**Topsoil Stripping/ Bund Method Statement**

This topsoil stripping method statement and bund relocation method statement has been produced to meet the requirements of planning permission ESS/19/14/MAL, conditions, 36, 37 and 39 granted on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

**Condition 36 States**

36. No stripping or handling of topsoil or subsoil shall take place unless a scheme of soil movement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Minerals Planning Authority. The scheme shall:

a) Be submitted at least 3 months prior to the expected commencement of soil stripping;
b) Clearly identify the origin, intermediate and final locations of soils for use in agricultural restoration together with details of quantities, depths and areas involved.

The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved scheme.

**Condition 37 States**

37. No development shall take place until a scheme of machine movements for the stripping and replacement of soils has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Minerals Planning Authority. The scheme shall define the type of machinery to be used and all the machine movements shall be restricted to those approved.

**Condition 39 States**

39. No development shall take place until details for the forming, planting and maintenance of soil bunds to the site have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Minerals Planning Authority. The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

**Conditions 36 & 37 - Top Soil Strpping**

**Methodology**

Top Soil to be stripped by way of low ground pressure tracked D8 or similar tractor with hydraulic stripping box set to depth to remove all of the top soil.
The stripping of top soil will only take place when soil conditions are in a dry and friable condition and between the months of May and September.

Weed control will be in place to keep soil free from growth and weed contamination and ensure the soil is in a friable condition before stripping and moving.

Weed and growth control will be undertaken by an outside contractor minimum twice yearly or as is required

**Condition 39- Bund Method Statement**

This section should be reviewed in conjunction with the Landscape Planting Specification, prepared by Tony Walentowicz. Top Soil will be stored in bunds at a height of 4 metres on the north boundary and 1.5 metres on the North West boundary, refer to landscape planting plan, drawing number WMM/AP/003. The bunds to be used as screening for the site or the Top Soil will be re-graded over an area under restoration when possible to do so.

The temporary topsoil bunds will be formed using an excavator in to steep sides to ensure surface run off from rain fall, the bund surface will be compacted using the bucket of the excavator to prevent ingress of rainfall and deterioration of the topsoil.

Once final levels have been reached the bundled topsoil will be placed back on top of the overburden to provide the growing media for planting. Care will be taken during the placement of topsoil to ensure that the structural integrity of the topsoil is not lost. The topsoil will be placed using the D8 Tractor and box and final grading will be by way of a low ground pressure tracked Dozer with blade. Where possible it is intended that some of the topsoil be placed using an excavator pulling the topsoil back from the temporary screening bunds to reduce movement and impact to sun soils over the site.

Planting of the final topsoil layer will take place in accordance with planning condition 29

Overburden will be stripped using the same methodology as Top Soil stripping and also stored in screening bunds or re-graded over an area under restoration when possible to do so.

Statement prepared by Lee Finch of G&B Finch Ltd 21st March 2015