding birds during the bird breeding season, 01 March to 31 August, including hedgerows scrub and trees. It may be possible to carry out works during this period if the works are small and an

ecologist is able to declare breeding birds absent from a small area of habitat, but generally the opportunities for this will be limited.

Creation

- 5.16 Hedgerow, shrub and tree planting, grassland and the attenuation features and erection of a bird box mounted to an existing tree as displayed on the landscape drawings accompanying this report (**Appendices EDP 1 and 2**).
- 5.17 Recommended bird boxes include 1B Schwegler nest boxes or similar to be installed on a retained tree within the Site. The final type and positioning of bird boxes will be advised upon by the project ecologist depending on availability, with woodcrete (or similar) material is recommended for longevity.

Monitoring

- 5.18 All wildlife features planted or erected within the Site should be visually assessed/inspected in years 1, 2, 5 and 10.
- 5.19 Success should be considered to be that the feature is functioning as designed.

Remediation

- 5.20 Survey report to be used to inform LEMP updates, including the replacement or repositioning of bird box.

Section 6

Ongoing Maintenance, Monitoring and Review

- 6.1 The long-term success of the scheme is dependent on its maintenance regime. Therefore, to protect the investment in the quality of soft and hard landscape works, a competent contractor, appropriately qualified and equipped to carry out the expected high standard of maintenance, must be appointed.

MONITORING

- 6.2 Monitoring and remediation options for each habitat type and feature is set out within **Sections 3 to 5** of this LEMP. In addition, monitoring of ornamental planting around the restaurant/within POS will be undertaken immediately after creation and then in years 1, 2 and year 5 following creation, to allow for defects inspections and compliance with potential planning conditions. In addition to the habitat specific monitoring requirements set out above, the following information should be recorded for each monitoring visit:

- Date the monitoring visit took place;
- Who carried out the visit;
- Weather;
- Success of the operation(s) within that area;
- Necessary alterations that affected the operation(s) (e.g. to prevent disturbance);
- Photographic records capable of showing operations and seasonal comparisons of vegetation composition and the success of management taken starting from year 1; and
- Remediation required or suggestions for the future that may improve success next time the operation is carried out.

MONITORING REPORT

- 6.3 A Monitoring Report will be compiled by the ECoW and will be submitted to the LPA in years 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 30.

REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION

- 6.4 At the end of the implementation or defects period (whichever is appropriate) a full handover should be made from the contractor to the maintenance team. The provisions and responsibilities for this LEMP will be reviewed on an annual basis during the first five years, by those responsible for landscape management and maintenance, with adjustments made as required to reflect the state of the Site, the progress of plant establishment, and any

other relevant factors that arise. A review by an ecologist as well as those responsible for landscape management and maintenance will be completed every five years thereafter, or as required. Any substantial amendments will be approved in writing by the LPA.

- 6.5 This report therefore contains an indicative description and schedule of maintenance visits applicable for the first 10 years post-implementation, and then ongoing works. This provides a reasonable frequency of the more common operations, and a good indication of the required level of intensity of other management operations required – but is not intended to be fully comprehensive or restrictive, so that it can be amended appropriately to reflect changes over time.
- 6.6 The agreed ongoing programme of maintenance work will include proposed frequency of visits and operations detailed in the specification i.e. pruning. It shall also include scheduled dates for:
- Infrequent operations such as re-spacing of plants, topping up of mulch, replacement planting/restocking beds, etc.;
 - Planting review and refurbishment;
 - Monitoring and review; the effectiveness of the management operations is to be closely and continually monitored and reviewed annually against this LEMP, with any resulting changes incorporated into the subsequent years' programme; and
 - Any changes which propose removal of landscape features or habitats or may pose a detrimental impact on the approved landscape scheme, or the design intent and vision for the open spaces in terms of amenity or wildlife value, will need to be submitted and approved by the LPA.
- 6.7 At handover, and where required in line with monitoring thereafter, a survey is therefore to take place of all soft and hard landscaping. To include:
- Comments on success of maintenance and management works;
 - Comments on establishment of planting;
 - Details of any structural defects;
 - Details of any dead/dying plants or swards; and
 - Overall conclusions of efficacy of maintenance/management regime and statement regarding updated maintenance recommendations to reflect outcome of review.
- 6.8 A schedule of works will then be assembled to include details of works or changes required, such as:
- Replacement planting;
 - Remedial works (e.g. pruning, dividing, over-seeding);

- Timetable of works; and
- Revised vision for the Site, including aims and objectives.

Appendix EDP 1
Detailed Planting Plan
(edp9069_d012h 15 July 2026 JWe/HMc)

Planting Schedule

Trees						
Number	Common Name	Species	Girth	Height	Specification	Density
7	Juneberry	Amelanchier lamarckii		250-300cm	RB :Heavy Standard :Clear Stem 175-200	Counted
3	River birch	Betula nigra	12-14cm	350-425cm	Half Standard :Clear Stem min. 200 :3x	Counted
7	Common Silver Birch	Betula pendula	12-14cm	350-425cm	Half Standard :Clear Stem min. 200 :3x	Counted
6	Wild Cherry	Prunus avium	14-16cm	400-450cm	3 :Extra Heavy Standard :Clear stem 175-200cm :5 brks :RB	Counted
6	Whitebeam	Sorbus aria	12-14cm	350-425cm	3x :Heavy Standard :Clear Stem 175-200 :RB :5 brks	Counted
4	European mountain ash	Sorbus aucuparia		250-300cm	RB :Heavy Standard :Clear Stem 175-200	Counted
Total :33						

Shrubs						
Number	Common Name	Species	Height	Pot Size	Specification	Density
5	Red-barked Dogwood	Cornus alba		5L		1/m²
200	Common Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea	40-60cm	3L	Branched :4 brks	3/m²
124	Guelder Rose	Viburnum opulus	60-80cm	5L	Branched :4 brks	1/m²
Total :329						

Herbaceous						
Number	Common Name	Species	Height	Pot Size	Specification	Density
9	Bugle	Ajuga reptans		1L	Full Pot	3/m²
Total :9						

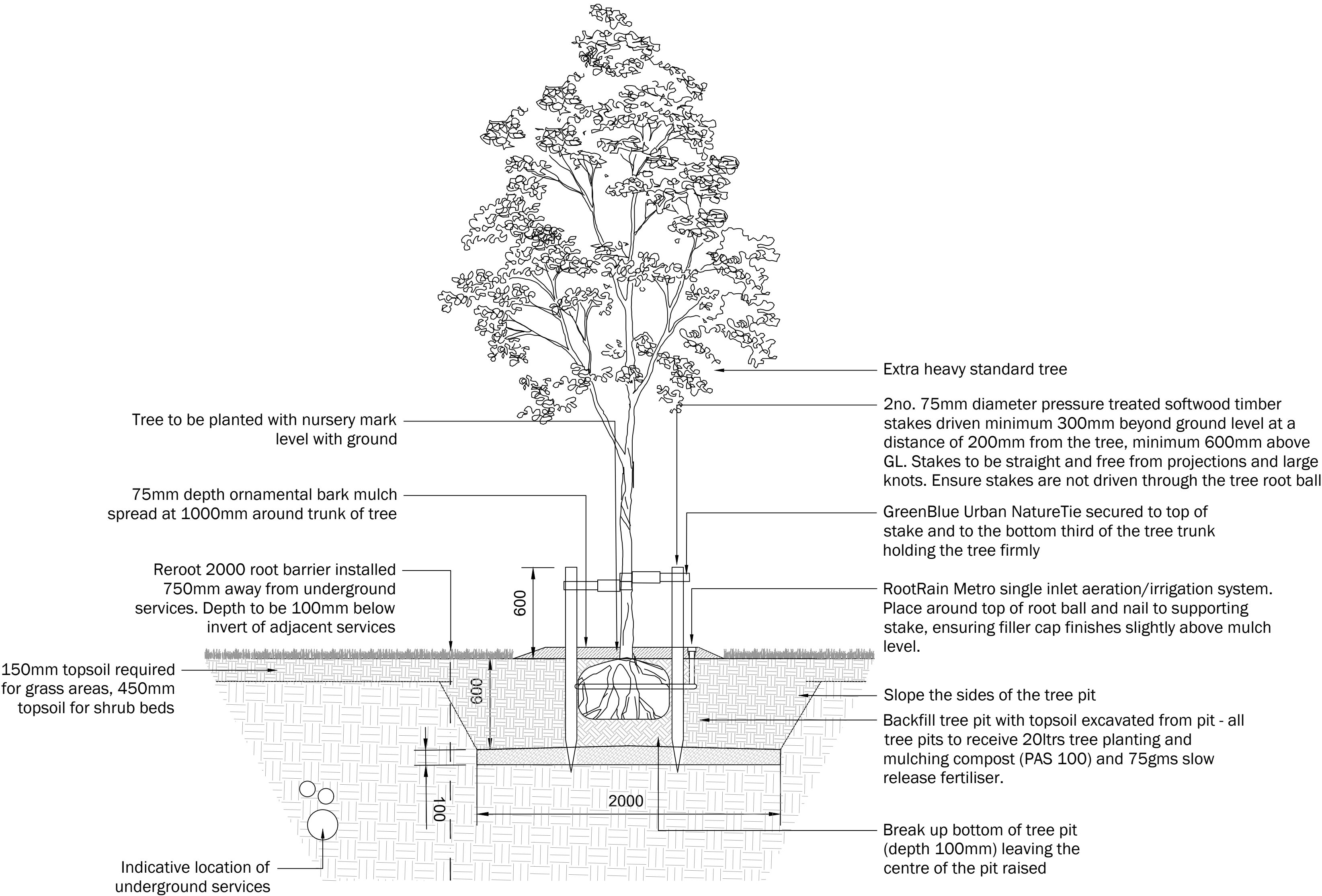
Bulbs					
Number	Common Name	Species	Bulb Size	Specification	Density
86	Dutch crocus	Crocus vernus		Grade 7/8	15/m²
86	Cyclamineus Daffodil	Narcissus 'Peeping Tom'		Grade 7/8	15/m²
86	Wild Daffodil	Narcissus pseudonarcissus		Grade 5/6	15/m²
Total :258					

Ferns					
Number	Common Name	Species	Pot Size	Specification	Density
57	Hart's Tongue Fern	Asplenium scolopendrium	3L	Full Pot	5/m²
7	Golden Scale Fern	Dryopteris affinis	3L	Full Pot	3/m²
13	Common Polypody	Polypodium vulgare	3L		3/m²
15	Soft Shield Fern	Polystichum setiferum	3L	Full Pot	3/m²
Total :92					

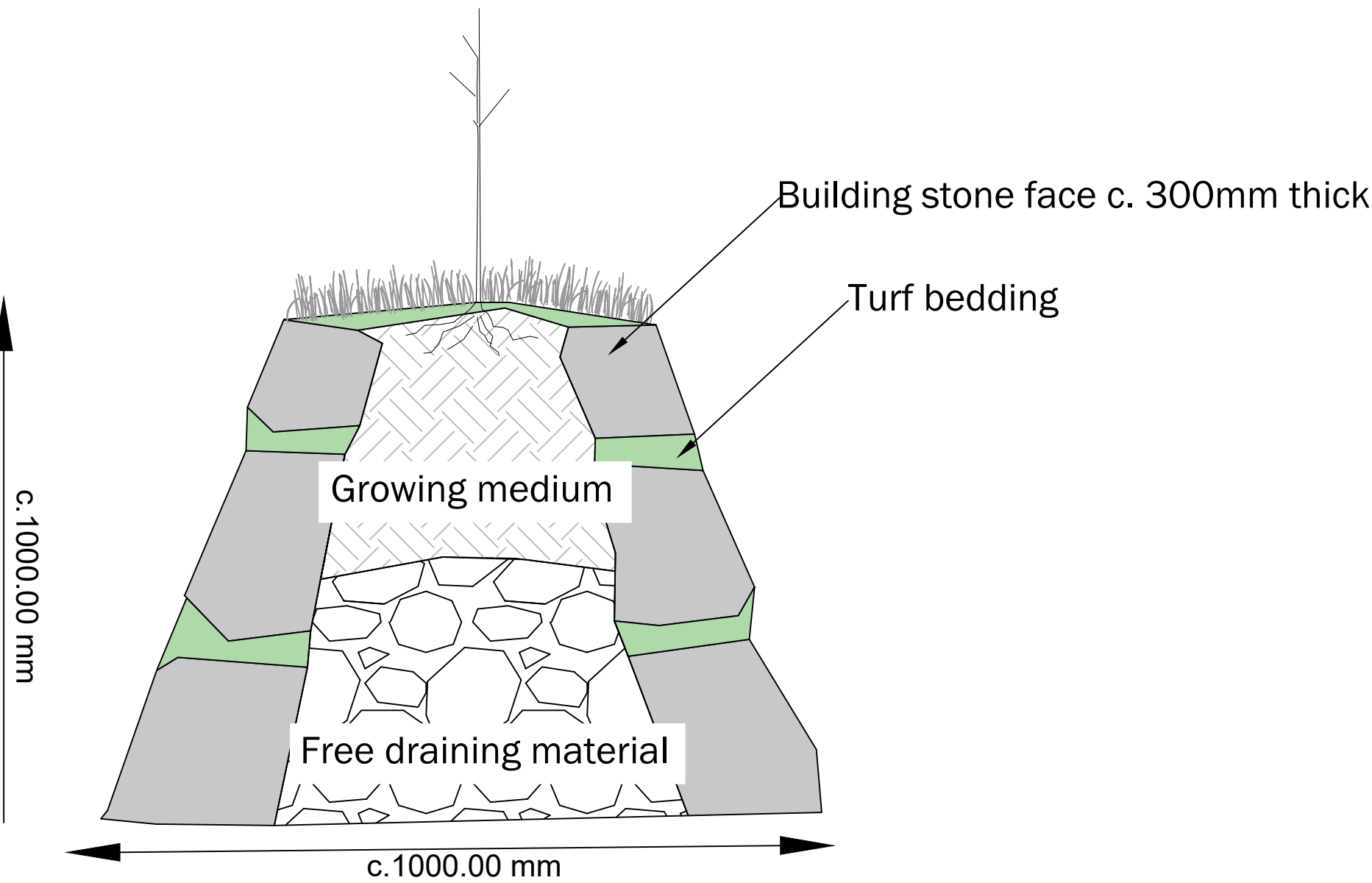
Grasses				
Number	Common Name	Species	Specification	Density
42	Great Wood-rush	Luzula sylvatica	Full Pot	4/m²
13	Purple Moor Grass	Molinia caerulea	Full Pot	3/m²
Total :55				

Hedges					
Number	Common Name	Species	Height	Specification	Density
215	Common Beech	Fagus sylvatica	80-100cm	Branched :C :4 brks	3/m
Total :215					

Native Hedgerow Mix					
Number	Common Name	Species	Specification	Density	%
42	Common Maple	Acer campestre	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr Double Staggered at 0.5m offset	15%
13	Common Maple	Acer campestre	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr	15%
15	Common Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr Double Staggered at 0.5m offset	5%
5	Common Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr	5%
28	Common Hazel	Corylus avellana	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr Double Staggered at 0.5m offset	10%
9	Common Hazel	Corylus avellana	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr	10%
55	Common Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr Double Staggered at 0.5m offset	20%
17	Common Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr	20%
15	Common Holly	Ilex aquifolium	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr Double Staggered at 0.5m offset	5%
5	Common Holly	Ilex aquifolium	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr	5%
55	Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr Double Staggered at 0.5m offset	20%
17	Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr	20%
15	Dog Rose	Rosa canina	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr Double Staggered at 0.5m offset	5%
5	Dog Rose	Rosa canina	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr	5%
28	Common Elder	Sambucus nigra	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr Double Staggered at 0.5m offset	10%
9	Common Elder	Sambucus nigra	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr	10%
28	Guelder Rose	Viburnum opulus	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr Double Staggered at 0.5m offset	10%
9	Guelder Rose	Viburnum opulus	Branched :1+1 :B	0.3Ctr	10%
Total :370					



Indicative Hedgebank Detail (not to scale)
Design and construction to be adapted on site per specialist and engineer's specification



This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all other drawings and specifications within the package. These drawings have been prepared for design development and costing purposes only. All dimensions in millimeters unless otherwise specified. Do not scale off this drawing, except for planning purposes. Written dimensions to be taken only. EDP will accept no responsibility for errors by others in "reading" from this drawing. All base plans used are provided by the client and architect, except where otherwise expressly agreed in writing. EDP shall have no responsibility or liability for any loss direct or consequential. This drawing must not be copied in whole or part without prior written consent from EDP.

purpose of issue PLANNING			
H	Minor updates	15/07/2026	JWe
G	Updated to revised site layout	02/07/2026	JWe
F	Updated to revised site layout	14/04/2026	LHa
rev	description	date	by
client			
McDonald's Restaurants Ltd			
project title			
McDonalds Merthyr Tydfil			
Heads of the Valleys Road			
drawing title			
Detailed Planting Plan			
Sheet 2 of 2			
date	15 JULY 2026	drawn by	JWe
drawing number	edp9069_d012h	checked	HMc
scale	Not to Scale @ A1	QA	JFr

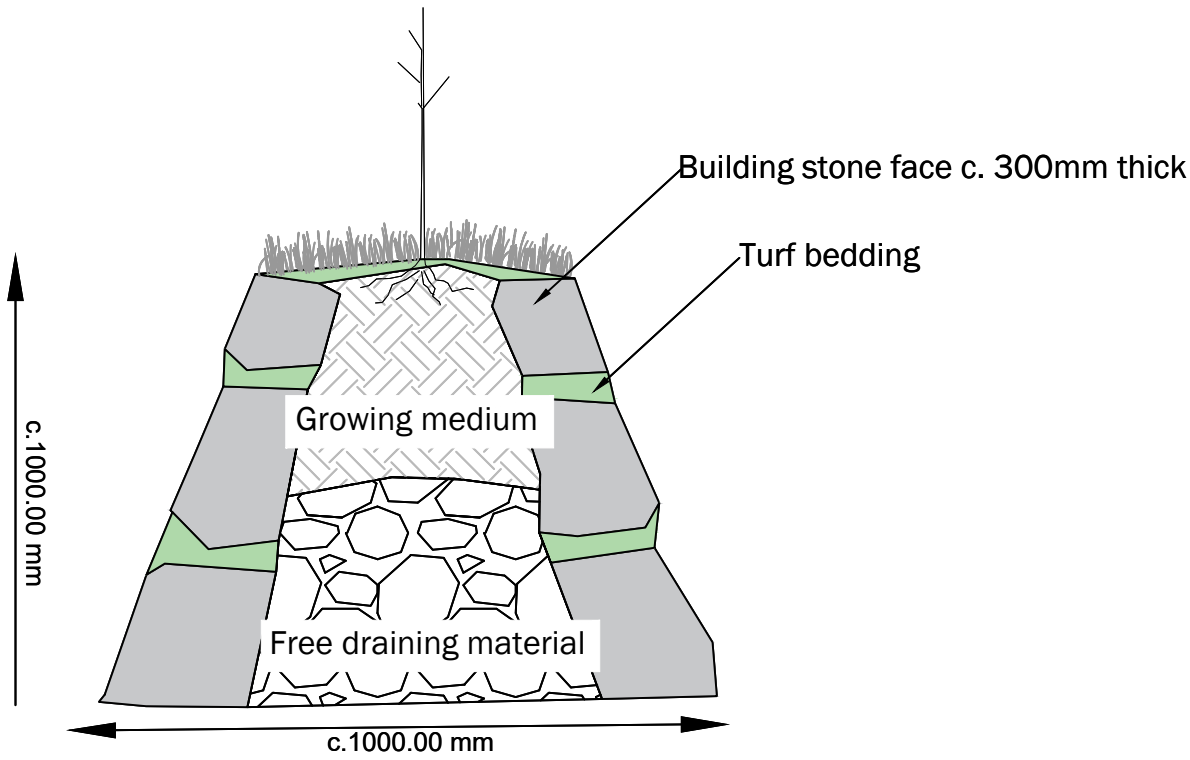
Appendix EDP 2
Hard Landscape Plan
(edp9069_d013g 06 July 2026 JWe/HMc)

ta

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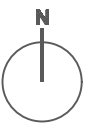
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Indicative Hedgebank Detail (not to scale)
Design and construction to be adapted on site per specialist and engineer's specification



Note

- Design subject to engineering proposals for retaining structures and earthworks
- Drawing relates to site layout 13888_AEW_2685_0004
- For soft landscape plans see edp9069_d012



- Site Boundary
- Existing Tree/Vegetation to be Retained
Refer to the Arboricultural Report
- Proposed Tree Planting
- Proposed Cycleway Permeable Surface
Resin bound gravel to engineers specification
- Proposed Tarmacadam
To engineers specification
- Proposed Imprinted Concrete
Entrained with full layer works, hardening agent and curing system; Colour: Grey, Pattern: London Cobble
- Proposed Charcoal Brushed Concrete
To engineers specification
- Proposed Brushed Concrete
To engineers specification
- Proposed Block Paving
Product: Marshalls Keyblock (200 x 100 x 80mm)
Colour: Charcoal
- Proposed Ornamental Gravel
Product: Golden Gravel 20-30mm diameter, or similar approved, to be laid over a Weed Suppressant Membrane
- Proposed Information Sign
- Proposed Totem Sign (12m)
- Proposed Timber Knee Rail 600mm high
- Proposed Fence to Residential
Timber close boarded fence 1800mm high
- Proposed Fence to Retaining Wall
Timber close boarded fence 1100mm high
- Proposed Vehicle Retention Barrier
Timber- Clad Cidneo Style Vehicle Retention Barrier
- Proposed Anti Climb Fence (1.1m/1.8m)
- Proposed Retaining Wall
To engineers design and detail
- Proposed Levered Vehicle Barrier
- Proposed Canopy to Vehicle Barrier
- Proposed Cycle Stands
Sheffield Cycle Hoop or similar
- Proposed Outdoor Furniture
Refer to McDonalds Product Specifications
- Proposed Target Bin
- Proposed SuDS Feature
- Proposed EV Charging Station
- Proposed Lighting Pole
To lighting engineers specification
- Proposed Lighting Bollard
To lighting engineers specification
- Proposed Bird Boxes
Tree mounted:
Indicative location determined by project ecologist
- Proposed Bat Boxes
Post Mounted x 2 per post: (1FF Schwegler or similar)
Indicative location per project ecologist advice
- Proposed Feature Boulder
To hedge/Hedgebank edge
- Proposed Hedgebank
See Inset
- Proposed hibernacula
Indicative location determined by project ecologist
- Proposed log pile habitat feature
Indicative location determined by project ecologist

purpose of issue **PLANNING**

g	Updated to revised SuDS layout	06/07/2026	JWe
f	Updated to revised site layout	14/04/2026	LHa
e	Amends to bat boxes per LPA comments	18/12/2025	JWe
rev	description	date	by

client

McDonald's Restaurants Ltd

project title
McDonalds Merthyr Tydfil Heads of the Valleys Road

drawing title

Hard Landscape Plan

Sheet 1

date	06 JULY 2026	drawn by	JWe
drawing number	edp9069_d013g	checked	HMc
scale	1:200 @ A1	QA	JFr

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Appendix EDP 3

30 Year Management, Maintenance and Monitoring Schedule

- A3.1 This appendix needs to be read in conjunction with the management prescriptions set out in **Sections 3 to 5** and the monitoring prescriptions set out in **Section 6** of this LEMP.
- A3.2 **Table EDP A3.1** sets out the optimal timings of the actions required for the creation, establishment and long-term management of newly created and retained habitats. This also identifies any seasonal restrictions that need to be followed to avoid impacts on specific protected or notable species.
- A3.3 Darker cells represent optimum timings, lighter cells represent suitable, but sub-optimal timings.

Table EDP A3.1: Seasonal Timings

Task	Year After Creation	Person	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Other Neutral Grassland, Species-rich Grass and Meadow Grassland														
Sowing of meadow grassland	Creation year	Management Company												
Cutting of meadow grassland- year 1	1	Management Company												
Cutting of meadow grassland- year 2 onwards	2-30	Management Company												
Monitoring of grassland	1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30	ECoW												

Task	Year After Creation	Person	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Native Hedgerows														
Trimming and removal of dead woody material	1–30 as required	Management Company												
Cutting of hedgerows	1–30 (three-year rotation)	Management Company												
Re-firming, checking tree guards, supports and shelters	1–10 as required	Landscape Consultant												
Remove guards	5	Management Company												
Monitoring of native hedgerows	1–10 thereafter every two years.	ECoW or Landscape Consultant												
Ornamental Hedgerows														
Formative pruning	First two years	Management Company												
Trimming of hedgerows	2–3 times during growing season	Management Company												
Re-firming, checking tree guards, supports and shelters	1–10 as required	Landscape Consultant												
Remove guards	5	Management Company												

Task	Year After Creation	Person	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monitoring of ornamental hedgerows	1–10 thereafter every two years.	ECoW or Landscape Consultant												
Specimen Trees														
Re-firming, checking tree guards, supports and shelters	1–10 as required	Landscape Consultant												
Remove tree guards	5	Management Company												
Native and Ornamental Planting														
Trimming and removal of dead woody material	1–30 as required	Management Company												
Re-firming, checking tree guards, supports and shelters	1–10 as required	Landscape Consultant												
Remove guards	5	Management Company												
Monitoring of planting	1-10 thereafter every two years.	ECoW or Landscape Consultant												
Reptiles/Dormice/Hedgehogs etc.														
Late season mowing	Annually	Management Company												
Compost piles (optional)	Annually	Management Company												

Task	Year After Creation	Person	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bats and Birds														
Monitoring of habitat features and bat and bird boxes	1,2,5,10	Ecologist (appropriately licenced for bat box checks)												
General Monitoring and Reporting														
Monitoring of general landscape areas	1, 2, 5	Landscape Consultant												
Monitoring Report	1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30	Landscape Consultant and/or ECoW												



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