

Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Tree Protection Plan For trees on land at Chicklade



On behalf of Environmena
Diddenham Court
Grazeley
Reading
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27th January 2026

Summary

A new solar farm is proposed	The trees considered in this report are located on land at Chicklade (SP3 5ST). This report identifies the arboricultural impact for a plan to create a new 3 megawatt solar farm at the site.
No trees will need to be removed	No trees will need to be felled to construct the proposed development, but one short section of field boundary hedgerow will need to be removed. Furthermore, no facilitative tree pruning will be required.
Extensive tree planting will be carried out	The proposed solar farm will be surrounded by new native hedges which will include hedgerow trees. Furthermore, a belt of woodland planting will be included on the eastern side of the site. The effect of the proposed hedge removal in combination with new tree planting will significantly increase the canopy cover of the site.
Temporary fencing will be used during construction	Tree protection fencing will be installed in the locations identified on the tree protection plans and a specification for this fencing is provided in Section 4.2 of this report. It is crucial that fencing is installed before construction works begin and remains in place for the duration of the project.
A pre-commencement site visit from the project arboriculturist will be required	A site visit from the project arboriculturist will be required at the start of the project to check the tree protection measures. Further arboricultural supervision will be required if unforeseen construction activity is to take place within the root protection area of any of the trees on or near the site. The project arboriculturist should be informed of unforeseen works near trees as soon as they become apparent.
This report should be made available to all construction staff	The site manager must be made aware of the tree protection requirements at the site and provided with a copy of this report; this information must be passed on to all construction staff.

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Appendix 1	Tree Schedule, Group Schedule, Hedge Schedule & Schedule Key
Appendix 2	Tree Removal Plans (TR-1A & TR-2A)
Appendix 3	Tree Protection Plans (TPP-1A & TPP-2A)

1 Introduction

1.1 Background information

Environmena proposes to construct a new 3-megawatt 'private-wire' array to support a neighbouring forthcoming Electric Vehicle (EV) charging hub on land north-west of the EV hub site in Chicklade (SP3 5ST); this land is hereafter referred to as the 'site'.

I have been instructed by Environmena, to visit the site and survey the trees in accordance with BS 5837:2012¹ to prepare an arboricultural impact assessment, tree protection plan, and relevant method statements for works near retained trees.

Table 1: *The documents listed below have been reviewed to assist this report:*

Document Title	Originator	Document Number
Chicklade EV Hub Linework	Above Surveying Ltd	27700
Planning Layout	Environmena	ENV00267-02-PlanningLayout
Landscape Framework Plan	LHC Design	9401 P2

1.2 Statutory tree protection

A check of the Wiltshire Council online mapping system informs me that none of the trees at the site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), and nor is the site situated in a conservation area.

1.3 Limitations

The assessment and recommendations reflect conditions at the time of inspection. Significant site changes—such as level or hydrological changes, storms, extreme weather, or site works—will require a reassessment of the trees.

This survey is not a tree safety inspection but aims to inform the planning process. Obvious hazards observed have been addressed in the work recommendations. A full risk assessment would consider site use and tree hazards, which may change during and after development. Regular tree risk assessments are therefore advised

This report does not consider any aspect of tree-related building subsidence. If shrinkable clay soils are present on site the guidance given in the National House Building Council (NHBC) chapter 4.2² should be used to avert the risk of future subsidence of new buildings.

No detailed assessment of the potential conflict between future site use and the shade cast by trees has been undertaken within this report.

¹ British Standards Institution (2012). BS5837 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. BSI, London.

² National House Building Council (2008). NHBC Standards Chapter 4.2 - Building near trees.

2 Tree Survey Information

2.1 Site description

The site is currently a large open arable field located north-west of Chicklade Service Station. The site is surrounded by scattered field boundary hedges which have all recently been filled with new saplings. Furthermore, a mature plantation largely consisting of larch and beech is located to the west of the site.

2.2 The tree survey

I visited the site on 17th December 2025 to carry out the tree survey and weather conditions did not present any constraints to the assessments.

The survey considered all trees on and around the site. Inspections took place from ground level using the Visual Tree Assessment method³. In accordance with the system described in Table 1 of BS 5837, each tree has been classified into four retention categories: A, B, C or U. The stem diameter has been used to calculate the Root Protection Area (RPA⁴) required by each tree.

2.3 Existing tree stock

Information on each tree, tree-group and hedgerow is listed in the schedule provided in Appendix 1 and a summary of their retentive worth is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: *The site largely consists of C-grade features.*

BS 5837 Category	Quality	Trees	Groups	Hedges
A	High	-	-	-
B	Moderate	-	1	-
C	Low	11	-	6
U	Very Poor	2	-	-
Total		13	1	6

2.4 Tree plans

Four A0 tree plans are presented at the rear of this report. The trees have been plotted the supplied topographical survey and details of both plans are listed below:

Tree Removal Plans (TR-1A & TR-2A)	Two plans illustrating which features require removal on the existing site layout.
Tree Protection Plans (TPP-1A & TPP-2A)	Two plans illustrating the retained trees on the proposed site layout and where protective measures are required during construction activities.

³ Mattheck, C. and Breloer, H. (1995). The Body Language of Trees: A handbook for failure analysis. Research for Amenity Trees 4. HMSO, London.

⁴ The root protection area (RPA) is a layout design tool indicating the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability, and where the protection of roots and soil structure is treated as a priority.

3 Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Proposed Mitigation

3.1 Tree removals

Just one short section of C-grade hedgerow (H2) will need to be removed to construct the proposed development. No other removals or facilitative tree pruning will be required.

3.2 New tree planting

The proposed solar farm will be surrounded by new native hedgerow planting which will include hedgerow trees as well as an area of woodland tree planting to mitigate visual impacts to the east of the site. Details of the new tree and hedge planting are included on the Landscape Framework Plan produced by LHC Design which accompanies this submission. Overall, the proposed planting will more than compensate for the loss of the short section of hedgerow that will need to be removed and it will result in a much greater canopy cover for the site.

3.3 New service runs

Installation of underground services by typical 'open trench' methods near trees is likely to sever roots; this will harm the physiological condition of the trees, provide an opportunity for fungal infection, and could leave them prone to windthrow. Therefore, the locations for new underground services will be designed to avoid the root protection areas required by the retained trees.

If any additional underground services are required, I recommend that suitable members of the project team, including an arboricultural consultant, should design their routes. An appropriate specification and method statement for their installation would need to be produced, and guidance provided in NJUG⁵ must be followed.

3.4 Level changes

Any changes in levels or slopes need to comply with the constraints attached to the construction exclusion zones. This means that any soil grading must take place outside of the fenced areas identified on the tree protection plan.

3.5 Tree protection fencing

Just two sections of temporary fencing will be used during construction activities to protect the hedgerow at the field entrance from construction traffic. All other trees and hedgerows are a significant distance from the proposed development and are also behind existing stock fencing.

The location of necessary tree protection is indicated on the tree protection plans at the rear of the report (TPP-1A & TPP-2A). For effective tree protection it is crucial that the protective fencing is installed before any heavy plant machinery is used on the site. The tree protection fencing must remain in place until the construction works have been completed (unless under arboricultural supervision). The fenced off areas will be construction exclusion zones.

A specification for suitable tree protection fencing is provided in Section 4.2 of this document.

⁵ NJUG (2007): Guidelines for the Planning, Installation, and Maintenance of Utility apparatus in the Proximity to Trees. National Joint Utilities Group Volume 4.

3.6 Tree works

All permitted and approved tree work must be undertaken in accordance with BS 3998:2010 – Recommendations for tree work⁶. It would be easiest if these works are carried out at the beginning of the construction phase, before protective fencing is put up. Only qualified and insured tree surgeons should be employed.

3.7 Legal restrictions to tree works

None of the trees included in this report are currently protected. If this report supports a full planning application that is subsequently approved, the tree works specified may be undertaken before construction begins without further consent from the planning authority. However, if any arboricultural works are proposed prior to planning approval, the local planning authority must be consulted to confirm that no trees have since become protected. Where trees are in third-party ownership, permission for any arboricultural management must be agreed with the owner in advance of the works.

As it is illegal to disturb an active bird's nest, works may be constrained from March to August. Bat roosts are also protected, and tree works could be delayed if any roosting bats are encountered. A tree surgeon or an ecologist will be able to advise on this matter.

⁶ British Standards Institution (2010). BS 3998 Recommendations for Tree Work. BSI, London.

4 Arboricultural Method Statement

4.1 Method statement timeline

Following the written approval of this document by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), the following sequence of operations will need to be carried out.

Arboricultural supervision will be required for at least one task during this project and an agenda for arboricultural supervision is also included on the tree protection plan. A record of each site visit will be made available to the planning case offer.

Table 3: *Sequence of arboricultural operations for this project.*

Stage	Action
Pre-construction	Undertake permitted tree works to facilitate the construction of the development. Install tree protection fencing as specified in Section 4.2 of this document and as illustrated on the tree protection plans (TPP-1A & TPP-2A). A site visit from the project arboriculturist will be required at the start of the project to check the position of tree protection fencing and to discuss any potential conflicts with trees with the contractors. A record of this visit must be made available to the planning case officer.
During construction	Always follow the restrictions and protocol in Section 4.3. Further arboricultural supervision will be required if any unforeseen construction activity is to take place within the root protection area of any of the retained trees on or near the site. This supervision must be carried out by the project arboriculturist.
Post-construction	Once all the construction activity has been completed, the tree protection fencing may then be removed. Soft landscaping to be carried out and new trees to be planted. It is crucial that root damage does not occur, so vehicles must stick to designated transit routes and any digging near trees should be carried out with the use of hand tools only.

4.2 Specification for tree protection fencing

There are increased chances of damage to retained trees from construction activity. As a result, fencing will be required to protect the retained trees. The information below specifies suitable fencing requirements for this project.

Location

The location of necessary tree protection fencing is shown by the blue lines on the tree protection plan. The fenced off areas will be construction exclusion zones and should be regarded as sacrosanct.

Specification

Tree protection fencing must be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the retained trees.

Since this is a relatively small and short-term project it will not be necessary to install metal fencing supported by a scaffold framework (as detailed in Figure 2 of BS5837). Instead, it is proposed that standard Heras panels are used with a stabiliser strut secured by a ground pin. Alternatively, the panels may be secured with a construction pin through the rubber feet.

All-weather notices should be attached to the fencing with words such as: 'Construction Exclusion Zone - No Access'. Throughout the construction period attention should be paid to ensure that barriers remain rigid and complete.

Installation

The tree protection fencing must be installed before any heavy plant machinery is used on the site and remain in place until the construction works have been completed.

The fencing should not be removed or altered without prior consultation with the project arboriculturist and, where necessary, approval from the local planning authority.

Removal

The tree protection fencing may only be removed once construction activity is completed.

Some landscaping works may be necessary at this stage but it is crucial that root damage does not occur so vehicles must stick to designated transit routes and any digging near trees should be carried out with the use of hand tools only.

Works inside a construction exclusion zone

Arboricultural supervision will be required whenever construction and development activity is to take place within a construction exclusion zone. This supervision must be carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist



Figure A: An example of signs that should be attached to the fencing.

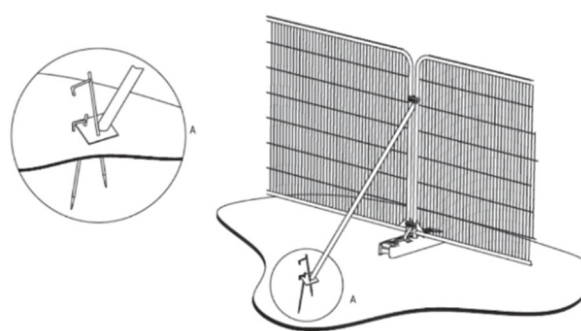


Figure B: Appropriate tree protection fencing for this project.

4.3 General method statement for effective tree protection

It is essential to conserve tree health on construction sites, whether they are on or near the working areas. Guidance for the protection of trees during development projects is provided in BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

Trees are vulnerable to root damage caused by ground disturbance, direct injury of the trunk or branches, environmental change, pests, and diseases. Construction work often exerts pressures on existing trees, and a tree that has taken many decades to reach maturity can be damaged irreparably in a few minutes by unwitting or negligent actions.

For this project temporary fencing will be used during construction to protect the retained trees at the site (see Section 4.2 for further guidance). These protected areas will be construction exclusion zones.

Soil compaction quickly occurs if vehicles pass over an area of soil. Compaction may cause reduced infiltration rates of water, poor drainage, reduced availability of water, and reduced air and oxygen supply to roots. This leads to reduced root growth and as a result the health of the tree is impacted. Therefore, to ensure that soil compaction is avoided, it is very important that no vehicles enter the fenced-off areas during construction operations.

All construction staff should be made aware of the following restrictions that apply to the construction exclusion zones:

No excavations	No excavations (including utility trenches) or raising of soil levels is permitted within the construction exclusion zones without written permission from the project arboriculturist.
No storage or mixing of materials	No materials of any kind are to be stored, dumped or discharged within the construction exclusion zones. Contaminants such as diesel oil, cement and bitumen must be stored at least 10m from any trees, with provision made for any spillage or run-off to be contained away from the protected area. Mixing of cement and concrete must also take place at least 10m from any trees, and over a suitable hard surface or bunded trap to prevent soil contamination from spillage or washing out.
No offices or welfare facilities	Site offices and staff welfare facilities must be located outside of the construction exclusion zones unless agreed with the local authority's arboricultural officer.
Avoid fires	Fires should be avoided; however, if permitted by the site manager, they must not be lit in a position where heat could affect foliage or branches (at least 15m from the base of a tree would normally be sufficient).
Tie branches back to prevent harm	Care must be taken when planning site operations to ensure that wide or tall loads, or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights, can operate without coming into contact with retained trees. Branches may be tied back so that they are out of the way if necessary.

Appendix 1: Tree Schedule

Site: Chicklade Solar Farm

Surveyor: Nick Baxter

Date of Survey: 17th December 2025



Tree Number	Tree Species	Height (m)	Number of Stems	Stem Ø (cm)	N - Radius (m)	S - Radius (m)	E - Radius (m)	W - Radius (m)	1st Branch (m)	Age Class	Overall Health	ULE (Years)	Tree Structural Condition & Site Notes	Recommended Management	Category
T1	Elder	5	1	10	2	2	1.5	2	2	M	F	<10	An over-grown shrub near the footpath.	No action required at present.	U
T2	Sycamore	8	1	18	2	3	2	2	4	EM	F	10+	A self-sown tree with squirrel damage and crown dieback. Prolific arboreal ivy.	No action required at present.	C2
T3	Sycamore	9	3	22	2	3.5	2	3	2	EM	F	10+	A self-sown tree with squirrel damage at base.	No action required at present.	C2
T4	Hawthorn	6	1	23	3	3	2	3	3	M	G	10+	Prolific arboreal ivy.	No action required at present.	C2
T5	Hawthorn	7	1	15	2	1	3	1	4	EM	G	10+	No obvious significant defects.	No action required at present.	C2
T6	Wild cherry	11	1	28	1	7	5	2	4	M	G	10+	Asymmetric crown leans over the path. Past crown lift.	No action required at present.	C2
T7	Ash	16	1	35	8	5	6	2	5	M	G	10+	Asymmetric crown leans over the path. Past crown lift.	No action required at present.	C2
T8	Elder	5	MS	22	2	1	3.5	1	2	M	P	<10	Multi-stemmed from base. Crown dieback.	No action required at present.	U
T9	Hawthorn	6	MS	22	2	1.5	4	4	1	M	G	10+	Multi-stemmed from base. The south side has been regularly flailed. Recent hedge planting along this field boundary. Fence to north.	No action required at present.	C2
T10	Hawthorn	5	1	15	1	1	2.5	2.5	1	EM	G	10+	Once a hedgerow tree. The south side has been regularly flailed. Recent hedge planting along this field boundary. Fence to north.	No action required at present.	C2
T11	Hawthorn	3	1	8	1	1	2.5	0.5	1	EM	G	10+	Once a hedgerow tree. It seems to have been regularly flailed. Recent hedge planting along this field boundary. Fence to north.	No action required at present.	C2
T12	Hawthorn	3	MS	13	1	1	2	2.5	1	EM	G	10+	Once a hedgerow tree. It seems to have been regularly flailed. Recent hedge planting along this field boundary. Fence to north.	No action required at present.	C2
T13	Sycamore	12	2	31	5	5	2.5	5	5	EM	G	10+	Two stems extend from base. Arboreal ivy. A flail has been used to lift the crown over the field leaving several stubs. Footpath to west.	No action required at present.	C2

A key explaining each category is provided at the rear of the schedule

Appendix 1: Group Schedule**Site:** Chicklade Solar Farm**Surveyor:** Nick Baxter**Date of Survey:** 17th December 2025

Group Number	Tree Species	Number in Group	Height (m)	Number of stems	Stem Ø (mm)	N - Radius (m)	S - Radius (m)	E - Radius (m)	1st Branch	Age Class	Overall Health	ULE (Years)	Tree Structural Condition & Site Notes	Recommended Management	Category
G1	Larch, beech, cherry, ash and sycamore	50	17	1	400	5	5	5	6	M	G	20+	A mature plantation located west of the site.	No action required at present.	B2

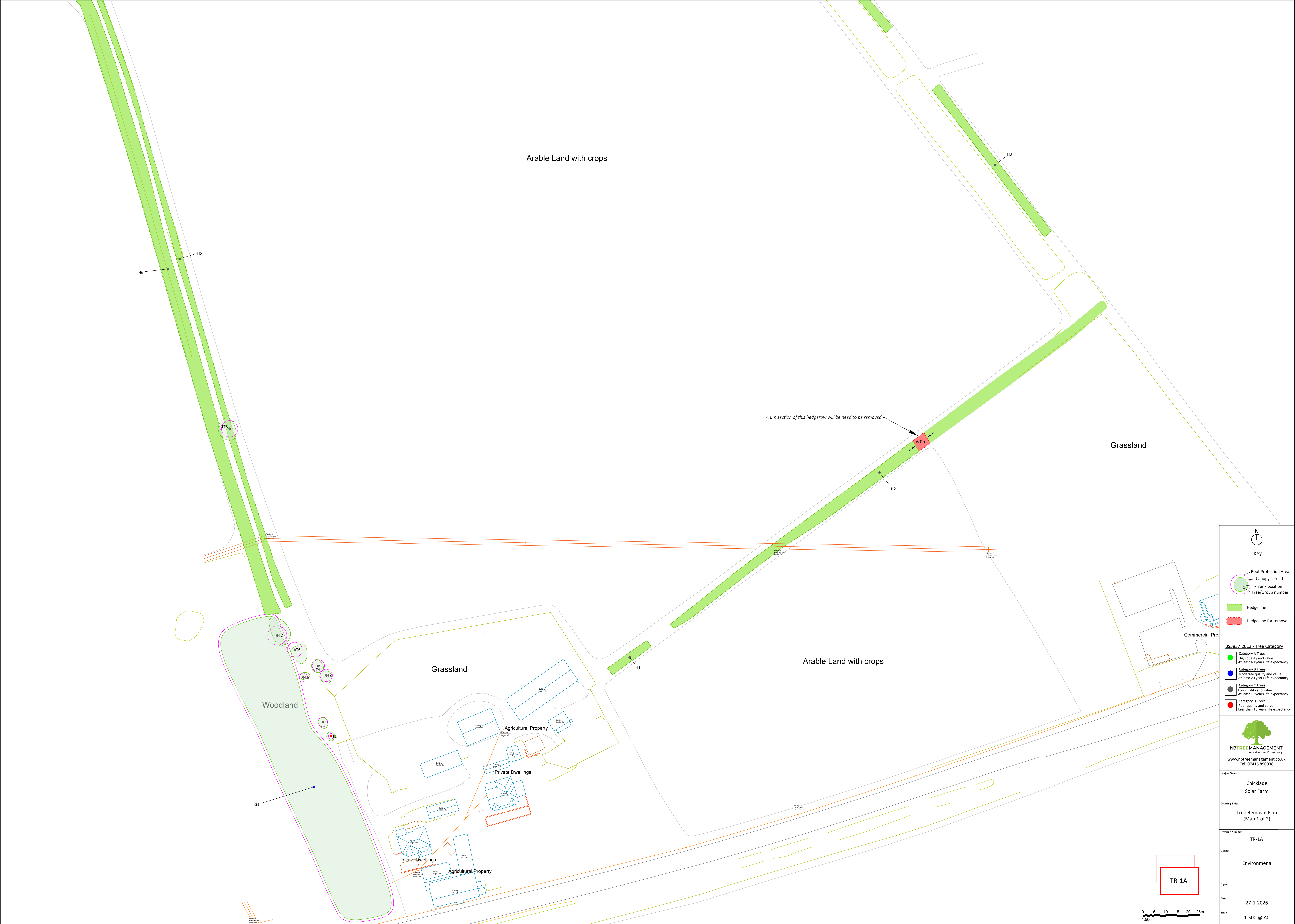
A key explaining each category is provided at the rear of the schedule

Appendix 1: Hedge Schedule**Site:** Chicklade Solar Farm**Surveyor:** Nick Baxter**Date of Survey:** 17th December 2025

Hedge Number	Tree Species	Height (m)	No. of Stems	Stem Ø (cm)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Age Class	Overall Health	ULE (Years)	Condition & Site Notes	Recommended Management	Category
H1	Blackthorn and elder	3	MS	90	3	20	M	F	10+	Remnants of a field boundary hedgerow. Few signs of recent management.	No action required at present.	C2
H2	Hawthorn, blackthorn, privet and elder	4	MS	150	3	240	M	F	10+	A field boundary hedgerow with numerous gaps which have been filled with young saplings. Ivy grows throughout. The side appears to be occasionally flailed.	Remove a 6m section of this hedge to facilitate access as illustrated on the Tree Removal Plans.	C2
H3	Hawthorn and elder	4	MS	150	3	80	M	F	10+	Remnants of a field boundary hedgerow with only 9 trees remaining and large gaps between them. The gaps have recently been filled with new saplings.	No action required at present.	C2
H4	Hawthorn and elder	4	MS	150	3	160	M	F	10+	Remnants of a field boundary hedgerow with only 20 trees remaining and large gaps between them. The gaps have recently been filled with new saplings.	No action required at present.	C2
H5	Hawthorn and elder	4	MS	150	2	300	M	F	10+	Remnants of a field boundary hedgerow with some large gaps between trees. The gaps have recently been filled with new saplings. Stock fence to east. Footpath to west.	No action required at present.	C2
H6	Hawthorn, blackthorn, cherry and elder	5	MS	150	4	300	M	F	10+	A field boundary hedge. Few signs of recent management. Footpath to east.	No action required at present.	C2

A key explaining each category is provided at the rear of the schedule

Key Headings	Definition	Key Headings	Definition
Tree, Group or Hedge Number	Reference number for tree as illustrated on the accompanying plan.	1st Branch	This is a record of the height of the lowest branch. This is useful when planning access routes or considering if pruning will be required to site new features under a tree crown.
Species	Common name of the tree.	Tree Structural Condition & Site Notes	Observations of the trees structural integrity and notes of site features or property within falling distance.
Number in Group	Number of trees within a tree-group. The group may include more than one species of tree.	DBH	Diameter of the main trunk measured at 1.5m using diameter tape.
Height	Estimated tree height (m) from ground level.	Age Class	Y = Young, SM = Semi-Mature, EM = Early Mature, M = Mature, FM = Fully Mature, & V = Veteran
Stem/ Combined Stem Diameter	Single stem diameters are measured at 1.5m with a diameter tape. The combined stem diameters for trees with up to five stems and trees with more than five stems (MS) trees are calculated in accordance with the guidance. The stem diameters are measured in accordance with Figure C.1 of BS5837:2012.	Crown Spread Radius	The crown radius from tree trunk to crown limit identified at the four cardinal points (N, S, E and W) in order to allow presentation of the above ground constraints on the Tree Constraints Plan and Tree Protection Plan. Measurements are approximate and recorded to the nearest half metre.
Number of Stems	The number of stems is either 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or MS (multi-stemmed). This influences how the root protection area is calculated.	ULE (Years)	Useful Life Expectancy. Anticipated future contribution to amenity, in years.
Overall health	A measure of physiological condition. G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor and D = Dead.	Category	Tree category as defined within BS5837:2012. Categories A (high quality), B (moderate quality), C (low quality) & U (very low quality).
Management Recommendations	Recommended works to be carried out prior to construction.		



N

Key

Root Protection Area

Canopy spread

T1

Trunk position

T1

Tree/Group number

Hedge line

Hedge line for removal

BS5837:2012 - Tree Category

Category A Trees

High quality and value

At least 40 years life-expectancy

Category B Trees

Moderate quality and value

At least 30 years life-expectancy

Category C Trees

Low quality and value

At least 10 years life-expectancy

Category U Trees

Poor quality and value

Less than 10 years life expectancy

NBTREEMANAGEMENT

Environmental Consultancy

www.nbtreemanagement.co.uk

Tel: 07415 890038

Project Name:

Chicklade Solar Farm

Drawing Title:

Tree Removal Plan (Map 1 of 2)

Drawing Number:

TR-1A

Client:

Environmena

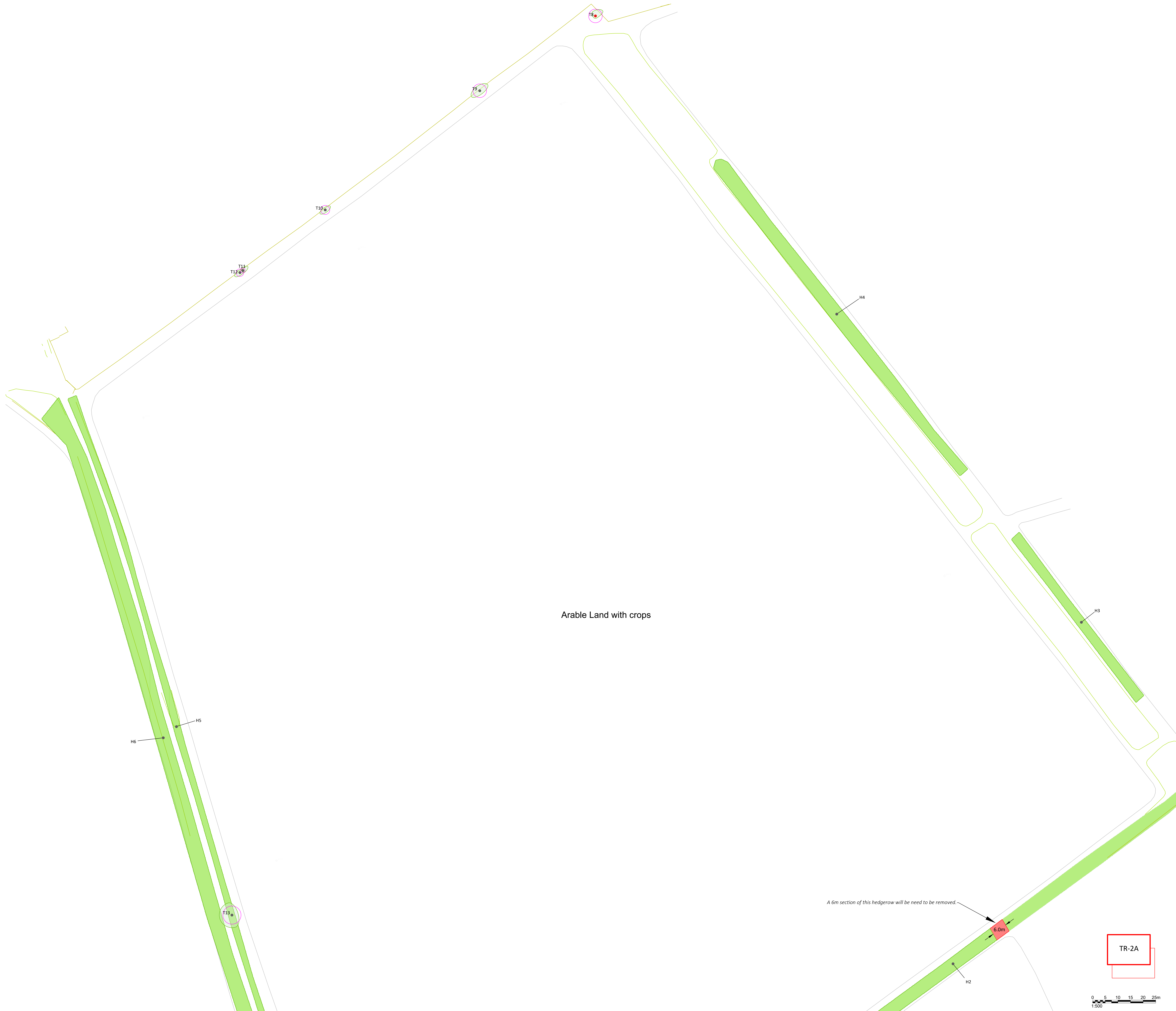
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Date:

27-1-2026

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N

Key

Root Protection Area

Canopy spread

T1

Trunk position

Tree/Group number

Hedge line

Hedge line for removal

BS5837:2012 - Tree Category

Category A Trees

High quality and value

At least 40 years life-expectancy

Category B Trees

Moderate quality and value

At least 30 years life-expectancy

Category C Trees

Low quality and value

At least 10 years life-expectancy

Category U Trees

Poor quality and value

Less than 10 years life expectancy

NB TREEMANAGEMENT

Non-Invasive Consulting

www.nbtreemanagement.co.uk

Tel: 07415 890038

Project Name:

Chicklade Solar Farm

Drawing Title:

Tree Removal Plan (Map 2 of 2)

Drawing Number:

TR-2A

Client:

Environmena

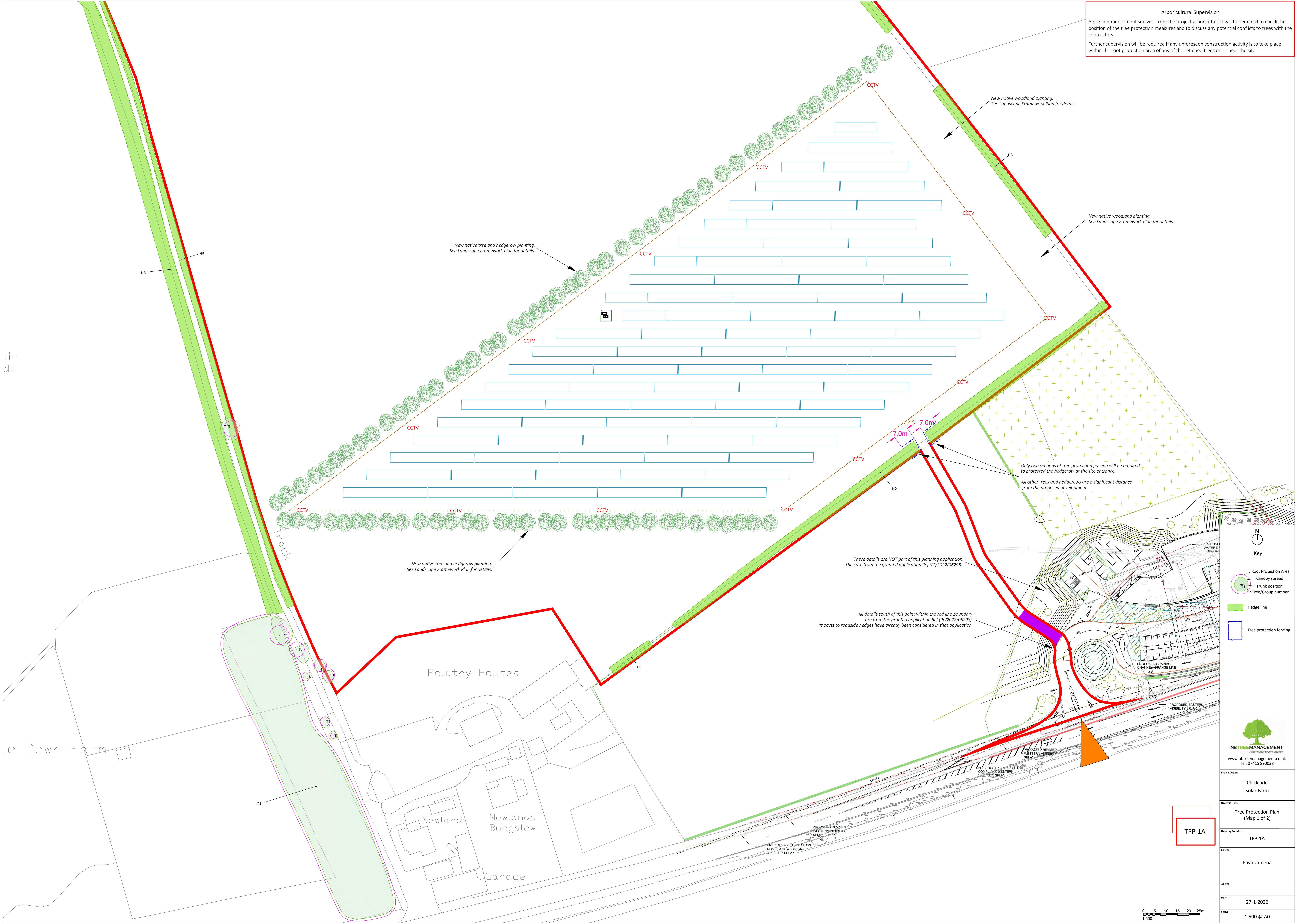
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27-1-2026

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Arboricultural Supervision

A pre-commencement site visit from the project arboriculturist will be required to check the position of the tree protection measures and to discuss any potential conflicts to trees with the contractors

Further supervision will be required if any unforeseen construction activity is to take place within the root protection area of any of the retained trees on or near the site.

N

Key

- Root Protection Area
- Canopy spread
- Trunk position
- Tree/Group number
- Hedge line
- Tree protection fencing

NBTREEMANAGEMENT
Arboricultural Consultancy

www.nbtreemanagement.co.uk
Tel: 07415 890038

Project Name:
Chicklade Solar Farm

Drawing Title:
Tree Protection Plan (Map 1 of 2)

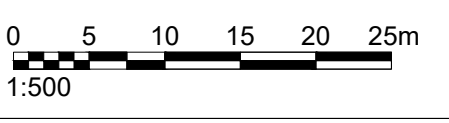
Drawing Number:
TPP-1A

Client:
Environmena

Agent:

Date:
27-1-2026

Scale:
1:500 @ A0



A pre-commencement site visit from the project arboriculturist will be required to check the position of the tree protection measures and to discuss any potential conflicts to trees with the contractors

