











**Key**

-  Proposed Soft Works and POS
-  Existing Hedges, Trees & Groups Retained  
\*Root Protection Areas Indicated in Red Dash
-  Existing Wildlife Corridor - Retained & Enhanced
-  Proposed Pedestrian & Cycle Link
-  Views of Site from Public Right of Way
-  No View of Site
-  Public Right of Way
-  St. Nicholas Conservation Area Boundary
-  Proposed Front Garden
-  Proposed Rear Garden

**Strategy**

The previous LVIA, Local Plan Policy and the Conservation Area Appraisal both emphasise the need to maintain the rural character of St Nicholas. This can be achieved by:

- Retaining field patterns, tree and hedgerow enclosure together with new grouped trees
- Enhancing existing hedgerows will be achieved through introducing Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex*) and Common Dog Violet (*Viola riviniana*) along existing vegetated margins plus Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) where new hedgerow margins are proposed to minimise visual impact.
- Omitting closeboard fencing or reducing in most visible areas
- Promoting biodiversity and designing wildlife corridors to link the development with the surrounding countryside. Native trees will support new and existing hedgerows and further strengthen ecological links across the site.
- Allowing pedestrian permeability and good links to the local Public Rights of Way

The landscape strategy for the site seeks to complement the proposed built form through structural tree planting and private boundary treatments which are appropriate to the character of the nearby conservation area.

Key routes through the development will be tree lined, with hedges used as boundaries to front gardens to soften the streetscape and add structure. Stone boundaries will add character in a number of locations within the proposed scheme and will be enhanced with clipped Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) hedges, lawns and pockets of ornamental shrub planting. Small leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire') will further enhance the streetscape and frame distant views to feature trees and mews areas.

Less formal streets will occupy areas beyond the primary access roads and Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) hedges will again provide a soft boundary to lawned frontages and pockets of ornamental shrub planting. Multi-stem Birch (*Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*) will be placed around informal areas with feature Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) strategically positioned to terminate long views along primary roads/movement corridors.

**Views Appraisal** (From Land adjacent to St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan: Landscape & Visual Appraisal Prepared by Catherine Etchell Associates Ltd, March 2015)

- The site is relatively flat and falls slightly from the ridgeline in the north towards the A48 in the south.
- Due to the topography, any views of the site are likely to be limited to the houses at the edge of the development, rather than further inside the site. Most views are short or medium range, so the closer the viewer to the site, the more true this will be. This makes the boundary field patterns more important, particularly the trees and hedges along the outside edges of the site, which are able to screen and visually soften the development.
- The site is surrounded on the north and east sides by fields, and on the west and south sides by existing houses. Ger y Llan to the west provides a buffer to the centre of the St Nicholas Conservation Area. The Conservation Area also borders the south side of the site. The existing hedgerow along this boundary is weak and gappy, and it will be important to improve this key site boundary through provision of a more substantial hedgerow.
- The Millennium Heritage Trail is a long distance route which crosses the Vale of Glamorgan, but views of the development are only far distance and will be glimpses, mainly in winter when there is no leaf cover.
- The Three Saints Trail passes close to the development and views from the path will inevitably be affected for a short duration, before the path overtops the ridge to the north.
- Due to the buffering effect of Ger y Llan, there are very limited views from the Conservation Area eastwards towards the site.

Views of rooftops barely visible (and in winter only) from the Millennium Heritage Long Distance Trail

Retain character of field pattern with small/medium fields and proposed trees in hedgerows to maintain biodiversity and wildlife corridor

Proposed trees and hedgerows to screen views of development

Existing hedge retained in lieu of closeboard fence and occasional trees allowed to grow

Near views of proposed housing from Three Saints Trail

Plant up gaps in hedgerow to provide green boundary

Link to Millennium Heritage Long Distance Trail

Views of proposed development are screened from the central core of the Conservation Area

Continue hedgerow to provide green boundary with Conservation Area

Green pedestrian & wildlife corridor

Link to Three Saints Trail



Client Redrow Homes South Wales

OS Licence No 100054593

Project Land at St Nicholas



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