



OAKFIELD
ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Fendyke Solar Farm

OAS 24-082-AR01
Rev B

November 2024

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DISCLAIMER

While all reasonable efforts have been made to identify defects in the subject trees, the statements made in this report do not take into account the effects of extreme weather events, vandalism, accidents or changes to the site that may affect trees that have taken place since the date of the survey. Oakfield Arboricultural Ltd does not accept any responsibility in connection with these factors. The comments and observations made within this report will cease to be valid either within two years of the date of the survey (unless specifically stated elsewhere within the report), or when site conditions change or any works to trees take place that have not been specified within this report, whichever is the sooner.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Instruction

- 1.1.1 Oakfield Arboricultural Services were instructed to undertake a tree survey and provide arboricultural advice on the site known as Fendyke Solar Farm to accompany a planning application.
- 1.1.2 A detailed survey was undertaken in May 2024 and was carried out in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations'

1.2 Scope of Works

- 1.2.1 The scope of 'Trees in relation to construction' is to provide recommendations and guidance on how trees and other vegetation may be satisfactorily integrated into construction and development projects. The overall aim of this is to ensure the continued longevity and quality of amenity contribution that trees appropriate for retention and protection provide. This report and its appendices follow precisely the strategy for arboricultural appraisal and input intended to provide councils with evidence that trees have been carefully considered throughout the development process.
- 1.2.2 This is a preliminary assessment from ground level and observations have been made solely from a visual perspective for the purposes of assessment in terms relevant to planning and development. No invasive or other detailed internal decay detection devices have been used in assessing internal conditions.
- 1.2.3 Any conclusions relate to conditions found at the time of inspection. Any significant alteration to the site that may affect the trees that are present or have a bearing on planning implications (including level changes, hydrological changes, extreme climatic events or other site works) will necessitate a re-assessment of the trees and the site and render any previous advice/ findings invalid.
- 1.2.4 This is an arboricultural report and no such reliance must be given to comments relating to buildings, engineering, soil or ecological issues.

1.3 Documentation

1.3.1 The following documentation has been made available

- Topographical survey
- Proposed layout

2.0 Site & Tree Discussion

2.1 Site Description

2.1.1 The site is an area of farmland located off Bardling's Drove near the village of Sutton St James in Cambridgeshire. The land is agricultural in nature and of large open flat arable fields. The Site extends to 44.2 hectares (ha) and comprises primarily agricultural land. The Site is almost entirely bordered by watercourses and subdivided into four separate fields by virtue of the existing drainage system. Four of these adjoining drains are unnamed and South Holland Main Drain is located 250m north of the Site. The intersection of Bardling's Drove runs east-west within the Site.

2.2 Tree Discussion

A total of seven individual trees and four groups of trees have been assessed in detail from ground level by visual means only. The Tree Survey Schedule, at Appendix 2, details the trees in respect of dimension and quality in accordance with the methodology set out in the British Standard 5837:2012.

2.2.2 The trees are of Hawthorn, Maple and Goat Willow and are made up of a few individual trees and or hedgerows. Where vegetation exists it offers some screening into the site.

2.2.3 The trees are not afforded protection via a tree preservation order or by virtue of being located in a conservation area.

3.0 Development Implication Assessment

3.1 The proposal

3.1.1 The proposal is to construct a solar farm and will include all solar panels and infrastructure associated with a solar farm.

- 3.1.2 The proposal will not require the removal of any individual trees or groups. A section of G2 will need to be removed to allow for access from Bardling's Drove. This removal will be more than mitigated for by additional planting within the landscape proposals. Overall the arboriculture impact is minimal and of no significant concern.

3.2 Access

- 3.2.1 The main access point is off Bardling's Drove and follows an existing farm access. Minor removal of G2, as above is required, along with general maintenance such as facing back to ensure clear visibility splays. The removal will have no overall impact with general works considered as maintenance.

3.3 Construction

- 3.3.1 Beyond the access, the proposal is set back from the field boundaries and therefore all associated construction and solar panels do not give rise to any significant impacts on existing vegetation and no special considerations are required

3.4 Cultural implications for retained trees

- 3.4.1 Tree works due to proximity and or shade reasons are not required and the proposal will not lead to excessive pressure to remove trees.

3.5 Tree protection

- 3.5.1 Tree protection measures are not generally required with most works too far from surveyed trees to warrant any concern. Temporary tree protection fencing is recommended to be installed in proximity to the main proposed access point off Bardlings Drove to G2 to ensure no accidental damage occurs. Once the access point has been constructed the fencing will no longer be required.

3.6 Site storage, routes and compound areas

- 3.6.1 Adequate room is available for the locating of compounds and material storage within the site boundaries and outside of any measured root protection area(RPA).

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1.1 The proposal will only require a small section of G2 to be removed to accommodate the main access point and ensure clear visibility splays. This removal will be more than adequately mitigated for within a landscape proposal.
- 4.1.2 No specialist construction or service installation methods are required with all associated works too far from tree to warrant any concern.
- 4.1.3 Precautionary fencing is recommended to be installed in the vicinity of G2, as to BS:5837 recommendations, during the construction of the main access point.
- 4.1.4 Overall the proposed solar farm will have no significant impact on the arboricultural value of the site. A landscape proposal is to be submitted that will in the long term improve the overall arboricultural and landscape value of the site.

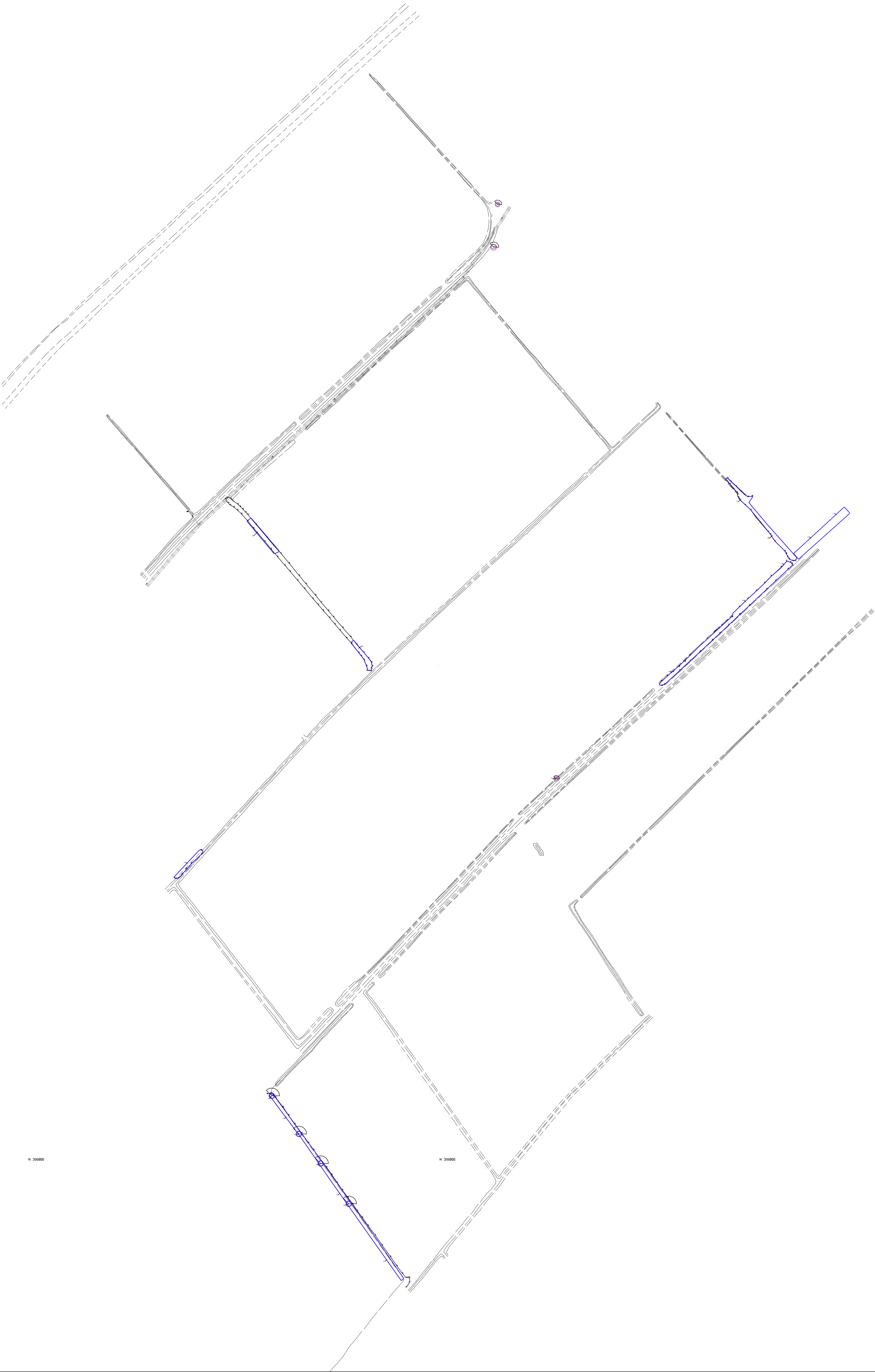
Appendix 1 Tree Survey Schedule

			Canopy Spread														
Tree Ref. No.	Species (Common Name)	Height (m)	N	E	S	W	Grnd Clrnc	DBH (mm)	RPR (cm)	RPA (m)	Gen Cond	Structural Defects/Comments	Estimated remaining contribution (BS 5837)	BS Cat	BS Sub Cat	Prelim Tree Work Recommendations	
T1	Hawthorn	4	2	2	2	2	1	250	300	28.26	F	No overall value	10+	C	1		
T2	Maple	9	3	3	3	3	1	275	330	34.19	F	Within hedgerow	20+	B	1		
T3	Maple	9	3	3	3	3	1	275	330	34.19	F	Within hedgerow	20+	B	1		
T4	Maple	9	3	3	3	3	1	275	330	34.19	F	Within hedgerow	20+	B	1		
T5	Maple	9	3	3	3	3	1	275	330	34.19	F	Within hedgerow	20+	B	1		
T6	Hawthorn	5	2	2	2	2	1	250	300	28.26	F	No overall value	10+	C	1		
T7	Goat Willow	6	3	3	2	3	1	300	360	40.69	F	No overall value	10+	C	1		

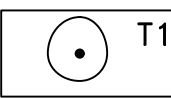
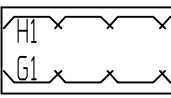
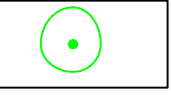
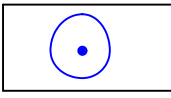
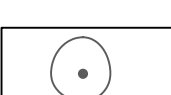
			Canopy Spread													
Tree Ref. No.	Species (Common Name)	Height (m)	N	E	S	W	Grnd Clrnc	DBH (mm)	RPR (cm)	RPA (m)	Gen Cond	Structural Defects/Comments	Estimated remaining contribution (BS 5837)	BS Cat	BS Sub Cat	Prelim Tree Work Recommendations
G1	Hawthorn	5	As on plan				0	200	240	18.09	F	Field boundary hedge good form	40+	B	2	
G2	Hawthorn	6	As on plan				0	200	240	18.09	F	Field boundary hedge good form	40+	B	2	
G3	Hawthorn	5	As on plan				0	200	240	18.09	F	Field boundary hedge good form. Sporadic in nature	40+	B	2	
G4	Hawthorn	5	As on plan				0	200	240	18.09	F	Field boundary hedge good form. Sporadic in nature	40+	B	2	

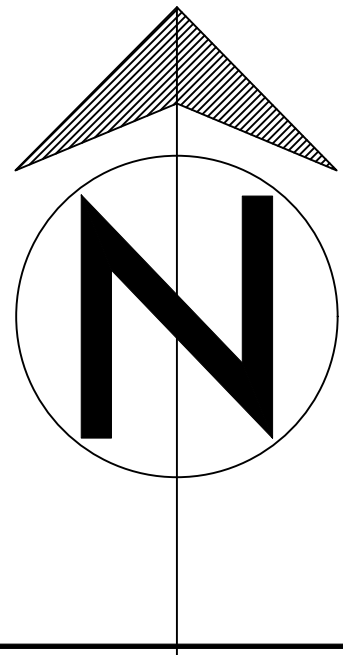
Tree Schedule Explanatory Notes

Ref.no	Identifies trees, groups and hedges on the accompanying plan.
Species	Common names are provided to aid wider comprehension.
Height	Describes the approximate height of the tree measured in metres from ground level
Canopy Spread	Indicates the crown radius from the base of the tree in four compass directions, recorded to the nearest metre.
Ground Clearance	Height of crown clearance above adjacent ground in metres.
DBH (mm)	DBH is the diameter of the stem measured in cm at 1.5m from ground level for single stemmed trees or just above root flare for multi-stemmed trees. Stem Diameter may be estimated where access is restricted.
RPR (cm)	Root Protection Radius (RPR) is area required to be protected measured radially from the trunk centre.
RPA (m²)	Root Protection Area (RPA) is the minimum rooting area in m ² which should remain undisturbed around each tree.
Age Class	Age of the tree expressed as Y- Young, MA- Middle-Aged, EM- Early Mature, M- Mature or OM- Over-Mature
General Condition	Overall condition of tree expressed as :Good, Fair, Poor, Dead
Structural defects/Comments	May include general comments about growth characteristics, how it is affected by other trees and any previous surgery works. Also specific problems such as dead wood, pests, diseases, broken limbs. Etc
Estimated Remaining Years	Categorised in year bands of less than 10, 10+, 20+, 40+
BS Category	B.S. Cat refers to (BS 5837:2005 Table 1) and refers to tree/overall group quality and value; 'A' - High; 'B' - Moderate; 'C' - Low; 'U' - Remove.
Sub Category	Sub Cat refers to the retention criteria values where 1 is arboricultural, 2 is landscape and 3 is cultural including conservational, historic and commemorative

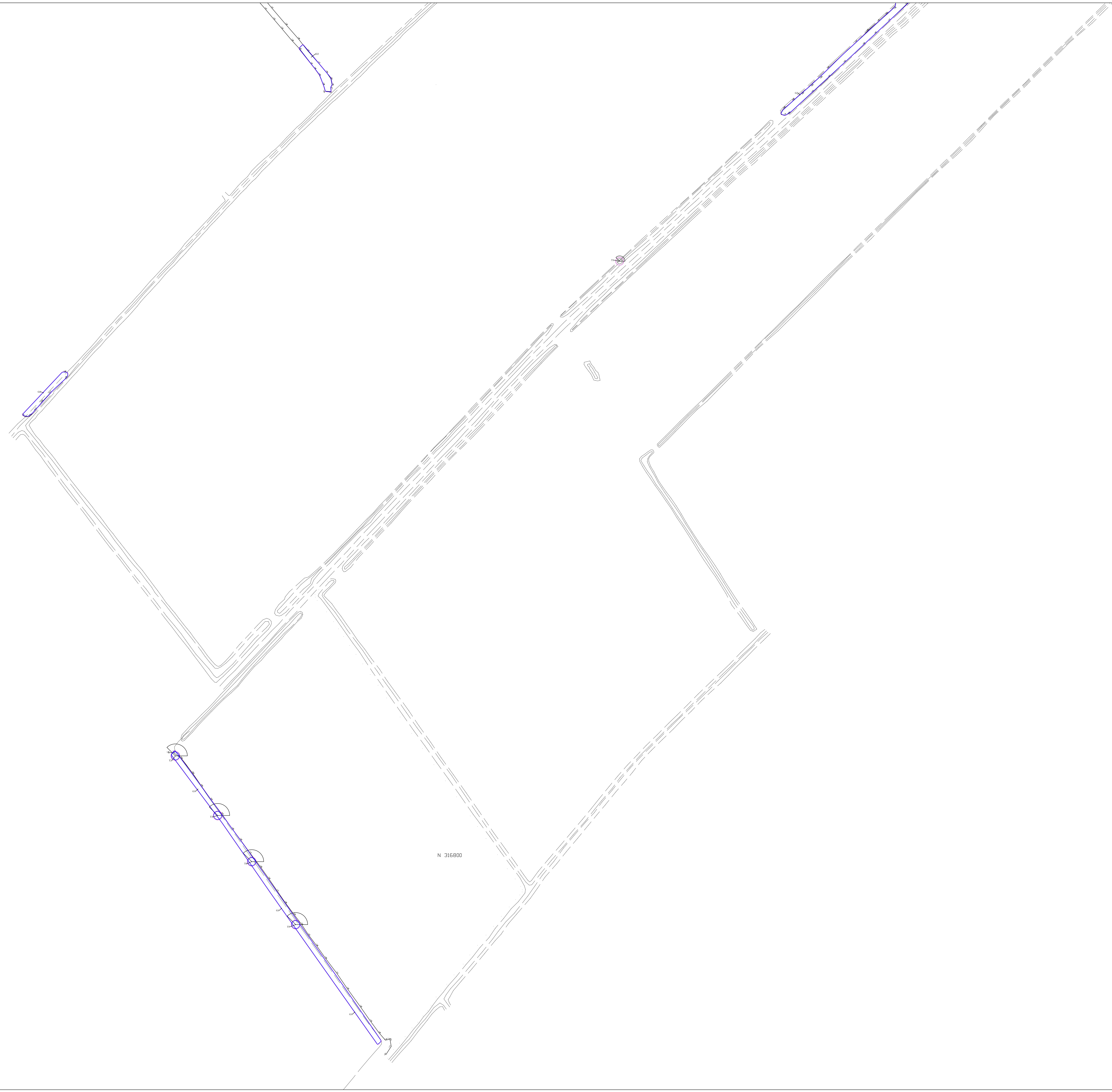


KEY

-  Existing Tree colour referenced in accordance with BS 5837 2005.
-  Existing hedge or group. colour coded as above in accordance with BS 5837.
-  Green - Cat A Trees of quality and value
-  Blue - Cat B Trees of moderate quality and value
-  Grey - Cat C Trees of low quality and value
-  Root Protection Area as calculated in accordance with BS 5837 2005
-  Shade pattern as to BS:5837.

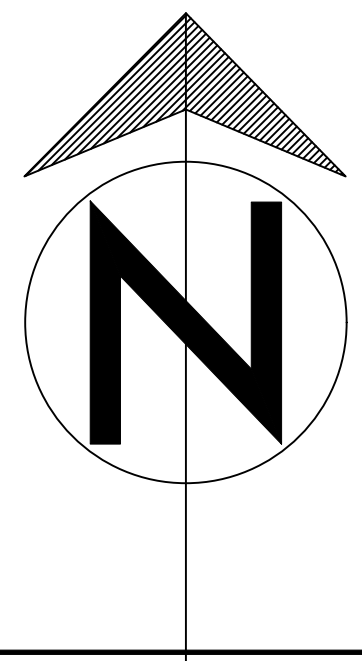


REV.	DATE	INITIALS	DETAILS		
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SITE Friday Bridge Camp					
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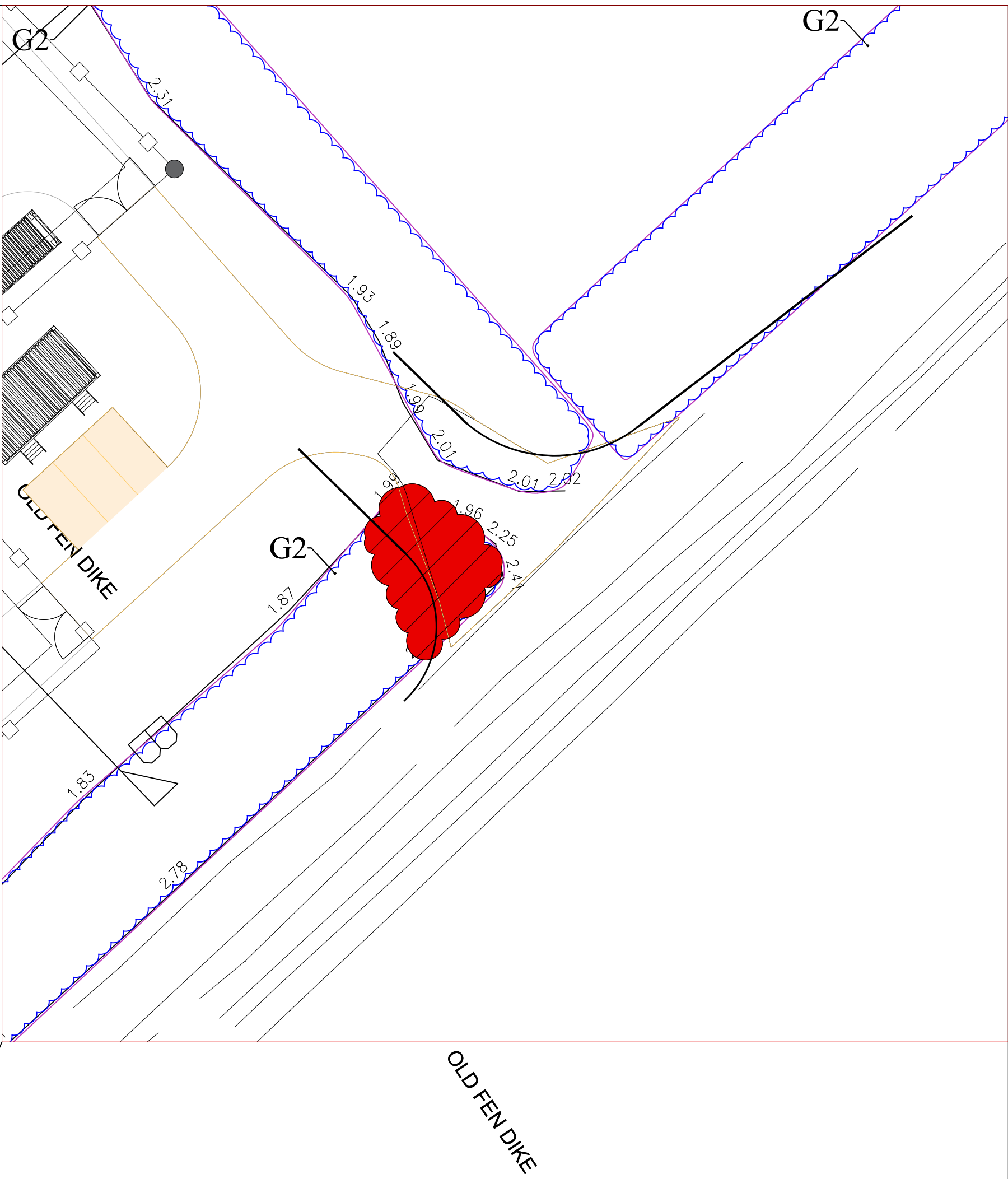
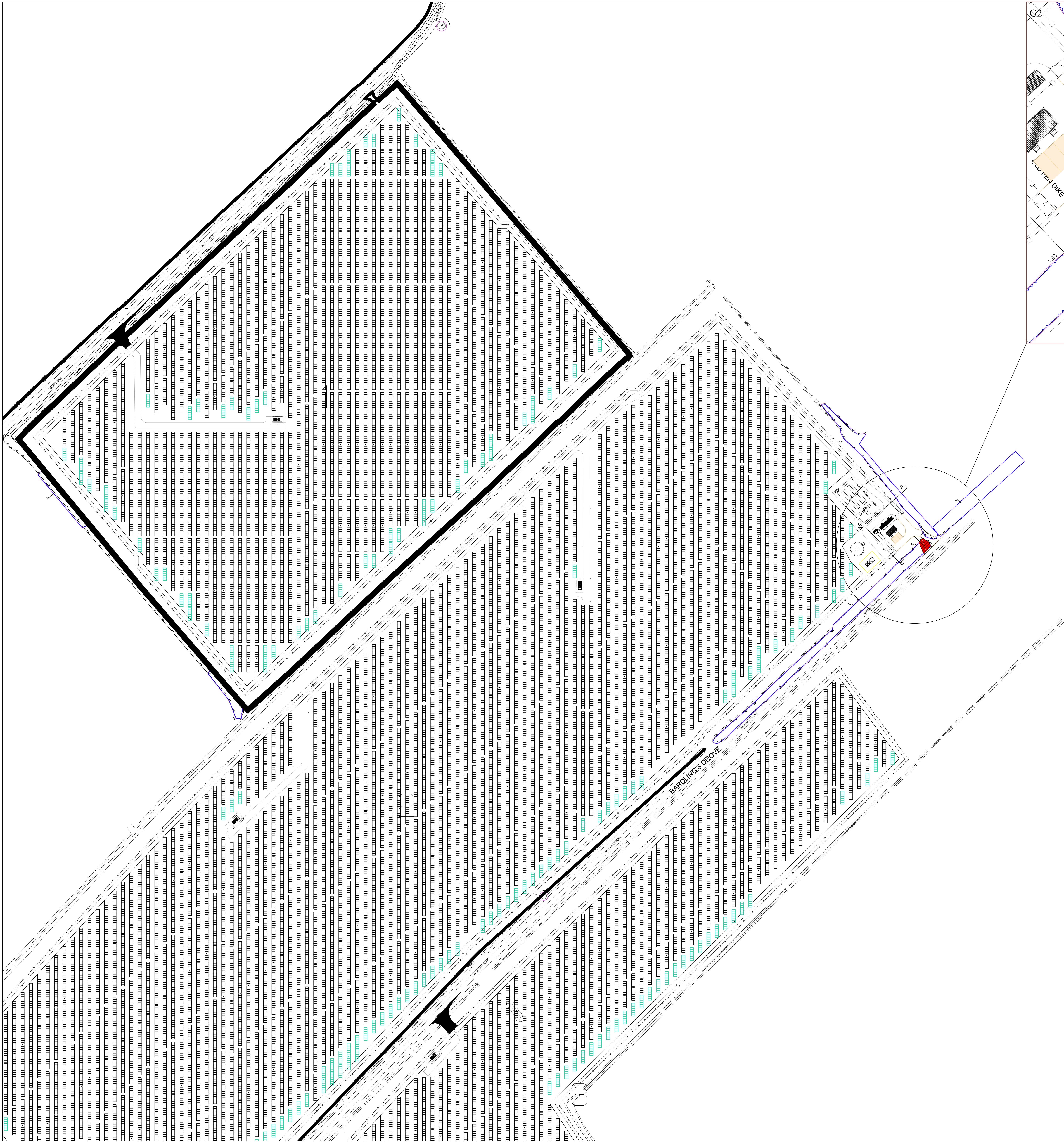
KEY

- Existing Tree colour referenced in accordance with BS 5837 2005.
- Existing hedge or group. colour coded as above in accordance with BS 5837.
- Green – Cat A Trees of quality and value
- Blue – Cat B Trees of moderate quality and value
- Grey – Cat C Trees of low quality and value
- Root Protection Area as calculated in accordance with BS 5837 2005
- Shade pattern as to BS:5837.

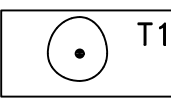
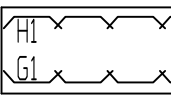
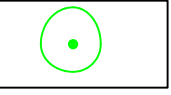
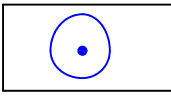
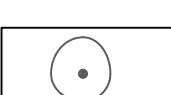


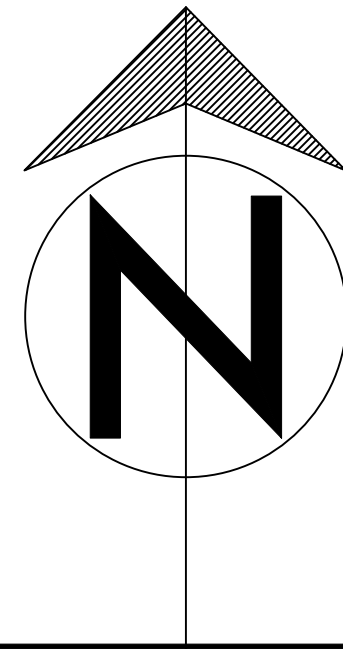
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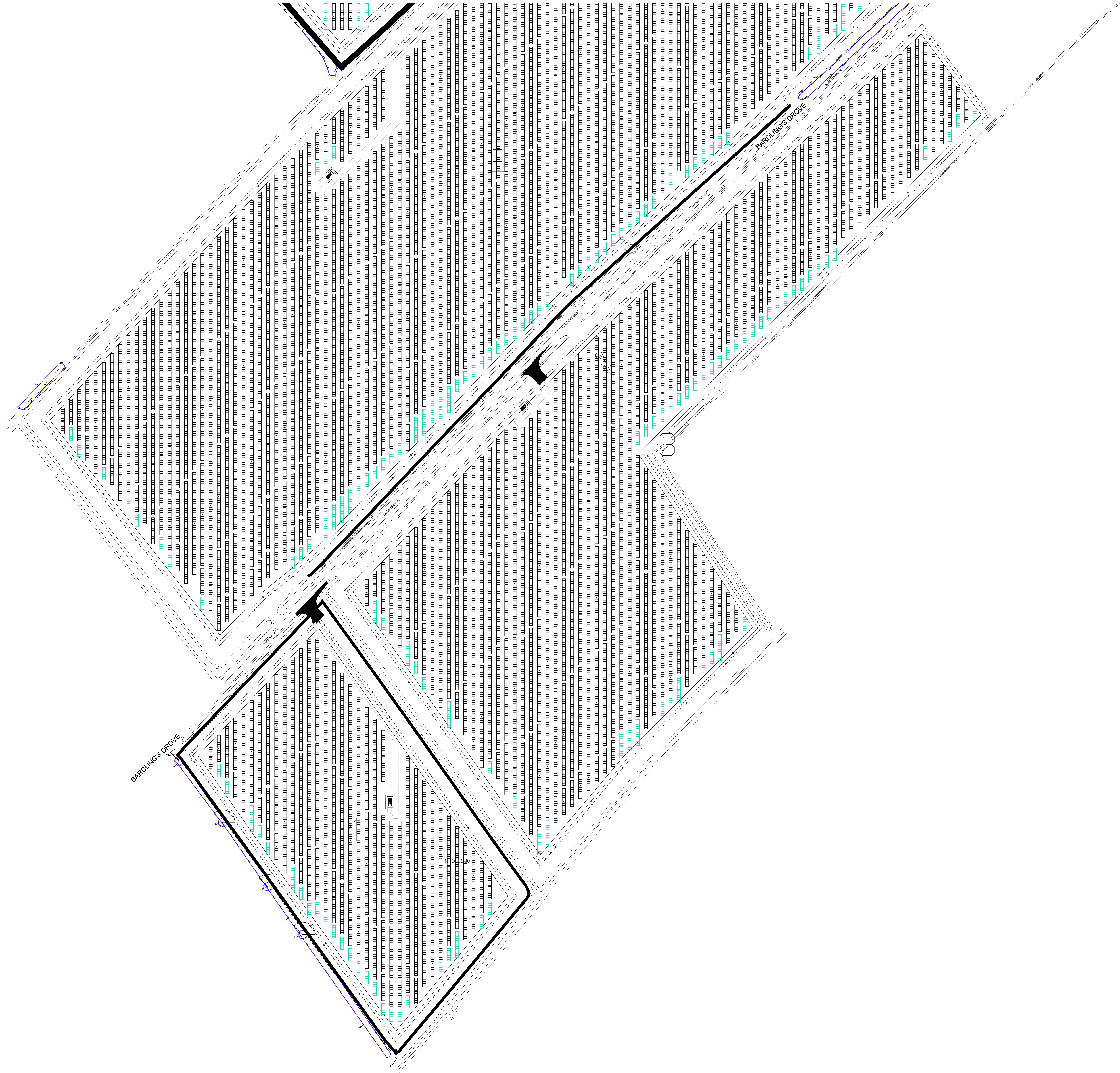


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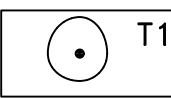
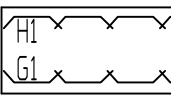
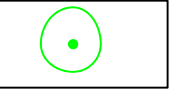
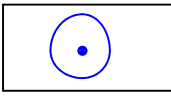
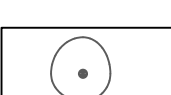
-  T1 Existing Tree colour referenced in accordance with BS 5837 2005.
-  Existing hedge or group. colour coded as above in accordance with BS 5837.
-  Green – Cat A Trees of quality and value
-  Blue – Cat B Trees of moderate quality and value
-  Grey – Cat C Trees of low quality and value
-  Root Protection Area as calculated in accordance with BS 5837 2005
-  Shade pattern as to BS:5837.
-  Existing tree or group to be removed

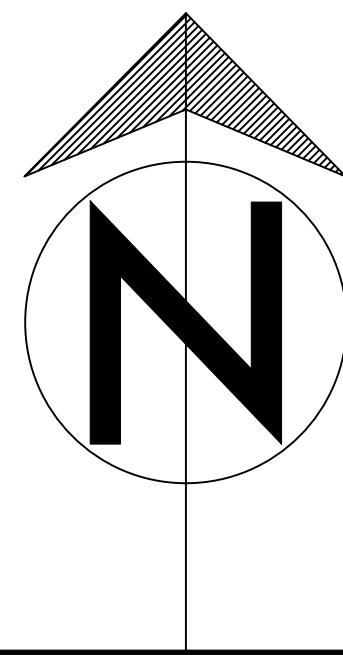


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								REV. A.	



KEY

-  Existing Tree colour referenced in accordance with BS 5837 2005.
-  Existing hedge or group, colour coded as above in accordance with BS 5837.
-  Green - Cat A Trees of quality and value
-  Blue - Cat B Trees of moderate quality and value
-  Grey - Cat C Trees of low quality and value
-  Root Protection Area as calculated in accordance with BS 5837 2005
-  Shade pattern as to BS:5837.
-  Existing tree or group to be removed



REV.	DATE	INITIALS	DETAILS			
CLIENT c/o Stantec				DWG. TITLE Tree Layout Plan		
SITE Friday Bridge Camp						
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