LUNDHILL ROAD, WOMBWELL, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

ARBORICULTURE STATEMENT

A tree inspection survey was carried out on 1st March 2023 within the site on land off Lundhill Road, Wombwell. This statement presents the results of the inspection.

Background

Planning permission was granted by Barnsley Metropolitan District Council on land off Lundhill Road, Wombwell on 30th April 2020 for a development comprising 235 dwellings with the formation of a new access, car parking, landscaping and public open space (planning application reference: 2019/0089).

As part of that application, an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Arboricultural Method Statement (Rev. E) dated February 2019 by Weddle Landscape Design was submitted. Three Tree Protection Plans (Rev. E) were also submitted and listed as approved documents on the planning permission. Construction has now commenced on site.

BWB was asked to survey a woodland in the north-east corner of the site, referenced as W60 in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment report. This woodland sits on a lower ground level than the surrounding site. The woodland was shown on Tree Protection Plan 1 of 3 to be retained, however, there is now a requirement to remove some of the trees on the edge of the woodland to facilitate the installation of a batter to deal with the level change as shown by the plan excerpt in Figure 1 (Appendix 1).

The tree survey sought to quantify the number of trees that would require removal for the batter and assess their quality and condition.

Methodology

The trees were surveyed in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. A Distometer D110 was used to measure the proposed extent of the batter from the installed tree protection fencing around the woodland. Trees were then marked informally and counted. Species composition was noted as well as the general health of the trees, their size and quality.

Tree height was measured using a Forestry Pro Laser and stem diameters measured using a Diameter at Breast Height measuring tape.

Results

W60 was found to be a semi-mature broadleaved plantation, with trees planted closely in rows (see Photo 1 [Appendix 1]). There were several slightly larger trees on the southern and western perimeters which were plotted individually as T40-42 on the original tree survey by Weddle Landscape Design. Tree protection fencing had been installed around the woodland as construction was ongoing (Photo 2).

The trees proposed for removal for the batter are located on the southern and western edges of the woodland (Photo 3). A total of 88 trees were counted within the proposed batter area although this is only an approximation as the batter extent was not marked on site in advance of the tree survey. Of those trees, the species were primarily sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus and ash Fraxinus excelsior. Wild cherry Prunus avium and field maple Acer campestre were occasional and there were a few scattered hazel Corylus avellana, cherry plum Prunus cerasifera and silver birch Betula pendula.

Individual trees were mostly semi-mature with some young individuals. The maximum stem diameter measured at 1.5m height was 570mm and the average stem diameter was approximately 250mm. Most trees were in good condition structurally and physiologically with only a few dead or dying largely as a result of close planting and lack of woodland management such as thinning. There were some seedlings and saplings with a stem diameter lower than 75mm that were present within the batter area which were not counted. The estimated remaining lifespan of the trees was 40+ years. The overall height of the woodland was 16 metres. Together the trees are considered to be of moderate value and quality contributing to the landscape and the conservation value of the woodland block and were therefore assessed as Category B3 under BS5837:2012.

Conclusion

The proposed batter would require the partial removal of woodland W60. This is a change to the approved documents associated with planning permission 2019/0089. An amendment to the planning permission therefore needs to be sought with the local planning authority before the trees can be felled.

Compensatory planting of at least 1:1 should also be secured to ensure that this additional arboricultural impact is appropriately compensated for.

APPENDIX 1

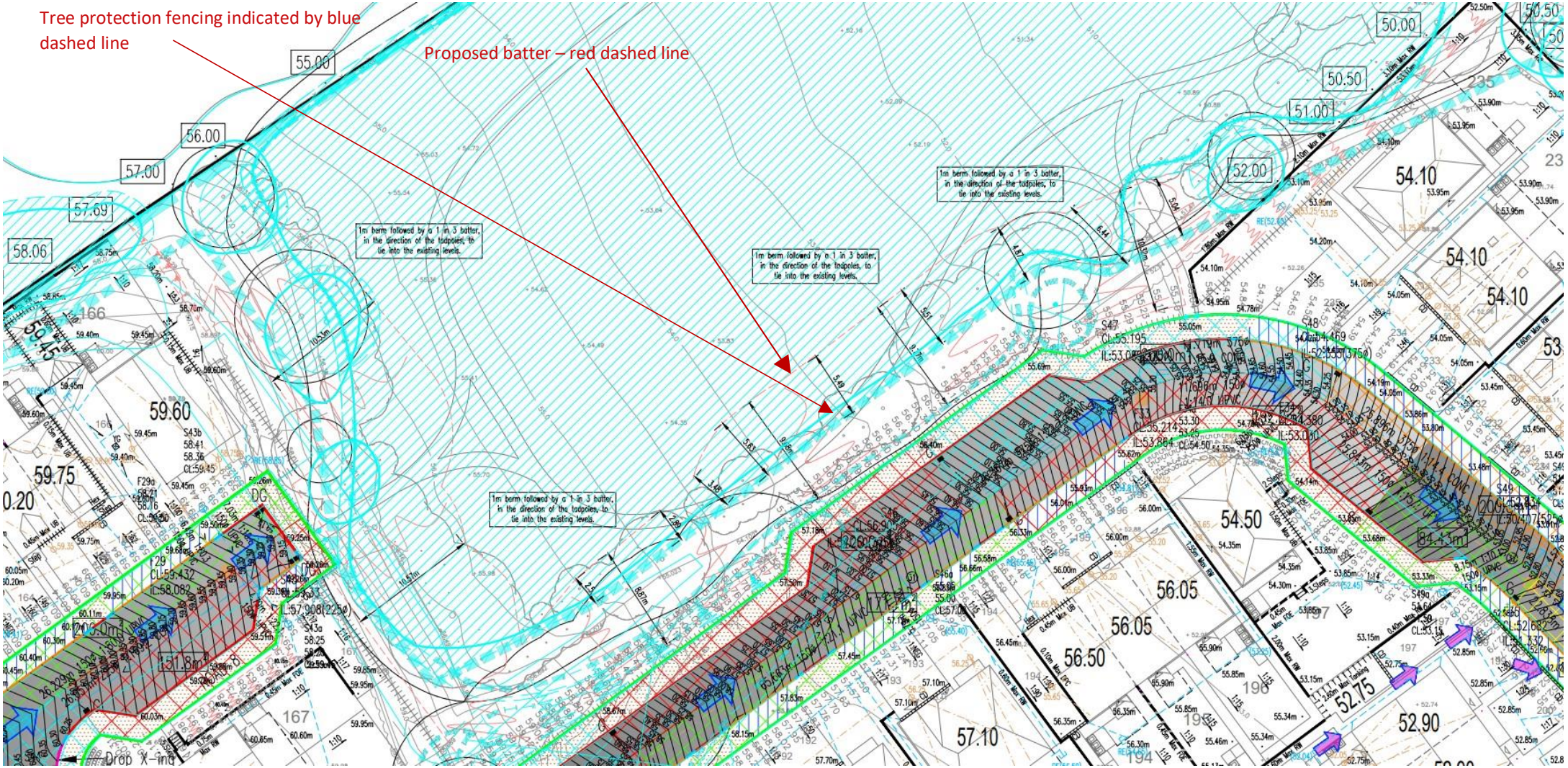

Figure 1. Excerpt of Plan Showing Proposed Batter in W60 (see fine red dashed line with double headed arrows showing distances from Tree Protection Fencing (not to scale)

Photo 1. Inside W60

Photo 2. Southern side of W60 with Tree Protection Fencing

Photo 3. Western side of W60