

Planting Specification

Prior to any planting, areas showing signs of impeded drainage, persistent water logging, gross soil compaction or contamination shall be made good by appropriate remediation prior to the implementation of planting operations.

Compacted soils shall be cultivated by ripping or subsoiling to a minimum depth of 450mm. However, soil ripping or deep cultivation should not be undertaken within the root protection areas of existing trees, woodland and hedgerows on the perimeter of the site.

All planting operations shall generally comply with BS 4428 : 1989 (Code of practice for general landscape operations).

This specification should be read in conjunction with the following document:

Little Llwyn Onn, Wrexham, Solar Farm & Battery Storage (P/2022/0541) Habitat Management Plan, June 2023, ETIVE ecology.

- Proposed species-rich native grassland to be mown (arising collected)
- Proposed species-rich native grassland to be sheep grazed
- Existing vegetation
- Buffer areas to naturally regenerate, to be managed as per native grassland to be mown

Prior to sowing the existing sward should prepared as per seed suppliers instructions. Cultivation and seeding operations should be undertaken in April / May or late August / early September. Sowing shall not take place if the ground is frosted or waterlogged.

Immediately prior to sowing, and where accessible to agricultural equipment, the upper 50mm of soil shall be cultivated by disc and chain harrowing to create a reasonably fine seed bed and then lightly rolled. Any large stones, loose vegetation or other solid material, having one dimension greater than 75mm, shall be picked from the surface and removed from site.

If areas to be grass seeded contain noxious weeds, then these areas shall be sprayed, with a systemic herbicide (such as Glyphosate), at least 21 days prior to final cultivation. The seed should be sown at the rate specified by the supplier, mechanically broadcast and with the seed lightly firmed in via application of roller.

Proposed Scrub Planting Mix

Species	Common Name	Recommended approx Composition
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	20%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazelnut	20%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	20%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	10%
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Cherry	10%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	10%
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	10%

Hedgerow Mix for Gapping- up

Species	Common Name	Recommended approx Composition
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	20%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazelnut	20%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	20%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	10%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	20%
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guellder Rose	10%

Woodland Planting Mix

Species	Common Name	Recommended approx Composition
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	10%
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	10%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazelnut	20%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	20%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	5%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	10%
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	10%
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	10%
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guellder Rose	5%

Scrub /Woodland/Hedgerow Planting

All plant material shall be of the size and stocktype as specified in the planting schedules and shall comply with BS3936-1:1992 (Nursery stock specification for trees and shrubs). All transplants shall be 'notch' planted in accordance with BS 4428:1989.

All plant material shall be UK grown and should where possible be of local provenance.

The planting of bare rooted trees and shrubs shall only be carried out during winter dormancy between November and the end of February.

All planting operations shall be suspended during periods of frost, heavy rain, waterlogged conditions or periods of drought.

Prior to planting of woody species, planting areas will be prepared as previously stated, with any newly colonized weed burden removed, the ground mechanically harrowed and prepared to a reasonably fine tilth.

Scrub and woodland areas to be composed of a mix of the species listed in table 1 & 2; supplied and planted as bare rooted transplants in groups of 5 or 6 of the same species (nominal sizes 60-80cm). Transplants shall be planted at 1.5 m centres.

All transplants shall be protected with Tubex standard tree shelter, with a minimum 200mm diameter. Each guard shall be secured to a 1.5 m long 25x25cm square section softwood timber stake using integral ratchet ties. Stakes shall be driven at least 30cm into the ground adjacent to the tree prior to fixing the tree guards.

Newly planted areas outside of the PV array fenceline will be protected from deer grazing as necessary to ensure establishment.

Establishment

Grass and weed growth around individual trees and shrubs (including hedging transplants) shall be controlled by the application of a systemic herbicide (such as Glyphosate) over a 300mm radius around each tree and shrub to reduce competition. Herbicide applications shall be undertaken in late April / early May (and in early to mid-August if necessary) for at least 3 years post planting or until trees and shrubs are well established. Any noxious or pernicious weeds occurring within planting blocks or hedgerows shall be spot treated with a selective herbicide when weeds are actively growing in April / May.

Grass and weed growth throughout all tree and shrub planting areas shall be strimmed on an annual basis in mid to late summer for at least 3 years post planting to prevent competition.

Tree stakes and guards shall be checked regularly to ensure that stakes are firm and that the guards are not causing damage to the tree or restricting growth. Stakes and guards shall be re-firmed and adjusted as necessary. Tall grass or weeds growing within the tree and shrub guards shall be hand pulled as necessary.

Trees and shrubs shall be pruned as required to maintain good shape and to remove any dead or diseased stems.

Any trees and shrubs which die or become severely damaged or diseased within five years of initial planting, shall be replaced within the next planting season by trees and shrubs of the same size and species.

Any areas of poorly established grass shall be reseeded as necessary in the spring or late summer following initial seeding.

Key:

- Application Area
- Proposed pond
- Grass windrow
- PV fence line
- CCTV
- Root protection zone
- Hibernacula
- Water Main & Easement



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