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MECHANICAL BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT FACILITY
WREXHAM RECYCLING PARK, BRYN LANE – PHASE 2

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE
REVISION A

Prepared for
FCC ENVIRONMENT



Prepared by:



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Project Quality Assurance Information Sheet



*Mechanical Biological Treatment Facility
Wrexham Recycling Park, Bryn Lane – Phase 2*

Landscape Management & Maintenance Schedule

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WREXHAM RECYCLING PARK, BRYN LANE – PHASE 2**

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The following management plan and maintenance schedule has been prepared by Stratus Environmental on behalf of FCC Environment Ltd. It sets out the proposed landscape management and maintenance regime for the proposed, and any existing conserved soft landscape proposals associated with the MBT Facility Phase 2 development.
- 1.2 The document has been prepared for the organisation responsible for the maintenance of the landscape areas and sets out the management prescriptions and operations to be adopted. On-going management will be undertaken by the site operator for the duration of the development. Site maintenance will be undertaken by FCC's retained Landscape Contractor, procured by FCC Management. Site supervision and responsibility for monitoring the contractor's planting/maintenance operations, for ensuring remedial works and replacement plantings are successfully carried out, and for adjusting the Management Plan if necessary, will be undertaken by FCC's Site Management & Ecology Conservation Manager.
- 1.3 The plan and schedule has been prepared in order to discharge Condition 14 of planning application ISY P/2011/0769 (Decision date 23rd January 2012). The condition is worded as follows;
- "No part of the development shall commence until a Landscaping Management Plan, including long term design objectives, management responsibilities and maintenance schedules for all landscaped areas shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The landscaping shall be managed and maintained in strict accordance with these details as are approved."*
- 1.4 The proposals for the landscape areas of the site are set out on Drawing No. WR7051/03/01 (prepared by Stratus Environmental Limited, dated October 2012). The landscape proposals comprise the following planting types and habitats.
- Retained Trees;
 - Retained Areas of Scrub;
 - Retained Grassland Areas;
 - Proposed Grassed Areas;
 - Proposed Specimen Trees;
 - Proposed Native Scrub Mix;
 - Boundaries and Hard Landscape
- 1.5 The overriding landscape management objective is to maintain a positive, safe, useable and appropriate landscape setting for the development, whilst providing opportunities for habitat creation and improving biodiversity through suitable

management of both the existing trees/scrub/grassland areas (where these are retained throughout the site) and the proposed new planting and grassland areas.

- 1.6 All landscape areas and management and maintenance operations would be monitored to allow for any appropriate refinements or revisions of the plan and schedule, so long as the modifications are in accordance with the aims and objectives set out above and agreed with the relevant parties.

2.0 Existing Site Landscape and Planting

- 2.1 The existing site is formerly non-operational land, which has since been substantially regenerated by vegetation and is not currently used for any purpose. Predominantly it comprises of open areas of unimproved neutral grassland, with randomly located individual mature broad leaved trees throughout and areas of semi-natural woodland and more established areas of continuous scrub vegetation to south western parts of the site. Vegetation along Bryn Lane, to the north eastern boundary, is more fragmented.
- 2.2 Existing vegetation does not appear to have been maintained and in the longer term will benefit from a formal maintenance regime, and complemented with appropriate native infill planting to embellish the existing landscape.



Looking NW and SE from within the site; showing existing areas of open grassland and established scrub vegetation to site boundaries.

- 2.3 As part of the construction of the proposed development, protective fencing would be sited around the root protection areas of those mature trees within or adjoining the site boundary identified for retention, where the root protection areas extend into the site. The detailed extent and location of these would be confirmed on site through visual inspection as part of the initial commencement of the works. Trees that are to be retained are to be inspected for any damage/disease and to ensure safety in the vicinity of the tree. Any works deemed necessary are to be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in advance of commencement.
- 2.4 For existing landscape areas; Zones 1, 2 & 4 and ponds within the Phase 2 mitigation areas, as identified on *Marches Ecology – Figure 2: Management Zones & Summary Management Proposals*; management and monitoring will be in

accordance with the guidance set out in Marches Ecology 'Ecological Management Plan' and 'Ecological Mitigation Method Statement'. For Zone 3, refer to Proposed Native Scrub Mix Section of this document (Section 3.3).

3.0 Proposed Site Landscape and Planting

3.1 Proposed Grassed Areas

- 3.1.1 Species rich grass areas shall be cut up to 2 times during the growing season, to a height of approximately 50mm with any arisings (cuttings) to be removed to the adjacent In vessel Composting Facility. During the establishment phase, regular inspections (weekly) and watering should be undertaken as necessary to ensure successful growth. The first cut would usually be undertaken after the seeding has set and in the years thereafter, cut in late spring (April) and September. Mowing should occur in warm dry weather when conditions allow.
- 3.1.2 The Contractor shall use appropriate machines in size, shape and method for the type of work involved (i.e. mower with reciprocating blade, rakes, forks, wheelbarrows, gloves etc). All litter, stones or other debris should be collected and removed by the Contractor immediately prior to grass cutting operations. Care shall be exercised by the Management Contractor to avoid damage when mowing or strimming around trees or any other structures.
- 3.1.3 Provision shall be made for weed control (using a suitable approved herbicide) of the following injurious weeds; common ragwort (in early summer), thistles, docks, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam should they occur on the site during the management period. In addition the management contractor shall repair worn patches within all grassed areas as required to maintain a dense sward of grass.
- 3.1.4 Any areas where seeding works have failed shall be inspected and reseeded accordingly. Annual review to take place in September of any failures (areas dead, diseased, in poor health, or showing poor growth) and replacement seed to be sown between the following October and March (first available planting season) with a seed mix of the same species/specification.
- 3.1.5 Litter pick at each visit and remove all arisings to an appropriate licensed disposal facility, as necessary.

3.2 Proposed Specimen Trees

- 3.2.1 New specimen trees will be planted in the locations shown on the drawing no. WR7051/03/01.
- 3.2.2 Trees should be regularly inspected during the first 5 years following planting to encourage healthy, vigorous growth. During establishment (the first 3 years after planting or until canopy closure is achieved) the base of trees, circa 500mm radius (1m clear zone), must be kept weed and grass free using a glyphosate based herbicide such as Roundup or similar. Top up bark mulch annually to maintain 50mm settled depth. Suitable rabbit guard fencing, or shelters will be used to

protect vegetation from damage. Appropriate precautionary measures must be undertaken to protect trees against damage from mowing equipment.

- 3.2.3 Trees will be supported by a single short stake or similar, during the establishment period and these can be removed after 3–5 years, unless there is soil or root movement when the tree is rocked. Every three months, or after severe storms, the Management Contractor shall inspect stake and ties, for damage or rot and adjust ties as required. Any stakes or ties showing such signs should be removed and replaced as necessary. Any stakes, which show movement or instability, shall be secured or repositioned.
- 3.2.4 Pruning of dead, diseased or damaged branches should be carried out as appropriate to promote healthy growth and natural shape, and to favour a single central leading shoot. Annual review to take place in September of any failures (those dead, diseased, in poor health, showing poor growth) and replacements are to be planted between the following October and March (first available planting season) with plants of the same species/specification.
- 3.2.5 Water as necessary to ensure continued growth and good health. Wet full depth of rootball and replace mulch. Clean potable water only.
- 3.2.6 Litter pick at each visit. Arisings to be removed to an appropriate licensed disposal facility, as necessary.

3.3 Proposed Native Scrub Mix

- 3.3.1 The management objective of the proposed native scrub mix is to actively create and maintain areas of dense scrub for hibernating/foraging newts and birds.
- 3.3.2 All new planting shall be regularly inspected during the first 5 years following planting to encourage healthy and vigorous growth. During establishment (the first 2 years after planting) the planting areas and base of all specimen/ individual plants, shall be kept weed and grass free using a glyphosate based herbicide such as Roundup or similar. Weeding by hand or using glyphosate as appropriate should be undertaken three times per year. Any suitable rabbit guard fencing, or shelters used to protect vegetation from damage will be removed once established. Any shelters that are damaged/removed during/following inclement weather prior to plant establishment are to be secured/replaced.
- 3.3.3 Area of native scrub mix will include some translocated semi-mature/mature Hawthorn shrubs from within the proposed development footprint (refer to Marches Ecology '*Ecological Mitigation Method Statement– Section 3.2 & Scrub Management Schedule* P27; for details). Approximately 15% of scrub planting to be coppiced/cleared, using hand tools in any one year on a 15–20 year cycle. This work should not be undertaken in cold weather and cut logs are to be stored in other mitigation areas onsite for habitat creation.
- 3.3.4 Pruning of dead, diseased or damaged branches shall be carried out as appropriate, using sharp clean tools, to promote healthy growth and natural shape, and to favour a single central leading shoot. Cut close to bud, but not into

them and always above. All planting areas are to have all rubbish and debris cleared and removed as part of the regular maintenance visits.

- 3.3.5 The planting shall be inspected every year to assess its condition and the requirement for any replacements. Annual review to take place in September of any failures (those dead, diseased, in poor health, showing poor growth) and replacements are to be planted between the following October and March (first available planting season) with plants of the same species/specification.

3.4 All Planting

- 3.4.1 Any plants found to be dead/dying during the first 5 years shall be replaced, where these dead/ dying plants have resulted in gaps or “breaks” in the planting forming. Where the proposed planting has already formed continuous and connected swathes of planting and the loss of any individual specimens does not compromise the design objectives and visual appearance of the planting, then replacements may not be required. The extent of any replacement planting is to be determined annually and undertaken in the next planting season.

3.5 Boundaries and Hard Landscape Areas

- 3.5.1 Maintenance shall be undertaken up to 3 times during the period March – September. Where boundary features (fencing and gates) are provided as part of the development, these should be regularly inspected as necessary, ensuring that they are in a safe and usable condition and in a good state of repair.
- 3.5.2 Repairs should be carried out as necessary and any significant damage should be repaired immediately or in certain instances replaced. Repairs/replacement should be carried out as soon as practicable. In the interim, items which could cause a hazard to users should be appropriately taped off with warning tape or similar.
- 3.5.3 All hard surfaces within the landscape areas should be maintained in a clean and tidy appearance free from weeds and litter, and this will include a general sweep, and occasional spray of surfaces. Bark mulch should be maintained and topped up as necessary to ensure specified depth is preserved.
- 3.5.4 Maintenance shall also be included for tidying up (litter picking, weeding, grass cutting/strimming, as necessary) around the stone wall entrance features at the junction of Bryn Lane and the site access road.
- 3.5.5 The management contractor shall ensure that all accesses to the landscape and planting areas are kept clear for pedestrian use and maintenance purposes.

3.6 Ongoing Monitoring and Review

- 3.6.1 An annual review should take place every year during September to identify any plant failures and any variation to proposed management works. The landscape officer and ecologist from Wrexham County Borough Council will be notified of any recommended modifications to management proposals, for their approval.

Appendix A

Landscape Maintenance Schedule

APPENDIX A – MECHANICAL BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT FACILITY, WREXHAM RECYCLING PARK, BRYN LANE PHASE 2

Landscape Maintenance Schedule – Summary of Annual Operations over 5 year period

	Description of the works	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	<i>Existing Trees, Scrub and Grassland</i>												
1	Annual visual inspection (from site – general condition only) of existing trees, scrub and grassland to north east parts of site <u>NOTE:</u> All other maintenance of existing areas to be in accordance with Marches Ecology 'Ecological Management Plan & Ecological Mitigation Method Statement'									/			
	<i>Proposed Grassed Areas (Road Verges & around Car Parking)</i>												
2	Cut up to 2 times annually; in late spring and late summer.				/					/			
3	Periodic treatment of weeds / fertilise and seed bare patches				/					/			
4	Inspection for Ragwort / treatment where necessary					/							
	<i>Proposed Specimen Trees</i>												
4	Keep base weed, glass and debris free (first 3 years)			/			/			/			
5	Remove supporting stake after 3– 5 years and rabbit guard/shelter protection (where included) when established			/									
6	Inspect stakes and ties and adjust/replace as necessary			/			/			/			
7	Pruning (if required)			/									
	<i>Proposed Native Scrub Mix</i>												
8	Keep planting areas weed, glass and debris free			/			/			/			
9	Formative pruning of planting until established & remove arisings			/									
10	Remove rabbit guard/shelter protection (where included) when established			/									
11	Cut back vegetation where necessary to prevent encroachment									/			

	Boundaries and Hard Landscape Areas												
12	Regular inspection & repair/replace as necessary			/			/			/			
	Litter Clearance												
13	All grass, hedge/tree groups, planting blocks and hard surfaces to be subject to litter picks /sweeps as required.			/			/			/			
	Landscape Management Plan and Maintenance Schedule Annual Review												
14	Annual Review of Landscape Management Plan and Maintenance Schedule and agreement of any variations									/			

