

Landscape Design Statement, Specification & Management Plan

For

Proposed Residential Development, Llysfaen, Merthyr Tydfil

Prepared By



On Behalf of

Merthyr Housing Association

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PROGRAMME:

All soft landscape works shall be implemented during the first planting season post practical completion.

All bare-root stock is to be planted between November and March while trees are still dormant.

Containerised stock can be planted at any time of year but not during very cold or wet weather when the ground is likely to freeze or become waterlogged.

SOFT LANDSCAPE SPECIFICATION:

Generally

All works shall be carried out in accordance with BS4428:1989, Code for General Landscape Operations.

Clearance

Any significant clearance of vegetation shall take place between September and March so as to avoid the bird nesting season.

Soil

Soil resources are easily damaged by being stripped or moved when wet. Consequently, all topsoil should be stripped when dry (in the summer months) for re-use in landscape areas.

Stripped soils to be stored in bunds no more than 2 m high and kept grassed and free from construction traffic until required for reuse.

Topsoil depths to be 400mm for shrub planting with a 600mm overall rooting depth.

Existing topsoil on site should be checked by a suitably qualified soil scientist and reconditioned where necessary. Enrich Topsoil backfill with slow-release fertilizer. Everris Enmag CRF, or similar approved should be applied at a rate of 70g/m² and to a depth of 200mm.

Spread subsoil should be loosened/ripped after replacement to remove compaction and maximise aeration and drainage. De-compaction to be performed with a tined ripper pulled by an earth-mover or excavator, undertaken when soils are sufficiently dry to be friable.

Any imported soil is to be approved for use by a suitably qualified soil Scientist.

Fallow Cultivation

The contractor shall by cultivation or other approved means allow for suppressing all weed growth on all areas which lie fallow whilst awaiting suitable weather or the right season for planting or seeding.

Cultivation

On newly topsoiled areas or on undisturbed areas where depth of not less than 300mm of topsoil exists after clearing all vegetation, beds shall be dug by hand or cultivated by machine to a minimum depth of 300mm breaking down all lumps and leaving the surface level with a medium tilth. All weeds and debris shall be collected and removed from site. No cultivation is to take place within the root protection areas of retained trees.

NO CULTIVATION TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN ROOT PROTECTION AREAS OF EXISTING TREES

Nursery Stock

Where possible all native species planting stock shall be primarily sourced from nurseries providing stock derived from local seed sources. In the eventuality of

insufficient availability, stock derived from seed sourced from Forestry Commission UK seed provenance zone 303 in accordance with the Forest Reproductive Material Regulations (2002) shall be used. Where plants from this zone aren't available materials from an adjacent zone shall be sourced. All native species planting stock shall be of British provenance.

All stock must comply with BS3936 (Nursery Stock).

- Top growth shall be typical of the variety and well branched, except for varieties normally grown with a single stem.
- Roots shall be in balance with the size of plant and sufficiently fibrous and developed.
- All containers must be weed free.
- All plants must be fully hardened off prior to planting where protective growing techniques have been used.

All root-balled and containerised tree stock to be supplied in accordance with BS:8545:2014.

Season

All trees, shrubs and ground cover plants shall be planted during suitable weather between October and April. However, containerised material may be planted between May and October. Planting of bare root stock shall be undertaken between November and March while plants are still dormant. Planting shall not be carried out when the ground is waterlogged, frozen or snow covered.

Planting shrubs (open ground and containerised)

All plants shall be planted at the same depth as previously grown; care being taken to avoid damaging the root system. Sufficient soil shall be taken out of the planting station to enable the roots to be fully spread, packing them round with fine soil before firmly heeling in. The roots of balled trees or shrubs shall not be disturbed during planting.

Shrub planting pits to be 150mm wider than root spread.

Mulching

On completion of planting the shrub beds shall be mulched with 50mm depth of ornamental bark mulch. Mulch shall only be applied when the soil is moist.

Grass Seeding

Area to be seeded to be cleared of annual weeds by hoeing or herbicide application.

Perennial weeds to be eradicated by a translocated glyphosate-based herbicide.

Ground to be cultivated to provide a weed free seed bed and firmed if necessary.

Seed mixture to be sown evenly at the recommended rate either during the Spring (April-May) or Autumn (September - October)

Upon completion of sowing, seed bed is to be raked lightly with a spring - tined rake and soil firmed by treading or rolling and the area well-watered with a fine spray.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Management Responsibilities

This document is intended to be used as the management plan for the site in perpetuity.

With the exception of private gardens, following the implementation of the landscape proposals, the management of landscape areas at the site will be undertaken by a suitably qualified contractor to be appointed by the site operator. The contractor will be expected to make site visits, spread throughout the year to suit the season. All Management will be undertaken in accordance with the specification contained herein.

Landscape Management Specification

All planted areas are to be maintained in a weed free condition and any newly planted trees or shrubs which die, or are destroyed, within 5 years of practical completion shall be replaced in the appropriate season with plants of the same species.

The contractor shall eradicate weed growth within planted and seeded areas either by manual, mechanical or chemical means. Perennial weeds must be treated with glyphosate or another approved product. The use of residual herbicide is not permitted.

All relevant Acts of Parliament and the manufacturer's instructions concerning the handling, use and storage of chemicals must be followed at all times. Chemical containers and other contaminated equipment must be cleared from the site after each day's work.

Newly Planted Shrubs:

Shrub bed areas shall be maintained as bare earth and kept free from weed growth, litter and rubbish at all times. Any shrubs overhanging pedestrian routes or adjacent grassed areas are to be pruned back during the appropriate season and arisings removed from site.

Pruning of ornamental shrubs should be done to encourage healthy and bushy growth and promote desirable ornamental features, e.g. flowers, fruit, autumn colour, stem colour.

All shrub beds to be treated with a slow-release fertilizer, as chosen by the landscape maintenance contractor, in March or April. Treatment to be undertaken on an annual basis as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Mulch to be maintained at a 50mm thickness. Any weeds growing on, or within, the mulch to be removed by hand weeding and taken off site.

Grass Areas

Areas to be cut every six to eight weeks during the first year after sowing to prevent the grass from over growing the slower growing wildflowers. Cuttings to be removed from site.

In following years wildflower areas are to be cut in early spring, before growth starts, and in October, after all wildflower seeds have been shed. Cuttings to be removed from site.

Hedgerows:

Once established, proposed hedgerows to be maintained at a maximum height of 1.5m using an appropriate pruning tool and in accordance with good horticultural practice. All arisings to be removed from site by the contractor.