



Cwmwernderi Temporary Construction Compounds

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

September 2021

Mott MacDonald Bentley
Ty Awen
Spooner Close
Celtic Springs Business
Park
Coedkernew
Newport NP10 8FZ
United Kingdom

mottmacbentley.co.uk

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

Cwmwernderi Temporary Construction Compounds

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

September 2021

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Executive summary

Mott MacDonald Bentley (MMB) has been appointed by Welsh Water (WW) to undertake an arboricultural survey for Cwmwernderi Tower pipework and valves project.

The survey and associated report has been undertaken in accordance with *BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* (Ref G-1-1, Appendix G), which is intended to assist decision making with regard to the existing trees in the context of proposed development.

This survey is not, nor should be taken to be, a full or thorough assessment of the health and safety of trees on or adjacent to the site. Therefore, it is recommended that detailed tree inspections are undertaken on a regular basis with the express purpose of complying with the landowner's duty of care and satisfying health and safety requirements.

One tree group was surveyed in relation to this proposed Scheme. Tree group (G1) being assessed as Category B i.e. trees of moderate quality.

To facilitate the construction of the proposed compound area 32 grade B trees will require removal.

Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC) has confirmed via email (Appendix F) that no trees within or adjacent to the Scheme are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and the site is not located within a Conservation Area (CA).

1 Introduction

1.1 Scheme Background

A Section 10 Inspection, under the Reservoirs Act 1975 was completed on 23 April 2020 by Dr Andy Hughes the Inspecting Engineer. During the inspection it was noted that the access bridge to the valve tower is in a very poor condition, the draw-off valves and scour penstock on the tower are in poor condition and inoperable and that the pipework within the tunnel has significant corrosion in areas with a lack of formal pipe support and thrust restraint. Additionally, it was identified that the flow being discharged from the washout downstream of the dam was very low and unlikely to meet the requirements of the guidance on drawdown facilities. To facilitate remedial works a site compound will be required to provide welfare facilities and a storage area.

1.2 Purpose of the Arboricultural Report

This report is designed to meet the following objectives:

- to set out the constraints to development posed by existing tree stock;
- to identify trees or areas of arboricultural significance; and,
- to support the detailed design stage of this Scheme in relation to minimising or avoiding impact on trees.

1.3 Tree Survey Methodology

The tree survey was carried out by a Mott MacDonald arboriculturalist on 9 August 2021 to assess the quality and value of the principal trees within or adjacent to the Scheme footprint.

The survey was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in *BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations* (Appendix G, Ref G-1-1).

The tree data contained within the Tree Survey Schedule (Appendix C) was recorded by visual survey from ground level and no invasive tree inspection measures were employed.

The survey process categorises the trees on site, selects those appropriate for retention and reviews the options for incorporating these trees within the developed landscape.

The Tree Survey Schedule Definition of Terms (Appendix A) states the information recorded for the purpose of this report and the Cascade chart for tree quality assessment is included in Appendix B.

1.4 Limitations of Survey

The survey was undertaken using the designs contained within the Tree Protection Plan drawings (refer to Appendix E.2).

This report provides comment on the general quality of the trees on site but is not, nor should be taken to be, a full or thorough assessment of the health and safety of trees on or adjacent to the site. It is recommended that a full tree survey should be undertaken on a regular basis to satisfy health and safety requirements. Previous management and/or surveys in relation to the health and safety of trees on this site have not been taken into account as part of this report.

Trees are living organisms whose health, condition and structure can change over time. The contents of this report are valid for a period of one year from the date of the report.

Where trees are located on land with limited or no access, assessments have been made from a viewpoint that is deemed as reasonably practicable by the arboriculturalist. A description of the trees/groups has been recorded, along with an estimate of the tree dimensions required as part of BS 5837:2012.

Distances were recorded using a standard metric tape measure where appropriate and stem diameter was recorded using a diameter tape. Tree height was estimated to the nearest metre.

2 Summary of existing trees

2.1 Tree Protection Status

An email (Appendix F) from the NPTC planning department received on 28 May 2021 has confirmed that no trees within or adjacent to the Scheme boundary are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and are not situated within a Conservation Area (CA).

2.2 Summary of Existing Tree Quality and Coverage

The survey area relating to this scheme features a single species of coniferous Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) plantation.

The recorded group G1 is made up of one single species, Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). These have all been planted as part of the larger surrounding woodland for timber production.

The following table provides a summary of the quality of the trees surveyed in accordance with BS 5837:2012:

Table 1: Tree Survey Summary

Tree Category	Description	Total Number surveyed
Category A	Trees or groups of high quality	0 trees
Category B	Trees or groups of moderate quality	1 tree groups
Category C	Trees or groups of low quality	0 1 woodland.
Category U	Trees or groups for removal for arboricultural reasons and irrespective of any proposed construction	0 trees

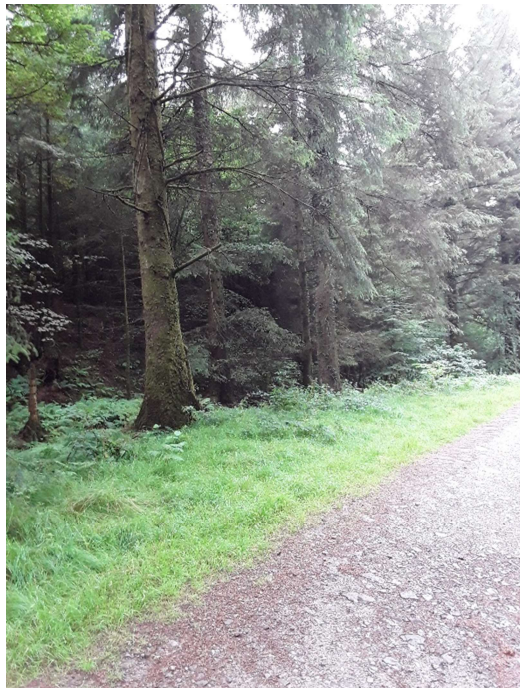
Source: Mott MacDonald 2021

Group 1 is an area of Sitka spruce grown for timber production as part of the wider forestry plantation. There are approximately 30 trees within this group and the majority are mature with an average stem diameter of 500mm. The group is located between the main access track to the north and the river Cwmwernderi to the south. The group is located within the footprint of the proposed compound area and will require removal to facilitate its construction. The landowner has stated that these trees are due to be removed as part of planned forestry operations however communication will be required from the landowner to ensure their removal is completed in advance of the compound installation.

Woodland W1 is an area containing over 500 semi-mature Sitka spruce trees with an average height of 18m and average stem diameter of 325mm. These trees were planted as part of the wider forestry operation for timber production. They are generally in good condition with only minor deadwood present within the crowns of all of the trees.

2.3 Site Photos

Photo 1: Image showing tree G1 facing west with the main access track in the foreground.



Source: Mott MacDonald 2021

3 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

3.1 Root Protection Areas (RPAs) explained

The RPA is an area of ground around the base of a retained tree, which is calculated in relation to the stem diameter, where disturbance should be kept to a minimum and avoided if at all possible.

The majority of tree roots grow within the upper 600mm of the soil profile where most nutrients are available as the result of the decomposition of organic matter close to the surface. Rooting conditions become less favourable at depth as the soil density increases, creating anaerobic conditions.

Whilst it can be assumed that tree roots grow out radially from the stem when open grown, physical constraints can affect the root morphology. As such, the illustrated RPAs within the Tree Constraints and Tree Protection plans may not be truly representative of the actual rooting systems of trees.

3.2 Recommended Actions

The construction of this Scheme must be undertaken in accordance with Tree Protection Plan B14504-123532-XX-XX-DR-NA-EI9009 (Appendix E.2) and the following recommendations in Table 2 to enable integration between the Scheme and the existing tree constraints on site.

Table 2: Recommended actions for trees.

Tree Ref	Species	Retention Category	TPO	CA	Recommended Actions
G1	Sitka spruce	B	No	No	Fell - tree is in direct conflict with the footprint of the Scheme.
W1	Sitka spruce	C	No	No	Retain – not in direct conflict with the proposed works, protect with temporary barriers in accordance with BS5837.

Source: Mott MacDonald 2021

3.3 Tree Works

Tree works stated in Table 2 must be carried out prior to the commencement of any onsite operations, in the case of G1 this will be completed by the landowner. This should allow sufficient space for approved construction to be carried out.

Tree works are to be undertaken in accordance with *BS3998:2010 Tree work. Recommendations* (Appendix G, Ref G-1-2) by suitably qualified and insured contractors.

Any unforeseen tree works that become apparent during the construction process must require consent from either the appointed arboriculturalist and/or the Local Authority Tree Officer.

3.4 Wildlife Environmental Law

It should be noted that the Contractor will be responsible under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Conservation of Habitat Regulations 2010 (as amended), and the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, to take all reasonable action to identify the presence of protected species in the works footprint or surrounding area, and comply fully with the law in relation to impacts associated with any instructed works.

Where there is evidence that bats, birds or other protected species are present, the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist should be sought.

If tree works are carried out during the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive), trees would need to be inspected by a qualified ecologist within the 24-hour period prior to the commencement works.

4 General Tree Protection Measures

4.1 Introduction

The trees to be retained as part of this Scheme will require protection during construction. General protection measures will be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations set out in BS 5837:2012 and will be detailed throughout this report. The main protection measures that should be employed by the construction contractor have been broadly summarised below.

4.2 Temporary Protective Barriers

Temporary protective barriers have been specified to protect the retained trees within Woodland W1 to ensure that construction can be undertaken without intruding into the RPAs of the woodland trees (refer to Appendix E1.2 for indicative alignment).

The protective barriers will be erected in accordance with BS 5837:2012 and positioned to enclose the defined RPA and “above ground” structure of trees for retention (refer to Appendix D for details of the BS 5837:2012 default specification for protective barriers) and will be retained in place for the duration of the construction phase. The average RPA of the trees in group W1 is 3.9m, this will be the minimum buffer between any retained trees and the protective barriers.

Unless required for essential construction works, the RPA for all retained trees is to be excluded from all construction activities, including excavations, changes in soil level, and the storage of materials, plant, waste etc.

4.3 Temporary Site Cabins

The removal of G1 has been specified to enable the installation of temporary site cabins for use during the works specified in section 3.2.

The surrounding woodland (W1) is located on stoney shallow soil and as such the trees are prone to falling in high winds as shown by a large number of trees already fallen within this area. Due to this it is not recommended that these site cabins are used in high winds of number 6 on the Beaufort scale (25-31 mph winds).

Appendices

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A. Tree Survey Schedule Definition of Terms

Tree Referencing	Individual Trees: Number Grouped Trees: G (+number) Hedgerows: H (+number) Woodlands: W (+number)	
Life stage	Young	Usually <15 years
	Semi-mature	Significant growth expected, approximately one third of life expectancy complete
	Early-Mature	Full height achieved with further significant growth possible, up to two thirds of life expectancy complete
	Mature	Full height has been achieved with possible spreading of the canopy, usually past two thirds of overall life expectancy
	Veteran	Usually a tree of significant age with characteristics that give additional cultural, landscape and conservation benefits,
	Over-mature	A tree declining due to age as indicated by deterioration in the health and condition of its crown and trunk.
Species	Botanical Name: conforming to the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN). For universal plant recognition. Common Name: commonly used names usually on a local and national scale.	
Tree Height	The vertical distance between the base of the tree (where soil and buttress meet) and the tip of the highest branch on the tree.	
Crown Height	Measured from ground level to the height at which the main crown begins.	
Stem Diameter (DBH)	Stem diameter is measured in mm at 1.5m above ground level, in accordance with Annex C of BS 5837:2012.	
Crown	Measurements taken from all four cardinal points in metres.	
Crow, Stem and Basal Condition	Good	Usually healthy with no symptoms of poor health or disease.
	Fair	Exhibiting signs of poor health or minor disease infections that are not considered to be hazardous.
	Poor	Disease present in considerable quantities or with very poor physiological vigour.
	Very Poor	Tree is in a moribund state in extremely poor condition, usually with little chance of recovery.
General Physical Condition	Good	A tree with no significant structural defects.
	Fair	Minor defects may have been observed but are not considered to be immediately hazardous.
	Poor	Significant defects found. Tree requires monitoring or remedial works.
	Very Poor	Major defects that require immediate remedial work or the removal of the tree.
Life Expectancy	The estimated number of years before the tree may require removal should no unexpected mechanical or environmental impacts occur to the tree. Estimated life expectancy of the surveyed trees is based on the Arboricultural Association Leaflet 4 - Tree Management (Ref 1-3)	
Retention Category	Please refer to Tree retention categorisation table in Appendix B.	
Comments	Notes are made to inform of any possible defects, peculiarities or points of interest that may relate to the trees position, physiology, safety and possible effects on developments.	

B. Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)		
Trees unsuitable for retention (see note)			
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years.	• Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning). • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline. • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low-quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality. • Note: Where trees would otherwise be categorized as U, but have identifiable conservation, heritage or landscape value, even though only for the short term, they may be upgraded, although they might be suitable for retention only where issues concerning their safety can be appropriately managed.		
	1. Mainly arboricultural reason.	2. Mainly landscape qualities	3. Mainly cultural values, Including conservation
Trees to be considered for retention:			
Category A Trees of a high quality, with an estimated life of expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features.	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture).
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years.	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality.	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value.
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm.	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits.	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.

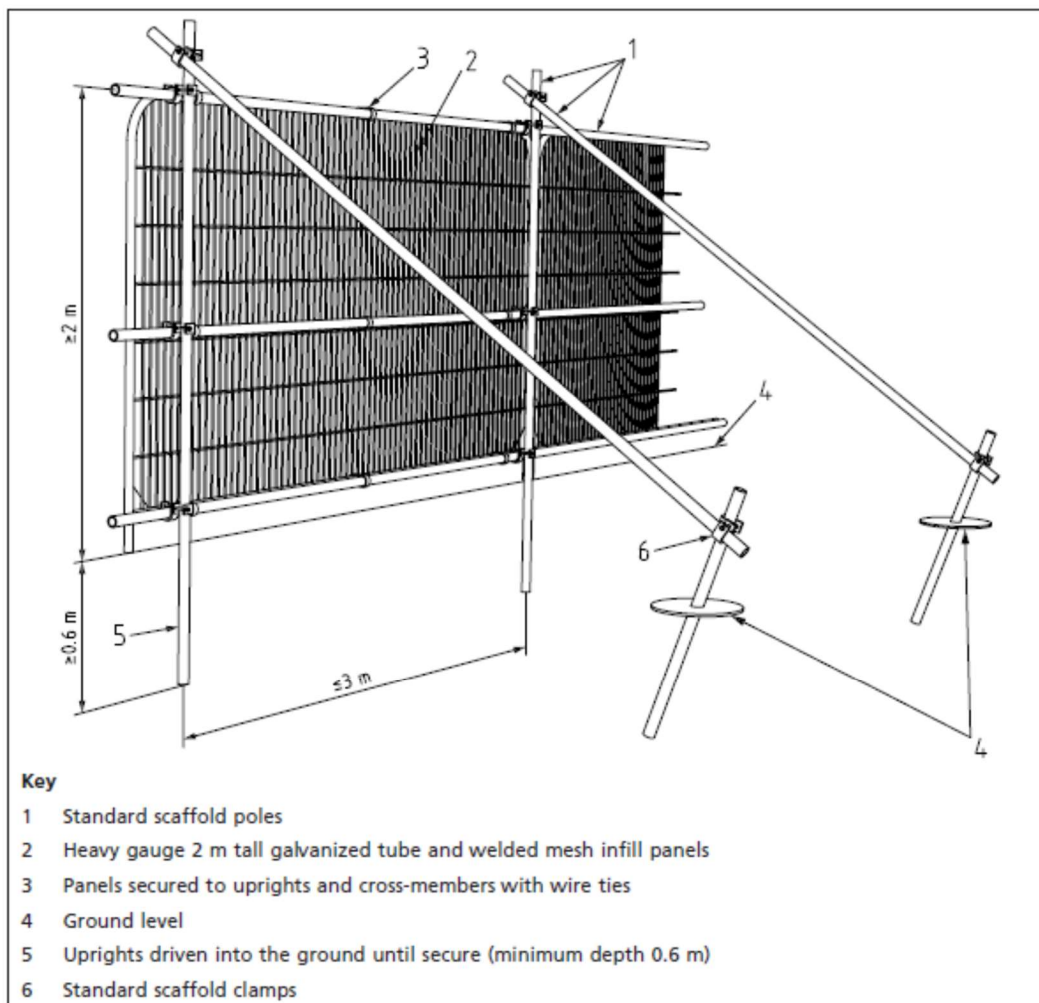
C. Tree Survey Schedule

Tag No.	Tree Type	Life Stage	Height (m)	Av Crown Spread (m)				Av Crown Height (m)					No of Stems or trees	Stem Diameter (mm)	Root Protection Area (RPA)		Condition				BS5837 Category		Useful remaining contribution (years)	Comment
				N	E	S	W	1st branch (m)	N	E	S	W			RPA Radius (m)	RPA (m²)	Crown	Stem	Basal Area	General Physical	Category	Sub Category		
G1	Sitka spruce	Mature	22	3	3	3	3	3 n	3	3	3	3	10+	500av	6av	113av	Good	Good	Good	Good	B	2	>10	An area of approximately 30 Sitka spruce grown for timber production as part of the surrounding forestry operation.
G2																								
G3																								
G4																								
W1	Sitka spruce	Semi-mature	18	3	6	3	6	3 n	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	500+ trees	325av	3.9av	48av	Good	Good	Good	Good	C	2	20+	An area of Sitka Spruce trees planted as part of the wider forestry plantation for timber production. This woodland is planted mainly on a steep sided hill which slopes down towards the proposed compound area and access track.

D. Tree Protection Measures

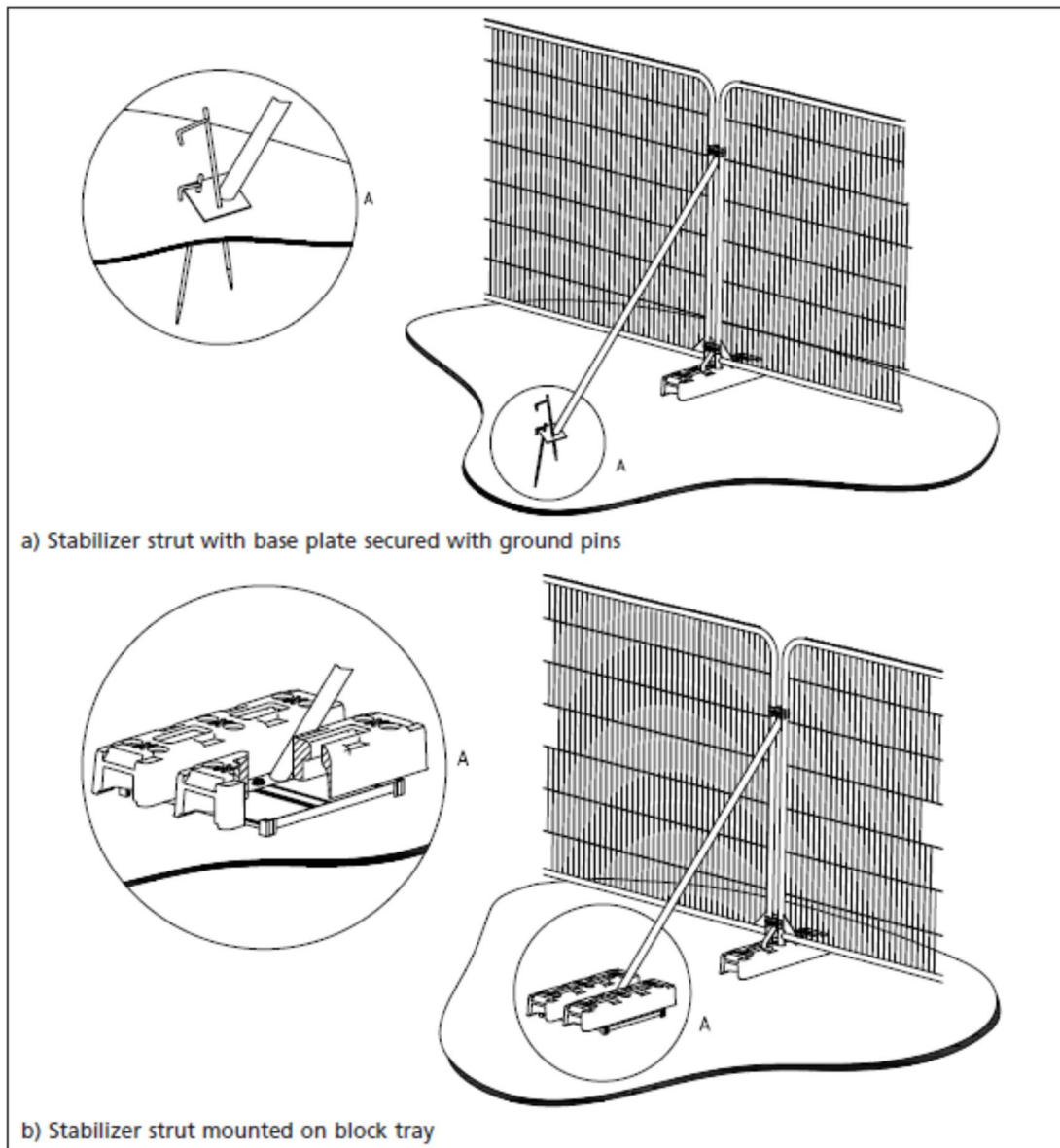
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Figure D.1: Extract from BS5837:2012 Default specification for protection barrier



Source: British Standard BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations

Figure D.2: Extract from BS5837:2012 Examples of Ground Stabilising systems



Source: British Standard BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations

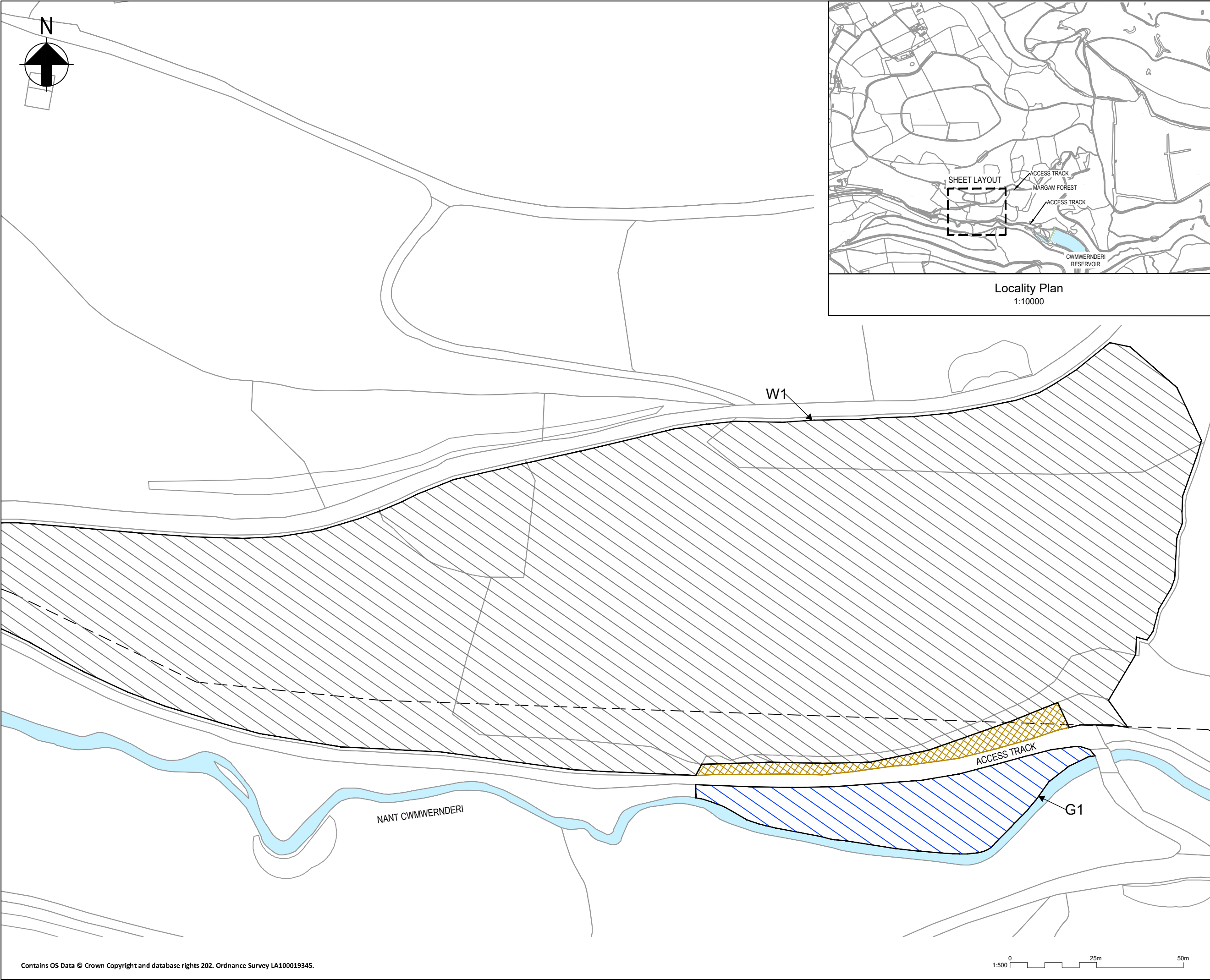
E. Drawings

E.1 Tree Constraints Plans

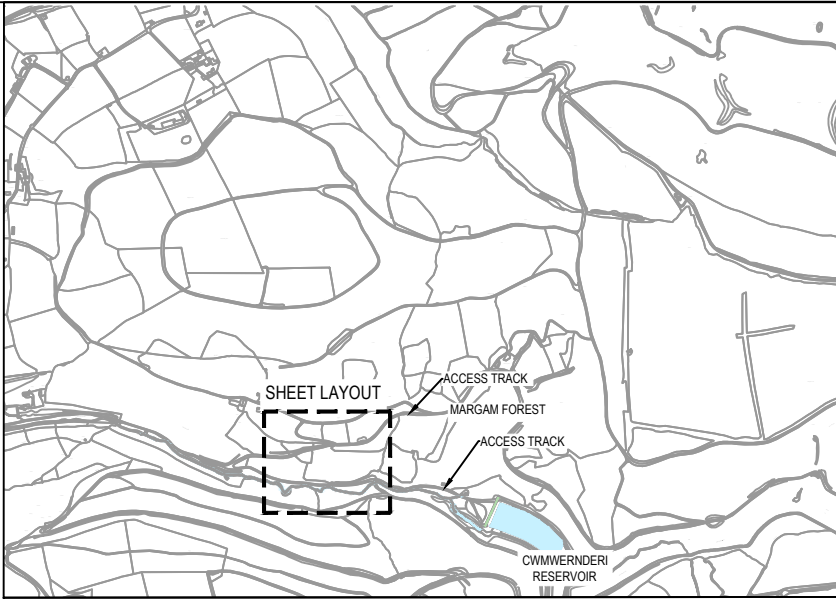
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E.2 Tree Protection Plans

B14504-123532-XX-XX-DR-NA-EI9009



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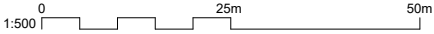
Locality Plan
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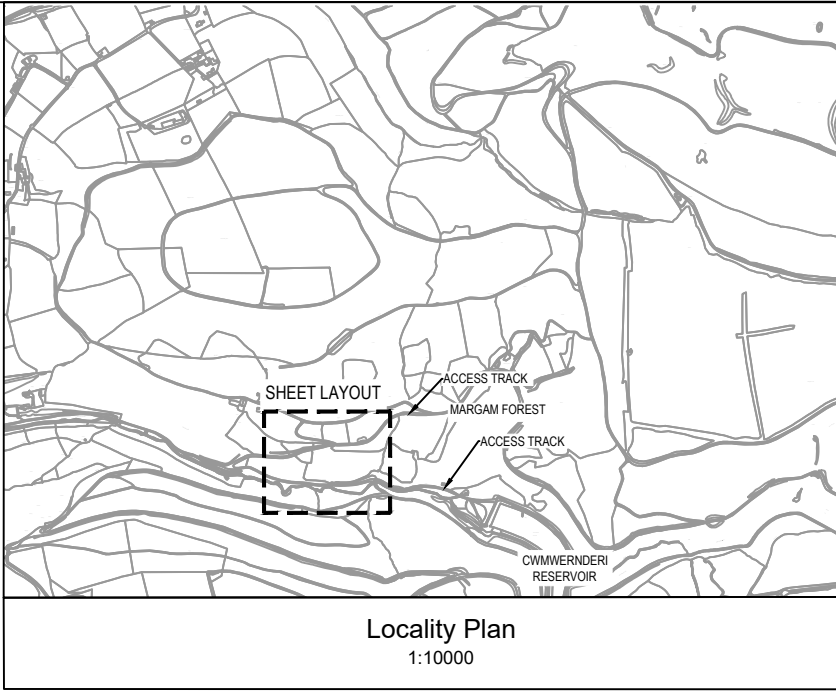
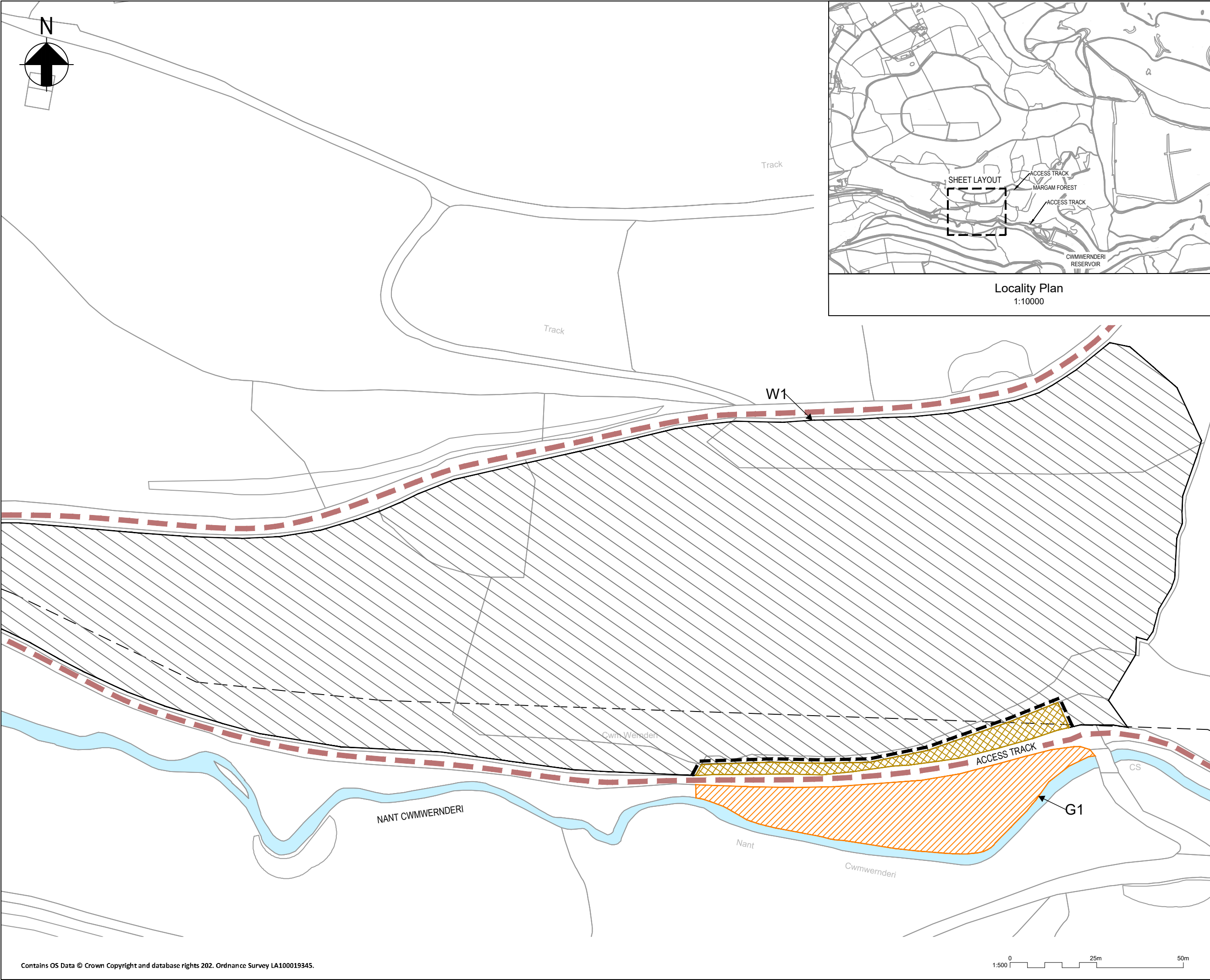
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 5. TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH CWMWERNDERI TOWER, PIPEWORK AND VALVES ARBORICULTURAL REPORT (SEPTEMBER 2021) REF:B14504-123532-12-XX-RP-NA-EI0021

- KEY:
- W1/G1 WOODLAND/TREE GROUP REFERENCE
- APPROXIMATE EXTENT OF CANOPY
- TREE ROOT PROTECTION AREA (RPA)
- INDIVIDUAL TREES
- NO CATEGORY
 - CATEGORY A TREES
 - CATEGORY B TREES
 - CATEGORY C TREES
 - CATEGORY U TREES TO BE REMOVED FOR REASONS OF SOUND ARBORICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

- TREE GROUPS
- ▨ CATEGORY A TREES
 - ▨ CATEGORY B TREES
 - ▨ CATEGORY C TREES
 - ▨ AREA TO BE USED FOR CAR PARKING
 - ▨ BODIES OF WATER
 - APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF EXISTING DRAW OFF MAIN

P01	17.09.21	DL	FIRST ISSUE	RL	KM	17.09.21
Rev.	Date	BIM	Description	Chk.	App.	Iss Date
 Capital Delivery Alliance Cynghrair Cyflawni Cyfalaif <i>Ty Aeron, Spooner Close, Cood Kermaz, Newport, NP166FZ</i>						
Project Name: CWMWERNDERI TOWER PIPEWORK AND VALVES						
Drawing Title: TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN						
Suitability: FOR CONSTRUCTION					Suitability Code: A	
Originator: DL		Designer: JC		Date: 15.09.21		
Internal Project Number: ST34		Scale: AS SHOWN @ A1		Rev: P01		
Drawing Number: B14504-123532-XX-XX-DR-NA-EI9008						
						





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5. TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH CWMWERNDERI TOWER, PIPEWORK AND VALVES ARBORICULTURAL REPORT (SEPTEMBER 2021) REF:B14504-123532-12-XX-RP-NA-EI0021

KEY:
W1/G1 WOODLAND/TREE GROUP REFERENCE
● APPROXIMATE EXTENT OF CANOPY
○ TREE ROOT PROTECTION AREA (RPA)
○ TREE GROUP TO BE REMOVED
— TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE BARRIER

INDIVIDUAL TREES
● NO CATEGORY
● CATEGORY A TREES
● CATEGORY B TREES
● CATEGORY C TREES
● CATEGORY U TREES TO BE REMOVED FOR REASONS OF SOUND ARBORICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

TREE GROUPS
▨ CATEGORY A TREES
▨ CATEGORY B TREES
▨ CATEGORY C TREES
▨ AREA TO BE USED FOR CAR PARKING
▨ PRIMARY ACCESS ROUTE TO THE RESERVOIR
▨ SECONDARY SITE COMPOUND
▨ BODIES OF WATER
--- APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF EXISTING DRAW OFF MAIN

P01	17.09.21	DL	FIRST ISSUE	RL	KM	17.09.21
Rev.	Date.	BIM.	Description.	Chk.	App.	Iss Date.
 Capital Delivery Alliance Cyngdrair Cyflawni Cyfoleu Ty Aeron, Spenser Close, Coed Kermor, Newport, NP16 6FZ						
Project Name: CWMWERNDERI TOWER PIPEWORK AND VALVES						
Drawing Title: TREE PROTECTION PLAN						
Suitability: FOR CONSTRUCTION					Suitability Code: A	
Originator: DL		Designer: JC		Date: 01.06.21		
Internal Project Number: ST34		Scale: AS SHOWN @ A1		Rev: P01		
Drawing Number: B14504-123532-XX-XX-DR-NA-EI9009						

F. TPO and CA Information

F.1 Email from Amanda Holmes, Senior Land Charges Officer, Neath Port Talbot Country Borough Council.

RE: Cwmwernderi Goytre

 Amanda Holmes <a.holmes@npt.gov.uk>
To: Joe Collett
Cc: James Sothcott
Retention Policy: Default 15 Year delete tag (15 years)
You replied to this message on 28/05/2021 12:09.
This message was sent with High importance.

Document was last saved: Just now
Expires: 29/05/2036

Good morning Joe,

Just to confirm I have checked our records and the area of land in question at Cwmwernderi is not affected by either a TPO or a Conservation Area as far as we are aware in Local Land Charges at this present moment.

Best wishes,
Amanda.

Amanda J Holmes

Senior Land Charges Officer / uwch swyddog pridiannau tir lleol
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council/ Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot Tel/ Ffôn: 01639 763218

Email / Eboist : a.holmes@npt.gov.uk Generic Email/ Eboist Generig : landcharges@npt.gov.uk

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and will deal with Welsh and English correspondence to the same standards and timescales.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymdrin â gohebiaeth Gymraeg a Saesneg i'r un safonau ac amserlenni

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Os hoffech ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg wrth ddelio â'r Cyngor os gwelwch yn dda cliciwch [yma](#)

 
ARBEID AMSER EWCH AR-LEIN | SAVE TIME DO IT ONLINE

DARPARU GWELL GWASANAETHAU AR-LEIN | DELIVERING BETTER SERVICES ONLINE

G. References

- G.1.1 British Standard BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations; April 2012; ISBN 978 0 580 69917 7
- G.1.2 British Standard BS 3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Work; Third (present) edition, December 2010; ISBN 978 0 580 53777 6
- G.1.3 Arboricultural Association, 1991, Leaflet 4 - Tree Management

