



Construction and Environmental Management Plan - Biodiversity (CEMP-B)

Perham Down

Aspire Defence Capital Works

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Basis of Report

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Appendix A Tree Protection Plan



Acronyms and Abbreviations

BPZ	Biodiversity Protection Zone
CEMP - B	Construction Environmental Management Plan - Biodiversity
CEZ	Construction Exclusion Zone
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EclA	Ecological Impact Assessment
LEMP	Landscape Ecological Management Plan
OSGR	Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
SQE	Suitably Qualified Ecologist



1.0 Introduction and Background

SLR Consulting was commissioned by Aspire Defence Capital Works Ltd to produce a Construction and Environmental Management Plan - Biodiversity (CEMP-B) for the installation of a Photo Voltaic (PV) solar array with associated fencing, with access, landscaping and associated electrical infrastructure. The area of land assessed is located off Lambdown Terrace, Perham Down, Wiltshire, SP11 9JL, Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 24931 49066, hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.

Planning permission (ref PL/2025/01089) has been obtained from Wiltshire Council. This report seeks to address the associated planning conditions that relate to ecology.

Prior to the commencement of works, including demolition, ground works/excavation, Site clearance, vegetation clearance and boundary treatment works, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP - B) shall be submitted to the local planning authority for approval in writing.

The Plan shall provide details of the avoidance, mitigation and protective measures to be implemented before and during the construction phase, including but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- a) Identification of ecological protection areas/buffer zones including for hedges, woodland, retained grassland and reptile habitat.
- b) Details of physical means of protection of ecological protection areas/ buffer zones.
- c) Working method statements for protected/priority species, such as nesting birds and reptiles.
- d) Mitigation strategies already agreed with the local planning authority prior to determination, such as for calcareous grassland, neutral grassland, reptiles and birds. this should comprise the pre-construction/construction related elements of strategies only.
- e) Work schedules for activities with specific timing requirements in order to avoid/reduce potential harm to ecological receptors, including details of when a licensed ecologist and/or ecological clerk of works (ECoW) shall be present on Site.
- f) Key personnel, responsibilities and contact details (including Site Manager and ecologist/ECoW).
- g) Timeframe for provision of compliance report to the local planning authority; to be completed by the ecologist/ECoW and to include photographic evidence.

Development shall be carried out in strict accordance with the approved CEMP - B.

Reason

To ensure adequate protection and mitigation for ecological receptors prior to and during construction, and that works are undertaken in line with current best practice and industry standards and are supervised by a suitably licensed and competent professional ecological consultant where applicable.

This CEMP-B has been informed by the following documents:

- Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)¹
- Perham Down Solar PV Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)²
- Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (EMEP)³

¹ SLR Consulting (November 2024) Perham Down PV Ecological Impact Assessment

² SLR Consulting (July 2026) Perham Down PV Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.

³ SLR Consulting (July 2025) Perham Down PV Ecology Management and Enhancement Plan



- Construction Management Plan⁴

1.1 Evidence of Technical Competence and Experience

This report was authored by Emma Griffin BSc (Hons). Emma has over three years' experience in environmental consultancy and is a Qualifying member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

The report has been reviewed by Stephanie Attwood MSc DIC BSc (Hons) Principal Ecologist with 20 years of experience as a working professional ecologist. Steph has extensive experience in protected species surveys and botanical surveys. She has produced numerous ecological reports including Ecological Impact Assessments, Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, Environmental statement chapters, Biodiversity Net Gain Assessments, mitigations licences, LEMPs, CEMPs among others. Steph has also project managed many small to large size projects.

2.0 Risk Assessment of Potentially Damaging Construction Activities

The establishment of the Site, including deliveries and site clearance to provide access for the construction activities, has potential to harm or disturb the following protected/ notable species and ecological receptors:

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland;
- Hedgerow;
- Other calcareous grassland;
- Badgers (*Meles meles*);
- Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*);
- Reptiles;
- Breeding Birds;

Mitigation measures regarding the trees and hedgerow to be retained are outlined within the Arboricultural Report for the Site⁵. This includes the installation of Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZs) prior to works with protective fencing and measures to be implemented within the CEZ. All other ecological receptors and associated mitigation measures are described in the sections below.

It is not proposed to use lighting during the construction phase of the Solar PV installation.

3.0 Biodiversity Protection Zones

The CEZ established for the hedgerow and retained trees (**Appendix A**) will also function as a Biodiversity Protection Zone (BPZ). A 5m BPZ will be maintained from the hedgerow, except for a short section 4m from the fence where works will be completed using hand tools. A 10m BPZ will be maintained from the woodland (see Figure 3 in the EMEP³).

The protective fencing (see **Figure 1**) used to create the exclusion zone should also include signage indicating the potential use of the hedgerow and woodland by hedgehogs and nesting birds.

A BPZ for badger may be required to be established following the pre-commencement walkover (as detailed below in Section 4.1).

⁴ Aspire (July 2026) Perham Down PV. Construction Management Plan

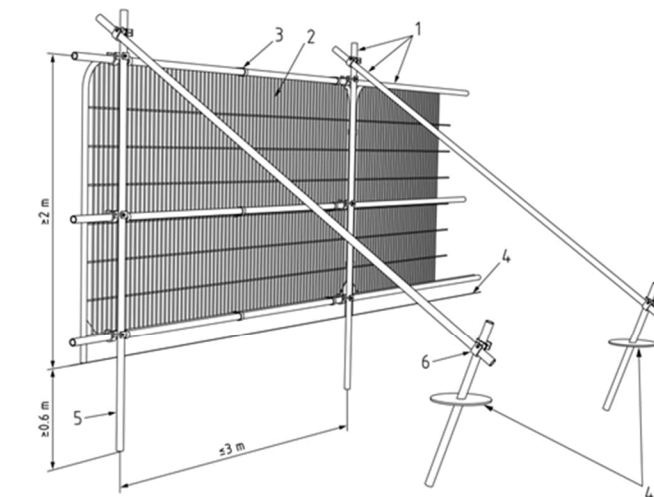
⁵ SLR Consulting (January 2024) Perham Down PV. Arboricultural Report



The retained grassland within the Wider Biodiversity Offset Area (WBOA) will be safeguarded by exclusion fencing (Figure 1) which will demarcate the construction area including the construction compound.

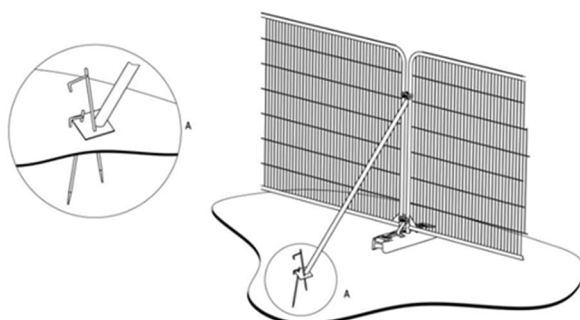
Figure 1 – Protective Fencing

Extracts taken from B.S. 5837: (2012), "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendation".

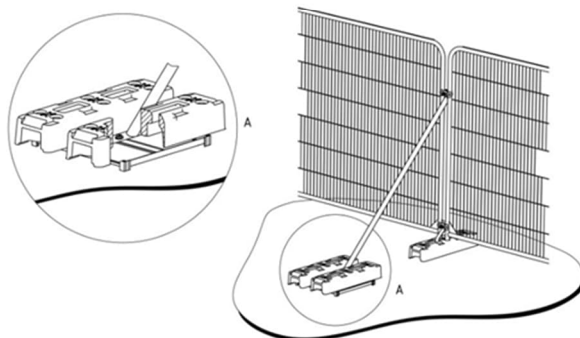


- Key**
- 1 Standard scaffold poles
 - 2 Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
 - 3 Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
 - 4 Ground level
 - 5 Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
 - 6 Standard scaffold clamps

Default specification for protective barrier



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

Examples of above ground stabilising systems



4.0 Precautionary Working Measures

The following precautionary working measures (both physical and sensitive working practices, including timing) are outlined below to avoid or reduce impacts during construction.

Good practice environmental and pollution control measures shall be employed regarding current best practice guidance such as, but not limited to, the following:

- CIRIA C532 Control of water pollution from construction sites: guidance for consultants and contractors⁶; and
- CIRIA C811 Environmental good practice on site guide (fifth edition)⁷.

4.1 Badgers

[REDACTED]

- A pre-construction check by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) for activity within 20m of the proposed development to ensure the works will not impact badgers prior to construction works commencing.

Badgers could access the Site during works. To prevent harm, the following measures are recommended:

- Securing any deep excavations that may need to be left overnight. These would be fenced off with a ramp (sloped edge or plank set at 30°) within them. This will ensure any animal could escape if they enter the excavation;
- Secure storage of any materials/fuel/chemicals required for the proposed works i.e. a fenced off platform or secured container, on existing hard standing to prevent animals from investigating potentially dangerous (to them) materials; and
- Any pipework over 20cm in diameter should be capped to prevent access when work is not being conducted.

4.2 Hedgehogs

The grasslands and hedgerow on Site have potential to support hedgehogs, which would be particularly susceptible to harm when hibernating between November and mid-March. Impacts on hedgehog utilising the retained hedgerow shall be avoided through the establishment of the BPZ.

A 5m BPZ for the hedgerow (with the exception of a small section 4m from the fence which will be hand dug) and 10m BPZ for woodland should be established to protect against harm during hibernation. Should a hedgehog become noticeably active, a SQE or ECoW should be contacted for further advice, which may require the hedgehog to be transported to a local wildlife hospital or rescue centre.

⁶ Masters-Williams, H. *et al.*, (2001) Control of water pollution from construction sites. Guidance for consultants and contractors.

⁷ Kwan, J., Dickinson, C., and MacLeod, C. (2023) Environmental good practice on site guide (fifth edition).



Any vegetation from clearance works shall be removed from Site immediately as piles of cut vegetation could be utilised by hedgehogs. Should this not be feasible, cut vegetation should be fenced off to prevent hedgehog from coming into contact with them or should be stored evenly and flat (either as cut material or chipped) as to not provide sufficient cover for hedgehogs.

There is also a risk of harm to hedgehog (and other nocturnal animals) during construction, should animals become trapped in footing or other Site hazards. Where possible, all trenches, pits and other diggings at the Site will be closed before nightfall. Where this is not possible, an escape ramp shall be installed, using wood planking or suitably compacted earth, and excavations should be checked by the Site manager or foreman prior to works recommencing each day. Should an animal be present, this should be allowed to escape of its own accord, or an ecologist contacted for advice. All pipework and ironworks shall be sealed or covered overnight. Alternatively, such trenches, pipes or other workings may be fenced off to prevent hedgehog coming into contact with them.

4.3 Reptiles

An exceptional number of slow worms and a low population of common lizards were recorded during surveys in 2024. There is a risk of harm to reptiles during the construction phase.

Any construction works being carried out within the redline must follow this protocol.

In order to prevent killing and injury to reptiles during construction and prior to any construction works the following will be undertaken:

- Habitat manipulation will be undertaken at a time that reptiles are active (April to mid October, weather dependent).
- A SQE will undertake a fingertip search of any piles of rubble or vegetation within the footprint of works to search for reptiles, any reptiles found will be removed and placed in the WBOA offset area.
- Prior to commencement of any ground works which have the potential to disturb reptiles, a phased cut of any grassland or other vegetation will be carried out to degrade the habitat providing reptile potential.
- Where appropriate, a phased grass cut will be undertaken between April to mid October within the summer active period for reptiles on dry, mild days to ensure reptiles are active.
- Cutting of grassland will be carried out over two cuts, all cuts will be undertaken starting at the centre of the footprint of works working to the outside edge: - The first cut to 150mm with arising raked off and removed from the Site; followed by;
- Second cut to 50mm, with arising removed, the footprint of works will be maintained at this length until completion of the construction works.
- The second cut will be carried out at least 48hrs after the first cut to allow reptiles and small mammals present to move out of the footprint of work area.
- Once the phased cut has been undertaken the grassland will need to be maintained at or below 50mm until Site clearance/construction works commence.
- Maintaining a short cut ensures the grass is unsuitable habitat for reptiles, deterring reptiles from the area and reducing the risk of construction activities killing or injuring any reptiles.



- Thereafter, all works should be carried out under the “precautionary principle” to avoid causing potential distress or harm to any reptile which may be present or encountered during either preconstruction, construction or post-construction phases.
- All contractors working on Site will be informed of the potential presence of reptiles within the area and their protected legal status.
- Any reptile found during either preconstruction, construction or post-construction phases should be carefully relocated by hand to the WBOA by a suitably qualified ecologist.
- Any trenches and excavations left open should be covered, if not then an escape route for animals that enter should be provided, especially if they are left open overnight.
- All excavations left open overnight or longer should be checked for animals prior to work continuing.
- Any excavated material should be placed on boards or sheeting to avoid creating refugia. This material should be checked prior to being used as infill.
- Vegetation on the Site should be kept at ground level during the construction process.
- All other materials should be kept on raised areas, namely pallets, to avoid creating refugia.

4.4 Breeding Birds

There is potential for birds to utilise the trees, scrub, woodland and hedgerow for nesting during the breeding season (March to August inclusive).

Two small trees will be removed, this should be undertaken between September to February which outside the breeding season to avoid impacts on breeding birds. Vegetation clearance undertaken within these timescales can therefore be completed without a prior check by an ECoW.

The grassland is currently grazed by horses, if horses are removed prior to the construction works commencing the grassland will regularly mowing to keep the length down making it less suitable for skylark.

Should this not be feasible, a check of the nesting habitat by the ECoW shall be undertaken preferably immediately, or within the 24 hours, prior to removal. If an active nest was identified, it would be left in situ until the breeding attempt was concluded, and the young had fledged. The ECoW would advise on the appropriate buffer zone.

Nesting birds within the mature trees, hedgerow and woodland will be protected from construction activities by the BPZ.

5.0 Mitigation and Enhancement Works

5.1 Habitats – Temporary Impact

Temporary ground protection trackway will be installed to accommodate vehicle access to the Site to minimise impact to habitats. Protection trackway will allow for the movement of articulate lorry tracking and the accommodate temporary material store, contractor parking, self-contained welfare and secure storage containers. This covers all



areas shown in the construction compound (see the Approved constructors compound in to the drawing no. 34-PXZ600-43-GA-W6-001 (17/04/2025)).

Habitat that will be temporary impacted will be other calcareous grassland (*poor* condition). Post construction, temporary ground protection trackway will be removed, and ground will be overseeded with the calcareous grassland mix suitable for soil type (if required). Grassland is predicted to be *poor* condition with the delay in habitat enhancement by one year. The Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will ensure *poor* condition is achieved and maintained for minimum of 30 years. Grassland management will include yearly cut between September and March. New planting will be monitored and replaced if unsuccessful.

5.2 Habitat Enhancements

A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)² for the Site has been produced for the scheme. An additional area outside of the Site referred to as the WBOA will have habitat enhancements as part of the wider scheme which are detailed within the Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).

Full details can be found within the aforementioned documents.

5.3 Reptile Enhancements

As outlined within the EMEP³ a total of 10 hibernaculum for reptiles will be created within the WBOA. These will be created at the same time as the habitat creation works which will be carried out during the construction period.

The hibernaculum will be created by digging shallow pits 500mm in depth by 1000mm width. After the pits has been excavated, they will be filled loosely with rocks, logs and dead wood. Small amounts of soil will be loosely sprinkled over the top. The filling will be just above ground level, and will be capped with a layer 50-100mm of turf or moss. Full details of the construction of the hibernaculum can be found within Figure 3 of the EMEP³.

6.0 Ecological Clerk of Works

6.1 Roles and Responsibilities

An ECoW is deemed necessary for this project as it is a role to work on-Site with construction contractors to:

- Advise on protecting valued biodiversity features on construction sites.
- Provide toolbox talks to construction workers.
- Provide practical, site-specific and proportionate assistance on how their clients can achieve compliance with environmental legislation.
- Avoid unexpected costs, delays to project timetables, or adverse publicity that may have future negative commercial implications; and ultimately risk of enforcement action and/or potential prosecution.
- Manage ecological operatives engaged in ecological mitigation activities – such as undertaking ecological watching briefs and translocation of protected species.

The ECoW would be responsible for the pre-commencement badger survey and any checks for reptiles, hedgehog and/or breeding birds, depending on the timing of this activity.



6.2 Responsible Persons and Lines of Communication

Aspire Defence Capital Works and their appointed contractors will be responsible for ensuring that the pre-commencement surveys, precautionary working measures and BPZs are implemented on Site.

The ECoW for this project will be a suitably qualified ecologist from SLR. Note that the ECoW may delegate responsibilities to an alternative SQE at SLR Consulting should necessity dictate.

The protection of the retained trees and hedgerow would be overseen by an arboriculturist, in line with the Arboricultural Method Statement⁵.

- a) Work schedules for activities with specific timing requirements in order to avoid/reduce potential harm to ecological receptors, including details of when a licensed ecologist and/or ecological clerk of works (ECoW) shall be present on Site.

7.0 Work Schedule

Table 7-1 timetables when activities can occur and whether ECoW will be required to be present.

The ecological surveys were undertaken in 2024, however conditions have not changed on Site and the original survey information is still valid.

Table 7-1: Timing of Implementation of Surveys and Precautionary Working Measures

Stage	Timing	Ecological Receptor	BPZs, pre-commencement surveys and precautionary working measures
Prior to commencement of works	Any time of year	Badgers	SQE to undertake walkover survey.
	Any time of year	Trees and hedgerow	SQE to establish CEZ/BPZ.
	March to August	Breeding birds	If elder trees being removed during the nesting bird season. A SQE will conduct a nesting bird check. If clear, clearance must commence within 48hrs of the check. If nesting birds found – habitat removal delayed until they have fledged. Grassland will be managed to a short sward if grazing is removed prior to construction.
	September to February	Breeding birds	If elder trees to be removed outside of bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) – no further ecological input required.
	March to October	Hedgehogs	Follow precautionary working measures in BPZ. SQE to dismantle log/leaf piles.



Stage	Timing	Ecological Receptor	BPZs, pre-commencement surveys and precautionary working measures
	March to October	Reptiles	SQE to undertake fingertip search of rubble/vegetation. Two phased cut of grassland and vegetation: First cut – to 150mm with arisings raked and removed Second cut – (48hrs after first cut) at or below 50mm with arisings raked and removed.
During construction	Any time of year	Trees and hedgerow	Follow precautionary working measures in BPZ. Follow CIRIA C532 and C811.
	Any time of year	Protected species encountered unexpectedly – when an ECoW isn't present	Stop works and contact ECoW and Aspire for advice.
	March to August	Breeding birds	Follow precautionary working measures in BPZ. Follow CIRIA C532 and C811.
	March to October	Hedgehogs	Follow precautionary working measures in BPZ. Follow CIRIA C532 and C811. Excavations covered or escape route provided. Excavations checked prior to work each day. Cut vegetation removed.
	Any time of year	Badgers	Follow CIRIA C532 and C811 Building materials/fuels/chemicals stored securely i.e. fenced off or in containers. Excavations covered or escape route provided. Excavations checked prior to work each day.
	March to October	Reptiles	Follow CIRIA C532 and C811. Grassland maintained at or below 50mm with arising removed Excavations covered or escape route provided. Excavations checked prior to work each day



8.0 Compliance Report

On completion of the construction of the Solar PV within 4 weeks a compliance report will be completed by the Ecological Clerk of Works and Aspire and submitted to Wiltshire Council which will include photographic evidence.





Appendix A Tree Protection Plan

Construction and Environmental Management Plan - Biodiversity (CEMP-B)

Perham Down

Aspire Defence Capital Works

SLR Project No.: 402.065121.00003

03/01/2024
Michael Sanderson
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Key Plan:

Legend:

- Ref. T1 Tree of high quality and value (Category A)
- Ref. T1 Tree of moderate quality and value (Category B)
- Ref. T1 Tree of low quality and value (Category C)
- Ref. T1 Tree unsuitable for retention (Category U)
- Tree (T)
- Tree Group (G), Hedgerow (H), Woodland (W)
- Root Protection Area (RPA)

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth

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For Planning

Client:
Aspire Defence Capital Works

Project:
Perham Down Groundmount PV

Drawing Title:
Tree Constraints Plan
Sheet 1 of 2

Scale		SLR Project No.	
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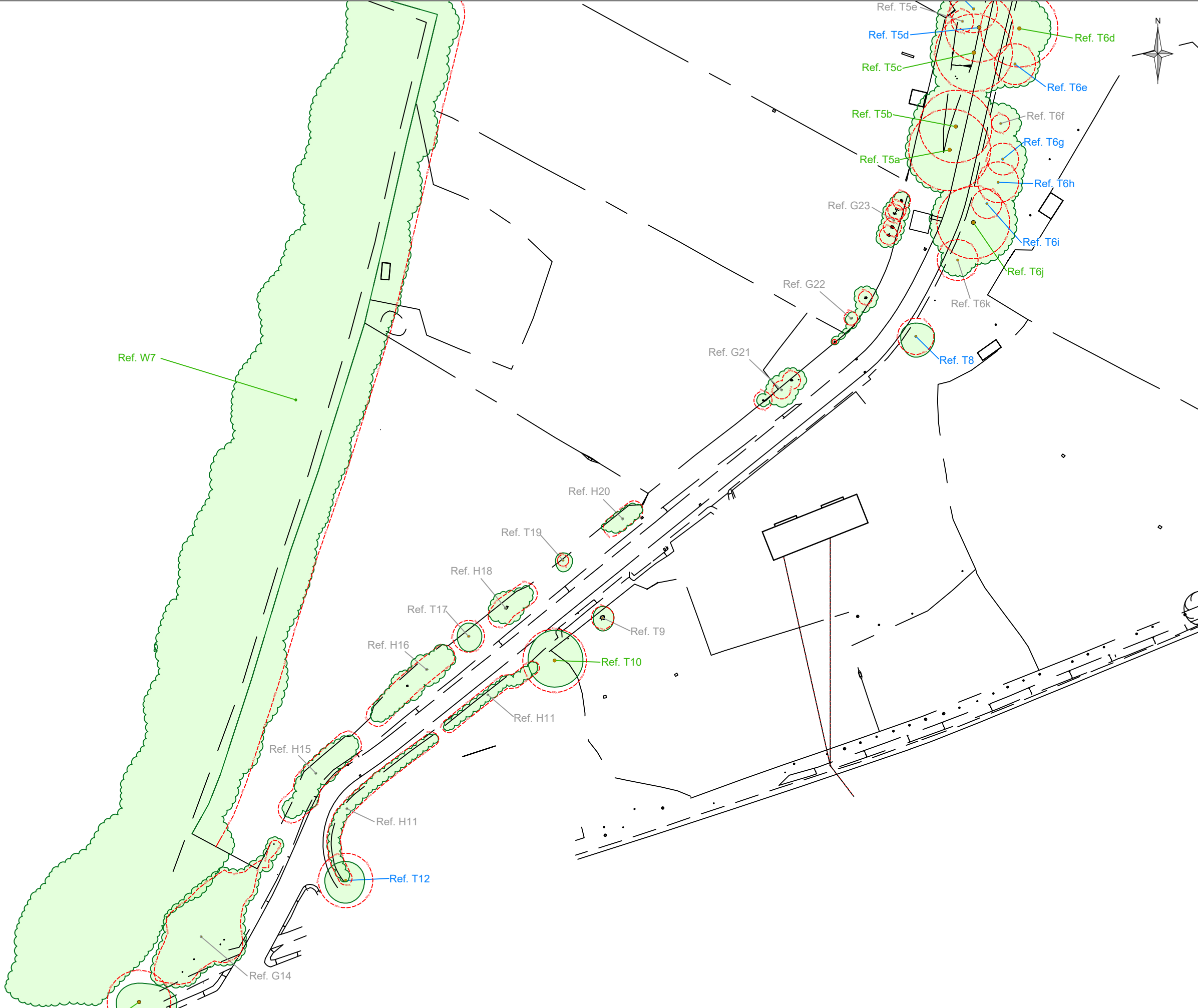
Designed	Drawn	Checked	Authorised
MMS	MMS	RB	RB

Date	Date	Date	Date
Jan 24	Jan 24	Jan 24	Jan 24

Drawing Number:
402.065121.00001-ARB-D-001

Rev:
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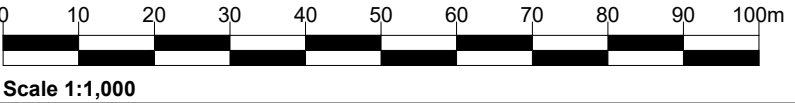


Key Plan:

Legend:

- Ref. T1 Tree of high quality and value (Category A)
- Ref. T1 Tree of moderate quality and value (Category B)
- Ref. T1 Tree of low quality and value (Category C)
- Ref. T1 Tree unsuitable for retention (Category U)
- Tree (T)
- Tree Group (G), Hedgerow (H), Woodland (W)
- Root Protection Area (RPA)

Rev	Amendments	Date	By	Chk	Auth
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Drawing Status & Suitability Code					
For Planning					
Client					
Aspire Defence Capital Works					
Project					
Perham Down Groundmount PV					
Drawing Title					
Tree Constraints Plan Sheet 2 of 2					
Scale		@ A3		SLR Project No.	
1:1000				402.065121.00001	
Designed	Drawn	Checked	Authorised		
MMS	MMS	RB	RB		
Date	Date	Date	Date		
Jan 24	Jan 24	Jan 24	Jan 24		
Drawing Number				Rev.	
402.065121.00001-ARB-D-002				01	





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