

AtkinsRéalis



OUTLINE PLANTING SPECIFICATION

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

February 2025

RYG-ATR-XX-XX-T-L-400001

YSGOL RHYD Y GRUG

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OUTLINE PLANTING SPECIFICATION

This Outline Specification concerns the new build Nursery, Meithrin and Community Room and refurbishment works in relation to the existing Ysgol Rhyd Y Grug building only. Only areas highlighted on drawing RYG-ATR-XX-XX-I-L-400001 / RYG-ATR-XX-XX-D-L-400001 are deemed to be within the scope of works. It is to be read in conjunction with all relevant Architectural, MEP and Structural documentation.

This Outline Specification gives an overview of the materials and quality required, commensurate with the RIBA Stage 3 design submitted as part of the Planning Application. The content within this Outline Planting Specification is not exhaustive and relates to principle matters pertinent to planting operations. A full NBS specification will be developed, during the subsequent RIBA Stage 4, prior to construction.

The landscape design will comply with all Statutory, Local Authority, Health Regulations, Codes of Practice and Industry Guidance. All material and workmanship to be of good quality and suitable for intended use. All plants and landscape operations are to comply with the requirements and recommendations of all current relevant British Standard specification including but not limited to:

- Handling of plants to be in accordance with National Plant Specification 'Handling and Establishing Landscape Plants'.
- BS 8545:2014 - Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape
- BS 3936-1:1992 - Nursery stock. Specification for trees and shrubs
- BS 8601 - Specification for subsoil and requirements for use
- BS 3882:2015 - Specification for topsoil
- BS 4428:1989 - Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces) (AMD 6784)
- BS 5837: 2012 - Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.
- The SuDS Manual (C753): 2015

The Contractor should allow all necessary work to comply with the above. It is desirable that prior to completing their package of work their Landscape Contractor (sub-contractor) should visit site and take their own site particulars and make their own assessment of the full extent of the works.

The Contractor shall ensure that the appropriate qualified professionals shall be appointed and be sufficiently involved throughout the duration of the Contract to ensure:

- (i) the Design, construction, completion and maintenance of the works complies with the requirements to establish a good quality landscape.
- (ii) regular supervision and inspection of site preparation Works, including but not limited to, existing vegetation surveys, installation of measures to protect vegetation to be retained, tree felling and other vegetation clearance, topsoil stripping and storage; (v) professional plant inspections.
- (iii) regular supervision and inspection of the landscape Works including, but not limited to, landscape earthworks, subsoil ripping, topsoiling, cultivation, planting, seeding and landscape maintenance.



Recommendations

All associative planting operations should be carried out during appropriate climatic conditions and where possible in the optimal planting periods. Existing topsoil and/or imported, clean/inert horticultural ameliorant's from sustainable sources.

Existing Trees works

Temporary protective fencing should be erected where required, in accordance with BS5837:2012. A site tree protection plan and arboricultural method statement should be drawn up by a qualified Arboriculturist. The temporary fencing is intended as a minimum precaution to prevent accidental damage to the rooting area of retained trees throughout construction.

Any required enabling works to existing trees to be undertaken in line with BS 3998:2010.

General Clearance

All rubbish and debris to be removed from site. Stone picking of all stones and debris over 25mm to be undertaken across site. All trees and shrubs to be retained to be protected during works in line with BS5837:2012.

All Temporary Works and construction areas (compounds/ haul routes/ accesses/ material stockpiles) and the like, outside the area of the Permanent Works, shall be restored to equal and/ or better than their original condition, particularly in relation to soil cover, vegetation cover.

Herbicide and Cultivation

Topsoil and surface vegetation (i.e. areas covered by grass and once clearance work as above has occurred) to be treated with two applications of selective broadleaf herbicide prior to planting and seeding, where necessary, avoiding bulb and wildflowers and strictly in accordance with the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR) (as amended 1997) (or, otherwise, updated/superseded legislation) and following manufacturer's instructions by qualified staff.

Subsoil

HANDLING SUBSOIL: Select and use plant to minimise disturbance, trafficking and compaction. Do not contaminate with topsoil, stone, hardcore, rubbish or material from demolition work. Handle soil in the driest conditions possible. Do not handle during or after heavy rainfall or when it is wetter than the plastic limit as defined by BS 3882, Annex N2. No cultivation should take place in wet/ waterlogged conditions and within the RPAs of existing trees.

CULTIVATION: In all planting bed prepare subsoils in accordance with BS 8601:2013. Before spreading topsoil, when ground conditions are sufficiently dry to allow breaking up of soils, loosen thoroughly to specified depth:

- (i) Light and noncohesive subsoils: 300 mm
- (ii) Stiff clay and cohesive subsoils: 450 mm
- (iii) Rock and chalk subgrades: Lightly scarify to promote free drainage.

Remove contaminants and debris / Builders rubble and stones larger than 75 mm from site.



Topsoil

HANDLING TOPSOIL: Select and use plant to minimise disturbance, trafficking and compaction. Do not contaminate with subsoil, stone, hardcore, rubbish or material from demolition work. Handle topsoil in the driest conditions possible. Do not handle during or after heavy rainfall or when it is wetter than the plastic limit as defined by BS 3882, Annex N2. No cultivation should take place in wet/ waterlogged conditions and within the RPAs of existing trees.

TOPSOIL STORAGE: The Contractor shall produce, as part of the Waste Management Plan, a soil and associated materials handling and management plan to minimise the impact of soil and materials storage and handling on the environment. The Contractor shall use appropriate storage methods, this shall be based on the Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites published by DEFRA in 2009. As such soil stockpiles shall not exceed 2m in height. If proposed seeding over stored topsoil stockpiles where appropriate – shall be a local provenance mix to be agreed by the project landscape architect.

IMPORTED TOPSOIL: Required imported topsoil must be BS 3882:2015 compliant and existing topsoil must be cultivated in accordance with BS 3882:2015 outside Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of existing trees. Maximum stone size of 50mm in any dimension. Topsoil to be free from, an excessive amount of weed seeds, roots of perennial weeds, subsoil and extraneous matter.

SOILS FOR WILDFLOWER GRASS SOWN AREAS: Soil forming materials should be specific purpose low fertility topsoil (in accordance with BS 3882 Table 1) or clean subsoil. Maximum stone size of 50mm in any dimension. Soil pH 7.0. Minimum depth of soils after lightly firming and settlement: 150mm.

TOPSOIL DEPTH: Where necessary, topsoil shall be a minimum of 400mm deep over new ornamental and tree planting areas, and 150mm over amenity grassland. Topsoil shall be spread evenly in layers not exceeding 150mm depth

FINAL CULTIVATION: Prior to cultivation if planting / seeding areas are weed infested, weed growth to be trimmed, the arisings removed, and re-growth treated with an approved herbicide. Treatment to be undertaken in the growing season preceding planting, at a minimum 4 weeks prior to works to allow for repeat treatment if necessary. Cultivation shall not be undertaken within the root protection area of any trees / shrubs to be retained, without prior agreement from the Local Planning Authority. Topsoil shall be cultivated by hand or machine prior to planting, with minimal compaction by machine. Cultivate to the following depths and tilth, removing all rubbish, vegetation, perennial weeds, roots, stones over 25mm in any one dimension and rake to even levels:

- (iv) Planting areas: 300mm deep cultivation to medium tilth
- (v) Grass seeding areas: 150mm deep cultivation to fine tilth raked to a smooth evenly firmed bed

Tree and Ornamental Planting

PLANT STOCK: All rootball / bareroot trees and shrubs will conform to the specification for nursery stock as set out in British Standard 3936 Parts 1 (1992) and 4 (1984). Containerised ground cover planting sized will be in not less than 2L pots. Where larger stock is used it shall be supplied in correspondingly larger pots. Stock shall be materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous, of good shape and without elongated shoots, and free from pests and diseases, discolouration, weeds and physiological disorders. Plants shall have been grown in a suitable environment and hardened off. The root system shall be to the requirements of the National Plant Specification and balanced with branch system. Plant Quality Supplier listed in the Horticultural Trades Association, Nursery Certification Scheme.

PLANT HANDLING, STORAGE AND TRANSPORT: Lifting, packaging and transporting shall be to CPSE (Committee for Plant Supply and Establishment) 'Handling and establishing landscape plants' (obtainable from the Horticultural Trades Association) Part I, Part II, and part III, paragraphs 1.3.3 to 1.3.6. 3.0 and 4.0.



PLANTING CONDITIONS: Deciduous trees shall be planted only during the season November - March, and only when the soil is in a friable condition. (Carry out preparation and planting while soil and weather conditions are suitable and when soil is not so wet that to work it would result in a loss of structure. Do not undertake work during periods of heavy frost or strong winds.)

NEW TREES: New trees are to be planted in pits in accordance with 8545:2014. Tree planting compost shall be entirely free of peat. Proprietary products based on composted straw, manure or coir are acceptable, but products based on wood chips or bark shall not be used. Incorporate into backfill of tree pits at the rates specified or the manufacturers recommended rates. (*BS 8640:2024 - Structural and supported soils for trees in hard landscapes is currently not published nor relevant for this development.*). Final position of tree and shrub planting subject to confirmation of service location and approval of statutory undertakers. Allow for location of service information prior to work commencing on site. New trees shall be supported by 1Nr stake (1500mm long, per tree, 600mm above ground, 75mm diameter) with 1no. bio-degradable tie.

WEED SURPRESSANT: Mulching and top-dressing system suitable ornamental organic bark mulch for play areas. Coverage of 50mm depth to planting beds (including swale base) and 75mm depth for tree planting.

WATERING: Planting will be watered as necessary to ensure establishment and continued thriving of planting, watering to full depth of topsoil without damaging or displacing plants or soil.

For ongoing maintenance undertake good horticultural practice to ensure establishment of a healthy planting bed. Refer to Landscape Management Plan (RYG-ATR-XX-XX-T-L-430001) for further details.

Seeding

Grass mixes as specified shall be sown September to October (Autumn) or March to May (Spring), during periods of moist, warm weather conditions without significant wind or rain / wet ground conditions.

All seeded areas to be cultivated and levelled as required removing any stones, rubble, subsoil, general construction waste.

Pre-seeding fertiliser shall be applied to amenity lawn areas only in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

Seed shall be sown on even, prepared ground (as detailed in cultivation above), at a rate specified, in two transverse operations. Lightly roll seed bed after sowing.

Water as necessary to avoid shrinkage and achieve satisfactory establishment.

First (initial) cuts of grassed areas should take place when that sward has grown to an initial height of 75mm; between April – Sept. Undertake two cuts, each reducing growth to 40 mm. Avoid any root pulling. Arisings to be removed from Site.

For ongoing maintenance undertake good horticultural practice to ensure establishment of a healthy grass sward. Refer to Landscape Management Plan (RYG-ATR-XX-XX-T-L-430001) for further details.



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