



ARBOR VITAE

ECOLOGY • FORESTRY • LAND USE

Project name: Brynelen Uchaf, Cyfronydd, Welshpool,
Powys SY21 9HB

Project: Hedgerow translocation and aftercare method
statement

Grid Reference: SJ13210706

Date: 02/03/2022

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Background

Planning permission has been granted for the change of use of land from agriculture to tourism for the siting of two lodges and all associated works at Brynelen Uchaf in Cyfronydd, Welshpool.

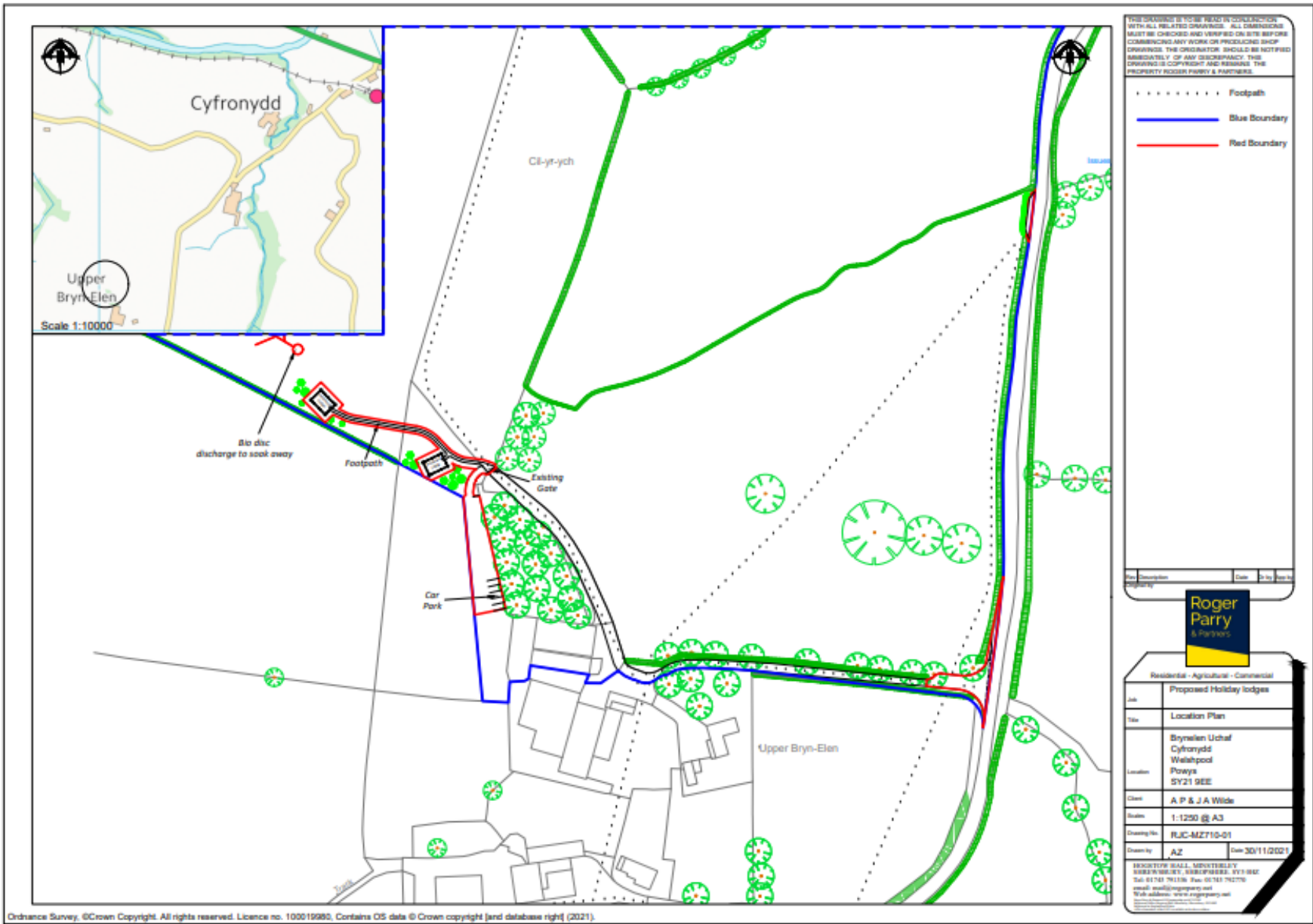
A section of approximately 40m of native hedgerow will need to be translocated behind the line of visibility from the main highway.

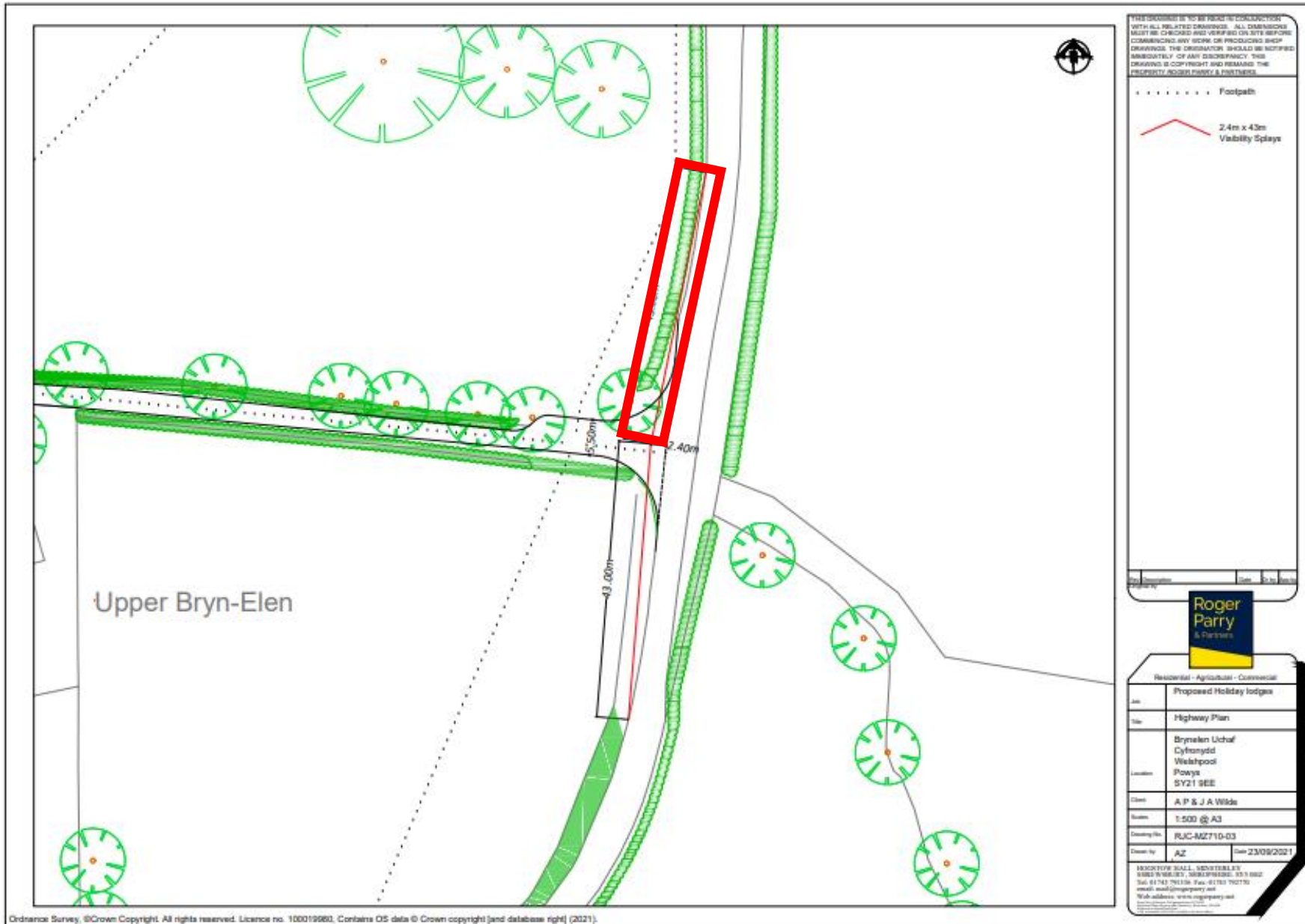
The existing roadside hedgerow is made up of: hazel, hawthorn, sycamore, elder, ash, bracken, ivy, hedge bindweed, one young multi-stem sycamore and one young *Prunus* tree. The ground flora consists of: common bent, Yorkshire fog, annual meadow grass, perennial ryegrass, cow parsley, hogweed, herb Robert, creeping buttercup, broad leaved dock, bush vetch and common nettle.

The planning consent includes the following conditions:

16. No development shall take place (including ground works and vegetation clearance) until a detailed Hedgerow Protection Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The submitted plan must set-out measures for the protection of the hedgerows on the site throughout the course of development. The approved details shall be implemented in full and maintained thereafter.

17. Prior to the commencement of development, a detailed Hedgerow Translocation Plan or Hedgerow Replacement Planting Plan, to incorporate the area of the access improvement works and the passing bay, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The submitted scheme shall include a scaled drawing and a written specification clearly describing the species, sizes, densities and planting numbers proposed as well as aftercare measures of any new plants. The approved scheme shall be implemented in the first planting and seeding season following the first beneficial use of the new access, or the completion of the development (whichever is the sooner), and any plants which within a period of 5 years from the completion of the development die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species. If any plants fail more than once they shall continue to be replaced on an annual basis until the end of the 5-year defects period.





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Method Statement

Timing

Hedgerow translocation will take place during the 'dormant' season from November to late February.

Translocation should not be undertaken during warm, dry spells. Ideal conditions are cool days with persistent light precipitation.

Hedgerow roots must only be exposed for very short periods of time and must never be allowed to dry out. Hedgerow sections must be removed and placed into a receptor trench as soon as possible.

Hedgerow translocation must not take place any later than the end of February in order to avoid the potential disturbance of breeding birds.

Site preparation

The location of the proposed hedgerow should be agreed and marked out using weather proof marking paint.

The proposed location should consider that the overall width of the trench may exceed 1.5m in places and therefore the marked areas should be at least 1.5m from the outer reach of the existing hedgerow.

Hedge preparation

The hedgerow to be translocated should be coppiced during the dormant season. The hedge should be cut down to between 30 and 60cm, taking the side growth back to solid wood.

Cuttings should be made using a chainsaw and must leave clean, sloping cuts at no less than 30 degrees.

All arising should be removed from site the same day unless they can be piled in an area which will not undergo disturbance and be left as wildlife hibernacula. Please note if this option is chosen, the hibernacula must not be removed at a later date.

Receptor trench preparation

A tracked excavator will be used to remove earth from the proposed trench. The depth of the trench should be excavated to approximately 1m but may vary with the section of hedgerow to be placed within. The trench should be 1.5m wide to ensure all roots are contained within the new trench.

The sides and base of the trench will be scarified before translocation to ensure efficient drainage.

The trench must not be allowed to dry out. Where translocation takes place in dry periods, only small sections of trench should be excavated at a time. In dry weather, the receptor trench should only be open for a maximum of one hour.

Translocation

Short sections of hedge will be excavated and translocated to the receptor trench in sequence. A chainsaw operative should be available to cut roots or stems rather than breaking them with an excavator.

The translocated sections must be set within the trench at ground level. The base of the hedge should not sit below or above ground level and soil from the excavated trench should be inserted around the sections to secure them in place.

Ideally, the base of the hedgerow should be covered with mulch/bark chippings to help prevent drying out.

Remediation

The translocated hedge must be checked to ensure that all roots have been buried and there is sufficient topsoil covering the hedge base.

Any exposed roots should be buried with a spade. Topsoil should be used to cover any exposed areas of the hedge base and this should be firmed in by site operatives. Topsoil should be used to cover any exposed areas of the hedge base and this should be firmed in by site operatives.

On completion the hedge should be well watered to ensure topsoil is washed in to fill any voids. Topsoil levels should be filled up where needed.

Excess topsoil should be placed within the trench where the hedgerow was removed from and this area should be made good, to ground level.

Equipment

The contractor should use a suitable 360-degree excavator to remove sections of hedge with minimal ground disturbance.

The recommended bucket width is 1.5m but ground conditions may require a narrower bucket. The bucket should be deep enough to remove roots from a depth of no less than 1m.

Additional hedgerow planting

Where damage occurs as a result of the translocation or where the new hedge line is longer than that removed, replacement planting will be required.

Hedgerow plants should reflect the existing species within the hedgerow. 750-900mm bare root plants will be planted in a double staggered row at 6 per metre.

Each plant will be protected with a spiral guard and any losses in the first 3 years will be replaced.

Aftercare

If weather conditions are dry for more than 5 days following the translocation, the hedge will be watered on a daily basis until it rains.

The hedgerow will be inspected during the growing season to assess the success of the translocation. During this assessment, the development of unintended vegetation including bramble and bracken will be noted and action to remove them will be taken. If there are any areas in particular which are afflicted with 'weeds' then woven polypropylene weed control mats will be laid beneath the hedge, as necessary.

Any areas of hedge which do not take will be replanted during the next planting season.

The hedge will be lightly trimmed back after the first season's growth to encourage 'bushy' growth, followed by cutting every 2 years from Year 3 post translocation.

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology have stated that it is more beneficial for wildlife if hedges are cut in late winter every two years (CEH, 2015). Increased flowering and berry production as a result of late-winter cutting benefits a range of wildlife including birds and butterflies, increasing the overall biodiversity. This management regime will be adopted on site.

General

All works will comply with the following:

- BS3998 (2010) Tree works,
- BS4428 Code of conduct for General Landscape operations.
- Contractors will also refer to the document 'Translocating wildlife – a guide for Civil engineers' (Document 97).

References

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (2015) Increasing the value of hedges for wildlife with relaxed cutting regimes. Hedgerow management research project summary leaflet. https://www.ceh.ac.uk/sites/default/files/HedgerowManagementResearchProject_SummaryLeaflet_June15.pdf

Hedgerow Protection of Retained Hedges

Physical protection measures

Where development is in close proximity to existing hedgerow to be retained, particularly adjacent to proposed cabins and car parking areas, temporary fencing will be installed prior to the start of work.

A gap of 2m will be left between hedgerow and any construction work. During works, a protective barrier fence will be installed to protect the hedgerow and its root zone. Iron rods and netted fencing will be positioned approximately 1m from the spread of the hedge and retained throughout the development.

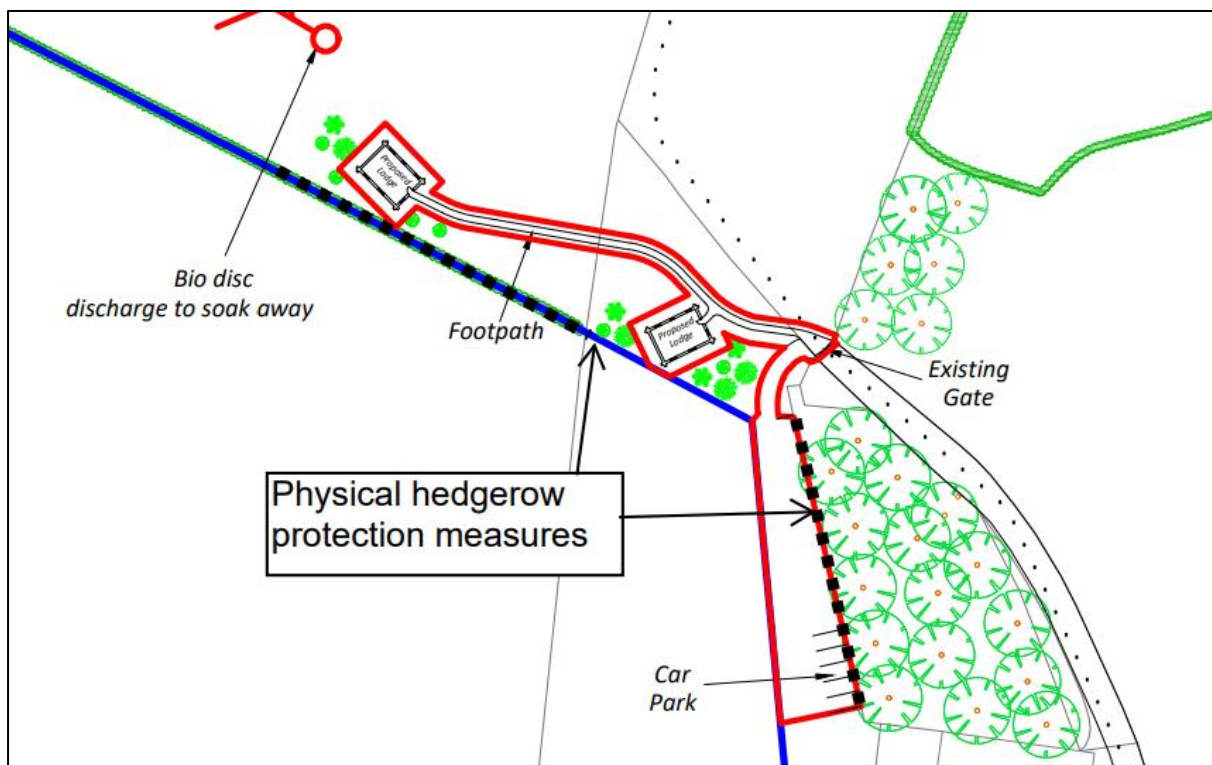
The protection zone should be maintained for the duration of the works and there should be no access, storage of materials, ground disturbance, burning or contamination within the fenced area.

Soil levels will not be raised beyond original within 1m protection zone each side of hedge.

Fencing can then be removed once the development is complete and all hedges should continue to be managed.

References

BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction- Recommendations.



Replacement Tree Planting

In order to replace the young sycamore and *Prunus* specimens within the hedgerow, replacement trees will be planted behind the new line of the hedgerow.

One bare root wild cherry will be planted, minimum 6ft in height.

One bare root field maple, minimum 6ft in height.

Both trees will be supported with wooden stakes and ties, as necessary. Tree planting will be carried out during the dormant period.

