120 Laund Road, Salendine Nook, Huddersfield

Site Clearance and Enhancement Method Statement

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1. Introduction

1.1.1 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was undertaken by Middleton Ecological Consultancy (MEC) (120 Laund Road Report dated 16/02/2015). In the interests of the enhancement of site biodiversity and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, the report recommended that an area of scrub be retained.

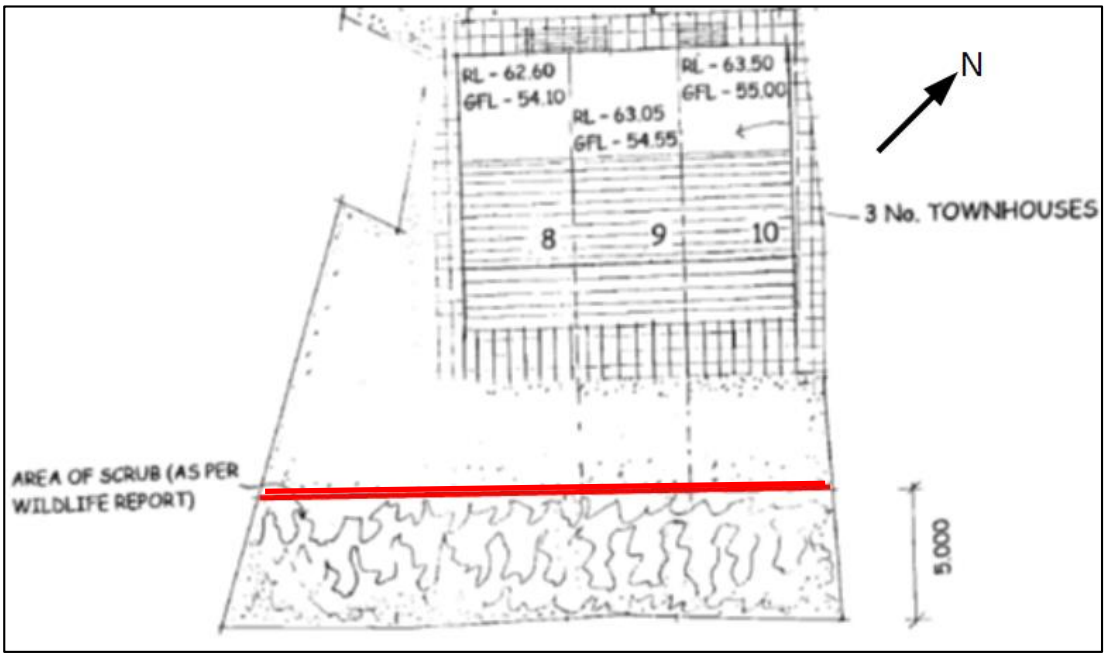
1.1.2 The habitats on site include semi improved grassland, dense and scattered scrub, scattered trees, amenity grass, bare ground and boundary dry-stone walls.

1.1.3 Planning permission has been approved by Kirklees Council (2014/62/93584/W) for a small residential development at 120 Laund Road, Salendine Nook, Huddersfield. A condition of the approval (Condition 17) states:

> *A Method Statement which will address the provision of an area of scrub as shown on the approved site layout plan Drg. No. 07 Rev E, by a suitably qualified person, shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before development commences.*

1.1.4 Drawing No 07 shows a five metre strip of scrub at the southern boundary of the site (see Figure 1) as recommended in the PEA report.

Figure 1. Area of retained scrub at south-east boundary of site



1.1.5 Condition 17 requests that the Method Statement shall include:

- Details of how the area of scrub will be formed and allowed to develop
- Details of planting and maintenance
- How the scrub will be protected from any encroachment by the adjacent residential gardens.

2. Delivery

2.1.1 The area allocated for scrub already contains scrub and trees some of which will be retained. Site clearance must be undertaken under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).The ECoW will supervise clearance at the southern boundary to the site and advise on which trees and which scrub shall be retained. All bramble *Rubus fruticosus* scrub shall be removed in order to avoid this species dominating this retained section of the site in the near future.

2.1.2 Site clearance must be undertaken using a best practice approach to nature conservation issues. Where existing trees are to be retained, British Standard 5837 (2012): Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction, should be followed. Root Protection Zones (RPZ's) should be calculated and implemented to prevent harm to trees. This should also apply to any trees outwith the site, up to 5 m from the boundary. Additionally, site clearance must be undertaken at a time when it will not affect nesting birds (outside March-August inclusive), or following a nesting bird check, to be undertaken by an ECoW.

2.1.3 Areas subject to bramble scrub clearance within the retained area of scrub shall be planted with whips of rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. Four whips of each species will be planted by the ECoW.

2.1.4 The existing scrub together with new plantings will be left to develop naturally, however, protection guards must be used for the new plantings to prevent browsing by mammals. The guards are to be removed after five years. The scrub requires no other management and can be left to the forces of natural succession. Bramble under-scrub can be left to develop naturally as planted whips will by that time have become established.

2.1.5 The five metre strip (approximately 115m^2) of scrub shall be protected from future encroachment of adjacent residential gardens by a dry-stone wall, a minimum of 1.3m high (see Figure 1 and Plate 2). This type of boundary is in-keeping with the local area and will form a secure barrier/boundary. The bottom 300mm plus the topping stones can be bedded with mortar to ensure it longevity.

Plate 2. Example of dry-stone wall to protect against encroachment