

Austin-Smith: Lord

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tregeles

Green Infrastructure Statement

Executive Summary

This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared in support of the proposed redevelopment works at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tregeles, comprising the demolition of existing structures and the construction of a new teaching block within the northern part of the site.

The proposals have been developed in accordance with Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12), adopting the step-wise approach to green infrastructure and biodiversity of avoid, minimise, mitigate and compensate. The design has been informed by ecological considerations set out within the accompanying Site Assessment Report, ensuring that potential impacts on habitats and species are appropriately addressed while identifying opportunities for enhancement.

The site currently comprises a mix of built school infrastructure and areas of semi-improved grassland, with ecological value primarily associated with the eastern field and boundary vegetation. While the development results in the loss of a small area of grassland to accommodate the new building, this habitat is of relatively low to moderate ecological value and is retained across the majority of the site.

The layout has been designed to avoid impacts on key green infrastructure features wherever practicable, including the retention of the majority of the existing grassland field and boundary vegetation which contribute to habitat connectivity, particularly along the northern railway corridor. Where impacts cannot be avoided, they have been minimised through the careful siting of development within previously developed areas and areas of lower ecological sensitivity.

Residual impacts are addressed through mitigation and enhancement measures. These include the introduction of species-rich wildflower grassland, native and pollinator-friendly rain gardens, additional tree planting and a biodiverse green roof. Together, these measures increase habitat diversity, improve ecological function and provide enhanced foraging and shelter opportunities for wildlife.

Further biodiversity enhancements include the potential incorporation of bird and bat boxes within the new building, subject to detailed design and ecological input. The overall landscape strategy also maintains permeability for wildlife and supports continued connectivity with the surrounding landscape.

The proposals are supported by a Long-Term Management Plan, which will secure the successful establishment and ongoing management of all green infrastructure features. This ensures that biodiversity enhancements are not only delivered but maintained and adapted over time.

Overall, the development delivers a clear and proportionate net benefit for biodiversity. Although there is a minor loss of existing grassland, this is outweighed by the introduction of more diverse and ecologically functional habitats. The scheme therefore results in a more resilient and biodiverse landscape than the existing baseline condition, in line with national policy and legislative requirements.



Contents

01 Introduction

01.1 Introduction and Planning Policy

02 Existing Site Context

02.1 Site Context

02.2 Existing Green Infrastructure

03 Landscape Proposals

03.1 Site Layout

03.2 Design Development

03.3 Proposed Green Infrastructure

03.4 Landscape Proposals

03.5 Long Term Management Plan

03.6 Net Benefit for Biodiversity

04 Appendices

04.1 Long Term Management Plan

04.2 Tree Constraints Plan

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01 Introduction and Planning Policy

01.1 Introduction and Planning Policy

Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement sets out the landscape and ecological strategy associated with the proposed development of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tregeles in Skewen. The proposals have been prepared by Austin-Smith:Lord for Knox & Wells Ltd in support of the planning application.

The document explains how the landscape proposals have been developed to protect existing green infrastructure assets, minimise ecological impacts and deliver meaningful biodiversity enhancement, in accordance with Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12) and the Section 6 duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The landscape strategy has been developed in close collaboration with Ecological Services Ltd and Arboricultural Technician Services Ltd, ensuring that ecological and arboricultural considerations are fully integrated into the design process and inform both mitigation and enhancement measures.

Planning Policy

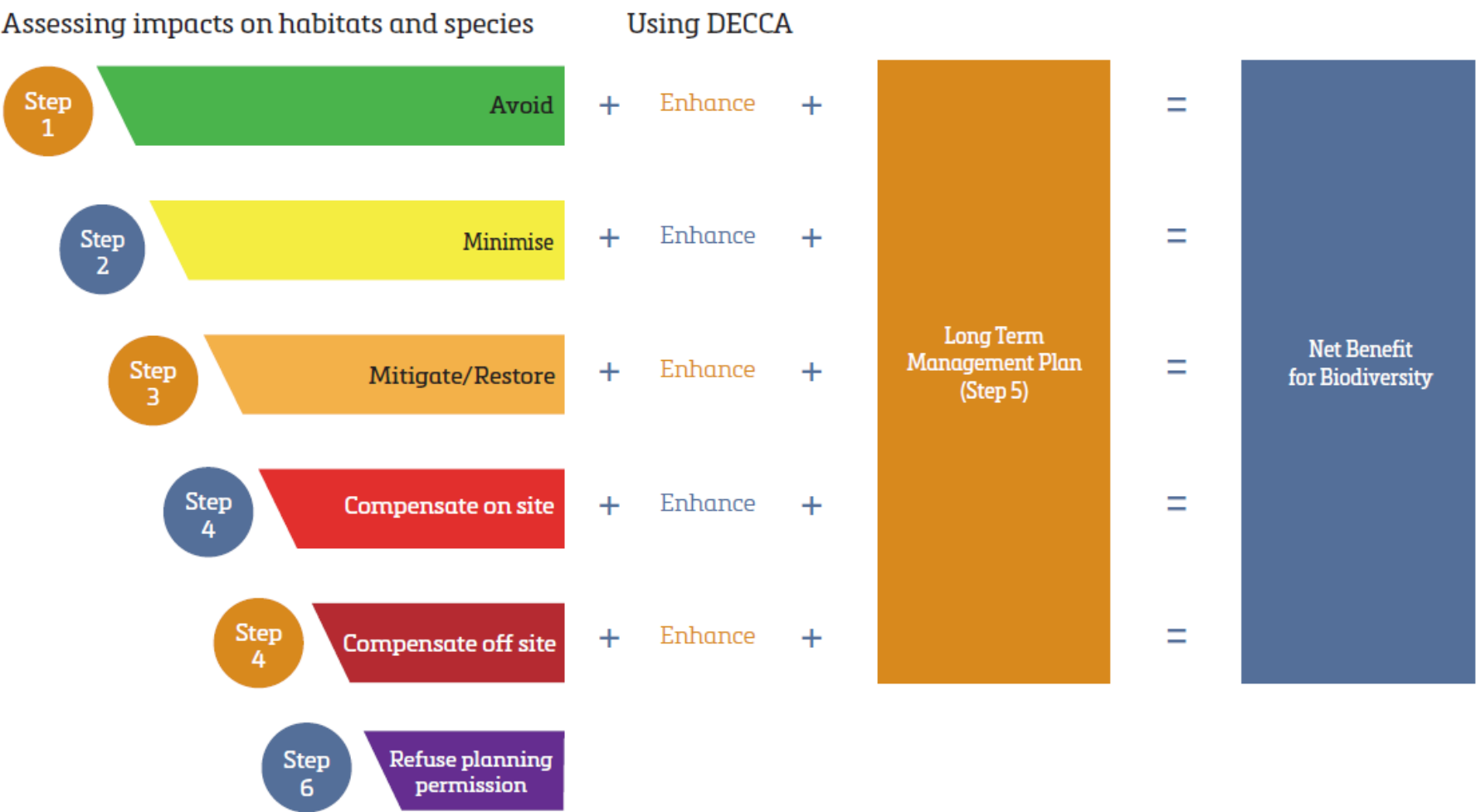
In compiling this statement, Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12) has been taken into consideration, with particular regard to the step-wise approach of:

Avoid → Minimise → Mitigate → Compensate / Enhance

This approach has guided the evolution of the site layout, landscape proposals and long-term management strategy and is clearly referenced throughout this document.

In addition, the proposals respond directly to the Section 6 duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 by seeking not only to avoid harm to biodiversity, but to actively enhance ecological resilience through habitat creation, species-rich planting and long-term, biodiversity-led management.

Figure 12: Summary of the Step-Wise Approach



Extract from Planning Policy Wales 12

02 Existing Site Context

02.1 Site Context

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tregelles is located on St John's Terrace in Dyffryn Clydach, within the built-up area between Skewen and Neath Abbey, to the west of Neath town centre. The site occupies an established school plot within a predominantly urban residential context, with the wider landscape transitioning to transport corridors, areas of open land and riverine habitats further to the south.

The application site comprises the existing school buildings and associated hardstanding to the west, together with an adjoining grassland field to the east. The proposed development is focused within the northern part of the site, where the new teaching block is to be constructed partly within the footprint of the existing northern building and partly within the northern section of the adjacent field.

The southern and western boundaries adjoin the surrounding residential streets, while St John's Church and its associated cemetery lie directly to the east. To the north, the site is bounded by a railway corridor set behind a vegetated embankment, beyond which the landscape becomes more open and agricultural in character. This northern edge is an important part of the site's wider green infrastructure context, providing visual and ecological connectivity to adjoining habitats beyond the immediate school grounds.

At the wider scale, the site sits within a varied landscape influenced by urban development, transport infrastructure and connected green-blue corridors. The River Neath lies approximately 560 m to the south, with the Tennant Canal and associated lowland habitats also located nearby, contributing to the broader ecological setting of the area. Woodland belts occur to the north and along sections of the railway corridor, helping to connect the site to a wider network of semi-natural habitats.



02.2 Existing Green Infrastructure

Existing Infrastructure

The site comprises a combination of built school infrastructure and areas of open grassland, with green infrastructure primarily associated with the eastern portion of the site. This area consists of semi-improved grassland, with localised variations including rush-dominated patches in wetter areas, providing a modest degree of ecological diversity relative to intensively managed amenity spaces.

The western part of the site is dominated by hardstanding, buildings and play areas, offering limited ecological function. Boundary features, including a vegetated scrub strip along the southern edge and a railway embankment with scattered trees and scrub to the north, provide the most notable ecological features within and adjacent to the site. These features contribute to habitat connectivity, particularly along the northern boundary which functions as a wildlife corridor.

The grassland field to the east represents the primary on-site green infrastructure resource, although it is considered to be of relatively low to moderate ecological value due to its semi-improved condition and ongoing management. No designated habitats or high-value ecological features are present within the application site.



View from south side



North-west corner - existing vegetation



Main entrance and existing parking



View from south-east corner

Photos of existing vegetation and surfacing

03 Landscape Proposals

03.1 Site Layout

AVOID

Early proposals

The design of the proposed development has been guided by the principle of avoiding impacts on existing green infrastructure wherever practicable.

The new teaching block is located within the northern part of the site, partially utilising the footprint of the existing building to be demolished, thereby reducing the extent of encroachment into undeveloped areas.

While a portion of the semi-improved grassland field will be required to accommodate the new building, the majority of the grassland to the south and east is retained, preserving the primary green infrastructure resource within the site.

Existing boundary vegetation, including the scrub along the southern edge and vegetation associated with the railway embankment to the north, is retained and protected. These features continue to provide habitat structure and ecological connectivity beyond the site boundary.

Through this approach, impacts on higher value and connective green infrastructure features are avoided, with development focused on areas of lower ecological sensitivity where possible.



Figure 1 - Existing buildings and initial proposed building footprint

03.2 Design Development

MINIMISE

Proposed building footprint

Where impacts cannot be fully avoided, the design has been developed to minimise the extent of ecological disturbance.

The proposals result in the loss of a limited area of semi-improved grassland within the northern part of the field. This habitat, while contributing to local biodiversity, is of relatively low ecological value and is subject to regular management and disturbance.

Tree loss is limited to a single low-quality specimen, with the majority of existing trees retained. Construction impacts are confined to the immediate footprint of the new building and associated works, reducing wider disturbance to retained green infrastructure.

Careful consideration will also be given to construction practices, including protection of retained vegetation and sensitive lighting design, in order to minimise indirect impacts on adjacent habitats, particularly the railway corridor which supports bat commuting activity.



Figure 2 - Proposed building footprint

03.3 Proposed Green Infrastructure

MITIGATE / RESTORE

Proposed Infrastructure and Landscape Restoration

Following the application of avoidance and minimisation measures, residual impacts relate primarily to the loss of a small area of semi-improved grassland and the removal of a single low-value tree.

These impacts are addressed through a coordinated strategy of on-site mitigation and landscape enhancement. Four new trees are proposed, reinforcing site structure and ensuring a net gain in tree canopy over time.

Areas of disturbed ground will be reinstated with appropriate soil preparation and planting. While ornamental and native shrub planting opportunities are limited across the site, targeted interventions are incorporated where they provide functional value.

Rain gardens are introduced between the new school building and the adjacent car park. These features are planted with native and pollinator-friendly species, providing both sustainable drainage function and ecological benefit through increased habitat diversity and foraging opportunities.



Building upon mitigation measures, the landscape proposals deliver meaningful on-site enhancement, increasing habitat diversity beyond the baseline condition.

Rain gardens are also incorporated within the scheme, located between the proposed building and adjacent car park. These features are planted with native and pollinator-friendly species where practicable, providing multifunctional benefits including sustainable surface water management, improved water quality and enhanced habitat provision. In addition to their drainage function, these areas contribute to increased floral diversity and seasonal resource availability for pollinating species.

Additional biodiversity enhancements include the potential incorporation of bird and bat boxes within the new building fabric, subject to confirmation of suitable locations in consultation with the project ecologist. The northern elevation is particularly suitable given its proximity to established commuting corridors along the railway embankment.

The site layout remains permeable to wildlife, and the retention of boundary vegetation ensures continued connectivity with the wider landscape.



03.5 Long Term Management Plan

LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN

The delivery of biodiversity net benefit is dependent not only on habitat creation, but on successful establishment, long-term management and monitoring.

A Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP) (see appendix 04.1) accompanies the proposals and provides detailed, habitat-specific management prescriptions for all landscape and biodiversity features, including trees, shrub planting and species-rich wildflower grassland.

The LTMP confirms that management responsibilities will extend beyond the initial establishment period, with long-term stewardship secured through appropriate ownership or management arrangements.

Monitoring and adaptive management are embedded within the plan, allowing management practices to respond to site conditions and ecological performance over time.

During the establishment period, management will include inspection of planting success, replacement of failed plants, control of undesirable or invasive species, and watering during prolonged dry periods where necessary.

In the long term, management will be limited to periodic monitoring and selective intervention only where required to prevent dominance by vigorous species or to address localised failures.

By securing long-term management and monitoring, the proposals ensure that biodiversity enhancements are not only deliverable but are maintained and strengthened for the lifetime of the development.



03.6 Net Benefit for Biodiversity

NET BENEFIT FOR BIODIVERSITY

What Is and Is Not counted

In assessing biodiversity net benefit, it is recognised that not all landscape measures contribute equally to ecological enhancement.

The following elements are not relied upon to demonstrate biodiversity net benefit:

- Retention of existing mature trees and habitats.
- Compensatory replacement planting required to mitigate losses.
- Standard landscape mitigation measures necessary to make the development acceptable.

Biodiversity net benefit is instead derived from additional and targeted enhancements, including:

- Introduction of native species-rich shrub as functional habitats and pollinators.
- Creation and long-term management of species-rich wildflower grassland.

Landscape input

The proposals deliver a proportionate net benefit for biodiversity through the introduction of new habitats and features that increase ecological diversity and functionality relative to the existing baseline.

While the development results in the loss of a small area of semi-improved grassland, this habitat is of relatively low ecological value and is more than offset by the introduction of species-rich wildflower grassland, rain gardens, additional tree planting and a biodiverse green roof.

The retention of the majority of the existing grassland field, together with boundary vegetation, ensures that existing ecological functions are largely maintained. The addition

of bird and bat boxes, alongside pollinator-friendly planting, further enhances the site’s capacity to support local wildlife.

In line with Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12), biodiversity net benefit is derived from these additional enhancements rather than from retention or mitigation measures alone. Collectively, the proposals deliver a more diverse, resilient and ecologically functional landscape than currently exists on site.



04 Appendices

04.1 Long Term Management Plan

Ysgol GG Tregeles - New School Block

Long Term Management Plan



April 2026
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Austin-Smith:Lord

Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	General soft landscape maintenance	3
3.0	Management Objectives and Actions.....	5
4.0	Ecology and Bioversity	10
5.0	Reporting.....	12
6.0	Establishment and Defects Liability Period.....	12
7.0	Schedule of works frequency.....	15
8.0	Appendix 1 - Summary of Management Works.....	17
9.0	Appendix 2 - Maintenance Team Directory	22
10.0	Appendix 3 - British Standards.....	23

Revision notes

Rev	Description	Date	By
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.0.1** This Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan outlines the strategies and procedures for the upkeep and preservation of the landscape scheme for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tregeles in Skewen.
- 1.0.2** The purpose of this document is to provide a maintenance, management and monitoring plan for a 5 year period, from the first beneficial use of the scheme, with key objectives for the long term management. After this period, this document can be used as a basis to help inform any long-term maintenance and management strategies for this area.
- 1.0.3** The document should be read in conjunction with the specification, schedules, and drawings submitted with the planning application. For details of the location and extent of the areas described in this report, please refer to the following plans and documents:
- YGGT-ASL-XX-XX-D-L-00901 General Arrangement
 - YGGT-ASL-XX-XX-D-L-00903 Soft Landscape.

2.0 General soft landscaping maintenance

2.1 Timing of visits for maintenance

- 2.1.0** Maintenance operations will be scheduled based on weather conditions and carried out as necessary by the Contractor or as directed by the CA. While the CA may instruct the Contractor to perform operations at any time during the Maintenance Period, it is the sole responsibility of the Contractor to arrange the operations appropriately to keep weed growth in check, ensure adequate watering, maintain a well-groomed appearance, and achieve the intended establishment of the plantings.

2.2 Mowing regimes

- 2.2.1** The grassed areas should be mown and strimmed. While there are no public space grass areas with gradients exceeding 1:3, caution should still be exercised when mowing on softer gradients.
- 2.2.2** The amenity grass mowing regime applies to all grass areas:
- Areas should be kept short for a tidy appearance. They should be cut once a week or fortnight during the growing season to a height of 30 mm and all cuttings should be removed from site.
 - During autumn-winter, areas should be cut once every three weeks and during spring-summer, they should be cut once a week or as required to maintain a height of 50 mm. All cuttings should be removed from site.

2.3 Watering

- 2.3.1** Watering should be carried out to bring the soil to an optimum moisture content appropriate for the specific work at hand, ensuring it reaches field capacity.
- 2.3.2** Water all trees if there has been no rain for 10 consecutive days during the establishment period.
- 2.3.3** The Contractor should water the plants during dry periods with sufficient quantities to ensure thorough penetration of the rooting zone.
- 2.3.4** The Contractor should provide all necessary hoses, fittings, sprays, etc., to implement watering as required until Practical Completion.
- 2.3.5** If mains water is unavailable, fresh water delivery should be arranged through a bowser or another suitable method.

2.4 Mulching

- 2.4.1** The mulch depth should be reviewed annually and additional material should be applied, if necessary, to maintain a depth of 75 mm on a weed-free surface in April/May. Mulching should not be carried out after a long dry period.

2.5 Weed control

- 2.5.1** Maintenance visits should occur at least every four weeks between April and November to keep the hedgerows weed-free.
- 2.5.2** Only products listed in the current Agricultural Chemicals Approval Scheme should be used. Weed control in hedgerows should be achieved through hand weeding and/or spot treatments of glyphosate (weed killer).
- 2.5.3** The presence of any pernicious weeds must be immediately reported to the CA (Contract Administrator). These weeds are classified as 'Controlled Waste' and must be treated and disposed of in accordance with current regulations.

2.6 Pest and disease control

- 2.6.1** All pesticides/herbicides used must be authorized by the CA and approved for use in amenity horticulture, following the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (Amended 1997).

- 2.6.2** The control of pests should be carried out using suitable and appropriate methods as determined by the CA. A method statement must be submitted for approval in advance of treatment. Pests will be identified, eradicated and litter will be removed.
- 2.6.3** The Contractor must possess Recognised Certificates of Competence for the use of pesticides approved for amenity plant protection unless working under the direct supervision of a certified individual. The Contractor should provide written evidence to the CA regarding which members of their staff are certified to apply pesticides.
- 2.6.4** During the regular monthly site inspection, the Contractor should identify any pests or diseases and take necessary action, including the use of approved chemicals or removal of infected plants. Replacement planting should be conducted as needed.

2.7 Litter removal

- 2.7.1** Remove litter from all areas fortnightly.

3.0 Management Objectives and Actions

- 3.0.1** The primary objective of the management plan is to ensure the successful establishment of the proposed planting, seeded areas of grass and wildflowers within the development. This includes all of the proposed tree planting in key locations of the site.
- 3.0.2** The maintenance of the following green infrastructure elements is essential for public use and visual appeal. The specific operations required, such as watering, weed control, pruning and grass mowing, are further described in this report.

3.1 Tree planting

- 3.1.1** Objective: The establishment of healthy, mature trees across the site connecting hard and soft landscaping.
- 3.1.2** Multiple species have been carefully chosen and planted in clusters or in a linear more formal alignment depending on their location on site.
- 3.1.3** All tree-related tasks will adhere to the guidelines outlined in BS3998:2010 Tree Work. Existing retained trees should be allowed to grow naturally, considering safety precautions.
- 3.1.4** The management of proposed tree planting aims to ensure successful establishment and thriving, following the plans specified in Part 1.0 of this document. Newly planted trees will be adequately watered, especially during the initial three years of the maintenance period.

- 3.1.5** Annual monitoring of newly planted trees and shrubs will be conducted each autumn during the first five years after planting. Ongoing maintenance, as described in this document, will be applied to ensure their establishment and tidiness. Disposal of any waste material will be done at a licensed tip or recycling facility.
- 3.1.6** Regularly assess the health of each tree and remove any dead, diseased, or damaged branches. This pruning should be done once or twice a year, ideally in late winter before spring growth. All pruning waste should be taken off-site.
- 3.1.7** The maintenance contractor will be responsible for irrigation/watering throughout the maintenance period to promote establishment, healthy growth, and vitality of the tree planting. If there is bark mulch, it should be pulled back to allow water to penetrate the entire topsoil depth. Watering tubes will be used where applicable.
- 3.1.8** Sufficient watering will be provided to ensure full penetration of the tree's rooting zone.
- 3.1.9** Trees to be kept upright, and adjustments will be made after strong winds. Staking will be applied based on tree size and specific needs, with biannual monitoring to ensure proper support.
- 3.1.10** Tree protection, stakes, and ties will be inspected twice a year during the establishment phase and adjusted as needed to prevent tree damage. Trees will be maintained upright, with necessary adjustments made after strong winds. The Contractor will remove all stakes and ties no earlier than year three and no later than year five, once the trees can support themselves. Any trees with underground guying will be monitored to ensure their stability.
- 3.1.11** Tree ties and stakes will be regularly inspected and adjusted as necessary. Once the trees are self-supporting, the stake ties can be removed as early as year three but no later than year five.
- 3.1.12** Trees that have been loosened by wind, frost, or ground disturbance will be securely firmed back into place.
- 3.1.13** Pruning will be conducted to eliminate dead, dying, or diseased wood and encourage healthy growth, following good horticultural and arboricultural practices.
- 3.1.14** Lower branches causing obstructions or damage to other plants will be pruned as part of formative pruning to maintain a well-balanced and healthy crown.
- 3.1.15** Weeding activities will be carried out during the main growth period (April to June) for three years to maintain a weed-free area around each tree with a minimum radius of 0.5 m. Weeding will be performed using appropriate safeguards such as strimming (to avoid tree damage) or chemical means with approved herbicides following manufacturer's instructions. Care will be taken to prevent harm to the trees.

- 3.1.16** Any wounds on the trees will be carefully trimmed back to sound tissue.
- 3.1.17** A 75 mm deep layer of bark mulch will be evenly spread in a circular area with a diameter of 1000 mm around each tree to prevent weed growth and retain moisture.
- 3.1.18** The bark mulch on all specified trees will be topped up for at least three years.

3.2 Ornamental and native shrub planting

- 3.2.1** Objective: To establish diverse shrub planting that is aesthetically pleasing and provides cover for wildlife.
- 3.2.2** The Contractor will provide irrigation during dry periods to ensure sufficient watering that fully penetrates the rooting zone.
- 3.2.3** Each plant's health will be monitored, and pruning will be carried out to remove dead, diseased, or damaged branches, water shoots and reversion growth. Spring pruning will promote bushiness and a mulch of well-rotted manure or garden compost may be applied. All pruning waste will be removed from the site.
- 3.2.4** Ornamental shrub beds will be kept free from debris, litter, grass, and weed growth throughout the maintenance period. Any dead weeds will be removed and disposed of at a licensed tip or recycling facility.
- 3.2.5** Plants that have been loosened by wind or frost will be firmed back into place.
- 3.2.6** A surface layer of wood bark mulch will be applied to control weed growth. A 75 mm depth of wood bark mulch will be maintained and topped up as necessary in ornamental shrub beds during the maintenance period. Mulch spillage on adjacent edgings and paving will be promptly cleared during each visit.
- 3.2.7** The Contractor will ensure that ornamental shrub beds and hedgerows remain free from pernicious weeds. Weeds will be controlled either manually or using herbicides, with a tolerance limit of no more than 5% coverage and a maximum height of 100 mm.
- 3.2.8** Scotts Enmag fertiliser will be applied each spring as a top dressing to all planting areas at a rate of 70 gms/m², lightly raked in. This application should occur between mid-May and August annually.
- 3.2.9** Annual monitoring of newly planted shrubs will be conducted by the landscape contractor each autumn during the first five years after planting to assess establishment. Any failed shrubs will be replaced. If, after 5 years the shrubs are established no further monitoring

will be required. Ongoing maintenance, as described in this document, will be applied to ensure their health and tidiness.

- 3.2.10** Both deciduous and evergreen varieties are introduced to various locations. A surface layer of wood bark mulch will be applied to control weed growth.

3.3 Amenity grassland

- 3.3.1** Objective: To provide recreational grassland areas at both central and peripheral spaces.
- 3.3.2** Verges, amenity areas, and open spaces will be seeded with a mix of grass seeds suitable for recreational use and will require regular mowing to maintain a maximum sward length of 75mm.
- 3.3.3** Grass cutting will not be performed in adverse weather conditions or excessively wet or dry ground conditions.
- 3.3.4** During each cut, the grass edges around trees, manholes, etc., will be trimmed while taking precautions to avoid damage to tree trunks. All clippings will be removed, and adjacent hard areas will be swept clear of cuttings and swept material will be disposed of.
- 3.3.5** The height of the amenity grassland will be maintained below 75 mm. Grass cutting will be performed as needed between March and the end of October, keeping the height at 40 mm. A rotary mower fitted with a steel roller will be used, and all clippings will be collected and disposed of at a licensed tip or recycling facility. Cutting will be suspended during drought periods. Before each cut, all litter and debris will be removed.
- 3.3.6** Broad-leaved weeds in the grassland will be controlled as required by applying suitable approved selective herbicides. Fallen leaves will be removed in autumn.
- 3.3.7** Failures in grass growth, including bare patches and areas that have not established, will be rectified through re-cultivation and reseeding using specified seed mixes.
- 3.3.8** The grassland will be watered as necessary to maintain a healthy sward until it becomes established. Any areas with extreme wear, bare patches, or wheel ruts will be restored through re-cultivation and reseeding.

3.4 Species-rich grassland

- 3.4.1** Objective: To retain, enhance and sustainably manage existing hedgerows as established landscape features that provide boundary definition, ecological connectivity and habitat value for wildlife.

- 3.4.2** Existing hedgerows will be retained and managed to maintain their health, structure and biodiversity value.
- 3.4.3** Routine inspections will be undertaken to monitor the condition of the hedgerows, identifying any signs of stress, disease, dieback or physical damage. Any dead, diseased or damaged growth will be selectively removed using appropriate pruning techniques to promote healthy regeneration.
- 3.4.4** Weed control will be undertaken along the base of the hedgerows to reduce competition and support vigour. This will be achieved through hand weeding and/or spot application of approved herbicides, maintaining a weed-free strip where practicable. Care will be taken to avoid damage to hedgerow roots and adjacent vegetation.
- 3.4.5** Hedgerows will be managed under a sensitive cutting regime to balance visual amenity, safety requirements and ecological function. Trimming will generally be undertaken once annually, outside of the bird nesting season, unless additional cutting is required to maintain clearances to footpaths, roads or sightlines. Cutting will aim to retain a varied structure and avoid excessive uniformity, supporting flowering and fruiting.
- 3.4.6** Arisings from pruning and trimming operations will be removed from site or disposed of appropriately. In selected locations, where suitable and agreed, small quantities of arisings may be retained to provide habitat piles, contributing to site biodiversity.
- 3.4.7** Litter and debris within hedgerow extents will be removed as part of regular maintenance visits to maintain a tidy and safe environment.
- 3.4.8** Long-term management (Year 6 onwards) will continue to prioritise ecological value, with reduced intervention where appropriate to allow hedgerows to mature naturally, while ensuring they remain safe and fit for purpose within the site context.

3.5 Wildflower green roof

- 3.5.1** Objective: To establish and maintain a species-rich wildflower green roof that provides a resilient biodiverse habitat for invertebrates while contributing to sustainable drainage and building performance.
- 3.5.2** A wildflower green roof will be installed by an appropriately experienced contractor on the new building block. Manufacturer recommendations will be followed in relation to irrigation provision, where required.
- 3.5.3** Following establishment, the green roof will be managed to maintain vegetation health, species diversity and system performance. Maintenance will reflect the extensive nature of the system and will differ from ground-level wildflower grassland, with a focus on light-touch, periodic intervention.

3.5.4 Maintenance actions:

Spring maintenance actions:

- Removal of undesirable species, including invasive weeds, tree seedlings or dominant ruderal species, to maintain a balanced and diverse sward.
- Inspection of vegetation cover and identification of any bare or poorly established areas for remedial action.
- Fertiliser will not be routinely applied; any application will be subject to identified deficiency and in accordance with specialist or manufacturer advice.

Summer maintenance actions:

- Visual inspection of vegetation condition during prolonged dry periods. Irrigation will only be undertaken where necessary to prevent failure during establishment or extended drought conditions, in accordance with manufacturer guidance.

Autumn maintenance actions:

- Vegetation will be cut back once annually, typically in late summer or early autumn, to maintain species diversity and prevent dominance of coarse species. Arisings will be left in situ for a short period to allow seed drop, then removed to prevent nutrient build-up.
- Inspection and clearance of rainwater outlets, drainage layers, inspection chambers, and any vegetation barriers to ensure free drainage.
- Check for areas of substrate erosion, compaction or settlement and reinstate where necessary.

Winter maintenance actions:

- No routine maintenance required, although access may be required if issues are identified during inspections.

- 3.5.5** Monitoring of the wildflower green roof will be undertaken annually between May and August to assess establishment, vegetation cover and species diversity. Where low diversity or poor establishment is identified, appropriate remedial measures will be agreed with a specialist or supplier and implemented during the following growing season.

3.6 Rain garden planting mix

- 3.6.1** Objective: To establish and maintain functional rain gardens that effectively manage surface water runoff while supporting robust vegetation and delivering biodiversity benefits.

- 3.6.2** Rain gardens will be maintained to ensure their continued hydraulic performance and planting establishment. Particular attention will be given to maintaining infiltration capacity, preventing blockages and ensuring vegetation remains healthy and well-distributed.

- 3.6.3** Regular inspections will be undertaken twice yearly (spring and late summer) and following significant storm events where practicable. These inspections will identify any accumulation of sediment, debris or organic matter that may restrict water infiltration or lead to prolonged ponding. Any build-up will be carefully removed by hand, ensuring minimal disturbance to the soil structure and planted areas.
- 3.6.4** The condition of inlets, outlets and any associated drainage features will be checked to ensure they remain free-flowing and operational. Any erosion, scouring or localised settlement will be made good, reinstating design levels where required.
- 3.6.5** Vegetation will be maintained to support both function and appearance. Dead, damaged or overly dominant plant material will be selectively cut back annually, typically in early spring, to allow for new growth and to maintain a varied vegetation structure. Management will focus on selective cutting and weed control to retain the intended planting character.
- 3.6.6** Weeds and invasive species will be controlled through manual removal or spot treatment with approved herbicides where necessary, taking care to avoid harm to retained planting and surrounding habitats.
- 3.6.7** Bare or poorly established areas will be replanted in accordance with the approved planting schedule to maintain full coverage and prevent erosion. Any mulch layer will be maintained where specified to reduce weed growth and retain moisture, ensuring it does not impede surface water infiltration.
- 3.6.8** During all maintenance operations, care will be taken to avoid compaction of the soil. Access into the rain garden will be minimised and undertaken only in suitable ground conditions.
- 3.6.9** Monitoring will ensure that standing water does not persist for extended periods (typically not exceeding 24–48 hours following rainfall). Where exceedance is identified, remedial measures will be implemented, which may include decompaction, sediment removal or localised regrading.

3.7 Bat boxes

- 3.7.0** Objective: to increase the provision of bat roost features within the site, supporting local bat populations.
- 3.7.1** The bat boxes selected do not require internal maintenance. The boxes will be monitored annually to ensure they are still present and suitable for use by bats. Damaged or missing boxes will be replaced. A bat licensed surveyor will inspect the boxes prior to replacement. If bats are present the boxes will be left in situ and the need for replacement reviewed.

3.8 Bird boxes

- 3.8.0** Objective: to maintain the provision of bird nesting features within the site, supporting local bird populations.
- 3.8.1** Bird boxes will be checked annually during the winter (October - Jan) and cleaned out, if necessary. Damaged or missing boxes will be replaced.

4.0 Ecology and Biodiversity

- 4.0.1** The primary objective of the management plan is to ensure the successful establishment of the proposed planting, seeded areas of grass and wildflowers within the development. This includes all of the proposed tree planting in key locations of the site.

4.1 Benefits & making the most of the local ecology

- 4.1.0** The landscape strategy has identified the following principal objectives, which will ensure a comprehensive approach to achieve the enhancement of the existing landscape and successful integration of the proposed landscape within the site.
 - 4.1.1** Inclusion of native shrub and hedgerow species within the landscape design to provide additional resources for invertebrates.
 - 4.1.2** Incorporation of bat and bird boxes within the fabric of the new development.

4.2 Enhancing Ecological value

- 4.2.0** Native and climate resilient tree planting is proposed within the site.
- 4.2.1** Rain gardens are introduced into the site, previously not present.
- 4.2.2** Ornamental and native shrub planting including pollinating species, provide an attractive external environment with additional ecological benefits.

4.3 Alignment with Wider Strategic Ecology and Remedial Action

- 4.3.0** Objective: To ensure that the landscape management and biodiversity measures remain aligned with wider ecological strategies and that appropriate remedial action is taken if unforeseen impacts occur.

- 4.3.1** Opportunities for ongoing alignment with activities beyond the site boundary will be sought throughout the management period. These include:
- Contributing to NPTC’s biodiversity and Green Infrastructure strategies.
 - Supporting regional habitat connectivity and species conservation programmes, such as woodland linkage, pollinator-friendly corridors and watercourse habitat restoration.
- 4.3.2** An adaptive management approach will be applied to respond to unforeseen impacts identified during routine monitoring. Examples of such impacts include colonisation by invasive species, unexpected habitat degradation or obstruction of wildlife corridors.
- 4.3.3** Appropriate remedial actions will be identified in consultation with an ecologist and may include:
- Adjustment of mowing, cutting or planting regimes.
 - Replacement of failed or inappropriate species with suitable native or climate-resilient alternatives.
 - Installation of additional habitat features to strengthen ecological connectivity.
 - Targeted management and control of invasive species.
- 4.3.4** All remedial measures undertaken will be documented and incorporated into the annual reporting process (see Section 5.0), ensuring transparency and demonstrating continual improvement in biodiversity management.

4.4 Local Information - links

4.4.0 [Wildlife in your Ward \(gov.wales\)](#)

4.4.1 [Local Places for Nature \(gov.wales\)](#)

4.4.2 [Biodiversity \(gov.wales\)](#)

5.0 Reporting

- 5.0.1** An annual report of monitoring surveys will be produced by an arboriculturist (trees, shrubs and hedgerows) and ecologist (other biodiversity features) detailing the results of the survey and any additional management that may be required to achieve the objective set for each feature. It will also include a figure showing the as-built locations of all biodiversity features. This report will be provided to the management company and Council Ecologist.
- 5.0.2** NPTC will be responsible for appointing appropriate companies / consultants.

6.0 Establishment and Defects Liability Period

6.0.1 If any plants are found to be defective within the 12 month Defects Liability Period due to:

- failure
- poor materials
- lack of vigor
- damage from theft or vandalism

the contractor is responsible for rectifying them and maintaining the scheme as described in this document during that period. From year 2 until the completion of year 5, the responsibility for maintenance and replacement of failed plants will lie with the developer.

6.0.2 From Year 6 onwards, responsibility for the ongoing management and maintenance of all landscaped areas, including the hedgerow, shall transfer to the site owner or appointed Managing Agent. The landscaped areas shall thereafter be maintained in accordance with the principles set out in this Landscape Management Plan, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

6.0.3 From Year 6 onwards, landscape management shall be undertaken with the objective of maintaining plant health, public safety, and biodiversity value, including retention of flowering and fruiting where practicable.

6.0.4 There is no limit on the number of times plant replacement can be carried out during the Defects Liability Period in order to achieve complete plant coverage and maintain the intended scheme designed by the Landscape Architect and indicated in the plans specified in Part 1.0 Introduction.

6.0.5 The Contractor/Managing Agent must carry out all maintenance operations at a time that is suitable for wildlife and plantings.

6.0.6 All maintenance operations, including irrigation, will be dependent on weather conditions and carried out as necessary by the Contractor or as directed by the Contract Administrator (CA). While the CA may instruct the Contractor to perform operations at any time during the Maintenance Period, it is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure that the operations are arranged appropriately to ensure the proper establishment and vitality of the plantings.

6.0.7 All maintenance operations shall continue to have regard to relevant wildlife legislation, including the avoidance of works during the bird nesting season where reasonably practicable.

6.0.8 Before commencing maintenance work, the Contractor/Managing Agent must inspect all areas on each visit to ensure there are no visible hazards that could cause injury. Protective barriers and signage must be used at all times, and alternative routes should be provided if public access is affected.

- 6.0.9** Protective barriers and signage must be used at all times, and alternative routes should be provided if public access is affected.
- 6.0.10** Excavated or imported materials must not be placed directly on any surface. Any damage or disturbance to the soil structure or other features resulting from the implementation of the management plan should be addressed by reinstating them to their original condition.
- 6.0.11** All operations must comply with relevant legislation and current sections of Health and Safety, including:
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
 - Control of Pollution Act 1974
 - Food and Environment Protection Act 1985
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
 - The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986
 - The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) 1991
 - The British Standards included in Part 6 of this document.

7.0 Schedule of works frequency

- 7.0.1** The Contractor/Managing Agent is responsible for the following general maintenance works:

7.1 Weekly

- 7.1.1** Water trees weekly until rainfall occurs between June and August.

7.2 Fortnightly

- 7.2.1** Remove litter from all areas.

7.3 Monthly

- 7.3.1** Undertake weed control in all areas as specified between April and October.
- 7.3.2** Brush mulches monthly to ensure even coverage and top up as needed to maintain a depth of 75 mm.
- 7.3.3** Check the placement and effectiveness of all protective guards for trees to prevent damage by animals.

7.4 Quarterly

- 7.4.1** Check the securement of trees through staking at least four times a year during the establishment period and after periods of inclement weather. Re-secure trees if necessary.

7.5 Annually

- 7.5.1** Top up mulch to the specified depth of 75 mm.
- 7.5.2** Replace any dead, missing, dying or defective trees with the same species and size as specified in the original plant specification.
- 7.5.3** Prune dead or damaged wood after inspection by a qualified arboriculturist.
- 7.5.4** Inspect for invasive species and treat them with approved selective herbicide.
- 7.5.5** Remove any unwanted seedlings.

7.6 Every 3 years

- 7.6.1** Review the management plan for minor adjustments to maintenance or timing of works.

8.0 Appendix 1 - Summary of Management Works

Specific management task	Detail	Who completes task?	Timing	Management year					
				1	2	3	4	5	6 to 10
Tree and shrub planting	Monitoring of tree failures - Replace failed trees and shrubs	Landscape management contractor / ecologist	Once annually	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A
	Assessment of tree health and pruning - Prune dead, damaged or diseased branches, and those obstructing / damaging other plants. - Firm in any loose trees by foot - Any wounds to be trimmed back to sound tissue	Landscape management contractor / arborist	Up to twice annually (outside of nesting bird period)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Assessment of tree protection, stakes and ties - Straighten trees, maintain tree protection and ties	Landscape management contractor	Twice annually	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TBC
	Removal of tree protection and stakes once trees can support themselves	Landscape management contractor	Between year 3 and year 5						
	Weed removal - Remove weeds within 0.5 m of the trunk by hand, using a strimmer or approved herbicide, avoiding damage to the tree.	Landscape management contractor	Regularly from April - June	✓	✓	✓			
	Top up bark mulch - A 75 mm layer of bark mulch to be maintained within a 1000 mm diameter of the tree.	Landscape management contractor	Annually	✓	✓	✓			
Ornamental and native shrub planting	Monitoring of shrub failures - Replace failed shrubs	Landscape management contractor / ecologist	Once annually	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TBC

Specific management task	Detail	Who completes task?	Timing	Management year					
				1	2	3	4	5	6 to 10
	Assessment of shrub health and pruning - Prune dead, damaged or diseased branches, water shoots and reversion growth. - Firm in any loose shrubs by foot - Any wounds to be trimmed back to sound tissue	Landscape management contractor / arborist	Up to twice annually (outside of nesting bird period)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Weed control and rubbish removal - Remove weeds and rubbish by hand, using a strimmer or approved herbicide, avoiding damage to the shrubs.	Landscape management contractor	Regularly from April - June	✓	✓	✓			
	Top up bark mulch - A 75 mm layer of bark mulch to be maintained around shrubs	Landscape management contractor	Annually	✓	✓	✓			
	Apply Scotts Enmag fertiliser - Apply at a rate of 70 gms/m ² and lightly rake in.	Landscape management contractor	Annually between mid-May and August	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hedgerows	Assessment of hedgerow health and pruning - Prune dead, damaged or diseased branches - shape hedgerow	Landscape management contractor / arborist	Follow schedule for each year provided in section 4.4.3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Weed control - Remove weeds by hand, using a strimmer or approved herbicide, avoiding damage to the hedgerow.	Landscape management contractor	Regularly from April - June	✓	✓	✓			
	Rubbish removal - remove rubbish regularly	Landscape management contractor	Regularly year round	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Specific management task	Detail	Who completes task?	Timing	Management year					
				1	2	3	4	5	6 to 10
	Apply Scotts Enmag fertiliser - Apply at a rate of 5 gms/plant	Landscape management contractor	Annually between mid-May and August				✓	✓	✓
Amenity grassland	Grass cutting - Grass to be maintained below 75 mm	Landscape management contractor	Regularly between March and the end of October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Weed control - broad-leaved weeds to be controlled using selective herbicides.	Landscape management contractor	Regularly from April - June	✓	✓	✓			
	Rubbish removal - remove rubbish regularly - remove dead leaves through the autumn	Landscape management contractor	Regularly year round	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Grass failures - re-cultivate and re-seed bare patches, wheel ruts and areas of wear.	Landscape management contractor	As needed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Species-rich grassland	First year cutting - Grasslands to be maintained below 75 mm	Landscape management contractor	Regularly through the year	✓					
	Maintaining a diverse sward - Cut to 100 mm in late July - Leave arisings for 2-3 days then remove - Mow to 75 mm in September / October	Landscape management contractor	Annually		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Specific management task	Detail	Who completes task?	Timing	Management year					
				1	2	3	4	5	6 to 10
	Scrub and weed controlled to below 20% area - broad-leaved weeds to be controlled using selective herbicides. - scrub species to be removed	Landscape management contractor	Regularly throughout the year	✓	✓	✓			
	Grassland failures - re-cultivate and re-seed bare patches, wheel ruts and areas of wear.	Landscape management contractor	As needed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Assessment of diversity - a survey will be completed to assess the species composition of the grassland, if low species diversity is apparent advice on ways to increase diversity will be provided.	Ecologist	Annually in summer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rain gardens	Ensure rain gardens are functional - identify and correct accumulations of sediment / organic matter - correct erosion problems - identify damage to vegetation	Landscape management contractor	Twice a year during May and August	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Maintaining a healthy rain garden - mow / trim vegetation - remove weeds and invasive vegetation	Landscape management contractor	Twice during growing season (April - October) when the ground is dry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Specific management task	Detail	Who completes task?	Timing	Management year					
				1	2	3	4	5	6 to 10
	Maintenance of plants - cut back ornamental grasses and flower stalks from previous season	Landscape management contractor	Annually by the end of April	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Failures - Replant bare areas with specified plants	Landscape management contractor	As needed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

9.0 Appendix 2 – Maintenance Team Directory

Specific management areas	Subcontractor/ Specialist team name	Company address	Contact number	Name of main contact
Tree planting				
Ornamental and native shrub planting				
Amenity grassland				
Species-rich grassland				
Rain gardens				

10.0 Appendix 3 - British Standards

As well as the standards described above the soft landscape works should meet the following British Standards:

Topsoil handling, stripping and storage

- BS ISO 15799:2003 Soil quality - guidance on eco-toxicological characterization of soils and soil materials
- BS 3882:1994 Specification for topsoil
- BS 6031:1981 Code of practice for earthworks
- BS 7562-4:1992 Planning, design and installation of irrigation schemes guide to water resources
- BS 4428:1989 guide of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces) AMD 6784
- BS 3882:1994 specification for topsoil and AMD 9938.

Quality of Trees and Shrubs

- BS 3936-1:1992 Nursery stock specification for trees and shrubs
- BS 3936-5:1985 nursery stock specification for poplars and willows
- BS 3936-10:1990 nursery stock specification for ground cover plants.

Maintenance of gardens/ Landscapes

- BS 7370-3:1991 grounds maintenance recommendations for maintenance of amenity and functional turf (other than sports turf)
- BS 3998:2010 recommendations for tree work and AMD 6549.

Horticulture

- BS EN 12579:2000 Soil improvers and growing media - sampling
- BS EN 13037:2000 Soil improvers and growing media - determination of pH.

Turf

- BS 3969:1998 Recommendations for turf for general purposes
- BS 4428:1989 Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces).

04.2 Tree Constraints Plan



Tree Constraints Plan

Site - Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Treglees
Project Ref - 2385.1

Scale 1:400 @ A2

KEY BS 5837:2012 Tree Quality (Colour Coded)

- Category A (High)
(*Highly desirable for retention*)
- Category B (Moderate)
(*Desirable for retention*)
- Category C (Low)
(*Optional for retention*)
- Category U (Poor)
(*Unsuitable for retention*)

Tree Key - Individual Trees

- Branch Spread (measured on the North, East, South and West side of tree)
- Tree Species (Common Tree Names Shown)
- Tree ID# (1-Individual Tree)

Root Protection Area (RPA) (A layout design tool indicating the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability, and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority.)

Tree Key - Group/Area/Woodland/Hedgerow

- Tree ID# (G-Tree Group, A-Tree Area, W-Woodland, H- Hedgerow)
- Tree Species (Common Tree Names Shown)

BS 5837:2012 Tree Quality (Colour Coded as for individual trees)

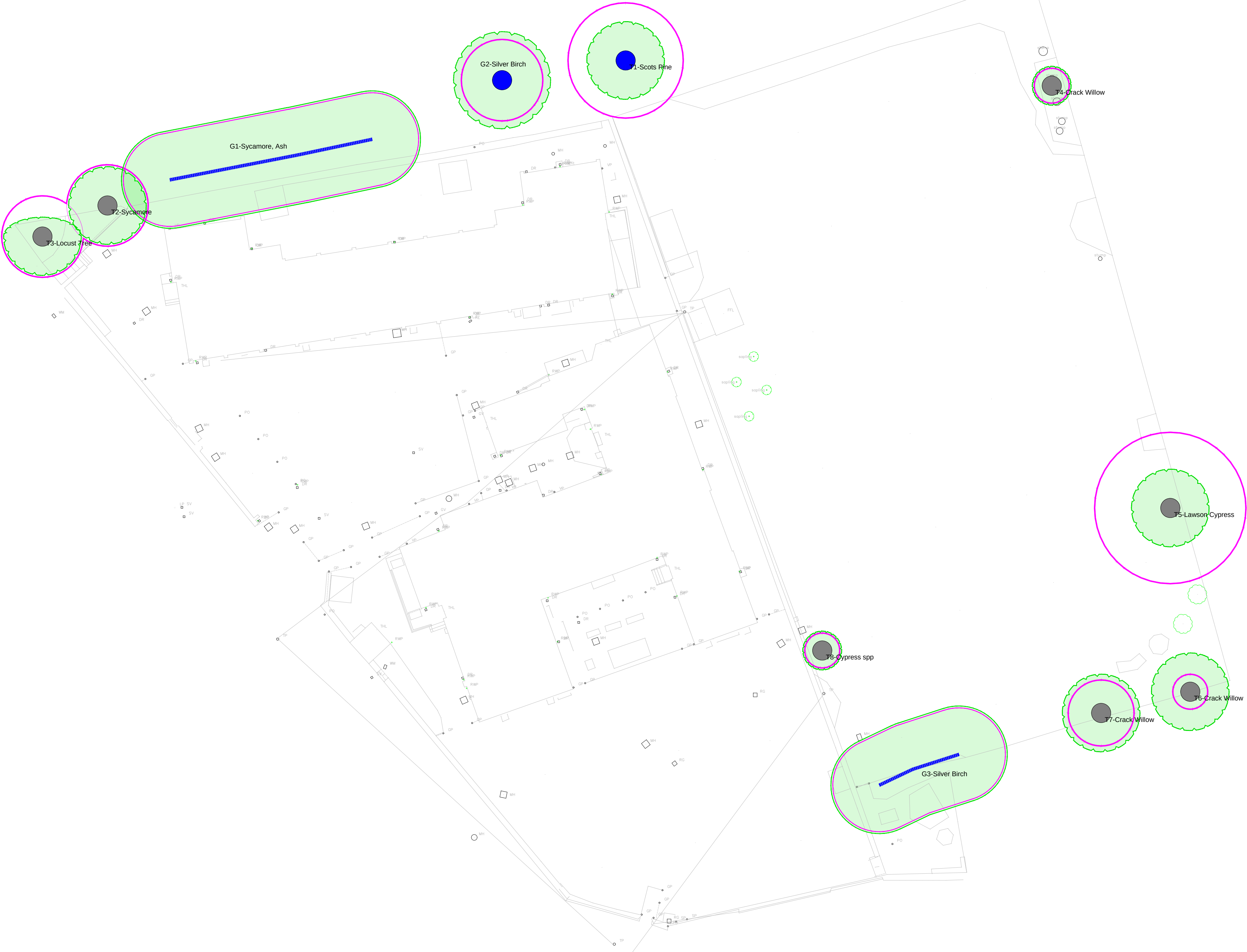
- Average Branch Spread

Shade Pattern - shade pattern not shown on plan (early morning shade starting North West through to evening shade to the East)

Definitions of BS5837:2012 Categories for Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows (Colour coded):

- A - Those of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years. (*Highly desirable for retention*)
- B - Those of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. (*Desirable for retention*)
- C - Those of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm. (*Optional for retention*)
- U - Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years. (*Unsuitable for retention unless provides high conservation value*)

Please Note:
Barriers and Ground Protection must be designed by an arboriculturist, installed before materials or machinery is brought onto site and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences. Once erected, barriers and ground protection should be regarded as sacrosanct, and should not be removed or altered without prior recommendation by an Arboriculturist and approval of the Local Planning Authority (LPA).



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