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Tree Survey Arboricultural Implications Assessment and Method Statement

On trees at:

Birchwood Lane
Somercotes
Derbyshire
DE55 4LZ

For, and on behalf of,

Bella Developments

16th July 2021

To support planning application:

AVA/2021/0379

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Tree Survey, arboricultural implications assessment and method statement – land at rear of 7-11 Birchwood Lane, Somercotes

1. Instruction

I was contacted by Will Beach of Bella Developments (the client) to provide a fee bid for a tree survey, implications assessment and method statement for trees at the above address. This was required to support a planning application (AVA/2021/0379) to build a detached bungalow in the location shown in 3.3 in the appendix. I was instructed via email by Bella Developments, to produce the necessary report and arranged a site visit for 15th July 2021.

The client provided a link to the planning application on Amber Valley Borough Council's web site and the plans in the appendix are based on those plans.

This report will be used to support the above planning application which has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Amber Valley Borough Council.

This report is provided to assess the condition of the trees on site (see figure 3.2 and schedule), to record their size and any other relevant details, make recommendations for work where appropriate and to categorise the trees in terms of their importance for retention (see methodology in Appendix 2). The Root Protection Area (RPA) for each tree is shown on the Tree Protection Plan (TPP) in appendix 3.

This tree survey and arboricultural method statement has been carried out as per BS 5837:2012 *Trees in Relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.* This standard is regarded as best practice to enable a suitable juxtaposition between trees and buildings.

The findings in this report are based on a site visit carried out on 15th July 2021, when I met with Will and his business partner and discussed in detail the issues and options available for the site. All the trees were assessed from the ground and no invasive techniques were used to determine decay or other defects. The photographs in Appendix 1 were taken during the site visit.

This report is for the sole use of the client and their agent and is intended to provide information on the trees on the site, their condition, suitability for retention and recommendations for their protection where appropriate to preserve and enhance the amenity they provide.

Jonathan Oakes Tree Care cannot be held responsible for any damage to the trees (or damage by the trees) if the recommendations outlined in this report are not strictly followed.

2. The site, history and legal issues

The site was previously used for car parking for the industrial unit to the southwest. This use stopped in approximately 2013 and the site then became overgrown. In 2020 outline planning permission was given for the construction of a detached bungalow (AVA/2020/0729). This report is to be used to support the full application.

There are no trees on the site but there are boundary hedges to the northeast and south (G1 and G2 respectively). Two trees are growing on 3rd party land, a cherry (1) at no.9 Birchwood Lane and an ash (2) at no.7.

As far as I am aware there is no legal protection on the trees or hedges by virtue of tree preservation order (TPO) or by being in a Conservation Area.

3. Initial findings and recommendations

As stated, there is an ash tree in the garden of 9 Birchwood Lane. The tree has been cut to the ground (coppiced) in the past and has also experienced fire damage. According to the client the owner is happy to remove the tree.

The cherry in the rear garden of 9 Birchwood Lane is somewhat of a problem as it is close to the boundary and due to its shallow rooting habit and suckering nature would make the creation of a lasting boundary difficult. The client has visited the owner of the tree and they too, are happy to remove it to facilitate the creation of a secure boundary.

The hedge G1 is a useful feature and wildlife habitat. It is recommended to retain this feature and trim it annually. The other hedge (G2) is less useful, but it could be retained depending on the requirement for a secure boundary.

The rather unattractive old industrial unit could be screened by the planting of a row of trees and shrubs such as field maple, hazel, dogwood, holly etc which can be pruned at a suitable height once the trees have reached a suitable size. This may not be relevant if the plans are to demolish the building and develop the site in the near future.

4. Scope and Limitations

This report has been prepared for the sole use of the client and their agents. Any third party referring to this report or relying on the information contained herein does so entirely at his or her own risk.

The findings and recommendations contained within this report are, assuming its recommendations are observed, valid for a period of twelve months from the date of survey. Trees are living organisms subject to change – best practice dictates they are inspected on a regular basis for reasons of safety.

Attention is drawn to the section in Appendix 2 – Tree Survey Methodology, which explains the terms and technical details used in the schedule. Please contact Jonathan Oakes if there are any issues which need clarification or amending.

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Appendix 1 – Photographs



Photo 1 – the hedge G1 is a useful boundary feature – a protective fence is not needed as the hard surfaces will provide protection from compaction and root damage



Photo 2 – the hedge G2 is less attractive but with management and fencing to secure the boundary it could be retained



Photo 3 – the ash (2) has wounds on several of the stems due to fire damage. The owner wishes to remove it. The old works building could be screened with planting as shown on plan 3.4 and explained in recommendations section



Photo 4 – tree 1 (to the left) is a cherry which the owner is happy to remove

Appendix 2.1 - Tree Survey Schedule for trees – Birchwood Lane, Somercotes

Tree No	Species	Ht. m (fut ht.)	Stem Dia (mm) C= est	Branch Spread (m)				Crown Ht. (m)	Age Class	Cond.	Preliminary Recs.	Life Exp (yrs)	Ret. Cat.	RPA m
				N	E	S	W							
1	Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*	10	400	3	4	4	3	6	Mat	Mod, twin stemmed at 1.6m, pruned over site, limited amenity	Liaise with neighbours over removal (see section 3 – 'findings and recommendations for detail)	20-40	C	4.8
2	Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*	9	250, 150x2 200	4	3	4	4	1	Mid	Poor, large wounds on stems caused by fire damage. Previously cut to the ground (coppiced). Very limited amenity	Liaise with neighbours over removal (see section 3 – 'findings and recommendations for detail)	20-40*	C	3.8

*****Life expectancy of ash is unknown due to ash dieback disease

Appendix 2.2 - Tree Survey Schedule for groups of trees – Birchwood Lane, Somercotes

Grp No	Species	Diam. Of largest stem	Cond./comments	Preliminary Recs.	Ret. Cat.
G1	Hawthorn, ivy, lilac	200	Useful boundary feature	Maintain as current	C
G2	Privet, suckers from cherry	200	Eastern end reasonable but western end overgrown	But to boundary	C

Tree Survey Methodology: Details consistent with the approach recommended in British Standard 5837 (2012) '*Trees in Relation to Design and Construction*' are recorded in the Tree Survey Schedule (see Appendix 3). All trees inspected were annotated on the plan provided (see plan in Appendix 1). Where trees were located on third party property or where otherwise inaccessible, only a limited inspection was carried out and all dimensions are estimated.

Information recorded in the survey includes:

Species - The species identification is based on visual observations and the common English name and the scientific name of what the tree appeared to be is listed.

Groups – Trees and sometimes shrubs are grouped together if their importance in the landscape is as a **group** feature. Examples would be a row of trees such as poplars or conifers planted for screening purposes. Similarly, same or similar species trees can be classified as a group if they are growing close together possibly with shrubs as an understorey.

Tree Heights are given in metres (m). An estimate of potential maximum height is given in brackets.

Trunk Diameters measured at 1.5m above ground, unless more than three stems when the diameter at base was recorded. Recorded in millimetres to the nearest 10 mm. * denotes estimate as it was not possible to accurately measure. m/s denotes multistemmed tree.

Branch Spread is recorded in metres from the trunk to the outer edge of the canopy along the cardinal points of the compass.

Crown height is the height of the lowest branch from the floor

Age Class - recorded as prescribed in BS 5837 (2012):

Yng	-	Young tree age less than 1/3 life expectancy
Mid	-	Middle age trees 1/3-2/3 life expectancy
Mat	-	Mature
Dead	-	

The ***Condition*** of the trees is categorised thus:

- **Good** – high amenity value, no defects, good form
- **Moderate**- some defects which can be remedied, moderate form and amenity
- **Poor** – defects which drastically reduce safe life expectancy, poor form and low amenity
- **Very poor/Dead** – very limited life expectancy and little or no amenity value

Life Expectancy – estimated ie less than 10 years, 10-20 years, 20-40 years, more than 40 years. This is related to whether the recommended works are carried out. For example, a crowded tree will only live for 40+ years if the shading trees are removed or pruned.

Preliminary Recommendations – works required due to condition and sound arboricultural management. Whether the work is undertaken is a decision for the tree owner/manager and may be reliant on cost, whether development or changes to the site are envisaged etc. There may be a timescale placed on the recommendation – i.e. urgent, within 12 months, within 3years etc.

If recommendations are not acted upon then it is at the tree owners/managers risk. If there is any doubt about whether the work recommended is essential, please contact Jonathan Oakes.

Examples of work recommended:
Crown clean – remove deadwood (dw), remove climbing plants, rubbish from crown etc.
Dw – remove deadwood over 25mm diameter, incl pruning stubs
Dw(all) – remove all deadwood
Reduce – Reduce crown by specified percentage or height
Thin – Thin crown by specified percentage
Epicormics – Remove all adventitious growth from roots and trunk to 5 metres, or as specified
Fell – Remove to ground level (stump treatment may be specified)
Crown lift –Remove branches to a live growth point to gain required clearance, usually one metre from an object unless stated otherwise.
Formative prune – Remove dead, diseased, crossing branches and co dominant stems and weak forks, epicormics and other unwanted growth in an attempt to form a good tree structure for the future.

Note: All tree work to be carried out by a competent arborist to ***BS 3998:2010 Recommendations for Tree Work***

Retention category

A ***Retention Category*** is given as follows which corresponds with Table 1 of British Standard 5837:2012 '*Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations.'*

- **A** - Trees of a **high quality** and value, including public visual amenity value. It is usual for such trees to be retained unless the planning merits of a particular scheme or layout over-ride them.

- **B** - Trees of **moderate quality** and value, including public visual amenity value. Such trees should be considered for retention.

- **C** - Trees of **low amenity and 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
  The retention of Category C trees should not be allowed to impose a constraint on development. Trees with a stem diameter of less than 150mm are classified as Retention Category C, they should be considered for transplanting.

- **U** - Trees in such a condition that they should be removed

The colour coding for the different categories is as follows:

A – Light green

B – Mid Blue

C – Grey

U – Dark Red

Root Protection Area (RPA)

Each tree to be retained requires a protective area where the rooting environment is to be protected. This is known as the root protection area (RPA). It is most usually calculated as a circle with a radius 12 times the diameter of the stem. This RPA may need to be protected from disturbance and compaction by erection of suitable fencing or ground protection matting. This fence or matting if required must be installed prior to any work commencing on site. More details can be found in BS 5837:2012.

Appendix 3 – Site plans

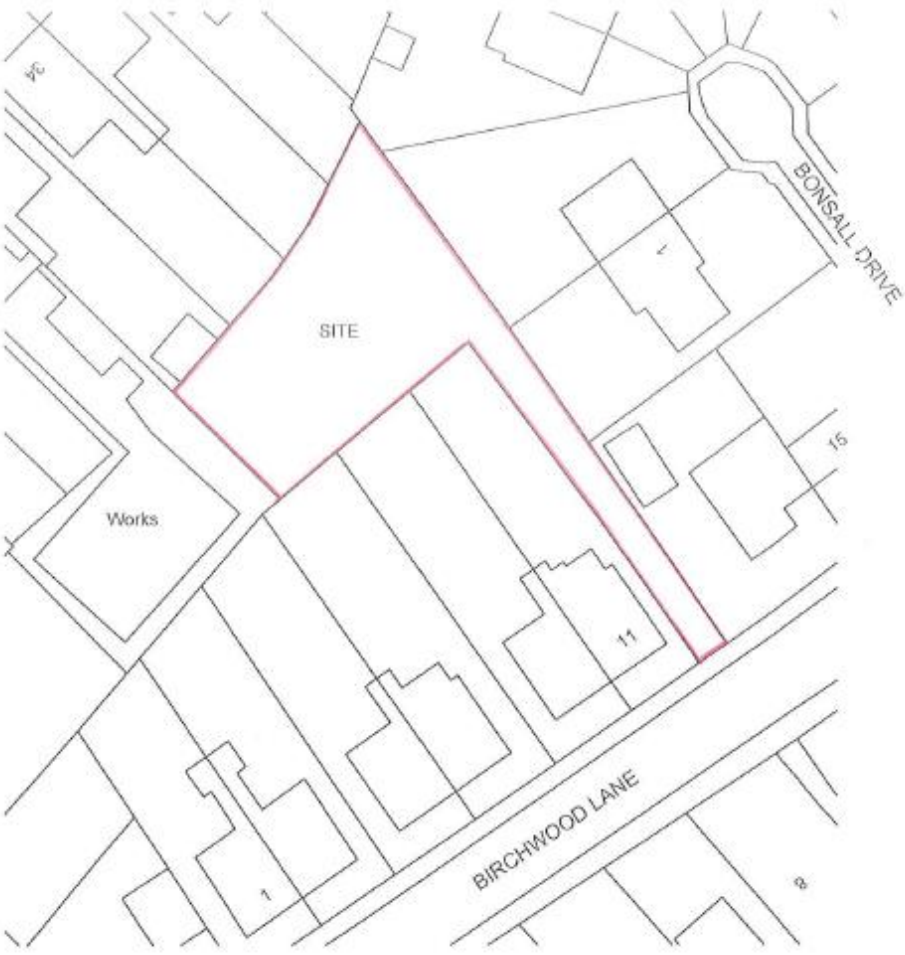
3.1 Location and site boundary provided by the client (not to scale)

3.2 Proposals plan provided by the client (not to scale)

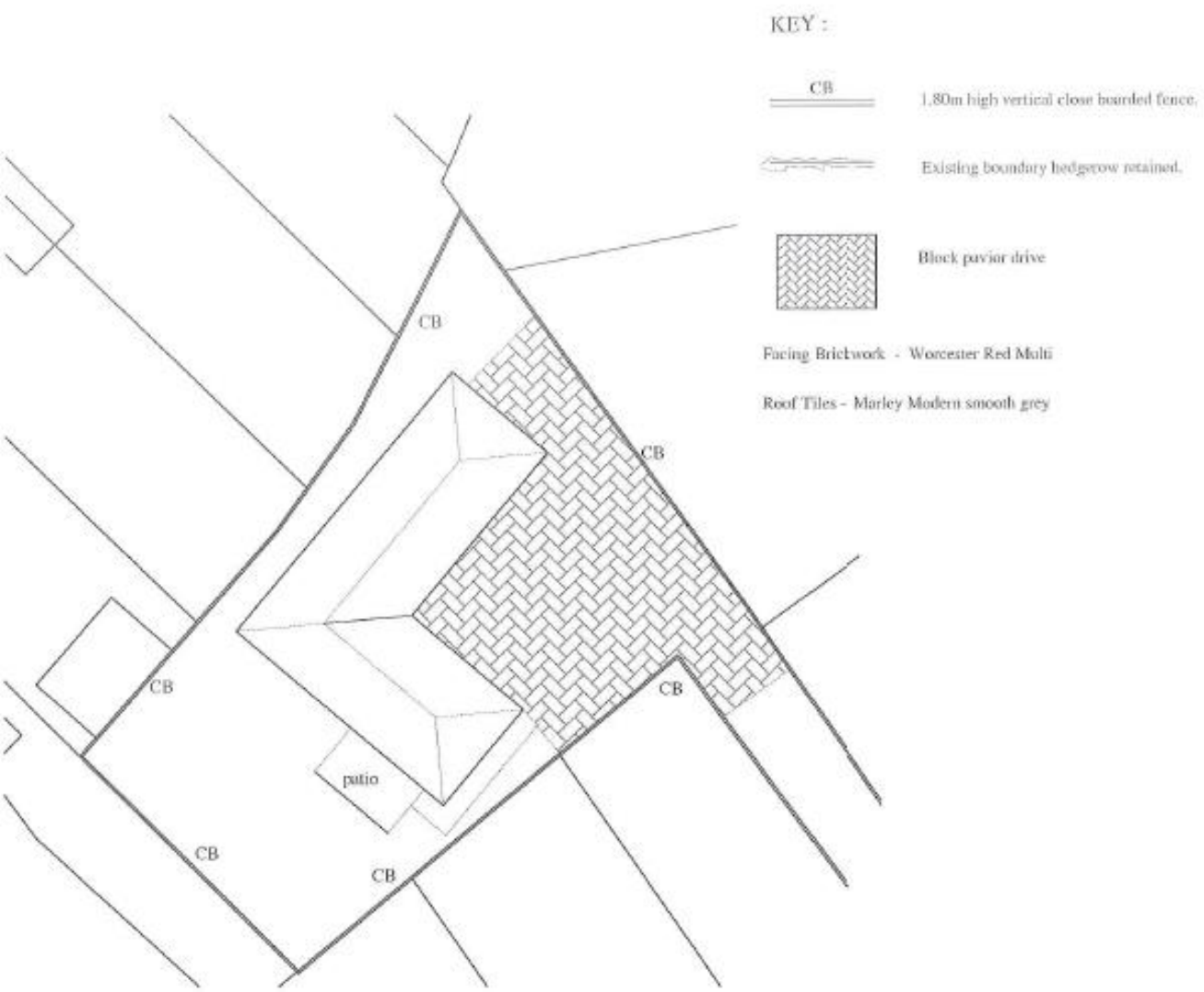
3.3 Tree Survey Plan (page 11)

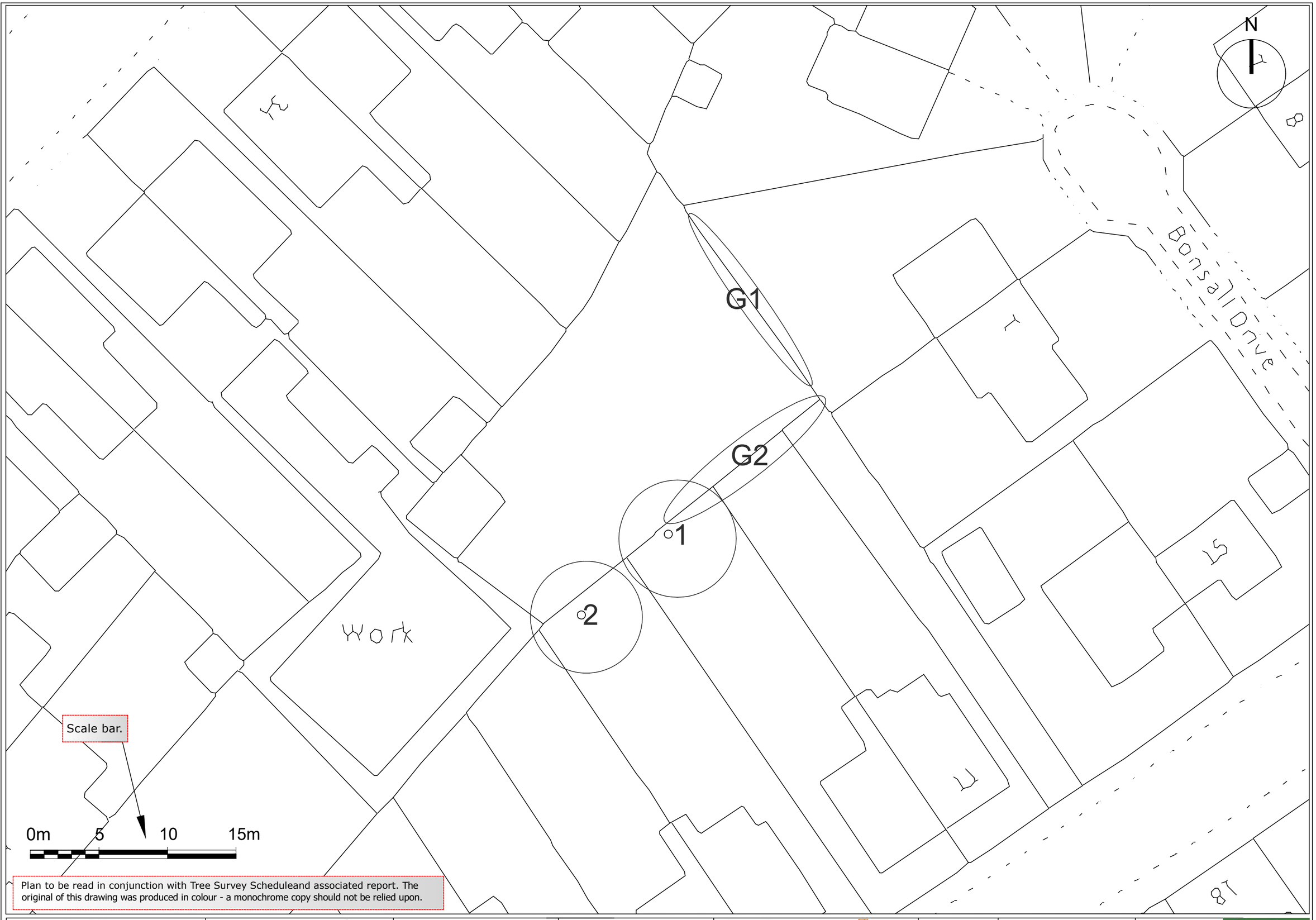
3.4 Tree Protection Plan (TPP) and suggested location for new planting (see recommendations section 3 above) – page 12

Fig. 3.1 – site boundary outlined in red



3.2 proposals plan. The trees have not been included as they are proposed for removal.





Plan to be read in conjunction with Tree Survey Scheduleand associated report. The original of this drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

Key & Notes	Cat C Trees & Groups	T1, T2, T3, T4 etc... Tree Tag	W1,W2,W3 etc... Woodland Tag	Ground Protection Areas	Date: July 2021	Plan to be read with associated report.	Jonathan Oakes Tree Care 134 Belper Lane Belper Derbyshire DE56 2UH
Cat A Trees & Groups	Cat U Trees & Groups	G1, G2, G3, G4 etc... Group Tag	H1, H2, H3 etc... Hedgerow Tag	Specialized Foundations	Title: Tree Survey Plan	DWG:JO-BL-TS	
Cat B Trees & Groups	Trees/Groups for removal	Hedgerows	No-dig Surfacing Areas	Fencing Location / RPA Extent	Site: Birchwood Lane Somercotes	1:250 @A3	

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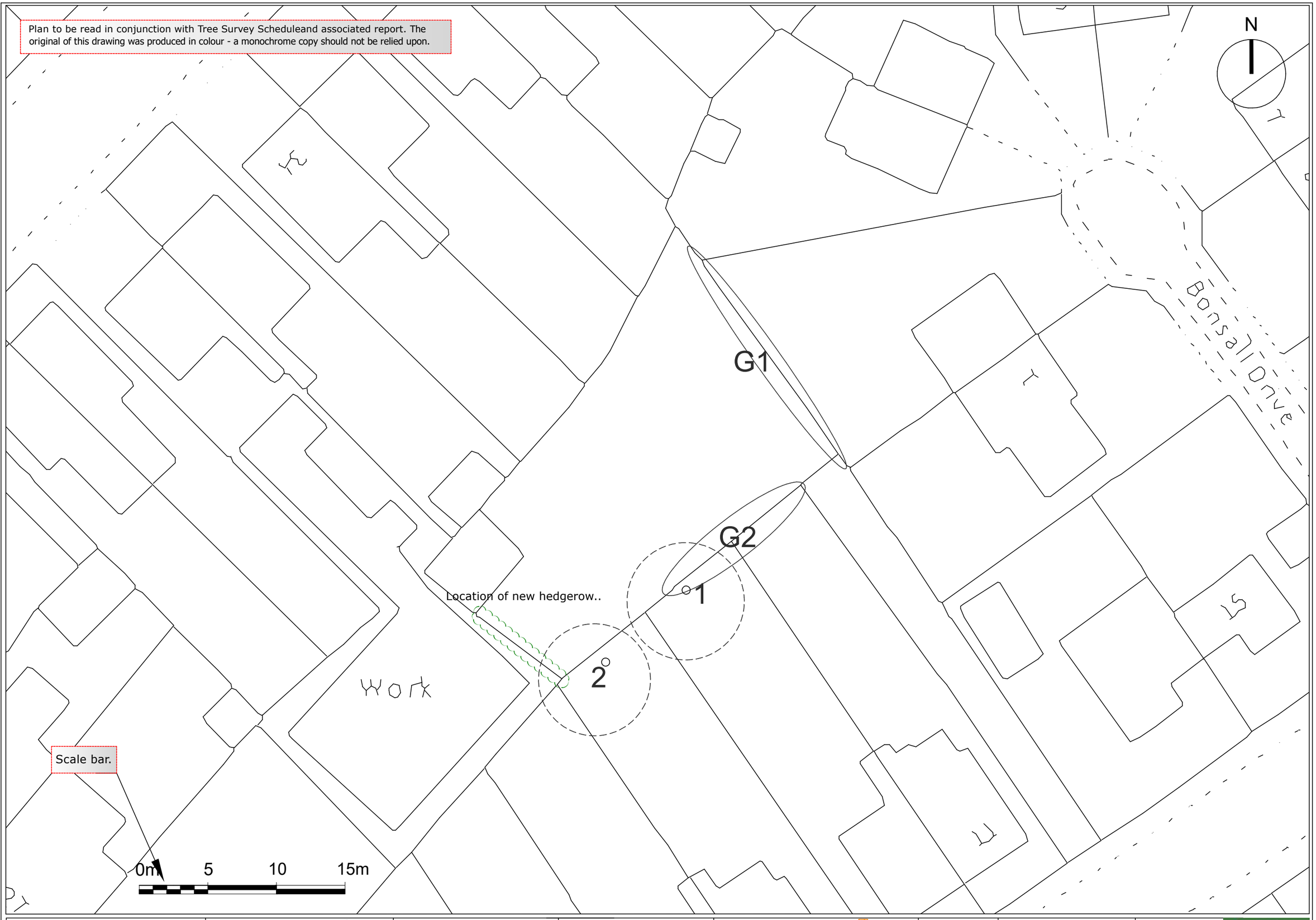

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