

IMPERIAL PARK 132kV GIS SUBSTATION

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Prepared for SSE Energy Solutions
February 2026

CONTENTS

1.0 Introduction3

2.0 Management of Existing Vegetation4

3.0 Proposed Planting and ManAgement8

4.0 Appendix I9

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 RHLA Ltd were instructed by DWD, on behalf of SSE Energy Solutions, undertake a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) for a 132kV Gas Insulated Switchgear ('GIS') substation and associated infrastructure ('the Proposed Development') on land adjacent to the existing National Grid Imperial Park 400kV Substation ('the Site').
- 1.2 The proposed GIS substation is 19 metres (m) in height and would be visible at close range, from along the Percoed Reen footway and Green Lane. Opportunities for new planting in proximity to the GIS to reduce its visibility are limited due to the constraints of the overhead electrical wires and their associated 'swing zones'.
- 1.3 However, the existing vegetation between the Percoed Reen and Green Lane (within land owned by Newport City Council (NCC)) provides a degree of visual softening and screening, particularly in summer months. There is also land beyond the 'swing zones' (also within NCC ownership) which could be planted, to aid in increasing the visual screening from the Green Lane.
- 1.4 The preferred design option is therefore be to retain the existing vegetation within land owned by NCC and enable it to increase in height, alongside introducing new planting in proximity to the Percoed Reen footpath, thereby providing additional visual screening throughout the operational phases of the Proposed Development from Green Lane.
- 1.5 Following discussions between SSE Energy Solutions and NCC, SSE Energy Solutions have proposed to manage the existing vegetation and implement new native planting within land owned by NCC, via a Unilateral Undertaking (UU). This Landscape Management Plan therefore sets out which existing vegetation is to be maintained and its management, along with the area of proposed new planting and its management to support the UU.
- 1.6 As the existing vegetation and proposed planting are both 'living' elements, this Management Plan should be updated as required to re-address any matters that arise. The Management Plan is also considered to be subject to additional detail as part of planning conditions / reserved matters.
- 1.7 The Landscape Management Plan has been prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects and should be read in combination with the following plans in **Appendix I**:
- Figure A – Landscape Management Plan of Existing Vegetation; and
 - Figure I2 – Illustrative Landscape Masterplan.

2.0 MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING VEGETATION

Existing Vegetation

- 2.1 With reference to the following extract of **Figure A**, the existing vegetation to be retained and managed within the NCC land is located to the south of the GIS Site and National Grid ownership (the boundary of which is illustrated by the pink line).

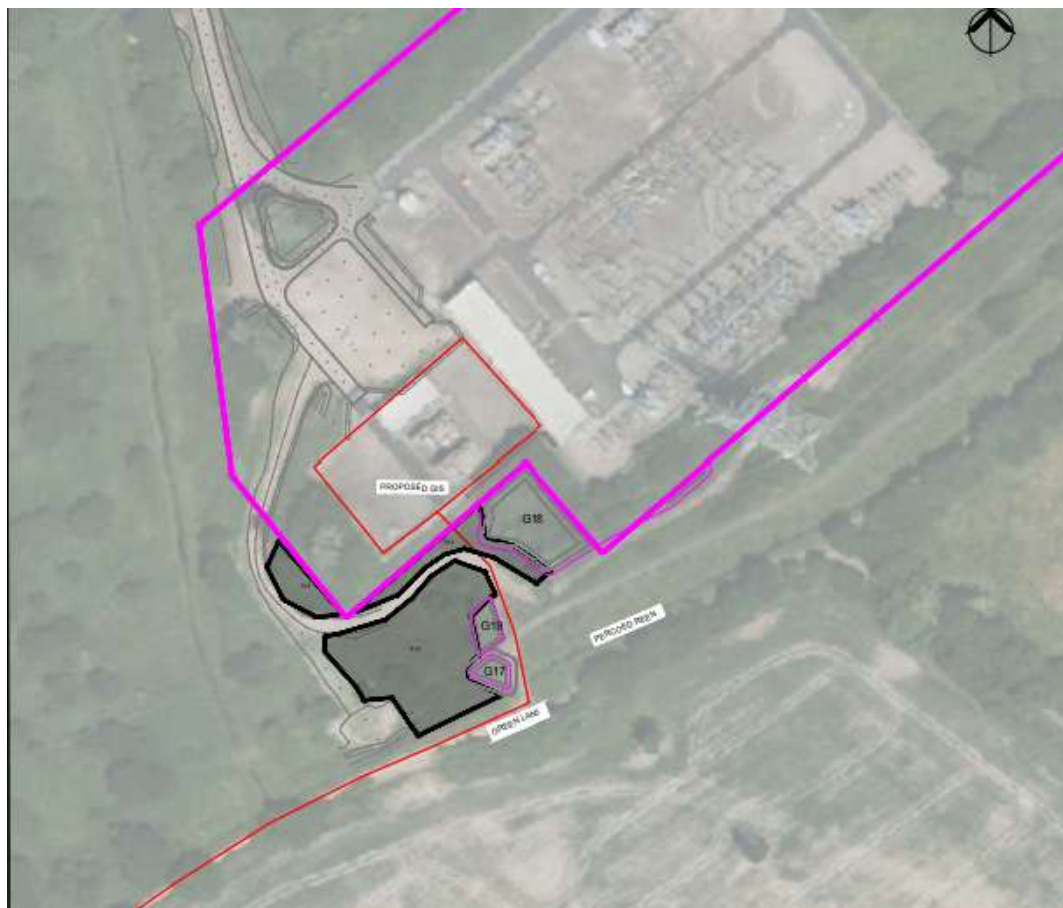


Image 2-1: Extract of Figure A – Landscape Management Plan.

- 2.2 With reference to the Arboricultural Impact Assessment undertaken to support the planning application, the following table sets out the species composition of this vegetation to be retained.

Table 2-1: Existing Vegetation

Existing Vegetation Groups	Existing Vegetation
G17	Salix caprea (Goat willow); Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore) and Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn). Up to 9m in height, good condition and BS Category C2.
G18	Salix caprea (Goat Willow); Salix fragilis (Crack Willow) and Salix alba (White Willow). Up to 12m in height, good condition and BS Category C2.
G19	Salix caprea (Goat willow); Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore) and Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn). Up to 9m in height, good condition and BS Category C2.
G20	Salix caprea (Goat Willow); Salix fragilis (Crack Willow) and Alnus glutinosa (Common Alder). Up to 17m in height, good condition and BS Category C2.

Existing Vegetation Groups	Existing Vegetation
S14	Rosa canina (Dog Rose); Rubus fruticosus (Bramble spp.) and Salix fragilis (Crack Willow). Up to 2m in height.
S15	Rosa canina (Dog Rose); Rubus fruticosus (Bramble spp.) and Salix fragilis (Crack Willow). Up to 2m in height.

- 2.3 The existing vegetation is either below the overhead pylons or within their associated swing zones. Due care and attention is therefore required for any management and site visits.

Management and Maintenance Aims and Objective

- 2.4 The objective of the landscape management of existing vegetation is to retain its presence and through natural succession, enable the vegetation to grow taller in height, thereby increasing the visual screening of the GIS.
- 2.5 The aims of the maintenance throughout the operational phase of the Proposed Development are:
- Retain the existing good condition of the vegetation;
 - Retain the existing character, biodiversity and wildlife value of the vegetation;
 - Maximise the visual screening potential of the vegetation for users of the Percoed Reen footway and Green Lane by enabling the vegetation to grow taller in height; and
 - Ensure any maintenance and management works are undertaken safely, particularly given the vegetation is below overhead pylons or within the swing zones of the overhead wires.

MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Construction Phase

- 2.6 During the construction of the Proposed Development, no construction machinery, nor operations are permitted within the existing vegetation groups set out in Table 2-1. Should any activity be required in proximity to their locations, then suitable tree protection fencing should be implemented in accordance with the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and as advised by an Arborist.

Operational Phase

- 2.7 The management of the existing vegetation will be the responsibility of the Applicant and/or the Applicants management company/contractor. Monitoring of the management plan for the existing vegetation will be reviewed at years 3 and 5 by a Landscape Architect, Arborist and Ecologist. The purpose of the review will be to reflect on whether the aims and objectives are being met and to either adapt the management plan and maintenance accordingly through a review of the successful outcomes and analysis of any failures.
- 2.8 The landscape management is assumed to be undertaken by competent landscape contractors, responsible for the application of best practice standards, with all relevant health and safety

procedures, protection of the environment and the avoidance of pollution and protection of protected species and habitats. All management is to adhere to current and future, statutory and best practice solutions and in consultation with the project Arborist, Ecologist, NCC as required.

Operation Years 1 to 5

2.9 In the first 5 years of the operational phase, the existing vegetation illustrated on **Figure A** shall be:

- Inspected twice yearly at six month intervals, with notification of site visits provided to NCC at least 1 week prior to the site inspection;
- Visits shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist, Arborist or Landscape Architect;
- Suitable risk assessments shall be undertaken, given the inspection areas are in proximity to pylon towers and beneath overhead wires;
- A photographic and written record of the site visit and areas of existing vegetation shall be undertaken at each site visit;
- Existing vegetation should be checked for visible signs of deterioration or distress and the appropriate actions undertaken, e.g. selective pruning;
- Any litter or debris within the areas of retained vegetation shall be removed;
- Where young trees are identified, these shall be specifically recorded and their condition and height noted so as to inform future site visit and monitoring. Any existing vegetation which may be prohibiting growth or weeds at the base of the trees shall be reviewed as to whether it is required to be removed or not to facilitate the successful growth of the tree;
- If any selective pruning is required to trees due to damage or disease, then NCC and NRW shall be informed and approval sought, with the operations undertaken by a suitably qualified contractor;
- If required and approved, pruning shall be undertaken in the appropriate season, with any diseased arisings and debris removed from Site and taken to the nearest recycling centre, such that the Site is left in a clean and tidy condition;
- If larger branches are required and approved to be removed, then they should be removed in sections and undercut to avoid tearing the bark, such that no cuts should be capable of holding water, nor sealed with fungicidal sealant;
- Management and maintenance shall include reporting to the Applicant in the event of any potential risks or conflicts with the vegetation and their proximity to overhead wires;
- Inspection reports shall be issued to NCC; and
- Management shall be reviewed at years 3 and 5.

Post Year 5 Operation

2.10 Beyond year 5, the responsibility for management and maintenance will remain with the Applicant. Management of the retained vegetation should be undertaken on an ad hoc basis as advised by the

Ecologist, Arborist or Landscape Architect, based upon the operational maintenance set out above and the following management schedule.

Management Schedule

Action	Timing	Timeframe Year 1 - 5	Post Year 5
Inspection Visits			
Inspect areas of retained vegetation as per paragraph 2.9.	During Autumn and Spring	2 yearly visits	Ad hoc as required
Litter			
Removal of all litter, rubbish and foreign debris in existing vegetation areas as illustrated on Figure A.	During Autumn and Spring visits	2 yearly visits	Ad hoc as required
Weed Control			
Remove weeds by hand, with arisings removed from Site as required.	In spring	Once yearly	Ad hoc as required
Review of Management			
Review of management and successes/failures and any potential remedial action.	As required	Twice, at year 3 and 5	Once every 3 years

3.0 PROPOSED PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 New planting is proposed to the immediate south of the Percoed Reen footway ('the Site'), as per the following extract of **Figure 12**.



Image 3-1: Extract of Figure 12, illustrating the location of the proposed planting via the green hatch.

General Objectives

- 3.2 New planting shall be undertaken to a high standard, with the Site kept neat and clean at all times. The Site is to remain weed and litter free, with no soil or debris on the Percoed Reen footway. All works must not cause inconvenience nor pose a risk to the general public, nor the Percoed Reen waterway (drain).
- 3.3 The proposed planting is located beyond the identified 'swing zone' of the overhead cables. However all Site work should be based upon suitable risk assessments.
- 3.4 The objective of the new planting is to provide additional visual softening and screening of the proposed GIS building from the Green Lane.

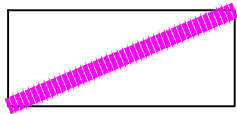
Planting Operations and Maintenance

- 3.5 The proposed planting specification and maintenance is set out on **Figure 12**.

4.0 APPENDIX I



LEGEND



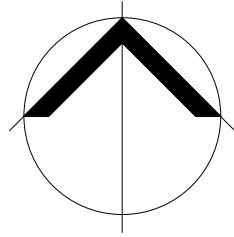
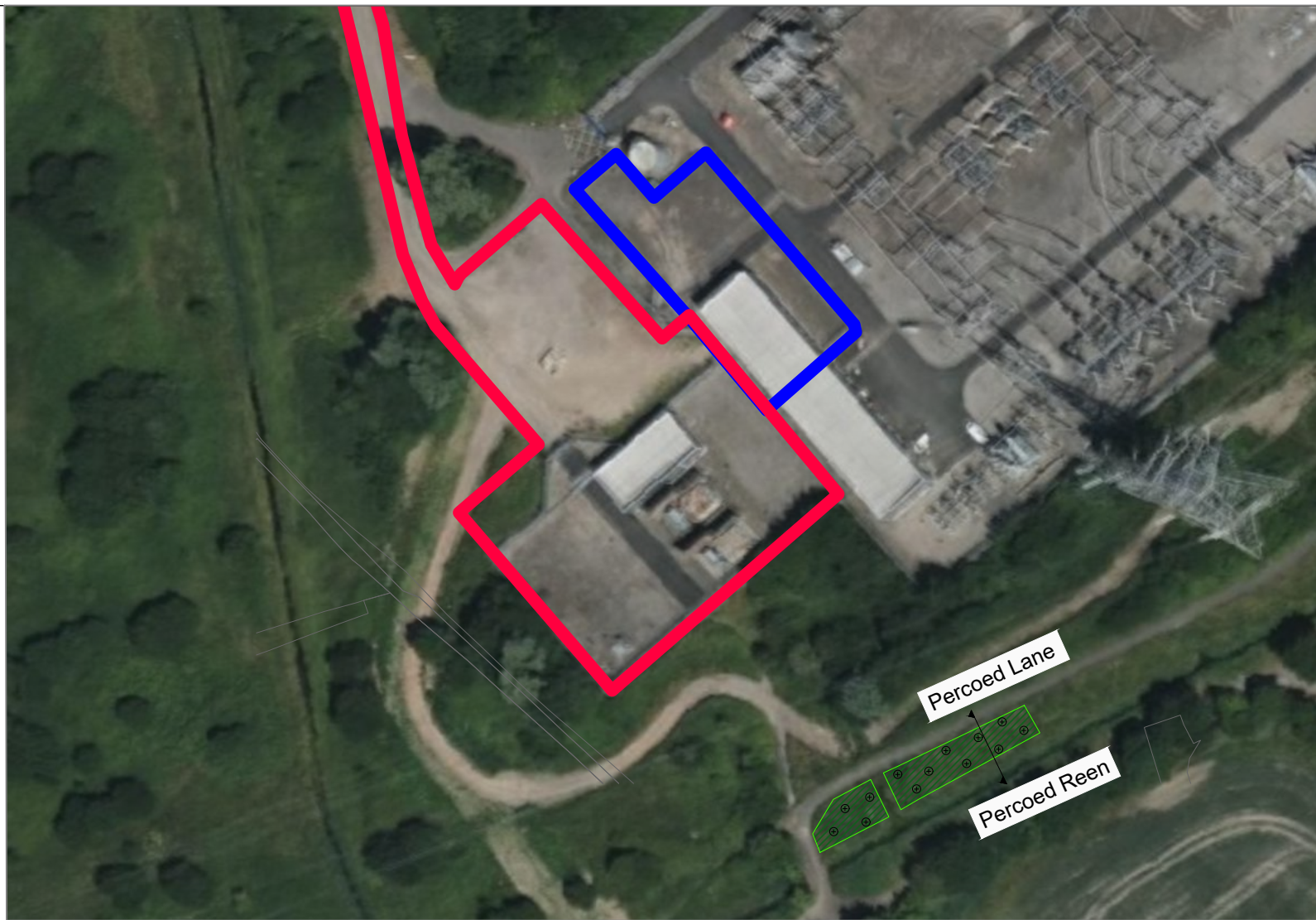
Extent of National Grid landholding.

G17, G18, G19, G20, S14 and S15

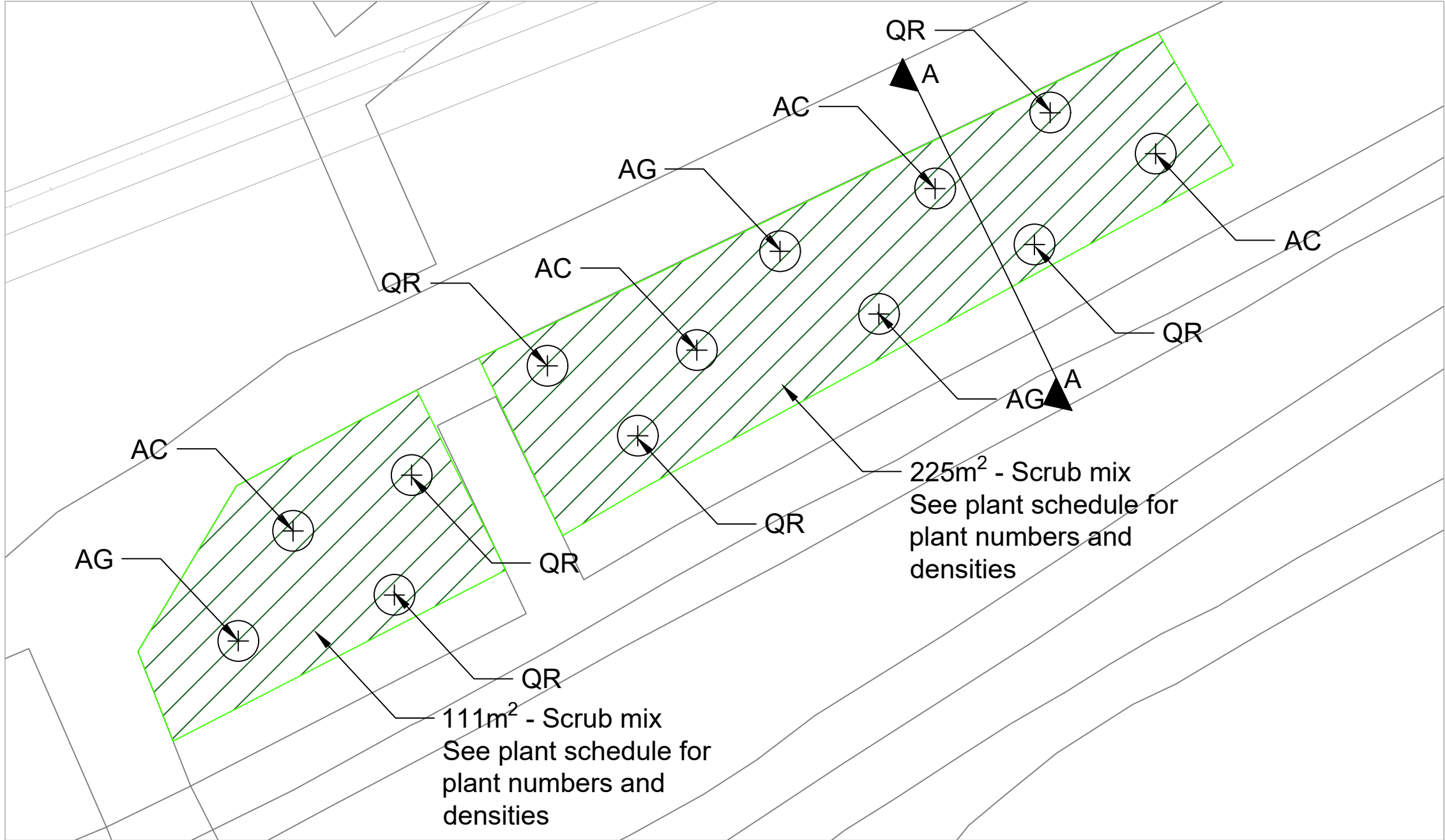
Existing vegetation to be retained and managed. Refer to Landscape Management Plan.

RHLA LTD

CLIENT		SSE ENERGY SOLUTIONS	
PROJECT		IMPERIAL PARK SUBSTATION	
TITLE		LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE PLAN	
DRAWN BY	JFG	CHECKED BY	RH
SCALE @ A1	1:500	DATE	10/09/2025
PROJECT NO.	-	DRAWING NO.	Figure A



Site Location Plan 1:1250 @ A1



Planting Plan 1:200 @ A1

Standard (8-10cm Girth)
Plant tree at level of nursery line

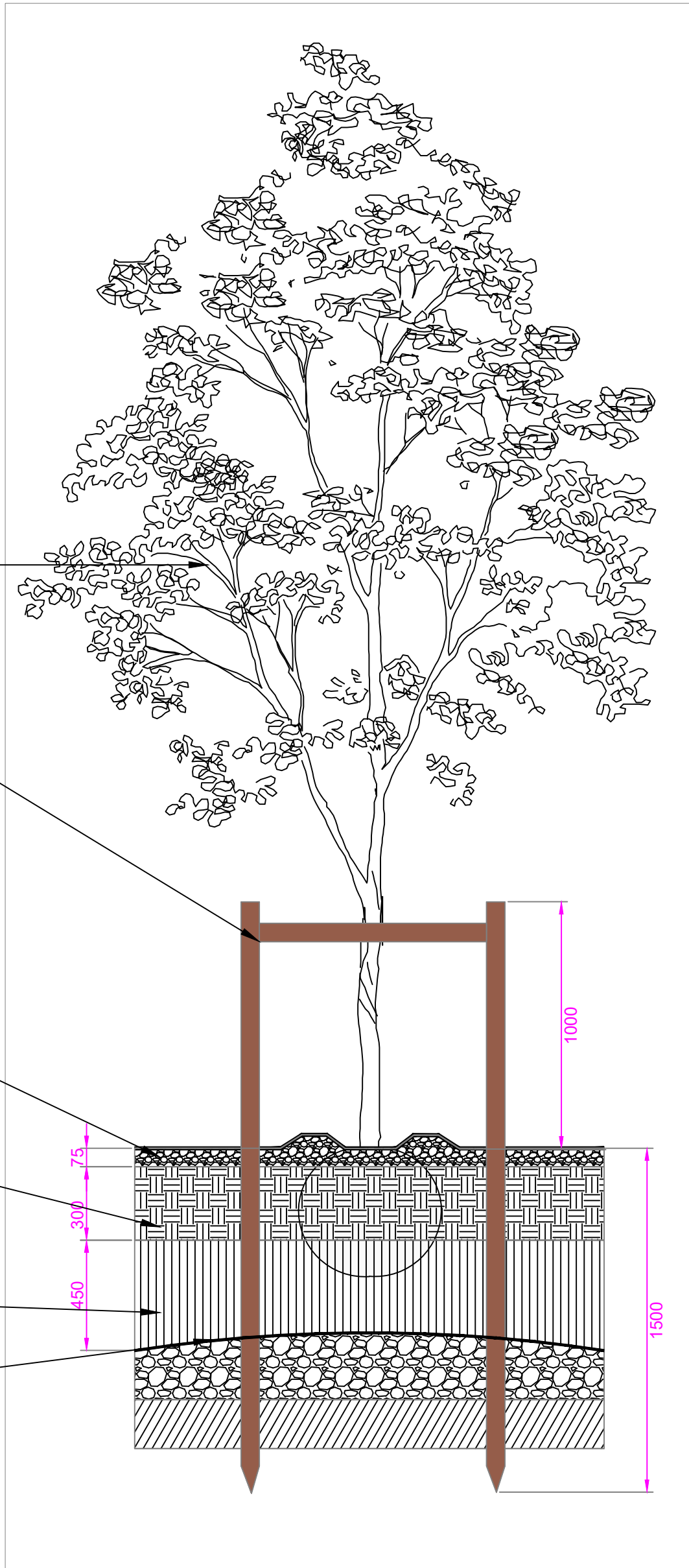
Double stake support. Pressure
impregnated softwood stake
2500mm L x 75mm Ø round timber,
peeled of bark (1000mm above
ground level). Stakes to be located
min 450mm from trunk set either
side of tree, bedded 1500mm into
soil (avoiding rootball). Timber cross
spar (100x300mm) shall be fixed to
post with galvanised nails. One
adjustable rubber tree tie (threaded
through a rubber tree cushion) to be
fixed to cross spar with galvanised
clout nails.

75mm depth medium grade bark
mulch as specified spread 1mØ
around trunk of tree, mounded to
doughnut shape ring around base of
tree to aid in water retention.

Planting pit filled with premium quality
topsoil (80%) and compost (20%).
Fertilizer, soil conditioner, water
retention gel and mycorrhizal
inoculant gel to be added to pit as
specified.

450mm depth Subsoil to BS
8601:2013

Geotextile membrane eg. Terram 1000



Tree Pit Detail 1:20 @ A1

Standard Tree Planting					
Species	Girth	Height	Clear Stem	Type	No.
<i>Acer campestre</i> (AC)	8-10cm	225-250cm	100-125cm	BR	4
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (AG)	8-10cm	225-250cm	100-125cm	BR	3
<i>Quercus robur</i> (QR)	8-10cm	225-250cm	100-125cm	BR	6
Trees to be double staked/local provenance only					
Scrub Planting 336 sqm					
Species	Height	Specification		Mix	Density per m2
<i>Acer campestre</i>	60-80cm	B; 1+1 Transplant - seed raised		20%	3
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	60-80cm	B; 1+1 Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks		30%	3
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	60-80cm	B; 1+1 Transplant - seed raised		20%	3
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	60-80cm	3L; Leader with laterals		5%	3
<i>Rosa canina</i>	60-80cm	3L; caned, several shoots, 2 breaks		5%	3
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	60-80cm	B; 1+1 Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks		5%	3
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	60-80cm	B; 1+1 Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks		5%	3
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	60-80cm	3L; caned, several shoots, 2 breaks		5%	3
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	60-80cm	B; 1+1 Transplant - seed raised; branched; 3 breaks		5%	3

SPECIFICATION NOTES FOR TREE, SHRUBS
GROUND PREPARATION:
Vegetation Clearance: all clearance is to be selective and approved by an ecologist and notification to NRW. Existing groundcover to be retained wherever possible.

Subsoil Treatment: The soil shall be ripped, using a ripping tine or subsoil plough in areas to be planted. The minimum depth of treatment shall be 450 mm.

Invasive Species: Should invasive species be identified the Contractor is to provide an invasive species method statement prior to works commencing on site to ensure the species are not allowed to spread.

Soil Depths: Minimum soil depths are as follows:
• Trees to be planted as shown on Tree Planting Detail (see top right)
• Shrubs - Topsoil 300mm with 150mm subsoil underneath
Imported topsoil shall be General Purpose Grade conforming to BS 3882. Imported subsoil shall be to BS8601:2013

Final Preparation of Soils: The top 50 mm of all soil to be reduced to a fine tilth with all undesirable material brought to the surface including stones larger than 50 mm in any dimension, roots, tufts of grass and foreign matter is to be removed off site.
Finished levels of material (Mulch) after settlement shall be 25mm below adjoining Percoed Reen path and existing ground levels.

PLANTING
All plants to be British Provenance and native plant stock to be from local provenance.
Planting Times (undertaken in favourable weather and soil conditions):
• Deciduous trees/ shrubs: Late October to late March.
• Evergreens: September/ October or April/ May.
• Container grown plants: At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable.

Tree Planting: Trees to be planted as shown on Tree Planting Detail
Shrub Planting: Proposed planted areas shall receive 300mm depth of topsoil to BS 3882:2007 (imported/ex-site). Excavate pits to 300 x 300 x 300mm with a further 150mm of subsoil cultivation at the base of the pit. On sloping ground, pits shall be dug with vertical sides and horizontal base and shall maintain the specified depth throughout. Large stones/material in excess of 100 mm shall be removed off site.

Planting: Each plant shall be placed upright in the centre of the pit, with the roots spread evenly outwards and downwards without restriction to the nursery soil mark . Where necessary, any badly damaged roots shall be carefully pruned before being planted. The pit shall be backfilled with a premixed 80% topsoil / 20% compost (peat free organic) mixture and the backfill lightly firmed. When backfilled, planting pits shall be finished to existing contours. Slow-release fertiliser shall be added to the top 75mm of the pit.

Mulching: Apply a medium grade bark mulch to planting areas depth of 75mm. Before application of any mulch the planting areas shall be free of grass and weed growth and shall be watered to field capacity.

5 YEAR MAINTENANCE PROPOSALS: To be reviewed every 5 years by a Landscape Architect and Ecologist to identify if the aims and objectives are being met and to inform future management to succeed in the identified aims.

Watering: To be undertaken immediately after planting and at intervals necessary throughout the Contract to ensure that plants continue to thrive.

Weed Control: To be undertaken on a monthly basis

Fertiliser: Slow release fertilizer to be applied to planting plots in March or April.

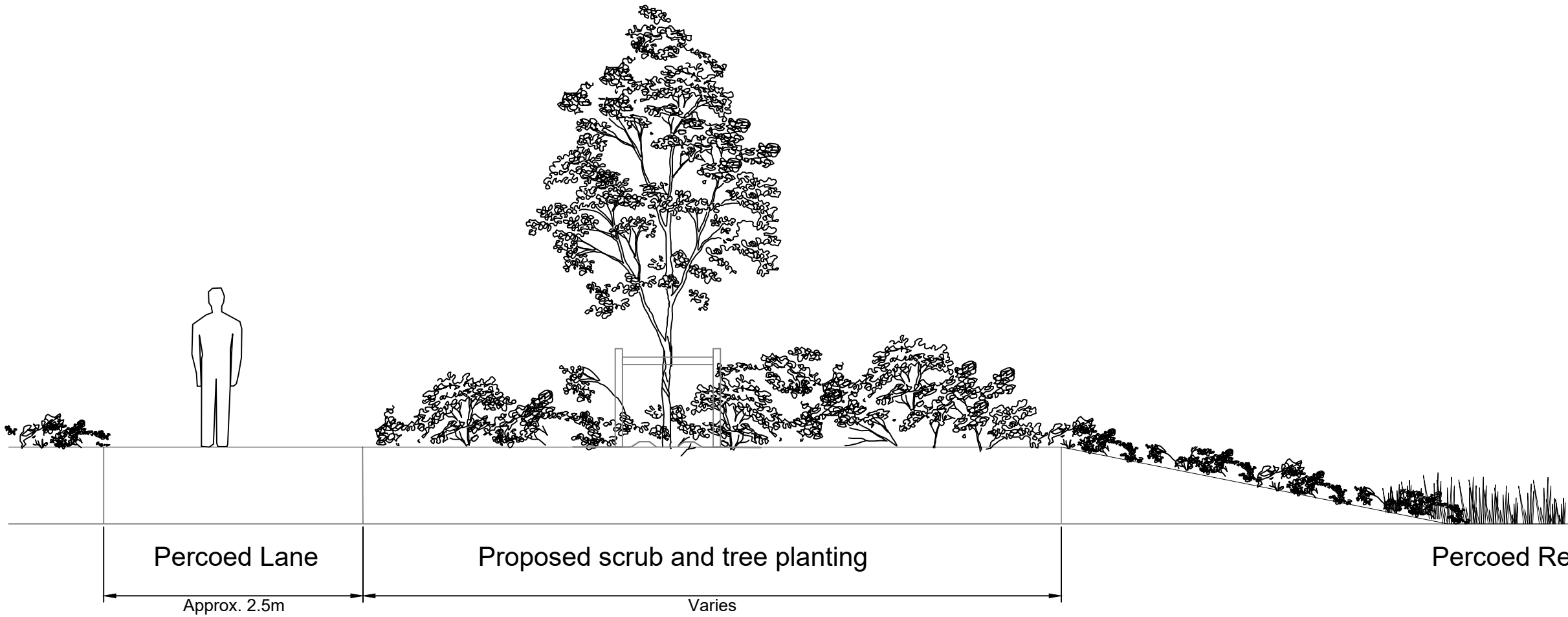
Plants: Plants shall be reformed periodically particularly after strong winds.

Plant Replacements: For the duration of the Contract all plants which are missing, are damaged, have died, or are failing to make satisfactory extension growth, shall be replaced in the next planting season at the original specified size.

RHLA LTD

Landscape Planning Consultancy

CLIENT	SSE ENERGY SOLUTIONS	
PROJECT	IMPERIAL PARK SUBSTATION	
TITLE	ILLUSTRATIVE LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN	
DRAWN BY	JFG	CHECKED BY RH
SCALE @ A1	NTS	DATE 02/02/2026
PROJECT NO.	-	DRAWING NO. FIGURE 12



Illustrative Section - AA - 1:50 @ A1