

METHOD STATEMENT

Hedge & Tree Planting and Protection of Existing Boundaries

for

The Proposed Residential Development of 16 Dwellings

(including 3 Affordable),

on

Land Opposite Llanddarog Village Hall, Llanddarog, Carmarthenshire.

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CONTENTS

1.0 BACKGROUND

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Hedge Planting

2.2 Tree Planting

3.0 PROTECTION OF RETAINED VEGETATION

4.0 AFTERCARE



1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Habitat Matters Ltd were contracted by the site owner, DHW Davies Ltd, to prepare a landscaping design for a proposed residential development of 16 dwellings (including 3 affordable), on land opposite Llanddarog Village Hall, Llanddarog, Carmarthenshire. This detailed Method Statement covers tree and hedge planting measures and should be read in conjunction with Drawing *Landscape Design/ Residential Development of 16 Dwellings (including 3 Affordable), on Land Opposite Llanddarog Village Hall, Llanddarog, Carmarthenshire/ Ver 1 / April 2019*.

1.2 The proposed landscaping of the site includes planting of new garden boundary hedges and also a number of standard trees within the gardens.

1.3 The following methodology summarises the intended approach and includes details of proposed mitigation measures that will be followed by the contractor to avoid damage to existing, retained hedgerows and tree. It also provides details of the aftercare and management of the planting.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 HEDGE PLANTING

2.1.1 New hedges are to be planted as garden boundaries as per drawing *Landscape Design/ Residential Development of 16 Dwellings (including 3 Affordable), on Land Opposite Llanddarog Village Hall, Llanddarog, Carmarthenshire/ Ver 1 / April 2019*. These will be single species hedges, planted entirely with green beech.

2.1.2 Before preparing the planting trench, each section will be cleared of any hardcore used for site access during construction.

2.1.3 A trench will then be prepared at each location in advance of planting. As the site has already been stripped of topsoil and vegetation, this will be excavated into the subsoil to form a trench 500mm depth below the existing ground level and with a width of 1200mm. The trench will be filled with loose material, allowing for a 10% settlement, using topsoil previously cleared and stored on site. The loose material will provide good, aerated conditions for root growth with no restrictions due to compaction.



2.1.4 A netting fence will be placed centrally along each trench to provide a defined boundary for each property. The work will be carried out by hand to avoid compaction of the trench zone and all soil loosened with a fork once completed.

2.1.5 All new planting will be carried out using the slit (notch) planting method and each plant placed centrally in the slit and firmed in a vertical position.

2.1.6 The planting stock will be bare-rooted (BR) green beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). These will be planted between November and early March when the plants are dormant, avoiding periods of very cold or wet weather or during strong winds. The plants will be stored in bags during planting to prevent the roots drying out.

2.1.7 Planting will be in a double staggered row at 500mm centres between plants with a single line of beech on each side of the boundary fence and with 600mm between the two rows. The planting along the retaining wall will also be in a double staggered row. The plants will be inserted into the slit to their original planting depth in the tree nursery.

2.1.8 A section of native, mixed hedge will be planted along the eastern, western and southern boundaries of the site, following the top of the retaining wall / fence; as this is a garden boundary, the planting will be carried out using thorn-less species only, as per the specification in Table 1 (below).

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	SPECIFICATION	QUANTITY (%)
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	1+1 40/60cm BR	20%
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	1+1 40/60cm BR	10%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	1+1 40/60cm BR	40%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	2L 40/60cm CG	15%
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	1+1 40/60cm BR	5%
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	1+1 40/60cm BR	5%
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	1L 40/60 CG	5%

Table 1: Native Species Hedge Mix (BR – Bare Rooted; CG – Container Grown)

2.1.9 The planting will be notch-planted (as in para 2.2.3) in a double staggered row at 500mm centres between plants and 600mm between the rows. Plants will be bare rooted or container grown, depending upon the species.

2.1.10 Plants should be local provenance (303 seed zone where available but 304 as substitute) to ensure they are better adapted and genetically suited to the locality; this will



improve survival rates and avoid problems of poor establishment or of introducing plants that might have different characteristics from local stock, such as coming into leaf or flower at a different time.

2.1.11 Supplementary watering is unlikely to be required providing there is adequate rainfall. However, in long, dry conditions, the planting areas may need to be watered to avoid stressing the plants and to encourage establishment.

2.1.12 A 75mm depth of medium-grade bark mulch layer will be placed along the new sections of hedge to reduce weed establishment.

2.1.13 The planting will be monitored for vermin / rabbit damage and, if considered necessary, a spiral or mesh guard will be installed around each plant.

2.2 TREE PLANTING

2.2.1 Several individual standard trees have been included within the gardens as part of the site landscaping. The location of these are shown on drawing *Landscape Design/ Residential Development of 16 Dwellings (including 3 Affordable), on Land Opposite Llanddarog Village Hall, Llanddarog, Carmarthenshire/ Ver 1 / April 2019* and species include 7 no. silver birch (*Betula pendula*), 2 no. copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica "purpurea"*), 5 no. rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), 3 no. wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), 9 no. holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and 3 no. oak (*Quercus robur*). All tree works will follow BS 3998: 2010.

2.2.2 These will be 2 x standard trees, 8-10cm girth and a minimum of 250-300cm overall height. Although bare rooted stock is acceptable, preference will be given to container grown plants as the root disturbance will be minimised. All holly should be container grown as it resents root disturbance.

2.2.3 Planting will be into prepared planting pits with minimum dimensions of 1000 x 1000 x 600mm depth, with a further 150mm depth broken up to reduce compaction. The roots will be slightly loosened when removed from the container to encourage lateral and vertical spread into the planting medium. Any damaged roots will be cut back cleanly to sound wood before planting. Planting will be carried out when the plants are dormant, between November and early March, avoiding periods of very cold or wet weather or during strong winds. Evergreen species, such as holly, may also be planted in September/ October or April / May.

2.2.4 The tree pits will be backfilled using well-mixed topsoil (70%) from the stored topsoil on site and a proprietary tree compost (30%). Slow-release fertiliser appropriate for the



particular tree species, will be incorporated into the backfill mix at the manufacturer's recommended rate. Any large stones or woody roots will be removed from the mix before backfilling. The soil will be lightly firmed (but not compacted) in layers no more than 300mm depth during backfilling. The surface level of the planting pit will be raised between 50 and 100mm above the adjacent ground level to allow for settlement.

2.2.5 The trees will be planted vertically and centrally within the planting pits to the same depth as in the nursery. Each will be secured using a round-section timber stake with a top diameter of 50-75mm, placed on the prevailing windward side of the tree but avoiding the root zone. The stake will be installed **before planting** at least 300mm below the base of the trench and be up to 1/3 of the clear stem height. Fixings will be proprietary made PVC or rubber ties, fixed to the stake with galvanised clout nails.

2.2.6 The trees will be thoroughly watered during planting at a rate of 25 litres minimum per tree.

2.2.7 A 500mm radius biodegradable mulch mat will be pegged around each tree and a 75mm minimum depth of medium grade bark placed over this in order to control weeds.

2.2.8 Each tree will be planted at least 3m away from the boundary wall, roadside and driveway edge and utilities. There should therefore be no need to install a root barrier.

3.0 PROTECTION OF RETAINED VEGETATION

3.1 A mature ash tree is growing on the southern boundary of the site; this will be protected during construction as follows.

3.2 The plots are at a higher level than the original ground level and will be formed by leaving a wide buffer section (1.5m) of original grassy vegetation between the hedge and the edge of the construction area; a retaining wall will be built along this buffer zone and the hedgerow allowed to expand into this area to be retained as a dark corridor outside the development. Where the wall passes close to the ash tree, a wider buffer of 4.5m will be left, in order to avoid the crown of the tree and the Root Protection Area.

3.3 The existing hedges (site boundaries) will be fenced off using Heras safety fencing or orange Netlon. This will provide a clear visual deterrent for the construction team against entering or storing materials within the protection area.



3.4 Signage will be put in place at intervals along the fence to warn the workforce against storing materials in the area.

3.5 The construction team will be given a toolbox talk covering the retained hedges, the importance of keeping out of the area and why materials should not be stored in the protection zone.

4.0 AFTERCARE

4.1 Due to the residential nature of the development with individual houses being sold to different owners, the management of each garden will be the responsibility of each householder. Guidance will be provided on the aftercare of the garden hedge and individual tree planted on their property, as part of the handover documents. Before the sale is complete, DHW Davies Ltd will carry out aftercare as necessary to help establishment.

4.2 Plant losses are normally greatest in the first few years due to weed competition. If weeds establish, these will be removed through hand-weeding or spot treatment using a suitable herbicide; this will normally be carried out annually for the first 3-4 years or until the hedge plants / trees are well established.

4.3 The hedges and trees will be inspected 3 months after planting and again at the end of the first year after planting with additional checks being carried out following high wind events. Inspections will continue biannually until each property is sold, at which point the new owner assumes legal responsibility as part of the purchase. Any losses or damaged plants will be replaced as appropriate and, where necessary, plants will be firmed into the ground or stakes/ties tightened. Where the replacement hedge plants are likely to be shaded out by taller adjacent plants, shade tolerant species (holly or hazel) will be used in preference on the native planted hedge.

4.4 The properties will be privately owned and the hedges managed by the householders during routine garden maintenance, including annual hedge trimming using a manual hedge-cutter or shears. This will encourage the growth to thicken and form a dense hedge.

4.5 Dead or damaged tree branches will be cut back to a main junction, or to the stem, at the time of planting.



4.6 Legally, the new owners are responsible for garden and planting aftercare. However, they will be encouraged to carry out establishment watering of the trees during the first two growing seasons.

