

Green Infrastructure Statement



**Burrows Yard, Afan Way, Port
Talbot**

10th May 2024



**Tyler
Grange**

TG Report No. 15539_R02a_PW

Project No:	Report No.	Date	Revision
15539	R02a	10th May 2024	A
Admin QA	Author	Checked	Approved
KG	Paul Webb MSc, BSc Hons	Carly Goodman-Smith MbiolSci MCIEEM	Carly Goodman-Smith MbiolSci MCIEEM

Disclosure:

This report, all plans, illustrations, and other associated material remains the property of Tyler Grange Group Ltd until paid for in full. Copyright and intellectual property rights remain with Tyler Grange Group Ltd.

The contents of this report are valid at the time of writing. Tyler Grange shall not be liable for any use of this report other than for the purposes for which it was produced. Owing to the dynamic nature of ecological, landscape, and arboricultural resources, if more than twelve months have elapsed since the date of this report, further advice must be taken before you rely on the contents of this report. Notwithstanding any provision of the Tyler Grange Group Ltd Terms & Conditions, Tyler Grange Group Ltd shall not be liable for any losses (howsoever incurred) arising as a result of reliance by the client or any third party on this report more than 12 months after the date of this report.



Contents:

Section 1: Introduction	1
Section 2: Green Infrastructure Statement	3
Appendix 1: Soft landscaping proposals	



Section 1: Introduction

- 1.1. This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Ltd on behalf of Aldi Stores Ltd . The statement sets out the proposed Green Infrastructure enhancements at Afan Way, Port Talbot, SA12 6LL (OS Grid Reference SS 75905 89842 hereafter referred to as ‘the site’. Proposals for the site are for an Aldi store and Starbucks. See **Figure 1.1** for the site boundary and wider site context.



Figure 1.1. Site boundary and wider site context (© Google Aerial Imagery)

Purpose, Legislation and Planning Policy

- 1.2. The purpose of this statement is to provide an overview of the existing habitats on site and their condition; potential development impacts (in absence of mitigation) and proposed biodiversity enhancements to ensure conformity specifically with the requirements of Planning Policy Wales (see below) on delivery of GI. Full ecological details can be found in the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)¹ produced for the Proposed Development. The statement also details .

¹ Tyler Grange, Ecological Impact Assessment 15539 R01b 280324 PW



1.3. The statement has been produced in accordance with requirements outlined in Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW)², which can be summarised as follows:

- **Green Infrastructure (GI):** stronger emphasis on taking a proactive approach to GI, covering cross boundary considerations, with the submission of a proportionate GI statement with planning applications.
- **Net Benefit for Biodiversity and the Step-wise Approach:** further clarity is provided on securing net benefit for biodiversity through the application of the step-wise approach, including the acknowledgement of off-site compensation measures as a last resort, and, the need to consider enhancement and long-term management at each step. The use of the green infrastructure statement as a means of demonstrating the stepwise approach is made explicit.
- **Protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest:** strengthened approach to the protection of SSSIs, with increased clarity on the position for site management and exemptions for minor development necessary to maintain a 'living landscape'.
- **Trees and Woodlands:** closer alignment with the stepwise approach, along with promoting new planting as part of development based on securing the right tree in the right place.

² Planning Policy Wales: Addressing the nature emergency through the planning system: update to Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-10/addressing-the-nature-emergency-through-the-planning-system.pdf>



Section 2: Green Infrastructure Statement

Site Baseline and Context

- 2.1. The application site was subject to an Extended Phase 1 and UK Habitats Survey in January 2023, with associated EclA report (full details, including methodologies can be found in the EclA¹). The site and land immediately adjacent were found to support the following key ecological features:
- Dense and Scattered Scrub;
 - Other Neutral Grassland;
 - Sealed Surface;
 - Spoil and Refuge; and
 - Tall Ruderal, Grassland and Scrub Mosaic
- 2.2. The site comprises an enclosed area, formerly a Council depot and petrol station located within a residential area of Port Talbot, with the River Afan and industrial brownfield sites located in the wider locality to the south. The site was decommissioned in 2009 and has been left predominantly unmanaged with intermittent periods of clearance of the ruderal, scrub and grassland regrowth as sections of the site were removed or access to parts of the site were sought for utility companies.
- 2.3. The site has historically been identified as open mosaic on previously developed land, a Section 7 (priority) habitat comprising more complex and competitive grassland, ruderal and scrub mosaics which are important for invertebrate species. The site included the presence of kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* and in 2019 recorded the presence of the Section 7 Species small blue butterfly *Cupido minimus* which uses kidney vetch for its larval stage.
- 2.4. The presence of Section 7 species and habitats that was historically recorded in the site meets the criteria for Local Wildlife Sites in Neath and Porth Talbot Local Authority, termed Sites of Interest to Nature Conservation SINC. As such the site has within the last 5 years contained ecological features considered to be of County ecological importance.
- 2.5. However, the site is succeeding to scrub, which without management would further dominate the sites habitats and decrease its ecological importance for flora and invertebrates. NPT Council were contractually committed to provide suitable compensation for the site as part of the legal exchange of the land and so have provided specific compensation for small blue, described later in this statement

Development Impacts

- 2.6. The proposals relate to the development of an Aldi foodstore and Starbucks with associated access. In the absence of avoidance and mitigation, the proposals have the potential to impact habitats of ecological importance, namely the mosaic of tall ruderal, grassland and scrub which within the last 5 years was aligned to open mosaic on previously developed land and the potential to support the Section 7 small blue butterfly.



Net Benefit for Biodiversity and the Step-wise Approach

2.7. The Proposed Development seeks to follow the Step-wise Approach as detailed within the updated Chapter 6 of PPW² by implementing the following:

1. **Avoid:** The site is small and immediately surrounded by residential properties and roads. It is not situated in a statutory designated site, nor is it designated as a SINCE. There are no native trees or hedgerows to avoid impacts to within the site design. The majority of the site's Important Ecological Features (IEF) are linked to the habitats of tall ruderal, grassland and scrub mosaics with dense or scattered scrub and the potential this provides to invertebrate species, most notably the small blue butterfly. The small site size and isolated location makes it unfeasible for the development to incorporate the site's baseline habitats. For the development to be viable the site's habitats would need to be removed to clear the refuge, spoil, undertake detailed site investigations, and make the site level, as such, removal of the existing habitats cannot be avoided.
2. **Minimise:** As described above in Step 1, for development to be viable the site's habitats would need to be cleared. However, to minimise impacts to biodiversity, sensitive working methodologies shall be implemented during the construction phase to minimise adverse effects on the existing features, namely nesting birds within the scrub. Works to remove habitats would be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (February – August) or would be supervised by a suitable experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) as described in the EclA¹.
3. **Mitigate:** As mentioned above in Step 2, impacts to nesting birds would be mitigated through timing of habitat clearance outside the nesting season. A Construction and Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) shall be conducted as a Planning Condition, which will detail pollution prevention measures and sensitive methods of working. A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) shall be conducted as a Planning Condition and detail the long term management of the created habitats.
4. **Compensation:** Habitat loss specifically for the Section 7 species small blue butterfly was contractually the responsibility of NPT Council and included the plug planting of kidney vetch over a 0.2 ha area within NPT Council's control. This area is shown in Figure 2.1 below in the purple areas surrounding the Quays, which is within the coastal range of small blue butterfly.

The site has incorporated new habitat creation within the Green Infrastructure which can be seen in Appendix 1. These are as follows

- Tree planting has been included with species to help improve air quality which is principal concern in Port Talbot and aligns with Local policies SP16, EN8 and EN9 which aim to prevent increases of air pollution from developments. Species include Norway maple *Acer platanoides*, ginkgo *Ginkgo biloba* and silver birch *Betula pendula*.
- A native species hedge mix comprising hazel *Corylus avellana*, field maple *Acer campestre*, holly *Ilex aquifolium* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. This will provide habitat and foraging potential for a range of invertebrates as well as birds.
- Several SuDS systems have been designed throughout the site to provide a drainage function and will also be seasonably wet supporting marginal vegetation comprising yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*,



reed sweet grass *Glyceria maxima*, purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* and water forget me not *Myosotis scorpioides*.

- Meadow mixture grassland is included including red fescue *Festuca rubra*, smooth-stalked meadow grass *Poa pratensis*, crested dogs tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, wild carrot *Daucus carota*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*. The more competitive and slow growing grasses and forbes within this mix are of benefit in particular to invertebrates.
- Enhancements for fauna have also been considered within the design with the incorporation of Insect and starling habitat boxes, details and locations of which can be found in the ECIA¹

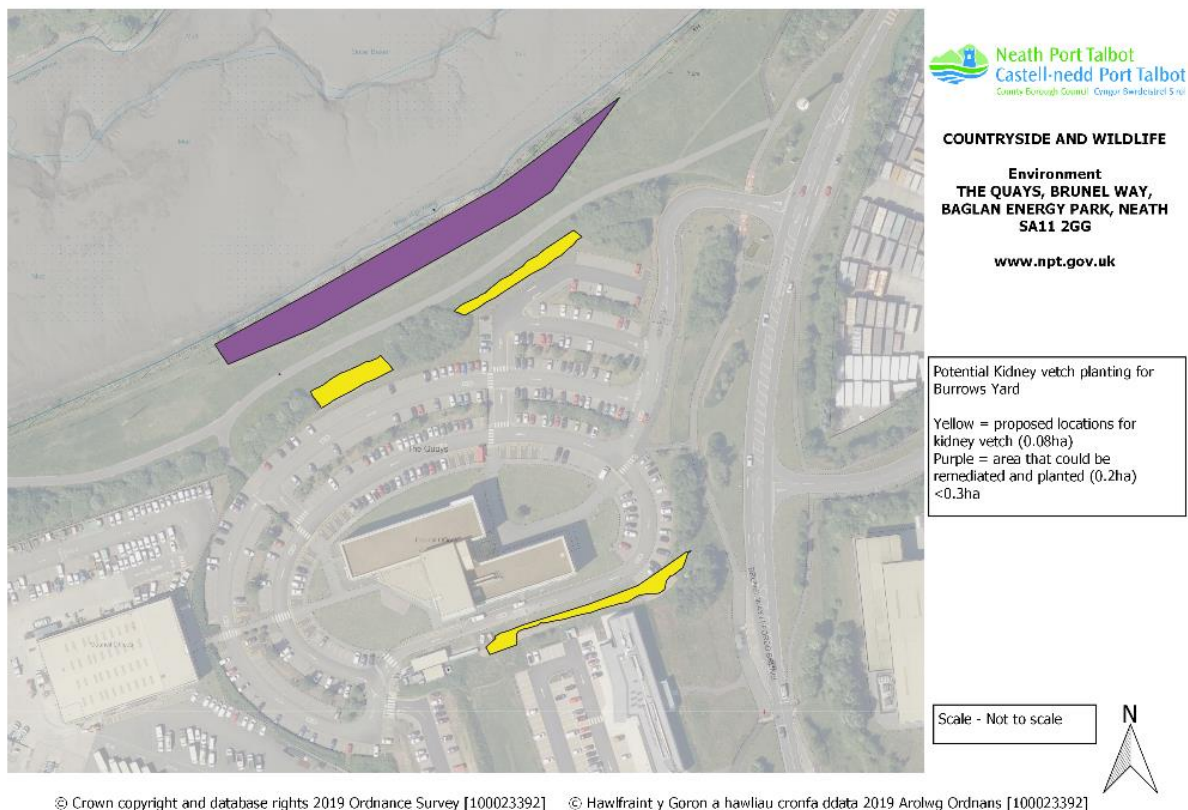


Figure 2.1: Areas of kidney vetch plug planting as part of NPT Councils compensation for small blue butterfly, shown in purple.

- 2.8. The Proposed Development has recognised the need to achieve a Net Benefit for Biodiversity from the outset; this has been built into the planning of the project through early engagement with NPT Council to establish the existing constraints and responsibilities to compensate for the Section 7 species small blue butterfly. Going through the Step Wise process to Step 4 is justified as the site would lose its ecological importance in a “do nothing” scenario, as scrub would become dominant through successions of the site’s habitats which would happen with the absence of specific management or regular disturbance.
- 2.9. In addition to the specific compensation provided by NPT Council, new habitats and enhancements have been incorporated into the development designs to the benefit of a range of species, most notably invertebrates and bird species which are likely to be able to utilise the site in its isolated context.



2.10. The proposed ecological enhancements fit with the Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity and Aspects of ecosystem resilience and adaptability (DECCA) Framework³ by:

1. *Increasing diversity within the local ecosystem* by providing Marginal wetland species, meadow grass mixtures, new tree planting and native hedgerows. This will offer habitat which was not present before in the form of trees, hedgerow and SuDS which provide areas of marginal wetland. These enhancements are proportionate to the size of the site but have been designed to provide habitat for birds and invertebrates as well as planting new trees to contribute towards reducing air pollution within Port Talbot.
2. *Increasing the extent/scale of ecosystems* by providing blocks of meadow grassland, trees and native species hedgerow, and SuDS features with marginal wetland which provide an additional resource within the wider green infrastructure in the local area and therefore extending the scale of existing ecosystems.
3. *Improving the condition of the ecosystem* by bringing the site under long term management, to be specified within a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (note that there is no mandatory length of time that management is required for in Wales⁴).
4. *Improving connections within and between ecosystems* through specifically designed locations of proposed habitats, which provide green infrastructure to the immediate locale.
5. *Improving ecosystem resilience and adaptability to future pressures* through the planting of trees (carbon capture and air quality improvement) and the management of surface water runoff through the SuDS systems (increased areas of less-managed habitats).

Conclusions

- 2.11. In proportion to the size of the site and the wider green infrastructure of the local area, which is limited in the immediate vicinity, the proposals and green infrastructure are considered to be proportionate and appropriate. Whilst Section 7 habitats and species have been identified within the last 5 years these are affiliated with brownfield open mosaic and associated invertebrate species. In an isolated parcel of land such as the site this has already begun to decline and will be subject to further declines in condition due to scrub encroachment without regular disturbance or specific management.
- 2.12. The provision of green infrastructure in the form of new tree planting to assist with air pollution, native species hedgerow, SuDS with associated marginal wetland planting and meadow grassland areas provide enhancements to biodiversity and a variety of features to contribute to the immediate area's green infrastructure. The specific compensation provided by NPT Council also provides habitat targeted for the Section 7 species small blue butterfly.

³ Garrett HM., and Ayling SC. (2021) Terrestrial and freshwater Resilient Ecological Networks: a guide for practitioners in Wales. 43 pp. NRW Report No. 483 Natural Resources Wales. Dolgellau. Available at: <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/693356/resilient-ecologicalnetworks-practitioner-guide.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=132612537900000000>

⁴ CIEEM Briefing Paper: Welsh Government Approach to Net Benefit for Biodiversity and the DECCA Framework: [chrome-extension-Benefits-briefing.pdf](#)



Appendix 1: Soft Landscaping Proposals



Planting Schedule

Trees					
Number	Species	Height	Girth	Specification	Density
2	Acer platanoides	425-600cm	14-16cm	RB; 3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 4 breaks	Counted
4	Acer platanoides 'Crimson Sentry'	425-600cm	14-16cm	RB; 3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 4 breaks	Counted
5	Alnus glutinosa	400-450cm	14-16cm	RB; 3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem minimum 200cm; 5 breaks	Counted
3	Amelanchier lamarckii	300-350cm	14-16cm	RB; 3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks	Counted
3	Betula pendula	400-450cm	14-16cm	RB; 3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 5 breaks	Counted
2	Ginkgo biloba	425-600cm	14-16cm	RB; 4x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 4 breaks	Counted
3	Tilia cordata 'Greenspire'	425-600cm	14-16cm	RB; 3x; Extra Heavy Standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 4 breaks	Counted
Total :22					

Shrubs					
Number of Plants	Species	Height	Pot Size	Specification	Density
471	Skimmia japonica	30-40cm	3L	Bushy; 3 brks: C	4/m ²
199	Ceanothus 'Burkwoodii'	30-40cm	2L	Branched; 3 brks: C	2/m ²
235	Cistus 'Silver Pink'	40-60cm	3L	Full pot: C	5/m ²
53	Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Golf Ball'	40-60cm	5L	Full pot: C	5/m ²
105	Viburnum tinus	30-40cm	2L	Bushy; 4 brks: C	2/m ²
52	Cornus alba 'Elegantissima'	40-60cm	3L	Bushy; 4 brks: C	5/m ²
218	Escallonia 'Apple Blossom'	40-60cm	2L	Branched; 3 brks: C	3/m ²
100	Elaeagnus ebbingei	40-60cm	2L	Branched; 3 brks: C	3/m ²
102	Lonicera nitida 'Baggesen's Gold'	30-40cm	5L	Bushy; 5 brks: C	2/m ²
56	Euonymus fortunei 'Emerald 'n' Gold'	20-25cm	3L	Bushy; 7 brks: C	3/m ²
354	Cotoneaster dammeri	20-30cm	2L	Bushy; 3 brks: C	4/m ²
359	Cotoneaster franchetii	20-30cm	3L	Bushy; 3 brks: C	3/m ²
13	Cornus alba 'Sibirica'	40-60cm	2L	Branched; 3 brks: C	2/m ²
82	Cornus stolonifera 'Flaviramea'	60-80cm	3L	Branched; 4 brks: C	2/m ²
36	Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire'	40-60cm	3L	Branched; 3 brks: C	3/m ²
90	Euonymus japonicus 'Jean Hugues'	60-80cm	3L	Full pot: C	9/m ²
27	Rosmarinus officinalis 'Miss Jessopp's Upright'	40-60cm	3L	Bushy: C	5/m ²
189	Cotoneaster suecicus 'Coral Beauty'	20-30cm	3L	Bushy; 3 brks: C	5/m ²
87	Vinca minor 'Atropurpurea'	20-30cm	3L	Full pot: 5 brks: C	7/m ²
35	Prunus laurocerasus 'Otto Luyken'	40-60cm	2L	Branched; 3 brks: C	3/m ²
Total :2635					

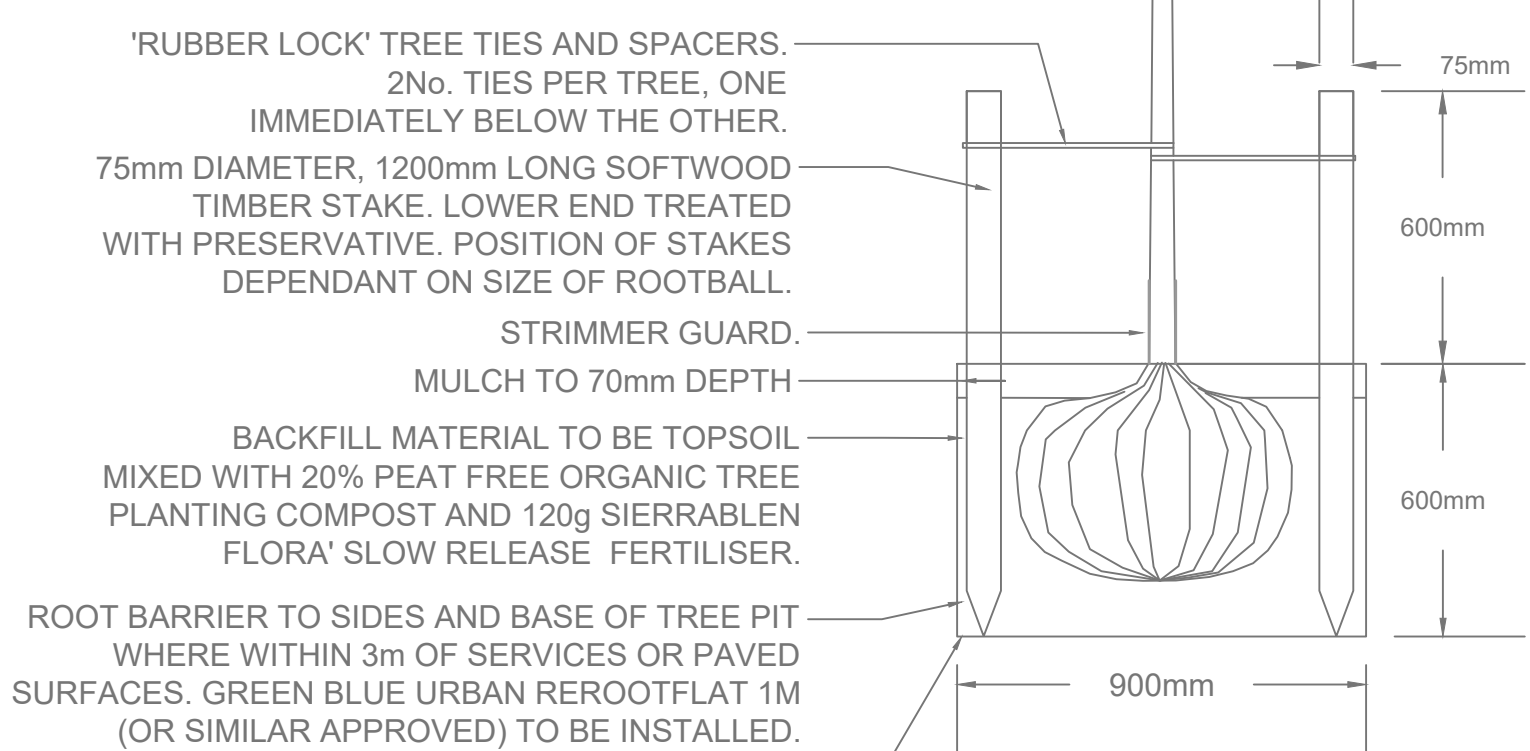
Native Hedgerow					
Number	Species	Height	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution
236	Acer campestre	60-80cm	1+1: BR: Transplant: Rabbit spiral and cane	5/m	15%
236	Corulus avellana	60-80cm	1+1: BR: Transplant: Rabbit spiral and cane	5/m	15%
854	Crataegus monogyna	60-80cm	1+1: BR: Transplant: Rabbit spiral and cane	5/m	55%
236	Ilex aquifolium	60-80cm	1+1: BR: Transplant: Rabbit spiral and cane	5/m	15%
Total :1562					

Marginal Species SUDS Mix					
Number	Species	Pot Size	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution
67	Carex pendula	2L	C	4/m ²	20%
35	Glyceria maxima	2L	C	4/m ²	10%
51	Iris pseudacorus	2L	C	4/m ²	15%
67	Lythrum salicaria	2L	C	4/m ²	20%
35	Myosotis scorpioides	2L	C	4/m ²	10%
35	Nasturtium officinale	2L	C	4/m ²	10%
51	Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'	0.5L	C	4/m ²	15%
Total :341					

Marginal Species SUDS Mix 2					
Number	Species	Pot Size	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution
6	Carex pendula	2L	C	4/m ²	30%
5	Glyceria maxima	2L	C	4/m ²	25%
5	Iris pseudacorus	2L	C	4/m ²	25%
4	Myosotis scorpioides	2L	C	4/m ²	20%
Total :20					

Ornamental Grasses and Perennials - Planting Bed Centres						
Number	Species	Height	Pot Size	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution
9	Lysimachia atropurpurea 'Beaujolais'	40-60cm	2L	Full pot	7/m ²	10%
25	Miscanthus 'Flamingo'	80-100cm	5L	Full pot; Bushy	5/m ²	40%
25	Miscanthus 'Glacilimus'	100-120cm	5L	Full pot; Bushy	5/m ²	40%
9	Verbena bonariensis	60-80cm	2L	Full pot	7/m ²	10%
Total :68						

Ornamental Grasses and Perennials - Planting Bed Edges						
Number	Species	Height	Pot Size	Specification	Density	Percentage Contribution
40	Allium sphaerocephalon	5cm+		Bulb	15/m ²	10%
47	Echinacea purpurea	60-80cm	2L	Full pot	9/m ²	20%
37	Salvia nemerosa 'Caradonna'	40-60cm	2L	Full pot	7/m ²	20%
36	Sanguisorba officinalis 'Tanna'	30-40cm	2L	Full pot	9/m ²	15%
46	Stipa tenuissima 'Pony Tails'	40-50cm	5-7.5L	Full pot; Bushy	5/m ²	35%
Total :206						



EXTRA HEAVY STANDARD TREES IN SOFT LANDSCAPE AREAS



This document should not be relied on or used in circumstances other than those for which it was prepared and for which Tyler Grange was appointed.

Tyler Grange accepts no responsibility for this document to any other party other than the person by whom it was appointed.

Tyler Grange Group Ltd
Copyright © Tyler Grange Group Ltd 2024

Key:

- Site Boundary
- Existing Tree
- Proposed Trees
- Proposed Native Hedgerow
- Proposed Shrub Planting
- Proposed Ornamental Grasses and Perennials
- Proposed Marginal Planting Mix
- Proposed Strong Lawn Grass Mix (EG22)
- Proposed Pond Edge Meadow Mix (EP1)
- Basic General Purpose Meadow Mixture (EM1)
- Existing Sewer and Easement

Location Plan:



C	Revised Site Layout	09.05.2024
B	Revised Site Layout	29.02.2024
A	Revisions Following lighting layout	06.06.2023
Rev	Description	Date



Marsden Estate, Rendcomb
Cirencester, GL7 7EX

E: TGlandscape@tylergrange.co.uk
W: www.tylergrange.co.uk
T: 01285 831 804

Project title
Burrows Yard, Afan Way, Port Talbot

Drawing title
Soft Landscape Proposals
Sheet 1 of 2

Date: 31.05.2023
Scale: 1:200 @ A3
Status: For planning only

Drawn: KC
Checked: RW
Approved: RW

Drawing number: 15339/P02
Revision: C

Drawing Number	Revision
15339/P02	C

An abstract collage of various geometric shapes and icons in shades of blue, purple, and yellow. The shapes include triangles, squares, and circles, some with patterns like polka dots or stripes. Icons include a hand, a leaf, a star, and a fan-like shape. The central text is overlaid on a large yellow hexagon.

Step into our world

www.tylergrange.co.uk



**Tyler
Grange**

Landscape | Ecology | Arboriculture