**Balfour Beatty**
Utility Solutions

**Location:**

West Melton – Storrs Wood, Storrs Mill Lane, Barnsley. Nearest postcode S71 5EG

**Background**

Cable theft from 2x towers (pylons) located inside the Storrs Wood. Work is needed to construct 2 new sealing end platforms and replace oil filled cable with XLPE cable. The 2 towers are situated either side of a rough track, which runs through the middle of the wood. The wood is covered by a woodland protection order. Site meetings with the landowner and Barnsley council have taken place.

**Site**

The meeting with the landowner took place on 23rd November 2011. The landowner was not aware the woodland was protected at this point. After speaking with Barnsley Council, it was established the woodland was fully protected by a woodland protection order. This means if we need to prune or remove any trees which restrict our works, we need to apply for consent.

A meeting was held with the Tree Officer, Edward Jowett (EJ) of Barnsley Council on 7th December 2011. Also in attendance was Kieron Seekings (KS) Faults and Services Engineer – BBUS, Tim Davis (TD) Wayleave Officer – Northern Powergrid and Kirsty Schofield (KRS) Environmental Officer – BBUS.

KS explained the scope of the works to EJ and gave an idea of the type of heavy machinery needed, to construct the new platforms. A couple of small trees are in close proximity to the existing towers, and may need to be pruned / removed in order for us to gain access. Ed was happy the trees we may have to prune/remove were of no significant value in regards to the species / age / amenity value. He advised no licence was needed to removed the trees. However, I suggest an application is made as and extra precaution.

It was also suggested a layer of tarpaulin and stone should be laid onto the rough track, to disperse the weight of the heavy machinery and protect the root systems of the other trees in the wood. If the weight is not dispersed it can lead to the soil been compacted and cause root suffocation.

On entrance to the wood, a thick branch overhangs the track. This may need to be crowned to prevent damage from machinery. This would need to be done at the earliest opportunity, by a licensed firm.

When the works are agreed (early 2012) and before works commence, KS and KRS will re-visit the woodland and mark out the trees to be removed, to avoid confusion.

Should the job change once agreed, KRS will need to be contacted.

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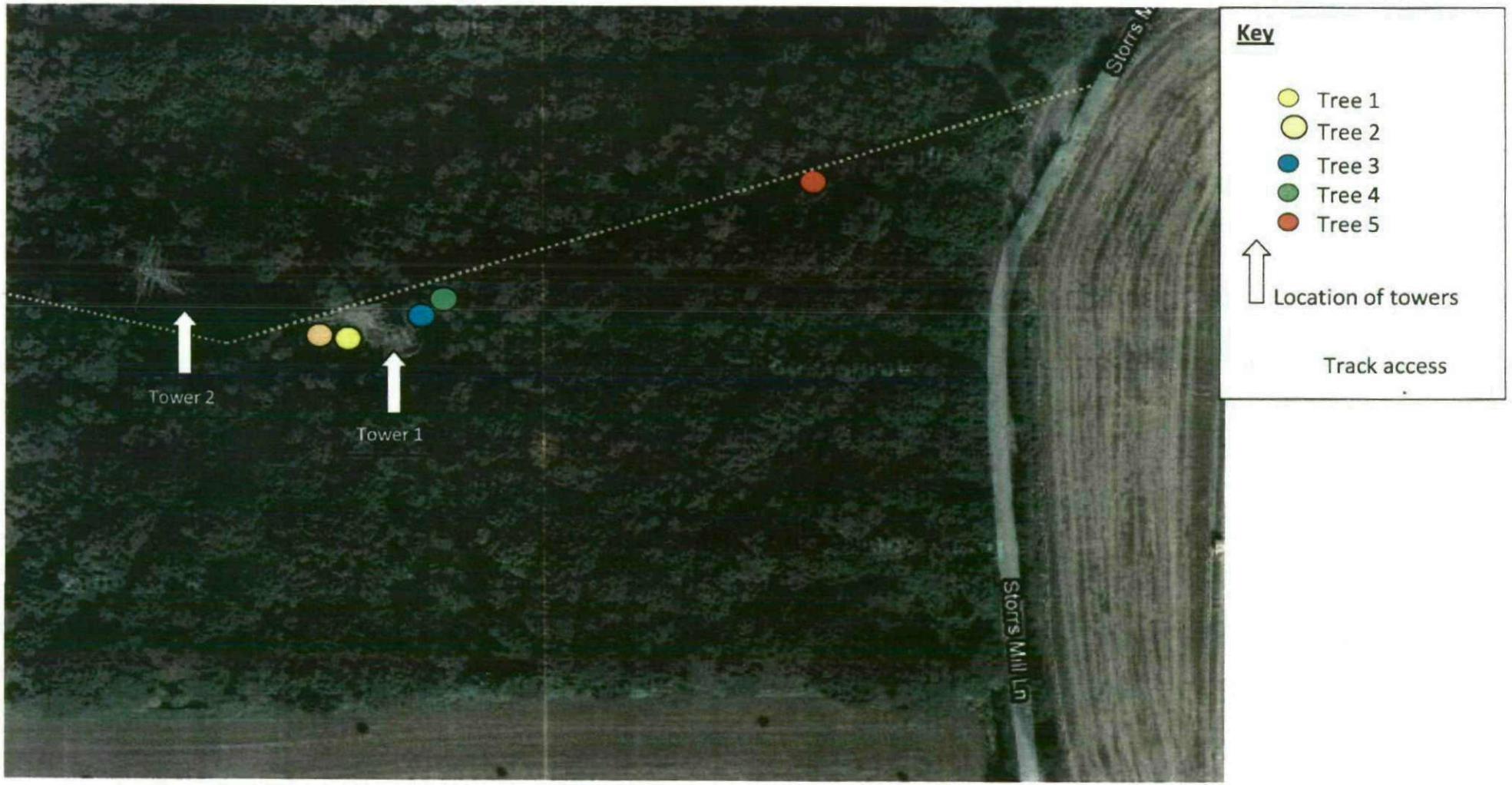
**Site overview**



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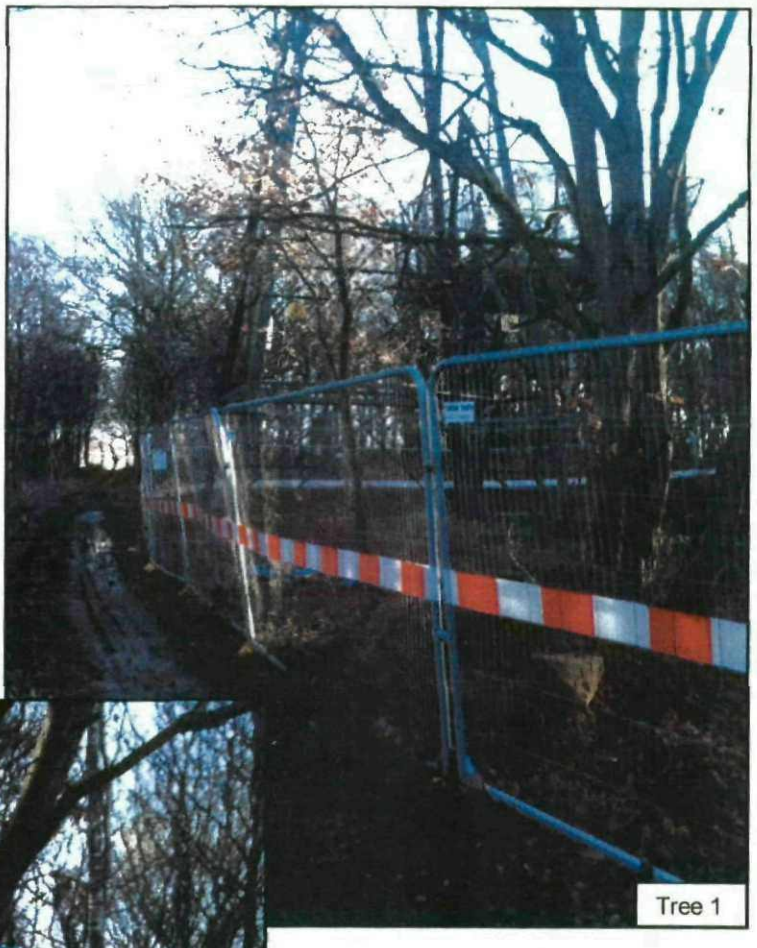
**Tree 1**

Tree 1 is located in close proximity to the tower 1. It is in the direct path that will be used to replace the cable, between tower 1 and 2. Due to the heavy machinery involved, the tree may be exposed to damage. Ed was happy this tree could be removed to give us access.



Tree 1

Tree 1

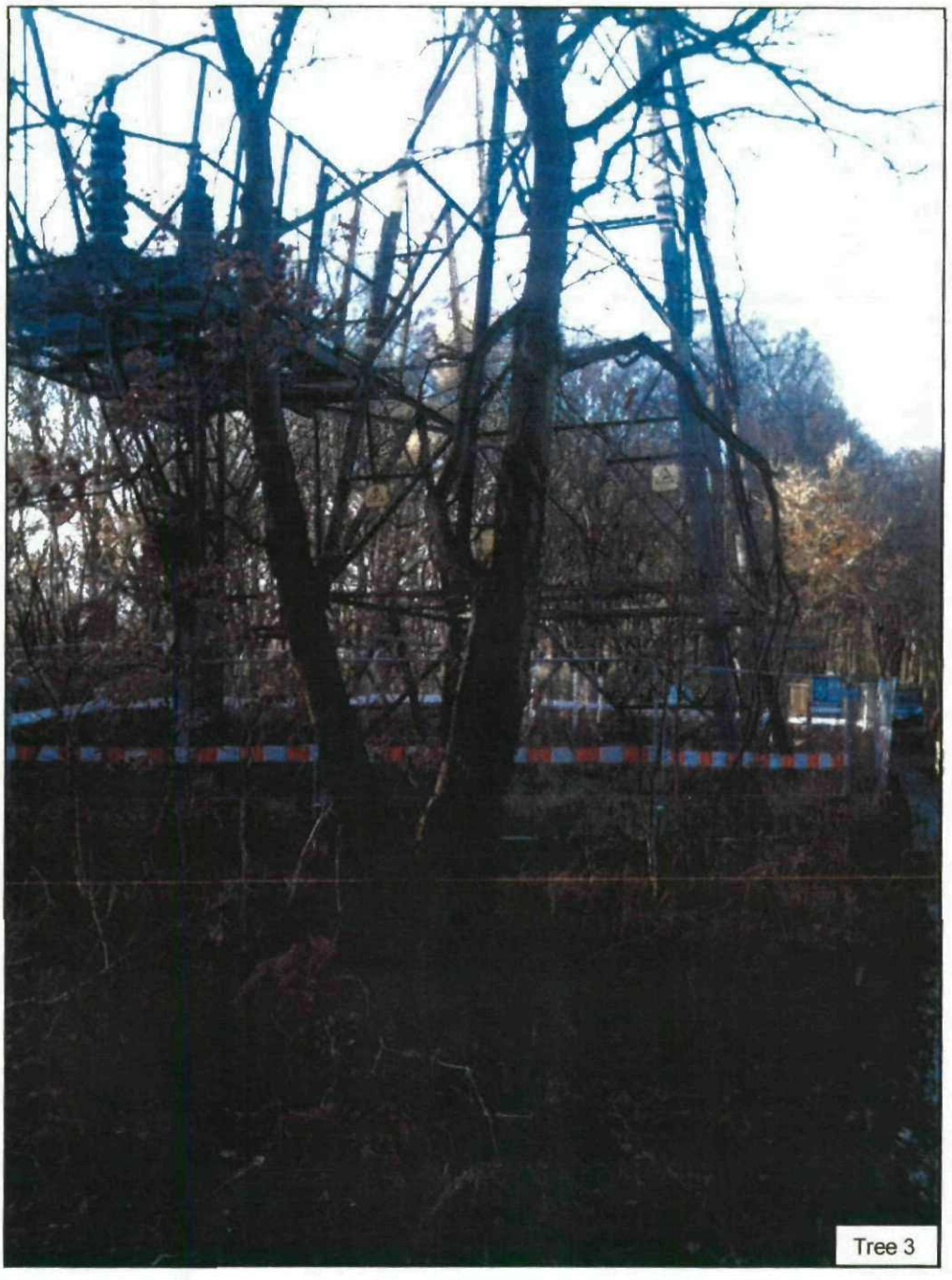
**Tree 2**

Tree 2 is a group of small trees located close to tree 1. This group may not need to be removed if access is clear if tree 1 is removed.

Tree 2

## Tree 3

Tree 3 is located at the opposite side of the tower to Tree 1 and 2. To gain access to construct the new platform, this tree would need to be removed.



Tree 3

**Tree 4**

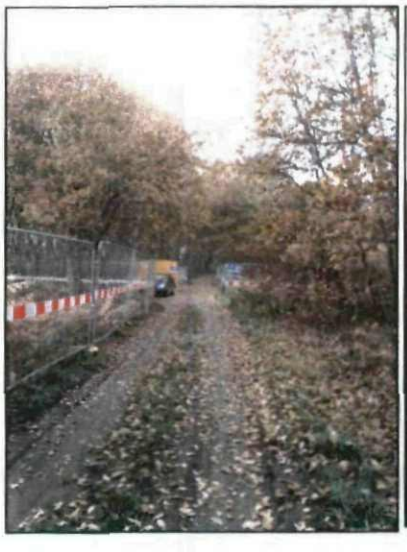
Vegetation clearance and possible tree removal. Vegetation clearance must take place before March 2012.

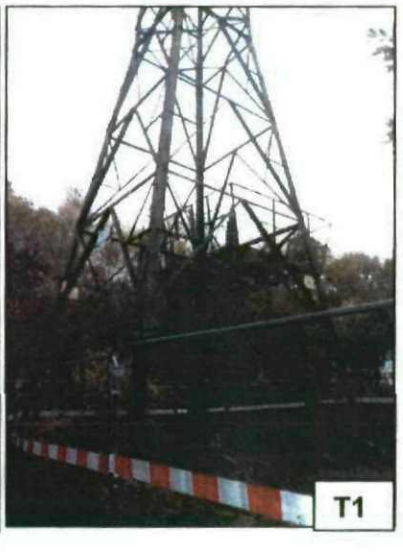
**Tree 5**

This tree may need to be crowned, due to a thick branch overhanging the access track. This will depend on the type of machinery used on the job. At this stage, we cannot confirm whether this needs to be done.

Tree 5

**Access track and Towers**




T1

T2