

Pontneddfachen
Landscape Management Plan

by
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DLA-2228-LMP-01
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This management plan covers soft landscape for the Visitor Hub at Pontneddfachen. The primary objectives of the plan will be achieved through maintenance prescriptions set out at the end of the report.

2 Long Term Design Objectives

- 2.1 The long-term aim is to establish a high-quality landscape environment of biodiversity merit. This will be achieved through a number of overriding objectives to:
- Ensure that the landscape has year-round interest;
 - Welcome people to the visitor Hub in a safe environment with natural surveillance;
 - Create legible and easy to understand places so people know where they are and where they are going to;
 - Use trees and planting in a creative way to aid wayfinding and increase biodiversity.

3 Management Principles

- 3.1 The management plan will deliver consistency of approach and maintenance standards across the different ownerships and the plan should be reviewed at every 5 years to ensure that the overriding objectives are being achieved.
- 3.2 The components of the Landscape Management Plan are set out on the soft landscape proposals - drawing DLA-2228-L-02;
- 3.3 The landscape features with the LMP are described as:

Soft Landscape

- Native buffer planting
- Scrub planting
- Existing and proposed tree planting
- Shrub planting
- Native and formal hedgerows
- Amenity grass areas
- Wild flora grass and meadow mixes

- 3.4 The management plan is a live document and sets out to review, monitor and adjust where necessary the short-term landscape objective. A full management review should be undertaken with the input of all landowners / stakeholders prior to the expiry of the initial management plan.
- 3.5 Maintenance of the landscape areas shall be undertaken by a competent Landscape Contractor, registered with the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI). For the purposes of this report the appointed landscape contractor is referred to as 'The Contractor'.
- 3.6 Maintenance visits shall be undertaken at fortnightly intervals to undertake the most intensive maintenance tasks such as grass cutting, removing litter and inspecting components for defects. Visits may need to be increased at certain times of the year to enable the operations set-out within the report to be properly executed.
- 3.7 A record or log of all maintenance visits should be undertaken by the Contractor and kept as proof that operations are being undertaken and to help inform any changes that may need to be made to respond to site circumstances.
- 3.8 The Contractor shall ensure that any chemical application is undertaken by trained personal / operatives only, who have the appropriate NPTC certificates and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. The 'Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides for Non-Agricultural Purposes' will be observed where applicable. The use of any chemicals shall be noted on the record sheets as outlined above.
- 3.9 The Contractor shall programme and vary their agreed time of visits to coincide with appropriate weather conditions for carrying out of operations, with particular regard for the use of chemicals and the mowing of grass. The mowing of grass during excessively wet weather or following periods of extended rain is strictly prohibited.
- 3.10 The Contractor should notify the management company to any significant pest or disease problem affecting the planted stock and shall provide a suitable strategy for treatment to be agreed with the client.

- 3.11 Following expiry of the defects period and the autumn of the 4 subsequent years, the Contractor shall advise the management company of all trees and other plants found to be dead, dying, vandalised or suffering significantly from the current growing conditions. All failed / defective plants identified within should be replaced by the contractor at the soonest available planting season to ensure a continued coverage of growth. Replacement plants should be of the same species and specification of the failed specimens identified on the planting plan.
- 3.12 Chipping and shredding is not permitted on site without prior consent.
- 3.13 Proposals for control of vermin should be submitted for approval if they become a problem.
- 3.14 Ensure that a suitable water supply is available to carry out the operations detailed in this document. In the event of water restrictions (e.g. drought), the contractor will be responsible for submitting proposals to the management company for an alternative source of water e.g. use of a trailer mounted bowser.

4 MANAGEMENT OF PROPOSED SOFT LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Proposed Trees

Primary Objectives

- 4.1 To ensure new tree planting is managed to enable its successful establishment, and to promote healthy growth and attractive form.
- 4.2 Routine operations will involve: watering at times of drought, ensuring sufficient water is applied to ensure trees remain healthy; applications of slow release fertiliser; inspecting stakes and ties to trees and removing these as soon as trees are self-supporting to benefit tree establishment; re-firming trees in ground after strong winds, frost heave or other disturbances; monitoring and replacing failed planting with new plants between October and March; inspecting trees for pests and diseases; pruning to maintain shape and form and maintaining a mulch layer around the base of the tree to prevent weed competition.
- 4.3 Ensure replacement planting is undertaken to the original specification into well-prepared ground.

Proposed Hedges

Primary Objectives

- 4.4 To ensure newly planted hedges are suitably cared for to enable successful establishment into a dense thicket that can be suitably maintained either for ornamental or wildlife value.
- 4.5 Routine operations will involve: watering at times of drought, ensuring sufficient water is applied to ensure trees remain healthy; removing tree/shrub shelters after establishment; pruning/clipping and re-shaping hedge species; removing weeds; hoeing or forking over beds; fertilising; topping up mulch; monitoring for pests and diseases; and replacing dead or dying specimens.
- 4.6 The proposed native hedgerows will be managed at a minimum height of 2.1m.
- 4.7 The proposed formal hedges will be maintained at a minimum height of 1.2m
- 4.8 Ensure replacement planting is undertaken to the original specification into well-prepared ground

Proposed Buffer and Scrub Planting

Primary Objectives

- 4.9 To ensure that the native buffer planting maintains an effective screen and reinforces the boundary are suitably cared for to enable successful establishment into a dense thicket and can be suitably maintained for wildlife value.
- 4.10 Routine operations will involve: watering at times of drought, ensuring sufficient water is applied to ensure trees remain healthy; removing tree/shrub shelters after establishment; pruning/clipping and re-shaping species to encourage bushiness; removing weeds; hoeing or forking over beds; fertilising; herbicide applications; monitoring for pests and diseases; and replacing dead or dying stock.
- 4.11 Advanced nursery stock trees within the buffer area will be allowed to grow to maturity and managed accordingly as 'New Tree Planting'.
- 4.12 Once established the buffer planting will require less intensive management and maintained at a minimum of 3.5m height, by trimming lateral growth once annually in late winter to avoid disturbance to nesting birds.
- 4.13 Ensure replacement planting is undertaken to the original specification into well-prepared ground.

Proposed Shrub Planting

Primary objectives

- 4.14 To ensure planting within and around the buildings and access roads are suitably cared for to enable successful establishment; to maintain growth and a high aesthetic appearance; and prevent planting beds becoming overgrown and untidy.
- 4.15 Routine operations will involve: watering at times of drought, ensuring sufficient water is applied to ensure trees remain healthy; pruning/clipping and re-shaping species to encourage bushiness; removing weeds; hoeing or forking over beds; fertilising; topping up mulch; monitoring for pests and diseases; and replacing dead or dying specimens as soon as possible when growing conditions permit.
- 4.16 When shrubs start to overlap or dominate less vigorous species, it may be necessary to remove some individual plants to retain the character of the bed. Thinning should take place as required in a logical process over several stages.
- 4.17 Monitor and replace failed planting with new equivalent plants between October and March or later if containerised stock is used and weather conditions permit. Dead head flowering shrubs following the flowering period to promote further flowering. NB:- Remove arisings from site.

Proposed Flowering Amenity Grass

Primary Objectives

- 4.18 Ensure amenity short-mown grass areas adjacent to the site access road and New Road are suitably managed in order to maintain an attractive sward.
- 4.19 Routine operations will involve: allowing amenity seeded areas to establish to a minimum height of 35mm before first cut; regular mowing to maintain a height of 30-50mm until June where grass cutting regime is undertaken 4-8 week intervals; removing all litter prior to mowing; Edging adjacent to footpaths and beds;
- 4.20 Bare areas and areas of dead grass which become apparent, should be made good by over-seeding at the earliest available opportunity

Proposed Meadow Grass, Woodland ground Flora and Embankments to Swales

Primary Objectives

- 4.21 Ensure meadow grass areas suitably managed in order to maintain diverse range of species within the sward and a benefit local fauna.
- 4.22 Routine operations will involve: allowing meadow seeded areas to establish to a minimum height of 50mm before first cut; and repeat every 2 months throughout the first year, then mowing twice per annum April and August in the following seasons; removing all litter; Edging adjacent to footpaths and planting beds.
- 4.23 Bare areas and areas of dead grass which become apparent, should be made good by over-seeding at the earliest available opportunity.
- 4.24 Ensure all inlet and outlets to rain gardens and swales are free of deleterious material.

5 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS Years 1 to 5

Maintenance Schedule Years 1 to 5 Pontneddfachen		
Landscape elements / habitat types	Action required	Timings
Existing trees	Inspect trees and undertake necessary Tree Surgery / Crown reduction as instructed by a qualified arborist. The works should only be carried out by qualified contractors.	Annually
Advanced nursery stock trees	Newly planted tree stock should be inspected for disease by a competent person and inform the Landowner or management company of any major deterioration in the condition of any landscape element. Pruning of epicormic or basal growth can normally be undertaken by unqualified personnel. Weed control to 500mm diameter of each tree. A suitable herbicide or by hand (near water courses) should be used in compliance with manufacturer's instructions. Edge up interface with grass Fertilise using suitable slow release fertiliser as per manufacturer's instructions. Inspect tree ties and stakes as scheduled and after strong winds. Replace loose, broken ties or decayed stakes to original specification. Conifer trees - inspect tree guys as scheduled and after strong winds, tighten as necessary. Remove guys, ties and stakes. Remove dead trees and replace as per original specification.	Annually – in late autumn Annually Monthly till year 5 Twice Annually - April & August Every 3 months or after strong wind till year 3 Every 3 months or after strong wind Till year 3 3 years after planting. Annually till year 5
Shrub planting and Grasses	Prune shrubs in accordance with best practise and appropriate to species, removing arisings. Grasses prune previous years foliage to 10cm from ground level and clear herbaceous material. Remove weed growth and remove arisings off site Remove litter and or fallen leaves regularly to maintain a neat appearance. Top up bark mulch Remove dead shrubs and grasses / replace as per original specification.	Annually Annually March Fortnightly - April to October Fortnightly Annually in March till year 4 Annually till year 5
Buffer Planting Including trees Including Shrub Mix	Newly planted should be regularly inspected for disease by a competent person and inform the Landowner or management company of any major deterioration in the condition of any landscape element. Gapping up if vegetation edge becomes broken, with stock identified on planting plans.	Annually – in late autumn Annually October to February

Maintenance Schedule Years 1 to 5 Pontneddfachen		
Landscape elements / habitat types	Action required	Timings
	Cutting back. Weed control - ensure maximum weed coverage within butter planting dose not exceed 5% of area at any one time- by strimming or an application of a suitable non-residual herbicide in compliance with manufacturer's instructions to 300mm diameter of planting station. Fertilise tree stock using suitable slow release fertiliser as per manufacturer's instructions. Grow tubes, adjust or replace to original specification. Inspect tree ties and tree stakes as scheduled and after strong winds. Replace loose, broken or decayed stakes to original specification. Adjust Strimmer guards, replace or refit to original specification. Replace stock losses to original specification. Remove grow tubes. Remove tree stakes and ties from tree stock. Thinning of newly planted woodland in compliance with Standard: BS 7370-4 Clause 3.5.17.1 Select weaker plants for removal. Stack arising within planting area to create hibernaculums. Ensure no or minimum damage to adjacent plants during thinning and refill hole immediately with topsoil. Make good any damage of adjacent plants. Coppice 20% of the hazel stock - operating a 5-year rotational coppicing pattern.	Annually October to November Annually till year 4- March, May, July, September Till year 4– April & August Every 3 months or after strong wind till year 4 Annually up to end of year 5 – October to February 4 years after planting. 3 years after planting At year 5 From year 5
Native hedge planting	Weed control within the hedgerow with a suitable herbicide and used in compliance with manufacturer's instructions. Fertilise using suitable slow release fertiliser as per manufacturer's instructions. Prune native hedge reducing the height to 2.1m with A shape sides Replace stock losses to original specification Remove grow tubes	Annually till year 4- March, May, July, September Annually Till year 4– April & August From Year 3 – annually October to November Annually up to end of year 5 – October to February 4 years after planting
Formal hedges planting	Weed control remove arisings off site Remove litter and fallen leaves regularly to maintain a neat appearance. Top up bark mulch Remove dead plants / replace as per original specification.	Monthly - April to October Monthly Annually in March till year 4 Annually till year 5

Maintenance Schedule Years 1 to 5 Pontneddfachen		
Landscape elements / habitat types	Action required	Timings
	Prune hedge to reduce the height to 1.2m with vertical sides	Year 3 October to November
Flowering Lawn sward Emorsgate EL1	Maintain grass area in a manner appropriate to the intended use, removing arisings from site. Year 1 - Maintain within a range 30 to 50mm, to achieve a vigorous sward, free from disease, fungal growth, discolouration, moss, excessive thatch, weeds, scorch or wilt. Year 2 - Maintain within a range 30 to 50mm until June when mowing regime can be reduced and cut between 4-8 weeks to allow flowers to establish and self seed, Collect arisings Edging off paths, hard surfaces and landscape beds Remove litter and fallen leaves regularly to maintain a neat appearance.	Every 2 weeks during growing season - year 1 Every 2 weeks till June, then every 4-8 weeks Monthly during growing season Every 2 weeks during the growing season
Wet meadow grass sward Emorsgate EM8	Maintain grass area in a manner appropriate to the intended use, removing arisings from site. Remove Litter regularly to maintain a neat appearance. If weather conditions allow -cut 4/5 of the grass sward in sections leaving a week between cuts to a height of 70-100mm leaving clippings to dry and shed seed for 7 days then remove from site. Leaving 1/5 of the sward uncut (this uncut area is to be rotated every year) Lightly mow 4/5 of the sward to a height of 70-100mm over the winter months.. Cut the retained uncut section to 70-100mm - collect clippings	Monthly Annually mid-August to early October. As necessary during the Winter months till March March
Flowering meadow sward Emorsgate EM34 and EM2	Maintain grass area in a manner appropriate to the design intent. Remove Litter regularly to maintain a neat appearance. Cut 4/5 of the grass sward in sections leaving a fortnight between cuts to a height of 70-100mm leaving clippings to dry and shed seed for 7 days then remove from site. Leaving 1/5 of the sward uncut (this uncut area is to be rotated every year) Lightly mow sward the 4/5 of the cut sward as necessary to achieve a height of 70-100mm over the winter months. Cut the uncut section to 70-100mm - collect clippings	Monthly Annually mid-August to early October. Winter months till March March
Woodland floor flora Emorsgate EG9	Maintain grass area in a manner appropriate to the design intent. Remove litter regularly.	Monthly

Maintenance Schedule Years 1 to 5 Pontneddfachen		
Landscape elements / habitat types	Action required	Timings
	Until the hedgerow and tree stock canopy develops the ground flora should be cut once at a height of 70-100mm leaving clippings to dry and shed seed for 7 days then remove from site.	Annually October
Ditches, swales and rain gardens	Inspect and remove litter from swales and rain gardens to ensure outlets remain free of deleterious material and litter. Additional checks and cleansing to be carried out following all flood events. Swales - Clear 30% of marginal / aquatic vegetation (generally by hand-pulling, raking or netting) in order to retain areas of open water while at the same time maintaining some vegetation and structural variation. Ensuring that clearance is undertaken in strips across the full range of water depths and reducing the dominant species. On annual clearance arising should be left within 3m of the water course for 3 hours before removal off site.	Every week Annually in September from year 3
Leaf Litter	With appropriate mechanical sweepers and leaf blowers remove leaf litter from hard surfaces, landscape beds and grass areas, to ensure sweeping does not result in damage surfaces or sand jointing to paving areas.	Monthly Oct / Nov and December
Notifiable weed growth and other injurious weeds or invasive plants / Notifiable weed growth	All areas affected shall be fenced off to minimise the possibility of unintentionally spreading the injurious weeds or invasive plants. Appoint specialist firm to undertake herbicide treatment to eradicate invasive plant.	May and August Inspect, manage accordingly.
Bird boxes	Inspect, remove nesting material, unhatched eggs and clean all bird boxes with boiling water only – dry and re-hand or fix Make good or replace if necessary. Prune any vegetation / branches that have grown across blocking clear access to the box.	Annually - October
Reviewing the maintenance and management plan	Qualified personnel shall monitor / report and adjust the short-term maintenance plan and timings twice a year. The long-term management plan including its objectives and deliverability should be reviewed every 5 years and should be adjusted as appropriate.	Twice per annum Years 5

MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS Years 6 - 25

Maintenance Schedule Years 6 to 25 Pontneddfachen		
Landscape elements / habitat types	Action required	Timings
Tree stock	Inspect trees and undertake necessary Tree Surgery / Crown reduction as instructed by a qualified arborist. The works should only be carried out by qualified contractors. Stack some of the arising to create and maintain hibernaculum. Pruning of epicormic or basal growth can normally be undertaken by unqualified personnel.	Annually – in late autumn
Shrub planting and Grasses	Prune shrubs in accordance with best practise, removing arisings. Grasses prune previous years foliage to 10cm from ground level and clear herbaceous material Weed as necessary remove weed growth off site Remove litter and fallen leaves regularly to maintain a neat appearance. Thin shrubs as necessary to stop overlapping of species.	Annually Annually between March and April Monthly March to October Monthly Annually
Buffer Planting Including trees Including Shrub Mix	Buffer planted should be regularly inspected for disease by a competent person and inform the Landowner or management company of any major deterioration in the condition of any landscape element. Cutting back. Thinning of woodland in compliance with Standard: BS 7370-4 Clause 3.5.17.1 Select weaker plants for removal. Ensure no or minimum damage to adjacent plants during thinning and refill hole immediately with topsoil. Make good any damage of adjacent plants. Removing arisings. Coppice 20% of the hazel stock - operating a 5-year rotational coppicing pattern.	Annually – in late autumn Annually Oct / Nov Year 10, 15, 20 and 25 At years 10, 15, 20, and 25
Native hedge planting	Cut native hedge on a rotational system, cutting 50% of the hedged length in alternative years, reduce the height to 2.1m with "A" shape sides –	Oct / Nov alternate years.
Formal hedge planting	Remove litter and fallen leaves regularly to maintain a neat appearance. Prune hedge to reduce the height to 1.2m with vertical sides	Fortnightly Annually - October to November

Maintenance Schedule Years 6 to 25 Pontneddfachen		
Landscape elements / habitat types	Action required	Timings
Flowering Lawn sward Emorsgate EL1	Maintain grass area in a manner appropriate to the intended use, removing arisings from site. Maintain within a range 30 to 50mm until June when mowing regime can be reduced and cut between 4-8 weeks to allow flowers to establish and self seed, Collect arisings Edging off paths, hard surfaces and landscape beds Remove litter and fallen leaves regularly to maintain a neat appearance.	Every 2 weeks till June, then every 4-8 weeks Monthly during growing season Every 2 weeks during the growing season
Wet meadow grass sward Emorsgate EM8	Maintain grass area in a manner appropriate to the intended use, removing arisings from site. Remove Litter regularly to maintain a neat appearance. If weather conditions allow -cut 4/5 of the grass sward in sections leaving a week between cuts to a height of 70-100mm leaving clippings to dry and shed seed for 7 days then remove from site. Leaving 1/5 of the sward uncut (this uncut area is to be rotated every year) Lightly mow 4/5 of the sward to a height of 70-100mm over the winter months.. Cut the retained uncut section to 70-100mm - collect clippings	Monthly Annually mid-August to early October. As necessary during the Winter months till March March
Flowering meadow sward Emorsgate EM34 and EM2	Maintain grass area in a manner appropriate to the design intent. Remove Litter regularly to maintain a neat appearance. Cut 4/5 of the grass sward in sections leaving a fortnight between cuts to a height of 70-100mm leaving clippings to dry and shed seed for 7 days then remove from site. Leaving 1/5 of the sward uncut (this uncut area is to be rotated every year) Lightly mow sward the 4/5 of the cut sward as necessary to achieve a height of 70-100mm over the winter months. Cut the uncut section to 70-100mm - collect clippings	Monthly Annually mid-August to early October. Winter months till March March
Woodland floor flora Emorsgate EG9	Maintain grass area in a manner appropriate to the design intent. Remove litter regularly. cut at a height of 70-100mm leaving clippings to dry and shed seed for 7 days then remove from site.	Monthly Annually October
Ditches, swales and rain gardens	Inspect and remove litter from swales and rain gardens to ensure outlets remain free of deleterious material and litter.	Every week

Maintenance Schedule Years 6 to 25 Pontneddfachen		
Landscape elements / habitat types	Action required	Timings
	Additional checks and cleansing to be carried out following all flood events. Swales - Clear 30% of marginal / aquatic vegetation (generally by hand-pulling, raking or netting) in order to retain areas of open water while at the same time maintaining some vegetation and structural variation. Ensuring that clearance is undertaken in strips across the full range of water depths and reducing the dominant species. On annual clearance arising should be left within 3m of the water course for 3 hours before removal off site.	Annually in September
Leaf Litter	Inspect hard and soft landscape areas for leaf litter. With appropriate mechanical sweepers and leaf blowers remove leaf litter from hard surfaces, landscape beds and grass areas, to ensure sweeping does not result in damage surfaces or sand jointing to paving areas.	Monthly Oct / Nov and December
Bird boxes	Inspect, remove nesting material, unhatched eggs and clean all bird boxes with boiling water only – dry and re-hand or fix. Make good or replace if necessary. Prune any vegetation / branches that have grown across blocking clear access to the box.	Annually - October
Notifiable weed growth and other injurious weeds or invasive plants / Notifiable weed growth	All areas affected shall be fenced off to minimise the possibility of unintentionally spreading the injurious weeds or invasive plants. Appoint specialist firm to undertake herbicide treatment to eradicate invasive plant.	May and August Inspect, manage accordingly.
Reviewing the maintenance and management plan	Qualified personnel shall monitor / report and adjust the short-term maintenance plan and timings twice a year. The long-term management plan including its objectives and deliverability should be reviewed every 5 years and should be adjusted as appropriate.	Twice per annum Year 10, 15 , 20 and 25