

LANDSCAPE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

TY'N Y CWM, FARM, TY'N Y CWM LANE, RHOS, PONTARDAWE, SA8 3EY

NOVEMBER 2024

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The attached Site Layout Plan A1.2 is provided to Neath Port Talbot Council to accompany the Reserved Matters application for a Rural Enterprise Workers Dwelling at Ty'n Y Cwm Farm, Rhos. Condition 13 of outline planning permission P2021/1245 requires the submission of a scheme for hedgerow planting to be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This document aims to satisfy the requirements of that condition and to also provide details in respect of the Landscaping Reserved Matters.

1.2 Landscape proposals will result in the following habitat types:

Habitat Type	Quantity
Native mix hedgerow	110m
New native trees	2no

2.0 OUTLINE SPECIFICATION FOR SOFT LANDSCAPE WORKS

2.1 Work to be carried out in accordance with the following standards:

- British Standards:
 - BS 3882:2015 Specification for topsoil
 - BS 8601:2013 Specification for subsoil and requirements for use
 - BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction
 - BS 8545:2014 Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape
 - BS 4428:1989 Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces)
- National Plant Specification
- National Landscape Specification (NBS) latest revision

2.2 **Site Clearance:**

Remove any bramble, rubbish, concrete, metal, glass, decayed vegetation, contaminated substrate and stones with largest dimension exceeding 100mm. Contamination includes steel, concrete, rubble, fuel, lubricants or other substances injurious to plant growth

2.3 **Soil Conditions:**

Do not work in waterlogged conditions, when the ground is frozen or covered by snow, or when there are pools of water on the ground surface or following sustained heavy rainfall eg >10mm in 24 hours.

Cultivate and plant into moist friable soil.

Provide adequate additional root protection and prevent planting pit sides and bases and backfill materials from freezing.

2.4 **Climatic Conditions:**

Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable for the relevant operations. Do not plant during periods of frost or strong winds.

Bare root planting to be restricted to the 'lifting' season, generally November to March.

2.5 **Machines and Tools:**

Use only machinery and tools suitable for the site conditions and the work to be carried out.

2.6 **Excavation:**

Ensure the location of all services is known before any excavation operations.

Excavation is NOT to be carried out within the root protection areas of trees to be retained.

2.7 **Soils:**

At this site, all planting will be into existing undisturbed topsoil. Within RPAs, remove only the top 50mm grass growth and add mulch matting.

Outside RPAs full turf depth can be stripped back.

2.8 **Tree Planting:**

Refer to Tree Pit Sections in Figure 2.

Backfill mix (including green compost, fertilizer, mycorrhizal supplement) for bare root stock.

Plant trees as indicated on the Site Layout Plan A1.2. Contractor is to locate underground services before excavation.

Install a root barrier where trees will lie within 3m of an existing or proposed underground service route or highway kerb eg. Greenleaf Reroot or equivalent to full depth of topsoil to top of finished soil level with sides vertical.

2.9 **Cultivation Prior to Planting:**

If areas are weed infested, remove by hand or mechanical means.

No cultivation to take place within tree root protection areas.

No cultivation after sustained heavy rainfall over 10mm in 24 hours.

Cultivate topsoil by hand or machine to achieve a suitable loose, friable tilth, remove rubbish/stones/roots etc over 50mm for planting areas in line with BS 3882:2015 table A.1, and rake to even out levels.

2.10 **Plant Supply**

Nursery Stock to BS 3936 Part 1 'Nursery stock specification for trees and shrubs' and BS 8545:2014 Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape.

Name, forms, dimensions and other criteria as scheduled and defined in the National Plant Specification. If specified plants are unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at the time of ordering, obtain approval before making any substitution.

Plants should be:

- Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy, vigorous, of good shape and without elongated shoots.
- Grown in suitable environment and hardened off.
- Free from pests diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders.
- Budded or grafted plants to be bottom worked unless otherwise specified or approved
- British grown and where possible locally sourced using plants grown from Region of Provenance 30, Native seed zone 303.
- Produced in peat-free compost.

Trees should have:

- Clearly defined and straight leader.
- Balanced branching framework with lateral branches subordinate to the leader.
- Clearly defined stem taper and proportionate, balanced height/stem girth ratio appropriate to the species.
- No crossing or co-dominant branches.
- Evenly spaced lateral roots with minimum four major laterals.
- Evenly spaced, well developed fibrous roots.
- An intact root-ball with the root-flare clearly visible.

2.11 **Plant Handling**

Handling of plants to HTA National Plant Specification and the Committee for Plant Handling and Establishment Part 3 'Recommendations for Plant Handling from Delivery to Successful Establishment' and BS 8545:2014 Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape.

All plants delivered on racks. Boxed/pallet stacked plants are not acceptable.

Protect plants / trees from frost and from drying out.

Handle plants / trees with care. Protect from mechanical damage and do not subject to shock eg. by dropping from a vehicle.

All plant material is to be carefully lifted, adequately and carefully packed and protected for delivery to site.

Plants should not be lifted and stored on the delivery vehicle overnight. Ideally plants should be lifted, delivered to the site and planted on the same day.

On delivery to site, bare-root or root-balled plants, should be stacked together, away from the effects of the drying winds, their roots being covered with sand or fine soil and watered to prevent drying out.

Plants may require to be heeled-in, using prepared trenches, covered with soil (fine material) and watered thoroughly. Stored plants should be checked regularly to ensure their root systems are fully covered and that the soil (fine material) is kept moist.

If planting becomes delayed into April or later, then bare root plant material is to be stored in cold stores until required on site.

2.12 Planting

Hedge planting within tree root protection areas to be undertaken using notch planting.

Refer to Tree Pit Section (Figure 2) for planting outside RPA's. Trees to be notch planted within RPA's.

Set out plants evenly to density and quantities shown, arranged to avoid straight lines and geometric patterns.

Plant to the nursery soil depth, face up to present best side, and firm in.

For bare root stock, dip in a proprietary alginate prior to planting such as Alginure/Broadleaf P4 anti-desiccant gel before planting

2.13 Immediate Aftercare

Immediately after planting cut back any damaged, dead or diseased branches and remove any weak, thin or malformed growth.

For tree species any immediate aftercare is to accord with BS3998:2010 and BS 8545:2014.

If tree leaders are damaged or have been removed, the stock should be replaced.

Water as necessary to ensure the establishment and continued thriving of all planting. Ensure the full depth of topsoil is thoroughly wetted. Use a fine rose where appropriate to avoid damaging or loosening plants.

Add mulch after watering in.

2.14 Tree Guards:

Trees and hedgerows to be protected by individual guards and by stock proof fencing to specification in Figure 2.

2.15 Tree Staking:

In accordance with Figure 2.

2.16 Mulch Specification

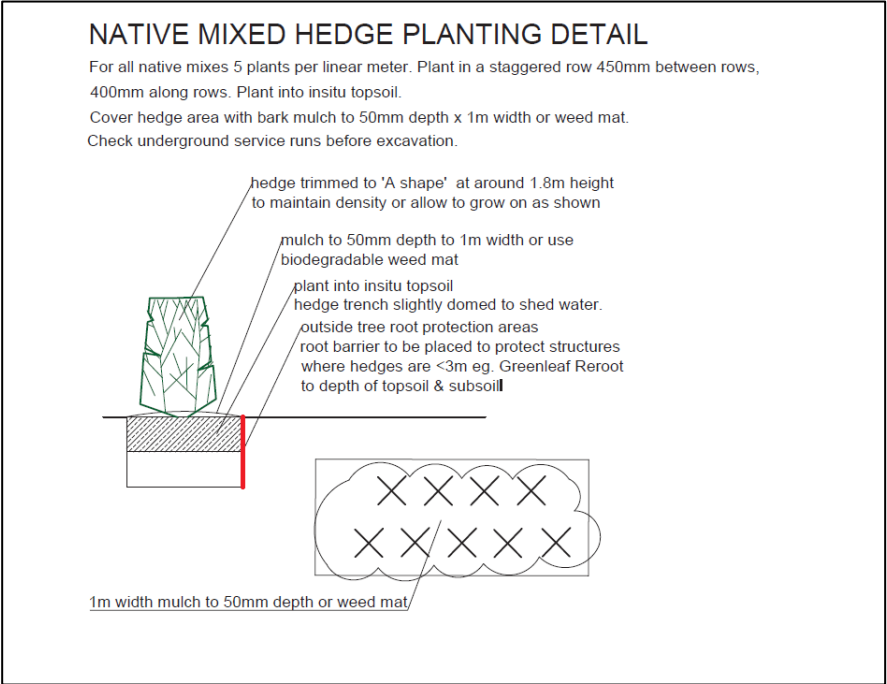
For hedge planting use a biodegradable mulch mat or 50mm depth of tree mulch for 1m width.

3.0 PLANTING SCHEDULE

3.1 Please refer to Site Layout Plan and Figures 1 and 2

Hedgerow Species							
Species	Common name	No.	%	Specification	Age	Height (cm)	Root condition
(Crataegus monogyna)	Hawthorn	231	30	Transplant – seed raised. Branched	1+1	40-60	Bagged/bareroot
(Corylus avellana)	Hazel	231	30	Transplant – seed raised. Branched	1+1	40-60	Bagged/bareroot
(Prunus spinosa)	Blackthorn	193	25	Transplant – seed raised. Branched	1+1	40-60	Bagged/bareroot
(Lonicera periclymenum)	Honeysuckle	116	15	Transplant – seed raised. Branched	1+1	40-60	Bagged/bareroot
* Plant a staggered row [450mm between rows, 400mm along rows] at 5 plants/lin m, bare root transplants 1+1, 400-600mm. Mulch hedge width to 50mm depth. Maintain to a height of around 1.8m by cutting every 2-3 years, ideally in February before bird nesting to provide source of nuts and berries.							

Figure 1: Native Mixed Hedge Planting Detail



Tree Species						
Species	Common Name	No.	%	Specification	Height/girth (cm)	Root condition
Quercus robur	Common Oak	1	50	Selected Standard: Clear Stem 175-200cm	250-300/8-10	Root balled
Prunus padus	Bird Cherry	1	50	Selected Standard: Clear Stem 175-200cm	250-300/8-10	Root balled

Figure 2: TREE PLANTING NOTES

PLANTING NOTES

Generally

Where appropriate all relevant British Standards shall apply.

Vegetation Protection:

To protect existing trees, hedgerows and woodland during construction works, cleft chestnut pale fencing min 1.2 m high and to BS 1722 pt 4: 1972, shall be erected where directed by the Contract Administrator at the commencement of the works and maintained in-situ until instructed otherwise. The fencing shall be erected to alignments at the full canopy extent and shall be agreed on site with the landscape architect.

The following will apply:

- no work shall be permitted within the fenced enclosure.
- no oil, bitumen, cement, or other material likely to be injurious to a tree shall be kept or discharged within 10.0 m of the tree boles.
- no other materials shall be stacked or discharged within 5.0m of tree boles.
- no tipping or storage of materials, nor any No concrete mixing shall be carried out within 10.0 m of any tree
- No fires shall be lit beneath or in close proximity to the canopies.
- Notice boards, telephone cables or other services shall not be attached to any part of the tree
- Care shall be exercised when using cranes or other mechanical plant and equipment near the spread of the canopy of the trees

Ground Preparation

Spraying off weed/grass growth

All grass and herbaceous growth shall be sprayed off with an approved glyphosphate herbicide during a dry period of weather, all in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions, to the following areas:

- All areas of proposed hardstanding and tracks
- The full extent of the areas of planting and 2m strips along hedgelines

Dead weed / grass growth shall be cut back hard to ground level and removed from site.

Soil Compaction and Reinstatement

If, the topsoil in the areas to be planted is found to be unduly compacted, e.g, as a result of operational traffic or from working under unfavourable conditions, the Contractor shall loosen the soil to the full depth over such areas as shall be indicated to him. This loosening shall be done using a rotovator or other approved equipment.

Stock Proof fencing

Shall be to the following specification

- Straining Posts: 2100 mm X 125 mm dia
- Struts: 2100 mm X 100 mm dia
- Intermediate stakes: 1800 mm X 80 mm dia.
- Mesh: BS1485; galvanised, 1050 mm high, mesh 31 mm, wire gauge 18 mm.
- Wire: 4 mm mild steel.
- Netting: C8/80/15 galvanised pig netting
- Nails: 40 mm galvanised staples.
- Netting rings: e.g. Gerrard or similar.
- All timber to be pressure treated European larch, Sweet Chestnut or Ash.

Plants and Planting

Origin

All native and naturalised species specified in structure planting and hedge planting mixes shall comprise bare root transplants or whips of regional, or if unobtainable, of UK origin.

Rabbit Protection

All Tree and Shrub Planting and New Hedgerows shall be protected by approved individual guards, and by stock proof fencing.

Mulching

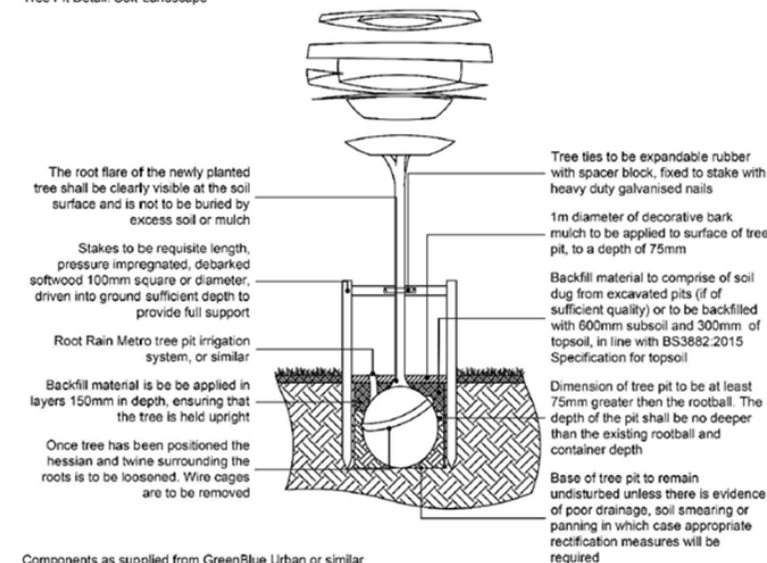
All new plantings shall be mulched with composted bark or similar approved

Establishment Maintenance

All planting works shall be to subject to a 5 year Maintenance Programme, including replacement of failed plants on an annual basis. Operations shall include:

- Weeding
- Watering
- Litter Picking
- Pruning / Coppicing
- Top dressing with fertilizer as necessary
- Topping up Mulch
- Fencing repairs
- Replacing / securing guards and stakes

Tree Pit Detail: Soft Landscape



4.0 PRESCRIPTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

4.1 For new planting and seeding areas undertake maintenance visits in April, May, July, and September.

4.2 During the 5 year establishment phase carry out maintenance of the planted areas as follows:

For new native mixed hedges:

- Maintain weed free planted areas by use of HAND WEEDING (not by using glyphosate due to the risk of plant damage from herbicide drift onto new and existing vegetation). Hand weed to remove any perennial weed growth before these flower and set seed. The timing and method of weed control is to be kept under review.
- Water as necessary to prevent plants wilting.
- Maintenance operations shall be carried out only during suitable weather conditions.
- Every visit check condition of plants, including for any rabbit damage.
- Re-firm plants as required without compacting topsoil.
- Prune every 2-3 years to achieve a height of 1.8m ideally in February, remove dead or dying and diseased vegetation to promote healthy growth and achieve an 'A' shaped profile in accordance with good horticultural practice or allow to grow on as shown.
- Top up mulch to 50mm to the original specification.

For new tree planting

- Maintain a weed free area around each tree, minimum diameter 1.0m ideally by use of HAND WEEDING (not by using glyphosate due to the risk of plant damage from herbicide drift).
- Watering trees: for the first growing year allow for watering every week to every fortnight according to weather conditions, from April to October. Watering in year 2 is also likely to be required.
- Every month check condition of stakes, ties. Adjust if necessary to allow for growth and prevent rubbing of bark. Cut back any damaged bark.
- At year 2-3 remove all tree stakes.
- Re-firm new trees as required without compacting topsoil.
- Only prune at appropriate times to remove dead or dying and diseased wood and suckers to promote healthy growth and natural shape and in accordance with good horticultural practice.
- Undertake formative pruning in accordance with BS3998:2010 and ongoing aftercare in accordance with BS 8545:2014. Prune trees to favour a single central leading shoot.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

5.1 Soft landscape works will take place in the first available season following completion of works dependent on the usual planting seasonal constraints as follows:

- Bare root planting to be undertaken in the planting season November to March.

6.0 MONITORING AND REMEDIAL MEASURES

- 6.1 An annual walkover will be undertaken by the applicant to monitor establishment success, with any plants or areas that fail to thrive during the 5 year establishment phase to be replaced in the next suitable planting season. Replacements will match the size of adjacent or nearby plants of the same species or should match the original specification, whichever is the greater.

