

Sylva Consultancy
expert arboricultural advice

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Land North of Castle Road
Rhoose
Vale of Glamorgan
Wales

February 2025

Ref: 24161

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Issued: 21st February 2025



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instructions

- 1.1.1 Sylva Consultancy have prepared this arboricultural report in relation to land north of Castle Road, Burton (Site Location Plan Appendix 1).
- 1.1.2 This arboricultural impact assessment has been prepared to assess the likely impact and effect regarding the proposal to construct a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure on the Site. This appraisal assesses the impact of the proposal in relation to the trees surveyed and discusses mitigation measures that may have to be adopted.

1.2 Arboricultural Survey

- 1.2.1 During November 2024 a tree survey was carried out in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction-Recommendations' and good arboricultural practice. This is a basic data collection exercise and a record of the trees condition at the time of surveying. The tree survey data, tree survey plan and arboricultural constraints plan are included in a separate document call the 'Arboricultural Survey' and has been forwarded to the client.

2. TREE PROTECTION

- 2.1 A desktop study of information posted on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's (VOGC) interactive mapping system (<https://myvale.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/myCouncil.aspx>) was carried out on the 16th February 2025.
- 2.2 VOGC's interactive mapping system illustrates that Tree Preservation Order (TPO) 020 – 1962 protects trees within the survey area. One Elm group and three individual Elms are identified as being subject to the above TPO. Notwithstanding this, the tree survey confirms that no trees of this age at the locations identified on the interactive mapping system are present.
- 2.3 The Vale of Glamorgan Council's interactive mapping system further indicates that the Site is not located in a Conservation Area.

3. ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY

- 3.1 One tree, fourteen groups, four hedges and one woodland have been recorded within this assessment. The tree quality is assessed as follows:

U: Trees that are considered to be of such condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years, and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboriculture management. However, if category 'U' trees are placed in an inaccessible location such that concerns over public safety are reduced to an acceptable level, it may be preferable or possible to defer this recommendation.

A: Trees of the highest quality and value and are considered to be of such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (e.g., 40 years +).

B: Trees of moderate to high value and are considered to be of such a condition as to be able to make a significant contribution (e.g., 20 years +).

C: Trees of low quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 10 years. Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories. Young trees with a stem diameter of less than 150mm should be considered for relocation or replacement through mitigation (e.g., 10 years).

Category A, B & C trees are further divided into the following sub-categories. These sub-categories carry equal weight and are selected for either arboricultural values, landscape values or cultural values, including conservation:

1. Mainly arboricultural qualities.
2. Mainly landscape qualities.
3. Mainly cultural values, including conservation.

The British Standard 5837:2012 also recommends recording hedges and shrub masses, however in the context of the standard it is not necessary to assess the quality of these or to provide a category classification.

The numbers of trees falling under each classification within the arboricultural survey are as follows:

- 3.2 A summary of the trees in each of the four categories is provided below:

BS 5837 (2012) Category	No. of Trees	No. of Groups	No. of Hedges	No. of Woodlands	Tree Number
U	1	1	0	0	T1, G10
A	0	0	0	0	
B	0	2	0	1	G4, G11, W1
C	0	11	4	4	G1, G2, G3, G5, G6, G7, G8, G9, G12, G13, G14, H1, H2, H3, H4

4. PRINCIPLE ARBORICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Consideration is given to the significance of the trees identified in the arboricultural tree survey, the constraints that they are likely to pose to any development that may occur, post development implications (if any) and work requirements to trees for reasons of sound arboricultural management in order to facilitate the development (BS5837:2012 Section 5.4).
- 4.1.2 This appraisal assesses the impact of the potential to develop the Site in relation to the trees and discusses mitigation measures that may have to be adopted.
- 4.1.3 All tree numbers referred to in this document relate to the tree numbers annotated on the tree constraints plan and arboricultural impact assessment plan (Appendix 5).

4.2 Site Description

- 4.2.1 The application Site is approximately 10.5 hectares of land located immediately to the South of the B4265 between Llancadle and East Aberthaw.
- 4.2.2 The land comprises greenfield agricultural land within the Nant Llancarfan Special Landscape Area. The Site also falls within a mineral safeguarding area for limestone, sand and gravel along with part of the Site being within a quarry buffer zone. A public right of way crosses the Site from the southeast to northwest.

4.3 Trees

- 4.3.1 The tree, group, hedges and woodland are growing adjacent to the field boundaries.
- 4.3.2 The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, provides statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees. These have the potential to pose additional constraints on the use and timings of works that may occur to trees located at the Site. Please refer to the Ecological Impact Assessment Report for further information regarding the ecological requirements.

4.4 Overview

- 4.4.1 The appended arboricultural impact plan illustrates the proposals in relation to the tree stock. In addition to pre-development concerns, post development concerns such as debris and concerns of the trees' proximity and juxtaposition to the proposal have also been considered during the design process.
- 4.4.2 An assessment of the design on the tree stock reveal that a section of one category 'C' hedge requires removal to implement the scheme.
- 4.4.3 The scheme has undergone a careful design process to ensure an efficient use of the Site, whilst safeguarding the continued contribution to the greening of the immediate landscape. On the bases of the appraisal, it is considered that the arboricultural impact of the scheme on the tree stock will not result in an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the Site or wider landscape.

4.5 Impact of the proposal on the tree stock

Overview

- 4.5.1 Tree T1 (Elm) and Group G10 (Elm) have landscape values of less than 10 years in accordance with BS5837:2012. Trees assessed as category 'U' trees are of such condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years, and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboriculture management. However, if category 'U' trees are placed in an inaccessible location such that concerns over public safety are reduced to an acceptable level, it may be preferable or possible to defer this recommendation.
- 4.5.2 Category 'U' trees are not considered within this report as there is an expectation these trees would be removed under good arboricultural management regardless of development occurring.
- 4.5.3 Whilst trees in categories 'A', 'B' and 'C' are all a material consideration in the development process, the retention of category 'C' trees, being of low quality or of only limited or short-term potential, will not normally be considered necessary where they impose a significant constraint on development. Furthermore, BS 5837:2012 makes it clear that young trees, even those of good form and vitality, which have the potential to develop into quality specimens when mature *"need not necessarily be a significant constraint on the site's potential"*.

4.6 Proposed Development

- 4.6.1 The Proposed Development comprises a Battery Energy Storage System with capacity of up to 440 MW. and associated infrastructure and landscaping.
- 4.6.2 A section of one category 'C' hedge (H3) will be removed to implement the scheme. The British Standard 5837:2012 documents that category 'C' trees are assessed as being either of low quality, limited merit, low landscape benefits, no material cultural or conservation value, or only limited or short-term potential; or young trees with trunk diameter below 150mm; or a combination of these. As such these trees should not be considered as a significant constraint to the development of the Site.

4.7 Proposed Landscaping

- 4.7.1 A Landscape Plan has been developed to supplement existing vegetation on the Site and sets out landscaping proposals, which would provide an enhanced environment and complements the development of the Site. New tree planting is proposed whereby suitable species for the Site and climate change will be chosen.

4.8 Construction

- 4.8.1 Careful consideration has been given regarding the buildability of the Proposed Development. The arboricultural impact plan illustrates that sufficient room exists to locate the Site compound and contractor parking outside the RPA's of the retained trees.
- 4.8.2 Fence protection is required for the retained trees. The fencing will comprise of Heras fencing and will be based on Figure 3 'Default Specification for Protective Barrier' as recommended within the British Standard 5837:2012. Where appropriate the fencing will be braced to withstand impacts.

- 4.8.3 A tree pruning works schedule to facilitate the proposal has not yet been finalised, however it is not anticipated that tree pruning will be required. In event pruning works to trees are required it is judged that trees can be pruned to acceptable standards in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree Works - Recommendations'.
- 4.8.4 New service runs have not yet been finalised; however, the arboricultural impact assessment plan illustrates that new services can be routed outside the root protection areas of the retained trees. In the unlikely event new services fall within the RPA's of retained trees all proposed service installations will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out in NJUG Volume 4 and in accordance with the recommendations at Section 7.7 of the British Standard 5837:2012.

5. SUMMARY

5.1 Conclusions

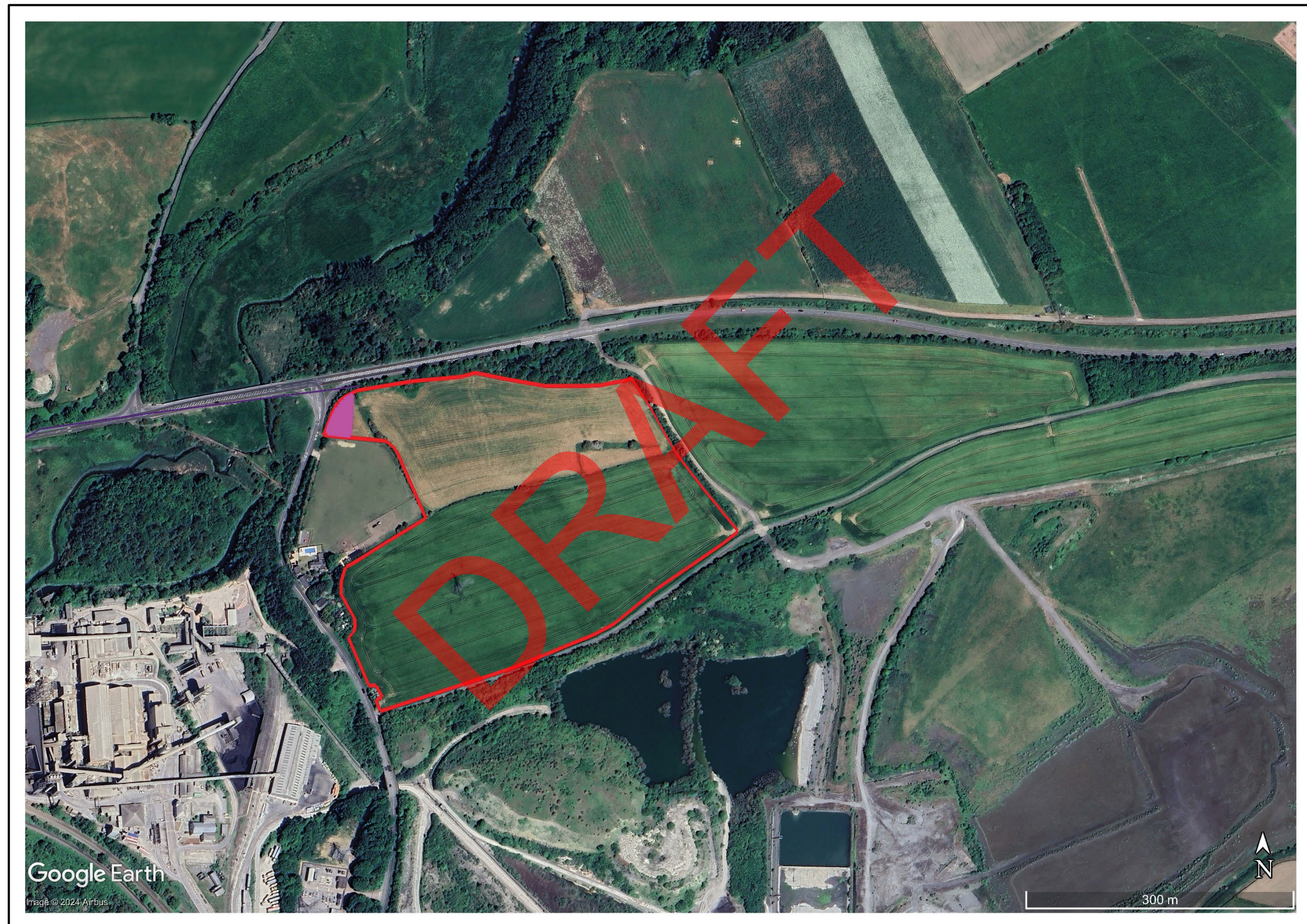
- 5.1.1 The British Standard 5837:2012 states that there is the need to avoid misplaced tree retention; for example, to attempt to retain too many unsuitable trees on a site may result in excessive pressure on the trees during the development work and subsequent demands for their removal post development. To facilitate the proposal a section of one category 'C' hedge will be removed.
- 5.1.2 In accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 the scheme enables two category 'B' groups, one category 'B' woodland, eleven category 'C' groups and four category 'C' hedges to be retained.
- 5.1.3 Consideration for both the direct impact and indirect impact of a development with respect to retained trees needs to be assessed. With respect to the retained tree stock, it is considered that their successful integration into the layout can be achieved.
- 5.1.4 Careful planning of site operations must be carried out to avoid any adverse impact to the retained trees. To safeguard the trees through the development it is advised that a site-specific Arboricultural Method Statement is drawn up and implemented.

5.2 Post development tree management.

- 5.2.1 Section 8.8.2 of the British Standard 5837:2012 recommends post development aftercare of trees following the completion of development works. It is recommended the following is considered with regard to post development inspection of retained trees:
1. Trees that grow on a site prior to development may, if adversely affected, be in decline over a period of several years before they die. This varies due to age, species, condition prior to development, extent of damage during development, soil conditions and climate. It is recommended that regular inspections are undertaken.
 2. Where trees are protected by planning controls, it is recommended that the Local Planning Authority is informed, and necessary agreements obtained prior to any remedial works.
 3. Following completion of a development it is recommended that the arboricultural consultant inspects the trees for signs of intolerance to the change of conditions and the effect of the development. There may be a need for additional tree works to those originally specified.

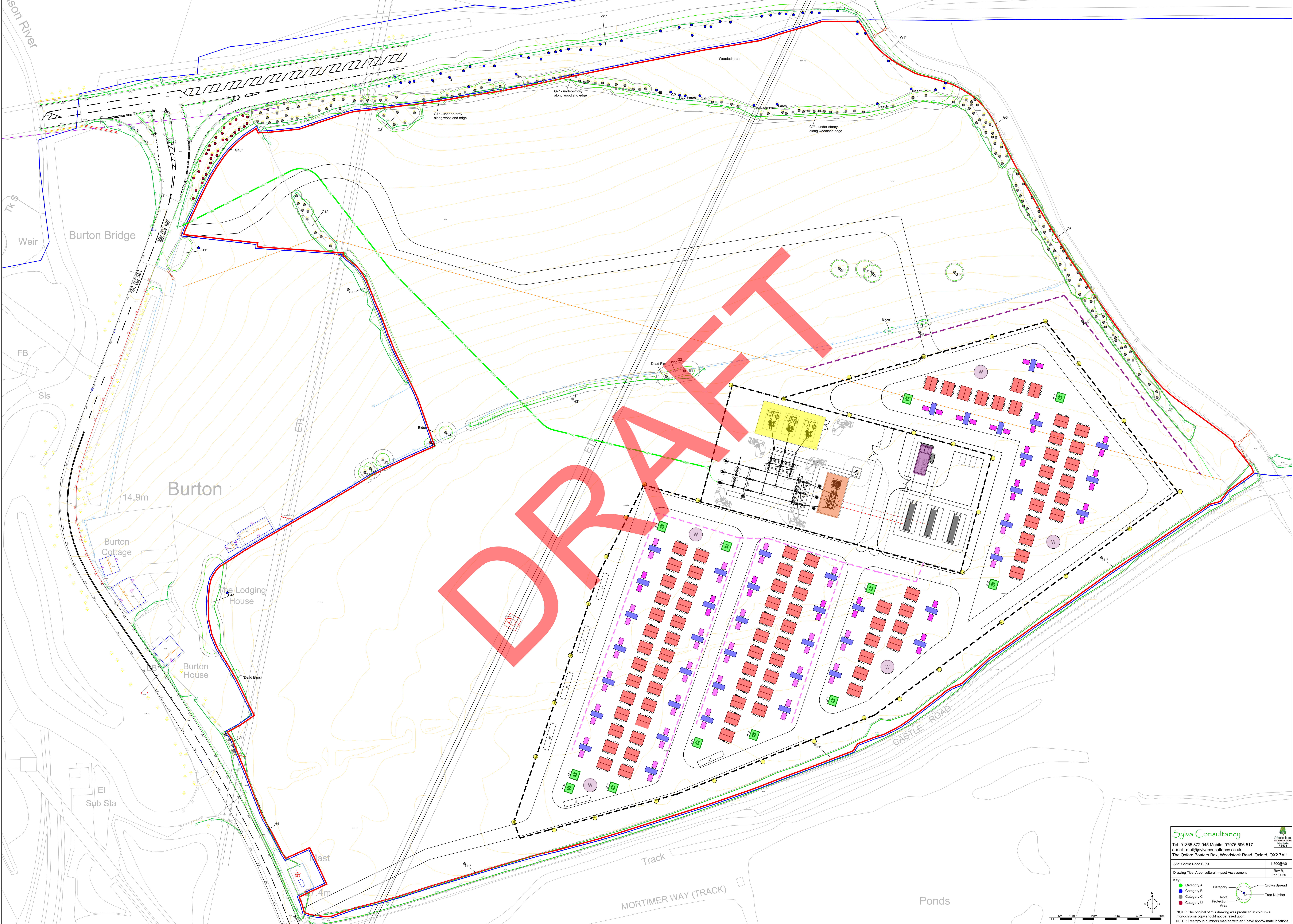
SITE LOCATION PLAN

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ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PLAN

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Site: Castle Road BESS

Drawing Title: Arboricultural Impact Assessment

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Rev B
Feb 2025

Key:

● Category A

● Category B

● Category C

● Category U

Category

Root Protection Area

— Crown Spread

— Tree Number

NOTE: The original of this drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

NOTE: Tree group numbers marked with an * have approximate locations.

0m 10m 20m 30m 40m 50m

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QUALIFICATIONS

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I have over 26 years' experience of arboriculture and I am the principal consultant at Sylva Consultancy. I hold the Royal Forestry Society's Professional Diploma in Arboriculture and the Arboricultural Associations Technicians Certificate. I am a Fellow member of the Arboricultural Association and a professional member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, of which I am also a registered Consultant.

I have the benefit of both a local authority and private practice background and I am frequently instructed to provide advice and assistance relating to trees and the planning process. I am also experienced at compiling expert reports, providing evidence and also appearing as an expert witness at Public Inquiries.

I am committed to my continued professional development which is reflected in my regular attendance of seminars and workshops.

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