



ALLAN MOSS ASSOCIATES LTD

Environmental Planning and Landscape Design

**POULTRY DEVELOPMENT
AT CINDERS FARM, CINDERS, RUABON, WREXHAM
(PLANNING REF: P/2018/0577)**

**HEDGEROW TRANSLOCATION METHOD STATEMENT
Rev A**

Prepared by:

Allan Moss Associates Ltd
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2019 Wrexham CBC granted planning permission for the erection of four agricultural buildings for rearing livestock (poultry), ancillary buildings and plant, associated infrastructure, landscaping and access arrangements at Cinders Farm, Cinders, Ruabon (Planning Ref: P/2018/0577). Condition 7 of the planning permission requires a detailed methodology, management and maintenance regime for the proposed hedgerow translocation works to be submitted to the planning authority for approval prior to the first use of the development.
- 1.2 Drawing No 1484.06 Rev A, which is one of the approved plans, indicates all the proposed off-site hedgerow works. A reduced copy of this drawing is provided at Appendix A. This drawing indicates that the only section of hedge that needs to be translocated relates to the southern passing bay along Cinders Lane.
- 1.3 This method statement sets out the methods and procedures recommended for the proposed hedgerow translocation. Revision A incorporates additional measures requested by the Council's Ecologist (see Paragraphs 5.2 & 7.1).

2.0 TIMING

- 2.1 Hedgerow translocation operations should be carried out in the dormant season (November to March) in order to minimise impact on the hedge; and outside the bird nesting season (early March to late July) in order to avoid disturbance to nesting birds.

3.0 PREPARATION

- 3.1 In order to compensate for the inevitable root damage that will occur during the translocation process the canopy of the hedge first needs to be substantially reduced to minimise water demand. This is best achieved by coppicing the hedge to a height of approximately 150mm above ground level. Longer stumps can be retained to assist handling if required, but these will need to be cut back to 150mm after movement.
- 3.2 A receptor trench needs to be prepared in advance to receive the hedge. The trench needs to be wide enough and deep enough to accommodate the full root spread (at least 1.0m wide by 0.75m deep). It needs to be positioned at least 1.0m beyond the passing bay to allow for future re-growth. The excavated soil needs to be retained for reuse later. The soil at the base of the receptor trench needs to be thoroughly loosened to allow free drainage and root penetration. Any intervening soil between the hedge and the receptor trench needs to be removed so that a 1.0m wide rootball around the hedge can be dragged back into the receptor trench.
- 3.3 The hedge then needs to be undercut to a depth of 0.75m to sever the roots and free it from its surroundings. This will most easily be achieved using a suitable tractor mounted blade.

4.0 HEDGE MOVEMENT

- 4.1 The loosened hedge should be gradually pulled into place by an excavator with railway sleepers attached to the bucket. A series of gradual movements along the hedge is preferable in order to maintain the integrity of the hedge and its rootball.
- 4.2 The previously excavated soil should be used to reinstate the verge on the road side of the hedge, ensuring that no roots are left exposed. Any cavities along the trench also need to be backfilled with topsoil to ensure good root contact with the soil.
- 4.3 Immediately on completion of the movement the hedge needs to be thoroughly watered-in using a mobile water bowser. Further watering will need to be carried out as necessary until the hedge is properly established.
- 4.4 Any gaps in the hedgerow will need to be planted with Hawthorn hedging transplants. The roadside verge will need to be grass seeded.

5.0 AFTERCARE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- 5.1 For the first 3 years following translocation the hedge will need to be regularly checked and thoroughly watered if it shows any signs of drought stress. Weekly inspections are recommended during the first 12 months. Monthly inspections should suffice thereafter.
- 5.2 Any plant failures will need to be replaced with a mix of new Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly and Field Maple hedging transplants.
- 5.3 In the second or third year the hedge regrowth should be hand trimmed to an even height of approximately 750mm to encourage side shoots and the development of a sound base to the hedge. For the following two or three years, the leaders should be allowed to grow unhindered and the sides lightly trimmed only if necessary.
- 5.4 After 5 years, mechanical hedge trimming can commence with hedges being cut on the same maintenance regime as the adjoining roadside hedges. Hedge cutting operations should be programmed to avoid the bird nesting season (March to July) as it is an offence to harm nesting wild birds.

6.0 ADVANTAGES OF TRANSLOCATION

- 6.1 Hedge translocation has significant advantages over the alternative of removal and replanting. The hedgerow roots will remain in contact with the soil and as a result of the removal of the canopy through coppicing the translocated hedge will be capable of vigorous growth compared with new planting. In addition, the hedgerow soils will also be retained and these will contain the seeds of appropriate ground cover plants that grow naturally along the bases of hedgerows. It would be reasonable to expect the translocated hedges to reach a comparable height to the existing hedges within 5 years.

7.0 SUPERVISION

- 7.1 A suitably qualified and experienced landscape or ecology professional should be engaged to supervise the hedgerow translocation works.

APPENDIX A

**Drawing No 1484.06 Rev A
(Not to Scale)**

HEDGEROW TRANSLOCATION SPECIFICATION

1. Hedgerow translocation operations are to be carried out in the dormant season (November to March) in order to minimise impact on the hedge; and outside the bird nesting season (early March to late July) in order to avoid disturbance to nesting birds.
2. Those sections of hedgerow to be translocated are to be coppiced to a height of approximately 150mm prior to movement to compensate for root damage. Longer stumps can be retained to assist handling if required, but these will need to be cut back to 150mm after movement.
3. The receptor location is to be ploughed to loosen the soil and a trench prepared in advance to receive the hedge. The trench shall be wide enough and deep enough to accommodate the full root spread.
4. The hedge is to be undercut to sever the roots and free it from its surroundings. It is then to be gradually pulled into place by an excavator with railway sleepers attached to the bucket to maintain the integrity of the hedge.
5. Backfill with the excavated topsoil and thoroughly water in, immediately on completion. Additional watering is to be carried out as necessary until the hedge is properly established.
6. Any gaps are to be filled with new native hedging transplants.
7. For the first 3 years following translocation the hedge will need to be regularly checked and thoroughly watered if it shows any signs of drought stress. Weekly inspections are recommended during the first 12 months. Monthly inspections should suffice thereafter.
8. Any plant failures will need to be replaced with new planting.



Getmapping aerial photograph dated 25/07/2014
Rev A: Adjustments to accommodate improved visibility splays

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Description Proposed Poultry Unit Cinders Farm Ruabon, Wrexham	Drawing Name Off-site Hedgerows	
	Dwg number 1484.06	Rev A
Drawn by AM	Scale(s) 1:1000 @ A1 size	Date 04/12/18