



## Violet Bank, Peebles

### Installation of a capping layer with anti-dig membrane in residential gardens

**The Client:** Scottish Borders Council

**The Challenge:** 10 residential properties had been built on ground contaminated with an ash material containing elevated levels of lead. The material was seen as posing an unacceptable risk to the health of the local residents.

Access to the mature gardens was limited due to the orientation of the houses. Narrow paths lead to the front gardens, with the back gardens being enclosed in on three sides and the only manageable route for machines being via a local playing field to the rear of the properties.

**The Solution:** The mature gardens contained a variety of plants, trees, shrubs, sheds, greenhouses, ponds and paths. Close liaison with residents was undertaken to; rescue as many plants as possible and store them at a local nursery; dismantle and store the structures; and remove hard landscaping, whilst allowing residents access to their homes.

Having cleared the gardens and removed all fencing the contaminated soils were excavated using mini diggers and loaded into small one tonne dumpers before being deposited into skips for removal from site.

A geo-membrane to prevent the migration of particulates was then installed along with an anti-dig barrier to protect the membrane from adventurous gardeners. Clean inert sub and top soils were then imported to form the capping layer.

Following this the gardens were reinstated as agreed with the home owners, including paths, sheds, ponds, plants, etc.

**Length of contract:** 10 weeks



GARDENS BEFORE WORKS STARTED



REMOVAL OF CONTAMINATED MATERIAL FROM GARDENS



INSTALLATION OF TEXTILE AND 'GEO-GRID' PROTECTION PRIOR TO BACKFILLING.



GARDENS AFTER REMEDIATION PRIOR TO PLANT RE-INSTALLMENT



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