

Proposed replacement dwelling

Plough House Druidstone Road Old St Mellons Cardiff CF3 6XD

Soft Landscape Outline Planting and Maintenance Schedule v1

For Planning Purposes

Client: Nick Murpy

Prepared by Mackley Davies Associates Ltd

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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The attached Soft Landscape Plan 26/1128/01 is provided to accompany a planning application to Newport City Council for a replacement dwelling at Plough House Druidstone Road Old St Mellons Cardiff CF3 6XD.

1.2 Planting objectives are to:

- Respond to mitigation measures outlined in the Landscape Visual Appraisal and 'Site Assessment Survey' by Ecological Services Ltd.
- Integrate the proposed building into the wider 'Open Rolling Lowland' landscape setting.
- Provide an attractive place to live.

1.3 Landscape proposals will result in the following additional habitat types:

Habitat type	Quantity
New native mixed hedgerow	128 linear meters
New native grass/wildflower meadow	150 sqm
native trees using feathered stock	9 no

2.0 OUTLINE SPECIFICATION FOR SOFT LANDSCAPE WORKS

Refer to Soft Landscape Plan reference: 26/1128/01.

1.0 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
- Landscape Architects detailed specification (to be issued at tender stage)

2.0 Protection of site vegetation:

Ensure protective fencing in line with the indicative tree protection fence line is erected before work commences.

No new planting or seeding is to proposed within this area unless accompanied by a specific workmanship method for use within tree root protection areas.

3.0 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.

4.0 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.

5.0 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.

6.0 Machines and tools:

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

7.0 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.

8.0 Soils:

At this site, planting will be into **existing undisturbed topsoil**.

9.0 Tree Planting:

Refer to Tree Pit Sections on Soft Landscape Plan 26/1128/01.

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

Plant trees as indicated on the Soft Landscape Plan. 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.

10.0 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.

11.0 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.

In addition, 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.

12.0 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.

13.0 Planting:

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

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.

14.0 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 around trees after watering in.

15.0 Tree guards:

Trees are planted into hedgerows to avoid the need for mower guards but should be adequately tagged to avoid accidental pruning during hedge cutting until established.

16.0 Tree staking:

For feathered trees: one untreated wooden stake driven well into the ground vertically with biodegradable fabric ties and pads, set low on the stem (max 1/3rd tree height).

17.0 Mulch specification:

Where mulch is required around trees, use a biodegradable mulch mat on slopes or 50mm depth of tree mulch for 1m width on level ground.

18.0 Grass Seeding:

Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable. Ideally carry out seeding during April-May or September.

There should be **no grass seeding within root protection areas** but if required this should be undertaken by lightly raking and treading over seed. For other areas, cultivate and rake removing stones over 20mm and perennial weeds and to create smooth profile with existing levels ensuring areas are 25mm settled depth higher than adjacent hard surfaces to allow for easy grass cutting.

Spread seed evenly at the specified rate(s) applied in two equal sowings in transverse directions. Lightly harrow or rake, roll and cross-roll after seeding using a lightweight roller. Stone and earth clod removal to 10mm size. Seed mix to be:

- Emorsgate EL1 flowering lawn mix at 4g per sqm

A pre-seeding fertilizer **should not be applied** (in line with manufacturers recommendations).

An alternative may be required if there are supply issues and will be as advised by the Ecological consultant.

19.0 Immediate aftercare:

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

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.

3.0 PLANTING SCHEDULE

Refer to Landscape Plan 26/1128/01 for layout and detail of tree pits and hedge planting.

Trees	Species	Height (mm)	Description	Total (no.)
See plan for tree pit detail. Secured with a single stake for feathered trees. Good branching rather than height is key. Spacing as shown on the Plan.				
Cm Hawthorn	[Crataegus monogyna]	2-2.5m	Bare root feathered	5
Ms Apple	[Malus sylvestris]	2-2.5m	Bare root feathered	4

Native mixed hedges – 128 linear meters cut every 2 years between November and February	
Plant a staggered row [450mm between rows, 400mm along rows] at 5 plants/lin m , bare root transplants 1+1, 400-600mm, local provenance.	
Hawthorn [Crataegus monogyna] 40%	640
Hazel [Corylus avellana] 30%	190
Holly [Ilex aquifolium] 15%	100
Field maple [Acer campestre] 5%	30
Dogwood [Cornus sanguinea] 5%	30
Guelder rose [Viburnum opulus] 5%	30
Honeysuckle [Lonicera periclymenum] at 5m centres	13

Pollinator planting around the new dwelling selected from the following list planted in species groups of 3 or more
Native species
Stachys officinalis [betony]
Origanum vulgare [wild marjoram]
Thymus polytrichus [wild thyme]
Ornamental species
Potentilla species
Salvia species [sage]
Lavandula angustifolia [lavender]
Teucrium chamaedrys [germander]
Allium schoenoprasum [chives]

4.0 PRESCRIPTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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

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

4.1 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 new hedge lines every other year between November and February to create an A shaped dense structure. Remove dead or dying and diseased vegetation to promote healthy growth.

4.2 For new feathered 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. Allow 20L for feathered trees. Watering in year 2 is also likely to be required.
- 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.
- Keep bark mulch topped up.
- 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.

4.3 For new grass seeded areas:

- Seeded with Emorsgate EL1 flowering lawn mix (or equivalent), a mix of 85% grasses, 15% wildflowers.
- For first year management, mow 6-8 weeks after sowing with cuttings collected and removed off-site or to a compost area. Repeat at two monthly intervals with the last cut made in October.
- Perennial residual weeds such as dock should be dug out.
- No herbicide or fertilizer to be applied.
- In the second and subsequent years, mow grass twice each year, with a first cut to 50mm in April and second cut to 100mm in September with cuttings collected and removed off-site or to a compost area in order to reduce soil fertility and aid wildflower establishment.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

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.
- Seeding should ideally take place in Spring or Autumn (ensuring sufficient development before first frost) but can be sown at other times of the year if there is sufficient warmth and moisture.

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.

