



Trecatti Landfill

Landscape Restoration Supporting Statement

Biffa Waste Services Limited

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Drawings

TL LR-01: Landscape Scheme



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Overview of Conditions

This document and associated drawing (Ref: TL LR-01 – Landscape Restoration Plan) have been prepared to provide details pursuant to Conditions 7 and 8 of the 1992 planning permission (reference 52920464) that allows ‘*Land filling of void by deposition of domestic, commercial and industrial waste*’ at Trecatti Landfill Site. For clarity these conditions have been included below:

Condition 7

Restoration and landscaping shall be carried out on a progressive basis with the phased operation of the Site in accordance with the environmental statement forming part of this application. Details of the restoration proposals shall be submitted for approval of the Local Planning Authority.

Condition 8

Final restoration, in accordance with an agreed plan shall be completed within 12 months of the final levels being reached and shall be maintained for a period of 5 years thereafter by the operator to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority

With regards to Condition 7, the site is in the process of being restored progressively in accordance with the originally submitted ES; for information the areas of restoration completed to date are indicated on the ‘Landscape Restoration Plan’ by an orange dashed line (Ref: TL LR-01).

In relation to the ‘Final Restoration’ required under Condition 8, it is assumed that the restoration plan submitted as part of the PPC application in 2004 (Ref: T3230700) shows the most recent representation of the landscape proposals (and profile) with grassland being established across the entire area. This will help to assimilate the site with its surroundings, that are principally comprised of open common land.

2.0 Restoration Technique and Materials

2.1 Restoration Overview

As set out in Condition 7, “*Restoration and landscaping shall be carried out on a progressive basis with the phased operation of the Site in accordance with the environmental statement*”. For reference purposes, the restoration works completed to date are indicated on the ‘Landscape Restoration Plan’ (Ref: TL LR-01).

2.2 Restoration Profile

Protection geotextile would be laid over the completed landfill cells. Restoration materials will then be placed to a minimum final depth of 1,000mm (perpendicular to the slope). The restoration soils will comprise of suitable soils derived from either the site or imported sources. To ensure applicable standards are met, the first 300 mm of soils shall be subject to CQA supervision with the remainder placed thereafter. If required additional materials would be applied to reach the full depth required.



2.3 Restoration Materials

All materials to be used to form the restoration profile shall be sourced from on site or imported as directed by Biffa and to meet current applicable standards. The material shall be free from any unsuitable matter, or any other deleterious materials/objects that may potentially cause damage to the capping system.

3.0 Landscape Implementation

3.1 Seeding Works

3.1.1 Seed Mix

As described above the restoration works involve establishing grassland over the capped landfill. One seed mix is being proposed that responds to both the aspect and nature of the ground conditions that is typical of local common land. This mix is based on Emorsgate 'EG1' which is a 'General Purpose Meadow Grass Mixture', supplemented by 5% component of locally harvested wildflower species supplied by 'Wyndrush Wild' or other suitable local supplier

Table 3-1: Restoration Seed Mix

Species	%	Kg per ha
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i> – Common Bent	10	5
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> – Crested Dogtail	30	15
<i>Festuca rubra</i> – Red Fescue	30	15
<i>Phelum bertolonii</i> – Smaller Cat's-tail	5	2.5
<i>Poa pratensis</i> – Smooth-stalked Meadow-grass	20	10
Locally Harvested Wildflower Species	5	2.5

3.1.2 Sowing Grassland Areas

The grassland will be sown on a cultivated surface during autumn or spring at a rate of 5g per m² with the total area to be seeded equating to 350,200m² (or 35.02 ha).

Seeding will take place during suitable conditions (i.e. when the ground is moist but not waterlogged); seeding could, potentially, take place at any time of year, including within the summer, if the ground is damp. However, the optimal sowing season is Autumn (September or October) or Spring (March or April).

The areas to be sown will be disc harrowed (to a depth of 30 cm), where necessary, to create a medium tilth with this operation to include the removal of weeds and their roots that are brought to the surface. This will then be followed by the application of the seed, which will be scattered onto the surface, and then rolled, or 'drilled' into the ground, with the purpose of achieving good soil/seed contact.

Alternatively, the seeding can be implemented via hydroseeding; a technique that has been successfully implemented at the site within the previously restored area. This approach requires the seed to be mixed with mulch, fertiliser, pigment and water to form a homogenous slurry that is then sprayed over a defined area at the specified rate.





4.0 Landscape Aftercare and Maintenance Programme

4.1 Overview

The precise nature of maintenance operations is to be assessed on an annual basis in order to best meet the requirements of the scheme. However, this section provides an outline for the typical activities carried out within the initial 5 year period. The 'Outline Maintenance Programme' provided in the following section sets out the timing and frequency of operations up until Year 4, after which it is expected that the landscape will have begun to mature such that activities can be adjusted to suit.

4.2 Outline Maintenance Programme

Maintenance works will be carried out in accordance with the following programme. Visits will be spaced at no less than six-week intervals and no greater than sixteen-week intervals for multiple visit years. The outline programme is set out below (refer also to the summary tables included in Section 5).

December – March	No Visit
April – Mid June	1 Visit
Mid-June – August	1 Visit
September – November	1 Visit

The number of visits each season will vary according to the stage of management and maintenance.

Years 1 and 2	3 Visits
Year 3	2 Visits
Year 4 onwards	1 Visit

The following sections provide a description of the 'General Maintenance Operations' for each type of planting or seeding.

4.3 Maintenance Inspections

A visual inspection of the planting/ seeding will be carried out on an annual basis to check for good strong foliage and growth. Where this is not obvious soil samples may be taken to assess nutrient levels and determine specific fertiliser applications.

4.4 Weed Control (General)

It is acknowledged that under the provisions of the Weeds Act 1959, it is the responsibility of all occupiers of land, whether used for agriculture or not, to control injurious weeds e.g. ragwort and creeping thistle, so that they do not spread. For all areas of the application site, weeds will therefore be controlled, if necessary, by mechanical/hand removal or mulching. The use of herbicides would only be used as a last resort should other means prove unsuccessful or not practicable. The use of any chemical control would only be carried out by a certified competent person, according to manufacturer's instructions.



Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 prohibits the establishment of particular non-native invasive species (INNS) listed in Schedule 9 Part 2. Particularly invasive non-native plants which if found to be present will need to be eradicated include (for the complete list refer to Schedule 9 Part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981):

- Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) - poses a public health hazard because its sap will cause a skin rash in the presence of sunlight;
- Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica var japonica*) - forms dense thickets displacing native plants;
- Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) - spreads by seeds explosively propelled from ripened pods;
- Australian Swamp Stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*) - quickly out-competes all native vegetation and maintains dominance through very rapid growth and uptake of almost all available nutrients;
- Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) – propagates by growth from small fragments that are easily spread when the brittle stems break; and
- Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) – forms dense interwoven mats that quickly cover water surfaces.

All areas of the site will be monitored for the aforementioned invasive plant species in Years 1; 2; and 5 and every 5 years thereafter, during the growing season. If these plants are identified appropriate measures, specific to the plant species concerned, will be taken to control and, if possible, eradicate them. The following basic methods of controlling invasive plants:

- Mechanical – cultivation, hoeing, pulling, cutting, raking, dredging or other machinery to uproot or cut plants;
- Natural – specific pests and diseases to weaken the target plant;
- Environmental – alteration of the environment to make it less suitable for plant growth, and;
- as a last resort Chemical – herbicides to kill plants;

Where non-native invasive weeds are to be controlled by the application of herbicides this will be carried out by a certified competent person, according to manufacturer's instructions (for example, NPTC Certificate of Competence for use of Pesticides) and guidance provided by Natural Resources Wales (NRW); notably that herbicides will not be used within 500m of ponds or water bodies, and the Surface Water Management Swale / watercourses. It is also acknowledged that:

- A waste license is required to remove Japanese Knotweed, and other Schedule 9 species, to a suitably licensed waste disposal facility; and
- All waste materials, including weeds, are subject to the Duty of Care and must only be transferred to, and carried by, registered waste carriers.

Herbicide would also not be used for the general management of grassland / wildflower areas as strimming will be used in these instances.



4.5 Establishment and Maintenance of Grassland

4.5.1 Overview

The proposed grassland within the site (totalling 350,200m²) is to be established across the restored landfill. These areas would be cut annually, in September to achieve a taller sward height than standard amenity grassland.

4.5.2 Establishment of newly seeded areas

Most of the sown meadow species are perennial and will be slow to germinate, grow and flower, particularly against the competition from established grasses; as such maintenance in the early years will be carried out sensitively. After sowing it is preferable that these areas are kept relatively short (30mm - 50mm) to encourage tillering and control weed growth, this is likely to require more frequent topping or mowing in the first, and if necessary the second, growing season. Cutting should stop in April and not recommence until July/August to allow the grasses/ flowers to mature and set seed.

Damage to any trees, shrubs and hedgerows (located to the periphery of the Site) by mowers and other power tools will be avoided. Mowing machinery will not be used closer than 100mm to stems, and a nylon filament used where necessary. Prior to cutting, all debris/ litter in grassed areas is to be removed, including earth clods and large stones/ rocks.

Rolling may also be undertaken, as appropriate, to level the ground, press in smaller stones, encourage tillering and flatten other irregularities such as molehills. This work would be undertaken during suitably dry conditions and timed to avoid potential damage to ground-nesting birds (i.e. generally not between mid-March and start of August, subject to assessment).

The chosen mix contains a large proportion of perennial species, many of which are slow to germinate. It is likely that a range of annual 'weeds' may germinate much more quickly. In order to control these, and to improve the chances of the meadow mixes establishing successfully, areas sown will be cut or mown twice (to a sward height of 75mm) in the first year of sowing (once in Spring, and again in the Autumn). If the seed is sown in the autumn, the initial Spring cut should be avoided.

Any rutted areas or areas of compaction or otherwise poor germination will be re-sown during the following spring or autumn after initial sowing.

4.5.3 General Management of newly seeded areas

Management of these areas will involve a single cut, in September. The cutting regime will be reviewed regularly, depending on growth rates and establishment of the grassland. Following cutting, vegetation (hay) will be left on the ground to dry for 2 days, and to shed its seeds; it is then removed from site.

The cutting regimes will be reviewed periodically, and may be altered if necessary. Other than to spot-treat 'weeds' such as thistles, no herbicides will be used on the Site.



5.0 Summary Timetables

Table 5-1: Anticipated Timetable of Works following placement of restoration materials

Task	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Weed removal, spot treatment where necessary											
De-compaction and rotivation of ground											
Seeding works											

Table 5-2: Anticipated Timetable of Management and Maintenance Works during Years 1-5

Task	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Re-seeding failed areas of meadow (if required)	Spring	Spring	Spring	Spring	Spring
September only cutting of Grassland/Wildflower Meadow			To 75mm	To 75mm	To 75mm
Monitoring Report (Yrs 1; 2; 5; and 10)	December	December			December

Table 5-3: Anticipated Timetable of Management and Maintenance Works from Year 6

Task	Year 6+	Comments
Grassland Management	As per Table 4-2	Grassland management to continue as set out in Table 6-2
Weed removal, spot treatment where necessary	Spring	Such as ragwort, thistles, and docks, as necessary
Removal of any invasive species	Autumn/Winter	Inspect for any new growth of invasive species and treat as necessary.
Monitoring Report to Local Authority	December	In Years 1; 2; 5 and 10.



6.0 Closure

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

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