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FAO: Development Management Team
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Monday, 08 June 2026

*Issued via Planning Portal*

**Supporting Statement for Hedgerow Removal Notice Heol Cae'r Bont, Margam, Port Talbot**

To Whom it may concern,

## Introduction

RSK Environment, working with Laing O'Rourke on behalf of National Grid, hereby submit a Hedgerow Removal Notice in respect of a section of hedgerow located adjacent to Heol Cae'r Bont, Margam, Port Talbot. The proposed removal is temporary in nature and is required solely to facilitate construction access associated with the project works. The proposed temporary removal of approximately 40 metres of hedgerow is required to facilitate the creation of a temporary construction access from Heol Cae'r Bont, within the fields incorporated by the BOC facility in connection with the installation of an underground cable route, in association with the Margam Substation upgrade, that is taking place to provide power to the Tata Steel Electric Arc Furnace development.

The extent of hedgerow removal has been limited to the minimum necessary to safely undertake the works and provide construction access. Upon completion of the construction phase, the temporary access will be removed and the affected section of hedgerow will be reinstated.

## Hedgerow Assessment

To support this notice, detailed assessments have been undertaken in accordance with the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. These comprise:

- Hedgerows Regulations Assessment (RSK Biocensus, May 2026)
- Archaeological and Historical Hedgerow Assessment (Headland Archaeology, May 2026)

The ecological assessment considered the Wildlife and Landscape criteria set out within Schedule 1 of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 and concluded that the hedgerow does not satisfy the criteria required for designation as an "important" hedgerow.

The archaeological and historical assessment considered the Archaeology and History criteria of the Regulations and concluded that the hedgerow is not associated with a historic parish boundary, designated or non-designated heritage asset, pre-1600 estate boundary, or pre-parliamentary enclosure field system and therefore does not meet the criteria for classification as an "important" hedgerow.

## Reinstatement

A hedgerow reinstatement scheme will be implemented following completion of the works. Reinstatement will comprise the planting of a native mixed hedgerow designed to reflect the character and species composition of the existing hedgerow and surrounding landscape. The proposed planting mix will include Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa) and Dog Rose (Rosa canina), together with other locally appropriate native species where considered beneficial.

Planting will be undertaken during the appropriate planting season and managed in accordance with best practice guidance to promote successful establishment. Any failures identified during the establishment period will be replaced to ensure successful restoration of the hedgerow. The reinstated hedgerow will be monitored and maintained for a period of five years following planting, with any failed plants replaced during the subsequent planting season to ensure successful establishment.

The reinstated hedgerow will reconnect the existing hedgerow corridor, restoring its landscape character and ecological function. The location and extent of the proposed works are illustrated on the accompanying plans submitted with this notice.

## Summary

The following documents accompany this submission:

- Completed Hedgerow Removal Notice Form.
- Plan Reference. HRN-001 – Heol Cae'r Bont Hedgerow Removal Notice – Location and Removal Extent Plans.
- Hedgerows Regulations Assessment (RSK Biocensus, May 2026).
- Archaeological and Historical Hedgerow Assessment (Headland Archaeology, May 2026).

In summary, the proposed removal relates to a limited section of hedgerow required to facilitate temporary construction access associated with the Margam Substation upgrade works. The supporting ecological and archaeological/historical assessments conclude that the hedgerow does not meet the statutory definition of an "important hedgerow" under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. Furthermore, the proposed removal is temporary in nature and will be followed by reinstatement of the hedgerow through a native mixed species planting scheme designed to restore its landscape and ecological function.

Having regard to the findings of the supporting assessments, RSK Environment considers that the proposed removal of the identified section of hedgerow is justified and supported by the available evidence. The proposal is further supported by the commitment to reinstate the hedgerow following completion of the works through a native mixed species planting scheme.

Should any additional information be required in support of this notice, or should there be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact.

Yours sincerely,

**On behalf of RSK Environment**

*Gemma Williams*

**Gemma Williams**
Senior Environmental Manager

*(Please see included, the supporting documentation that has been provided)*