General Guidance

Timing

Ground preparation to be undertaken in advance of all planting and seeding. No soil handling to be undertaken when the soil is wet to the extent that loss of structure would occur. Planting to be carried out between December and March inclusive unless prior approval is agreed with project aministrator. All seeding to be carried out as recommended by seed provider and with prior agreement with Contract Administrator.

Best practice

All soil handling and storage to be undertaken in accordance with the following British Standard Specifications and Code of practice:

· BS 1377: 1990 *Soils for Civil Engineering Purposes*
· BS 8601: 2013 *Specification for Subsoil and Requirements for Use*
· BS 3882: 2015 *Specification for Topsoil*
· Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (DEFRA)

All plant stock, plant handling and planting to be undertaken in accordance with the following British Standard Specifications and Code of Practice:

· BS 3936:1992 Part 1 *Nursery Stock - Specification for trees and shrubs*;
· BS 3936:1981 Part 10 *Nursery Stock - Specification for ground cover plants*;
· BS 3936:1998 Part 9: *Nursery Stock - Specification for Bulbs, Corms, and Tubers;*
· BS 4428:1989 - *Code of Practice for General Landscaping Operations* (excluding hard surfaces);
· BS 8545: 2014 *Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape*; and
· *The Code of Practice for Plant Handling 2002* (Horticultural Trades Association).

Planted Stock quality

General

All stock must comply with the **Nicholsons Biosecurity Statement**.

Standard Trees

Tree form and overall condition, including root condition, to be in accordance with BS 8545: 2014 *Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape.* All trees are to be inspected prior to planting by a suitably qualified third party.

Plants and Shrubs

Plant stock to be supplied in accordance with the size and description specified on the plant schedule. Plants to be healthy, vigorous, free from pests and diseases, suitably hardened off for the proposed situation of planting, and lifted at a time in accordance with good nursery practice. Stock shall have a well-formed fibrous root system and be free from perennial weeds.

Bulbs

Bulbs to be true to name, free of pests and pathogens, and of the correct approved size for the species.

The following information must be made available upon request:

· The botanical name, genus, species and cultivar, and, if appropriate, the colour or the designation `mixed';
· The number of bulbs/plants;
· The size class;
· Any preparatory treatment that has been carried out (for example, pre-treatment for Christmas flowering);
· Any recommendation regarding appropriate planting periods and any requirements for special conditions.

Ground preparation

Compliance:

· Topsoil to comply with BS 3882.
· Subsoil to comply with BS 8601.
· Operations to comply with Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (DEFRA).

Cultivation of Grassed Areas

Topsoil to be cultivated to a fine tilth, and be free from weeds, contaminants, stones over 50mm, and any other debris. Levels to be graded to form agreed finished levels and be free of local mounds and depressions.

Cultivation of other Grass, wildflower, wetland or water margins.

Plough or dig to bury surface vegetation and then harrow or rake to produce a medium tilth and roll or tread to produce a firm surface.

Cultivation of Shrub Beds and Tree Pits

When shrub beds and tree pits occur in large grass areas, formation levels should be prepared at the specified depth for grass over the whole area. Further excavation should be subsequently carried out to the additional depth for shrub and tree planting.
In all cases, the soil profile is to be maintained when replacing.

Handling stock

Trees

All standard trees to be lifted, labelled, handled, transported, and temporarily stored in accordance with the procedures and methods illustrated in chapter 9 of BS 8545: 2014

Shrubs and smaller nursery stock

All plant stock to be lifted, bundled, labelled, packaged, transported, stored and planted in accordance with the procedures and methods illustrated in “Plant Handling” (Horticultural Trades Association).

Bare root stock

All plant stock to be lifted, bundled, labelled, packaged, transported, temporarily stored and planted in accordance with the procedures and methods illustrated in chapter 9 of BS 8545: 2014.
Plants to be delivered to site in quantities that can be planted the same day. Any unplanted stock is to be stored overnight in a covered location within nursery bags, or heeled in trenches, and is to be well watered. Desiccated root systems will not be accepted.

Planting operations

General

Planting to be undertaken between December and March inclusive during suitable weather conditions. All planted stock to be watered on same day to field capacity.

Standard Trees

Pits to be excavated to twice the diameter of the root system, container, or root ball, deep enough to accommodate the full root system to the base of the main stem following settlement. Trees must not be planted too deep. Sides of pit to be scarified by 200mm. Base to be punctured without breaking up soil. Irrigation pipe should be fitted to all tree pits in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
Tree to be centrally located and stem placed in an upright position. Back-fill with excavated material, maintaining the original soil profile unless specifically stated otherwise.
Trees up to 12-14cmg to be supported with single 75mm stake to the prevailing windward side, and anchored with a single supersoft adjustable tree tie. Saw stakes to leave 500mm above soil level. Fix adjustable tree ties to the top 75mm of the stake. All trees to be watered to field capacity on day of planting. All works shall be carried out to the minimum standard according to BS 8545: 2014.

Planting Beds - General

Planting to be undertaken in appropriate weather conditions, avoiding prolonged periods of drought, and preferably preceding predicted precipitation.

Planting Beds - Containerised Shrubs

Pits to be excavated to at least one third larger than the root system. Backfill material to incorporate 30% organic matter and slow release fertiliser at 3g/m2/. Firm plants upright, ensuring root flare sits at soil level.

Planting Beds - Bare root stock up to 60cm high

Roots to be dipped in rooting hormone prior to planting. Notch plant at specified density using 'T' or 'L' notches, or pit planting if the root system is too large to accommodate this method. Firm in upright, protect with specified mammal guards and support with 22-24lb/100 bamboo canes with tapered end uppermost.

Planting Beds - Bare root stock over 60cm high

Planting to be undertaken in appropriate weather conditions, avoiding prolonged periods of drought, and preferably preceding predicted precipitation. Pits to be excavated to at least one third larger than the root system. Backfill material to incorporate 30% organic matter and slow release fertiliser at 3g/m2/. Firm plants upright, ensuring root flare sits at soil level. Protect with suitable mammal guards and support with 22-24lb/100 bamboo canes with tapered end uppermost.

Hedgerows - Bare root stock up to 60cm high

Hedge line is to be cultivated to a depth of 150mm prior to planting unless specifically indicated otherwise. Stock to be notch-planted at 5 plants per metre in double staggered rows using 'T' or 'L' notches. Rows to be 40 - 45cm apart and follow the line as shown on the Detailed Landscape Design. Protect with clear, non-perforated spiral guards and support with 22-24lb/100 bamboo canes with tapered end uppermost.

Hedgerows - Bare root stock over 60cm high

Hedgerow stock to be trench planted at 5 plants per linear metre in double staggered rows. Rows to be 40-45cm apart and follow the line as shown on the Detailed Landscape Design. Backfill material to incorporate 30% organic matter and slow release fertiliser at 3g/m2/. Firm plants upright, ensuring root flare sits at soil level.

Hedgerows - Containerised stock

Pits to be excavated to at least one third larger than the root system. Backfill material to incorporate 30% organic matter and slow release fertiliser at 3g/m2/. Firm plants upright, ensuring root flare sits at soil level. Fit with appropriate canes or stakes as appropriate, and fit mammal guards if there is a risk of predation.

Mulching

General

Mulch to be locally sourced where possible, to be medium grade, organic, free from fines, weeds, disease and contaminants.

Standard Trees

Trees planted within grass are to be mulched to a 500mm radius from the main stem to a settled depth of 100mm.

Planting Beds

Spread with bark mulch to a settled depth of 100mm.

Hedges

Hedge lines to be spread with bark mulch to a depth of 100mm, reaching 500mm either side of the centre line.

Grass Seeding

General

Areas must be seeded with the approved seed mix as specified on the Detailed Landscape Design. Any deviations or substitutions must be agreed with the project landscape architect in advance of any works being undertaken. Evidence must be supplied upon request. For ground preparation see above.

Amenity Grass

Remove all existing vegetation by spraying one month in advance.
Spread slow-release fertiliser at 5g/m2/, 10-14 days prior to seeding.
Sow at rate of 35g/m2/ in two perpendicular passes and lightly rake to a depth of 30mm.
First cut to be undertaken when grass reaches a height of 50mm.

Wildflower Grass Mixes & Wetland/Marginal Mixes

Remove weeds using repeated cultivation. Plough or dig to bury surface vegetation and then harrow or rake to produce a medium tilth and roll or tread to produce a firm surface. Sow Autumn or Spring or other times of the year only if there is sufficient mositure/warmth. Apply seed by hand or machine in overlapping sections to ensure even coverage. Firm in with roller or treading.
Check specific requirements of seed mixes with supplier prior to starting operations.

AFTERCARE AND MAINTENANCE

General

All stock to be thoroughly watered through periods of prolonged drought.
Any stock that dies or becomes damaged or diseased is to be replaced on a like for like basis. If stock fails due to climatic or ground conditions then a suitable alternative is to be agreed with the project landscape architect.

Standard Trees -Establishment period (c. 2 years following planting)

Stakes to be checked for stability monthly. Loose stakes to be straightened and driven in to be stable if still required. Damaged stakes to be replaced if still required.
Tree ties to be checked monthly. Restrictive ties to be loosened, missing/broken ties to be replaced.

Standard Trees - Continual maintenance

Damaged/dead limbs to be removed as required - ensure works are undertaken at the appropriate time for the species. Crown lift and thin as required. Inspect for public safety on a suitable inspection schedule. Seek advice of qualified arborist.

Seed Mixes - Year One

Flowering Lawn Mixes

Mow newly sown flowering lawns regularly (every 7-10 days during growing season) throughout the first year of establishment. Cut to a height of 40-60mm, removing cuttings if dense. Dig out any residual perennial weeds such as docks.

Wildflower Meadow Mixes

Resist cutting the annual weeds until mid to late summer, so that they provide shelter to the sown seedlings. Then cut, remove and compost around early August. This will reveal the young meadow, which can then be kept short by grazing or mowing through to the end of March of the following year. Dig out any residual perennial weeds such as docks.

Wetand/Marginal Mixes

Cut back annual weed growth to encourage the development of a good perennial ground cover. Area prone to flooding may be patchy and may take several years to fully establish.

Seed Mixes - Ongoing

Flowering Lawn Mixes

Mow regularly as a lawn but not too short (25-40mm). To permit flowering, mowing can be relaxed from late June. Cut again when the sward gets untidy (after 4-8 weeks). Mowing may be suspended earlier in the year to allow cowslips to flower. Heavy quantities of cuttings should be collected and removed from site.

Wildflower Meadow Mixes

After flowering in July or August cut back to 50mm. Leave the 'hay' to dry and shed seed for 1-7 days then remove from site. Mow or graze the re-growth through to late autumn/winter to 50mm and again in spring if needed.

NICHOLSONS BIOSECURITY STATEMENT

Nicholsons ensures it is fully aware of and understands the current and future risks relating to threats from pests and diseases, and how they affect both native and non-native trees and plants. We follow the most up to date guidance from DEFRA and Forestry Commission, and keep regular contact with the horticultural industry.
We will inform, update, and advise our clients and contractors on all relevant biosecurity information. Our staff will adhere to current biosecurity good practice when on site, and will monitor contractor practice when administering contracts.
We insist that all planted stock as specified is UK grown for a minimum of two years at an approved UK nursery. All plants shall be certified as disease free at the time of delivery to their destination.
All planted stock must be accompanied with a certificate stating it has been grown in the UK for a minimum of two years and that it is free of pests and diseases. This certification must be provided to Nicholsons before planting is to commence.
Nicholsons accepts no responsibility for any planted stock that fails due to improper handling, planting, or aftercare. We expect contractors to adhere to our stated methodology, in line with current best practice guidance, and ensure that all stock meets the above criteria.

Habitat Creation

Hibernacula, bat boxes and bird boxes to be included as reccomended by consultant ecologist and CEMP

28/01/2026	4		Revised Layout and minor planting specification changes
20/01/2026	3	CB	Building Layout Update
26/11/2024	2	CB	Post & Rail fence changes

Date	Original size	Scale	Drawn by	Checked by	Rev
03/02/2026	A3	1:350	CB	JK	V6

Drawing no
1059-01-NLD.151 Bryn Lane South

Status
S4

Drawing Title
Soft Landscape Design

Sheet Name
Specifiction

Location
Bryn Lane South, Wrexham

Client name
Net World Sports

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