

Llanfabon School Landscape Strategy – Sketch Design Discussion Document

The landscape strategy is influenced by several factors, not least drainage considerations and the surrounding habitats and land uses. The following is an initial list of potential treatments of the various parts of the site.

Drainage strategy considerations

There is the potential for the drainage strategy to contribute to the biodiversity and wildlife value of the site and to provide an educational resource. The site falls towards the south and this part of the site contains established outdoor classroom and play uses. There is an established low woodland on adjacent land to the west and continuous hedge or woodland elements around the southern and eastern margins of the site. There is the potential to extend and improve the quality of this habitat and this process could be enhanced by the use of drainage runoff if this is feasible.

Car Park (north)

Specimen Oak trees to 'islands' and gap in hedge with simple groundcover planting (low maintenance)
Potential shallow swale and wetland habitat (eastern edge) along the (gated) path, large Willow retained (appropriate in damp area)

Northern boundary retained as rough hedge (path margin close mown). Oak tree here marked for removal, potentially retain part of main trunk as habitat (with Ivy)

Feature on 'island' that is visible to entrance road (Large rocks or sign and planting)

Western boundary

Rear of building with staff sitting area. Treat as part of 'woodland' to the west (outside the fence). Consider creation of shallow drainage swales (falls very gently towards the north) where tree roots allow (along the perimeter fence) assuming that ground drains appropriately. Manage by coppice regime 'hedge' & woodland as far south as Ffordd Trawsgae to obscure fence, perpetuate woodland and maximise wildlife value. Retain selected specimen trees and mown 'lawn' close to building and for staff recreation.

Existing soft play area south

Consider realigning edge of Junior hardplay area to create more green space at lower level. Reduce levels and form extensive damp area (SuDS) possibly with small securely gridded and fenced waterbody to extend wildlife value and provide opportunity for study. This area linked to 'woodland' of western boundary and hedge along southern boundary

Existing green area southeast (with semi-circular bund)

Define this area by establishing hedges to contain it to the west and north with 'gateways' into the wildlife areas to the west and to the northeast

Formalise outdoor classroom use by provision of seating

Maintain as close-mown lawn

Existing woodland eastern boundary

Extend native hedge along edge of Infant Hard play area and maintain quite low but forming a hedged 'lane' between the outdoor classroom and the corner woodland

Northern boundary (within fence)

Coppice growth to provide age structure diversity. Introduce new small tree and shrub species to include berry and fruit trees (eg Mountain Ash & Crab Apple) for wildlife value

Junior Hard play

Consider reducing size slightly to introduce a straight southern edge. This allows increased value to soft area to south. Re-use fence

Infant Hard play (small area between buildings)

Potential for fences, seating and play equipment. To be discussed with the school

Nursery hard play & Childcare hard play (separate areas within main yard)

Potential for fences, seating and play equipment. To be discussed with the school

Infant Hard play (large area)

There is the potential for two or three specimen trees in this area depending upon services and underground conditions. These could be combined with seating.

Soft landscape interventions within paved areas

Small planters around the buildings and site entrance. Robust, low maintenance decorative amenity planting

