

**Former Stairfoot Brick Works
Wombwell Lane
Barnsley**

**Arboricultural Method Statement
For
Installation of a Perimeter Fence
Revision 1**

**Prepared at the request of
Potters Ballotini Ltd**

**On
03 July 2023**

**By
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SUMMARY

I have been instructed by Potters Ballotini Ltd to prepare an arboricultural method statement to support the proposed installation of a security perimeter fence at the former Stairfoot Brick Works, Wombwell Lane, Barnsley.

Most of the site boundaries are open allowing unrestricted public access. Fencing is proposed around the boundary to improve security. The type of fencing proposed around the boundary varies. Plan 1 provides details of the type of fencing proposed around the boundary, but the correct position of the agreed location of the fencing is shown on Plan 2. This was provided to me by Environmental Solutions Ltd.

The trees around the boundary provide good screening to the site. It is important that the screening provided by the trees is not diminished by the installation of the fencing. This report proposes methods for installing the fencing and management options for the trees and shrubs that will protect their health and future prospects.

The age, size, condition and species composition of the trees varies greatly around the boundary. Plan 2 divides the boundary into the different vegetation profiles.

Table 1 describes the different vegetation profiles around the boundary, describes the level of pruning work necessary to accommodate the fence and the protection works necessary to protect roots from damage.

The level of tree and shrub management varies around the boundary but most is minor work and will not be detrimental to the health or amenity of the trees provided it is completed in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.

The tree and shrub management work, together with the tree protection measures proposed will maintain the integrity of the screening of the site.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

I have been instructed by Potters Ballotini Ltd to prepare an arboricultural method statement to support the installation of a perimeter fence at the former brickworks site on Wombwell Lane, Barnsley.

The purpose of this report is to identify any conflicts between the proposed fencing and the existing trees that provide valuable screening of the site.

This report will offer management options to the trees where necessary to protect the crowns, together with methods for post installation that protects roots.

1.2 The Proposal

To erect a perimeter security fence at the site. The nature of the fencing will vary around the perimeter of the site depending of the existing fencing provision and the security requirements. Plan 1 includes the details of the proposed fencing designs. The proposed position of the fencing is shown on Plan 2.

1.3 Documents and Provided Information

I was provided with the following:

Planning Pre-Application Advice for Developments Erection of Security Barrier Fencing and Gates dated June 2021 by Environmental Solutions Ltd. This included the fencing specifications.

1.4 The Site Visit

I visited the site on 03 September 2021 to assess the extent of the tree protection measures and pruning requirements to protect the trees.

1.5 Relevant Industry Standards and Codes of Practice

The main arboricultural industry standards and codes of best practice relevant to the planning and execution of this project are:

- BS 5837 (2012) – Trees in relation to construction – Recommendations;
- National Joint Utilities Guidelines, Volume 4 – NJUG Guidelines For The Planning, Installation And Maintenance Of Utility Apparatus In Proximity To Trees (Issue 2) (2007) (www.njug.org.uk)
- BS 3998 (2010) – Tree Work – Recommendations is not relevant in this case because tree pruning is not required.

2 THE TREES, BOUNDARIES AND PROTECTION WORK

2.1 The Trees

Table 1 below describes the nature of the tree cover along the boundary and the extent of pruning work and root protection work necessary to protect the trees. The nature of the tree cover varies around the boundary, therefore the extent of pruning and nature of the root protection measures will also vary around the boundary.

TABLE 1

Section of the boundary	The trees	Impact on the crowns of the trees and pruning and felling requirements.	Impact on the roots of the trees and root protection requirements.
1	<p>The trees are young mixed broadleaves trees growing on a bund along the frontage of the site with Wombwell Lane.</p> <p>The trees are growing approximately 5m from the boundary with the highway. The fence is proposed along the northeast edge of the bund outside the root protection areas (RPAs) of the trees.</p> <p>The outer crowns of the trees extend very marginally beyond the fence line.</p>	<p>Pruning of the outer crowns of the trees on the northeast edge of the group will be necessary. With the exception of the northern end of the group, this will involve removal of the very outer crown of some trees. This will create small pruning cuts of no more than 5cm diameter. This is very minor work that will have no impact on the health or amenity of the trees. One tree may need to be removed at the northern end of the group but this will be of no detriment to the group as a whole.</p>	<p>There will be no impact on the roots of the trees from installation of the fence because the fence will be outside the bund where the roots are believed to be. The holes can be dug without special measures provided the work can be done from the existing hardstanding within the site.</p>

2	<p>The trees here are some of the largest and most established trees within the site.</p> <p>The trees provide some of the greatest amenity and landscape value.</p>	<p>The crowns of the trees are mostly higher than the proposed height of the fence.</p> <p>Removal of seven very small diameter branches up to 5cm diameter may be necessary to provide adequate clearance for installation. This work will have no detrimental impact on the health or amenity of the trees.</p>	<p>The fencing line will be within the RPA of the trees. It will therefore be necessary to hand dig the holes for the posts.</p> <p>I would recommend an arboricultural watching brief for the installation of this part of the fence.</p>
3	Hawthorn hedge growing along the boundary.	This part of the boundary will be unaffected by the fencing,	
4	Open, gappy hawthorn hedge set back from the boundary.	This part of the boundary will be unaffected by the fencing,	
5	There is no hedge along this section of the boundary. The trees are very young and set back from line of the fencing.	This part of the boundary will be unaffected by the fencing,	
6	<p>There are a lot of very young ash and goat willow trees growing along the line of the proposed fence. These trees have a diameter of less than 5cm. This is considerably smaller than the 15cm diameter that BS5837:2012 <i>Trees in relation to Design Demolition and Construction</i> considers important.</p>	<p>I would recommend removing all trees at least 1m either side of the proposed fence line. This will have no impact on the screening of the site because there are dense groups of trees on either side of the proposed fence line.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the roots of the retained trees either side of the fence line.</p>

7	<p>There is an unmanaged hawthorn hedge set 1m back from the existing fence line.</p> <p>I have assumed that the new fencing will take the same line as the existing fence.</p> <p>The hedge significantly overhangs the fence line.</p>	<p>The fencing will be located within the site approximately 5m back from the group.</p> <p>These trees will be unaffected.</p>	
8	<p>There is a line of crack willows growing along the boundary at this point. The trees are multi-stemmed with wide crowns that significantly overhang the line of the fencing.</p>	<p>The fencing will be located within the site approximately 5m back from the group.</p> <p>These trees will be unaffected.</p>	
9	<p>There is quite a dense line of mature hazel and hawthorn shrubs along this section of boundary. They overhang the fence line to some degree but not excessively.</p>	<p>The fencing will be located within the site approximately 5m back from the group.</p> <p>These trees will be unaffected.</p>	
10	<p>There is a young woodland area at this point on the boundary. The trees are young broadleaves growing at wide spacings up to the boundary where the fence is to be erected.</p> <p>There are a small number of dead trees. Because of their small size they do not pose any risk to the public.</p>	<p>Some of the branches from these trees extend over the boundary line. These branches will need to be removed. These are very small diameter branches under 5cm diameter. Removing these branches will not be detrimental to the health or amenity of the trees.</p>	<p>The fencing line will be within the RPA of the trees. It will therefore be necessary to hand dig the holes for the posts.</p>

11	There is an unmanaged hawthorn hedge growing on top of the retaining wall. The hedge is tall but sparse with a narrow crown.	Some very minor pruning of the side branches of the hawthorn will be necessary. This can be regarded as very minor hedge trimming and would not be detrimental to the hedge.	The fencing line will be within the RPA of the trees. It will therefore be necessary to hand dig the holes for the posts.
12	This boundary is mostly open but with two large willow trees growing along the boundary. These trees are growing on or close to mounds of soil.	Presumably the mounds of soil will need to be flattened to erect the fence. If this is the case the willow trees will need to be felled. It would not be possible to excavate the soil and retain the trees. I would recommend felling the trees and replanting a hedge along the boundary once the fence has been installed. Some soil amelioration may be necessary to relieve the soil compaction.	Install the fencing without any special protection measures.
13	There are no significant trees along this section of boundary.	No special measures required.	No special measures required.
14	There is one group of multi-stemmed ash trees on this section of boundary. The stems have been topped/pollarded in the past.	I would recommend repollarding the ash stems at the old pollard points.	I would recommend hand digging the post holes 5m either side of the group of ash stems. The post holes either side of this do not need any special measures.

15	There is a large mature ash tree at this point on the boundary. It is a significant and important tree.	The crown of the tree is above the height of the proposed fence line. No pruning of branches in the crown will be necessary.	The fencing line will be within the RPA of this tree. It will therefore be necessary to hand dig the holes for the posts. I would recommend an arboricultural watching brief for the installation of this part of the fence.
16	This is a line of mature Leyland cypress trees. The trees are unattractive and their screening value is reducing as the lower branches die off. The lower branches will never rejuvenate in the same way that a broadleaved or yew hedge would.	I recommend felling the trees and establishing a more attractive hedge after the fencing work has been completed.	No special measures required.
17	There are no significant trees along this section of boundary. There are young ash trees that are presently healthy but are likely to become infected with the pathogen that causes ash die back. There are also some laurel shrubs inside the boundary. There is a well maintained hawthorn hedge approximately 1.5m high along part of the boundary on the edge of the grass verge.	I recommend removing the young trees and laurel shrubs as necessary to erect the fence whilst maintaining the hawthorn hedge.	Part of the fence will be within the RPA of the hedge. It will therefore be necessary to hand dig the holes for the posts. Extending the hedging to join with the hedging at section 16 would be desirable.

3 THE METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Specific Tree Protection Work

- a. I recommend undertaking the following pruning and felling work in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree Works – Recommendations.

TABLE 2

Section of the boundary	Recommended tree works
1	Reduce the ends of the lateral branches that overhang the boundary fence line. Either reduce these back to suitable growing points or back to the main stem. Remove one tree from the northern part of the group.
2	Remove up to seven very small diameter branches up to 5cm diameter, if necessary.
6	Remove all young sapling trees 1m either side of the proposed line of the fence.
10	Remove any branches from the trees that extend over the proposed fence line. These are no more than 5cm diameter.
11	Prune the sides of the hawthorn hedge back to the proposed fence line.
12	Fell the willow trees along the section of boundary with no fence.
14	Repollard the ash stems at the previous pollarding points.
16	Fell the Leyland cypress hedge.
17	Remove any young trees and shrubs as necessary to erect the fence. Retain the hawthorn hedge.

- b. I recommend hand digging the post holes along the following sections of boundary: 2, 11, 14, 15 and 17.
- c. I recommend an arboricultural watching brief along the following sections of boundary because these trees are more mature, more significant and important: 2 and 15.
- d. Erect the fencing.
- e. Consider planting new landscape planting along the following sections of boundary: 1, 12 and 17.

3.2 General Recommendations

The following general precautions should ensure the health and longevity of the retained trees. They should be enforced during the works within the root protection areas of the retained trees and under their canopies.

- No storage of materials or fuel.
- No bonfires within 10m of the outer edge of the crown or root protection area of a tree.
- No refuelling of mechanical equipment.
- No mixing of cement.
- No washing of cement mixers.
- No raising of the soil level within the root protection areas.
- No vehicles to drive or park in the root protection areas of trees, except along the existing track.
- No materials will be dumped or stored within the root protection area of a tree or under its canopy.

4 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Protected Trees

No checks have been made with the Local Planning Authority for Tree Preservation Orders or other planning restrictions.

If consent is granted to erect the fencing the works recommended in this report are the minimum required to implement that consent. If the trees are protected the work recommended in this report should be exempt from any further tree work applications.

4.2 Wildlife Conservation Legislation

Breeding birds are protected, together with bats and their roosts, whether their roosts are in use or not.

Consideration should be given to the presence of protected species prior to any proposed tree removal or maintenance. This will include breeding birds, principally between March and August, and bats at any time of year.

Tree surgeons should also be aware of their duties under legislation to protect wildlife and carry out their site assessment and work accordingly.

There is a very high chance that birds will breed in the vegetation along many sections of the boundary. I would recommend completing the pruning, felling and coppicing work between September and the end of February in any year.

The trees are too small and young to provide roosting habitat but the boundaries may be used as commuting routes for bats.

Appendix 1

Site Plan with Perimeter Fence Details

- 2.4m High Green Euroguard Weldmesh Fencing
- Proposed Accoustic Barrier (Subject to Study)
- Restored Brick Wall with Euroguard Weldmesh Fence to 2.4m
- Repair / Reuse Existing Wooden Post Fence
- Existing Steel Fence to Remain
- Existing Palasde to be reused / Replace with Euroguard if not servicable

RECORD OF DRAWING AMENDMENTS

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MM

DO NOT SCALE

REPORT ERRORS TO DRAWING OFFICE

Drawing Title

Potters Ballotini
Site Plan with Perimeter Fence Details

Plant Item No

Scale

1:750

or as stated,

Drawn

NBM

Authorised

Drawing Size

A1

Date

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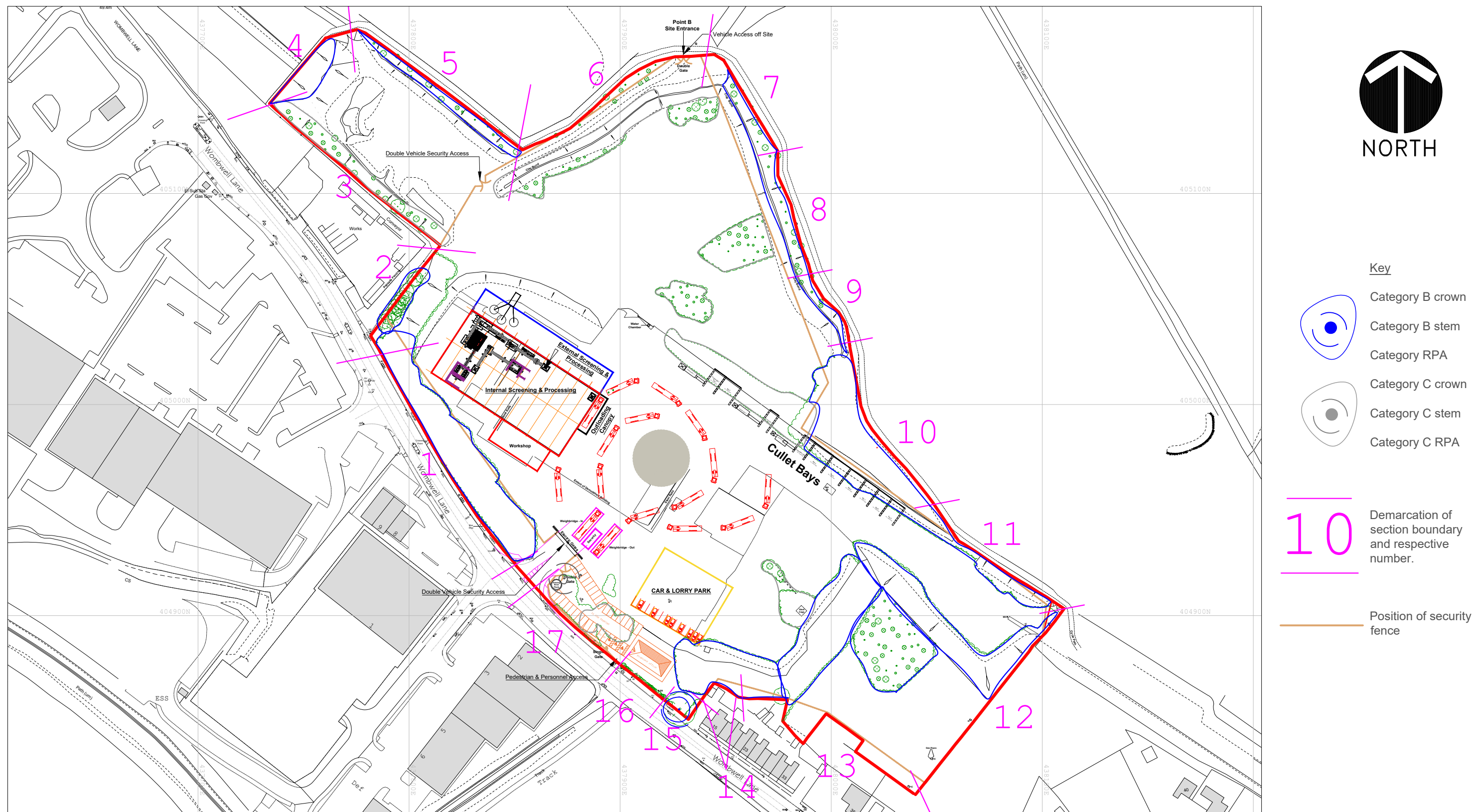
Revision

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Appendix 2

Plan of Vegetation Groups Around the Boundary and the Position of the Fence Line



Plan of the Vegetation Groups Around the Boundary.

Not scaled

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