

Method Statement

Translocation of Hedge at:

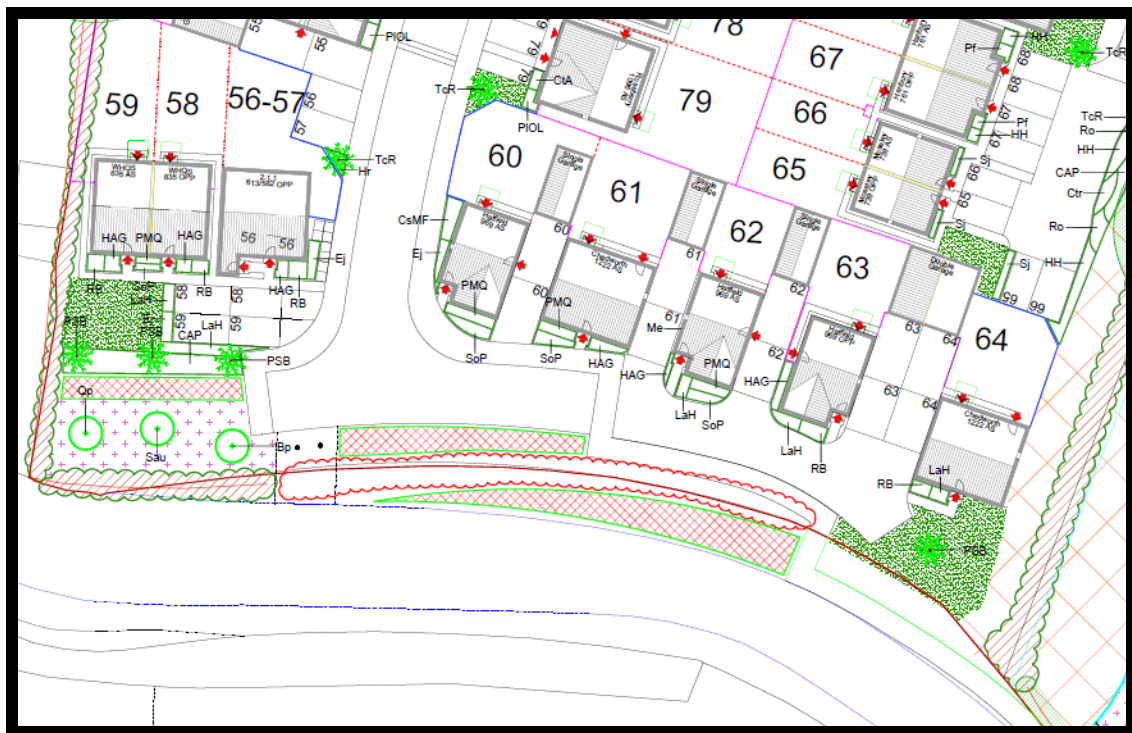
Allt y Celyn

Land to the North of Neath Road

Rhos

Neath Port Talbot

Persimmon Homes West Wales



9th March 2020

Introduction

This Method Statement for hedge translocation has been prepared in connection with an application for the approval of details required in connection with the landscaping conditions pertaining to the full planning permission for 79 dwellings at Land to the north of Neath Road, Rhos (Ref: P2014/0393).

For ease of reference, the relevant conditions are set out below:

"...(7) No development or site clearance shall take place until there has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority a scheme of landscaping. The scheme shall pay particular regard to the retention of existing hedgerows, and shall include indications of all existing trees (including spread and species) and hedgerows on the land, identify those to be retained, and include full details for their protection throughout the course of development.

(8) In addition to the landscaping of privately owned domestic gardens, the details required in connection with condition 7 above shall include full details of hard and soft landscaping schemes for the landscaping of all public landscape areas including the pedestrian footpaths, highway verge areas, and informal play areas / public open space, and shall include:

- i) A statement setting out the design objectives and how these will be delivered;*
- ii) Hard surfacing materials and designs and enclosures;*
- iii) Details of the design and location of minor artefacts and structures including street furniture, refuse bins, highway grit bins for development access road and footpaths;*
- iv) Planting schemes including species, planting densities and sizes at time of planting, including wildlife friendly species and those that will promote habitat creation.*

The approved landscaping scheme shall be fully implemented within the first planting season following completion of the development, any trees or plants which within a period of five years from the completion of the residential development die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and the same species, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written consent to any variation..."

The Method Statement

Prior to translocation the receptor site will be prepared. This entails digging a trench 1 m deep and 2 m wide with all spoil piled along one edge of the trench for easy access. To ensure that the ground is suitable to receive the translocated hedge the base and sides should be loosened providing suitable conditions for new roots to become established.

The existing hedge has already been cut to 300mm in preparation for translocation. A large machine will be used to dig-out the existing hedge to at least 1 m below ground level and 1m either side of the hedge where possible to reduce the chance of the roots drying-out during the translocation process. This section of hedgerow is then moved directly to the donor site.

The sections of the hedgerow should be placed into the receptor site in the same order in which they were removed. The soil stored alongside the trench can then be backfilled around the new roots, ideally not covering the existing ground flora/leaf layer associated with the hedge. This backfill is then firmed in by foot to remove any air gaps around the roots that could potentially be affected by frost/damp.

During the following growing season the hedgerow should be periodically watered (particularly during prolonged dry spells) to ensure the hedgerow becomes established in its new habitat. In following years watering is unlikely to be necessary and the hedgerow can undergo the same management regime as existing/retained on-site hedgerows and landscaping.