

**Site Name:** Rhondda Fach Active Travel Route (Phase 5), Rhondda Cynon Taf

**Report Reference:** WWE24094 – Preliminary Arboricultural Impact Assessment

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## Report Purpose

Wildwood Ecology was commissioned by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (the client) to undertake a Preliminary Arboricultural Impact Assessment (pAIA) for the Rhondda Fach Active Travel Route (Phase 5).

The site is subject to plans for construction of a new Active Travel Route along the former railway line and existing pathways of the proposed Phase 5 section of the route, including engineering works to improve drainage. The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment of the arboricultural impacts of the proposed development to trees located at the site, in the context of national and local planning policy, and legislation.

## Work Undertaken

A tree survey was undertaken on 06/06/2024 and 07/06/2024, in-line with the British Standard BS 5837 (2012) "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition, and Construction – Recommendations", using a measured topographical survey and google maps aerial imagery.

Due to the length of the route surveyed, and limited topographical information available in places, the majority of the trees were surveyed as arboricultural groups and the location of some trees have been estimated by eye, or plotted using approximate GPS location, which is considered to be accurate to within approximately 5m.

A Desk Study was undertaken in June 2024, including a search for tree-related designations and planning policy. As Tree Preservation Orders are not publicly available on the council website, details of any tree-related designations along the proposed route was provided by the client.

## Arboricultural Constraints

Trees are a material consideration in the planning process and afforded protection by legislation, referenced in this report (see APPENDIX VII).

Phase 5 of the proposed Rhondda Fach Active Travel Route started at Grid Reference ST006962 and ended at ST009945. The tree cover consisted of semi-natural woodland and trees, established in the context of the Rhondda Fach River valley and disused railway. See APPENDIX VI: photographs 1 – 6 for aerial imagery.

Key arboricultural constraints associated with the tree cover onsite were assessed using the BS5837 Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment (see APPENDIX I:) and are illustrated in the Tree Survey Schedule (TSS) and Tree Constraints Plan (TCP), located within APPENDIX II: and APPENDIX III: respectively.

The TCP and TSS illustrate the distribution and arboricultural value of the surveyed tree cover. The TCP also illustrates the Root Protection Areas (dashed magenta line) for trees and tree groups, which was calculated as the minimum area deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability. Wherever possible, construction work should not occur within the plotted RPA of retained trees. Where it does, tree protection measures will be required. The following colour-coded categories were used to identify the importance of arboricultural features, in-line with BS5837:

- High value trees (Category A – **Green** Outline) represent particularly good examples of their species, veteran and ancient trees and woodlands, or trees that are essential components of

groups or principal trees in a location. These trees were considered a priority for retention and should not be removed unless there are no suitable alternatives.

- Moderate value trees (Category B – **Blue** Outline) represent good specimens which were considered beneficial for retention wherever possible. This included many of the mature trees growing along the proposed route and areas of more mature woodland, as they provided moderate levels of arboricultural and amenity value.
- The remaining trees were of low value (Category C – **Grey** Outline). This included trees which were of small stature or impaired condition. This included much of the less mature self-seeded areas of woodland and young trees, established along the proposed travel route and disused railway. Where possible, low value trees should still be retained, but are not considered to represent a significant constraint to the project

Most of the surveyed trees were of young to semi-mature age, with low to moderate arboricultural value. Individual mature trees of high arboricultural value were identified and recorded separately where relevant. Collectively, the trees and woodlands along the entire surveyed route were considered to have high amenity value to users of the existing footpaths along the Rhondda Fach River valley, despite the relatively young age of individual trees.

Photographs taken during the tree survey to illustrate the tree cover onsite are located within APPENDIX VI:

The following tree-related Designations were identified during the Desk Study:

- Tree Preservation Orders – None.
- Conservation Areas – None.
- Ancient Woodland – Several records of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) were identified along the proposed route (see APPENDIX VIII:). Detailed results for surveys of these areas are discussed in the Ancient Woodland Survey section and the Preliminary Impact Assessment section, below.
- Wood-Pasture and Parkland Priority Habitat – None.

The following tree-related Planning Policies were identified during the Desk Study (see APPENDIX VII: for details):

- Planning Policy Wales (12th Edition) – Sections 1, 4, and 6;
- Policy AW 6 – Design and Placemaking;
- Policy AW 8 – Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment; and
- SPG 6 – Nature Conservation.

## Ancient Woodland Survey

Due to the presence of records for Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) along the proposed route, surveys were undertaken to determine the presence or likely absence of ancient woodland indicator species, veteran trees, and ancient trees.

Ancient Woodland is defined in England and Wales as “land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded since at least 1600 CE”. This includes woodland that has been periodically felled or coppiced, provided that the woodland has been allowed to naturally regenerate. The tree and shrub layer should also be “composed of species that are native to the site and derived from natural regeneration, or coppice regrowth from individuals that were themselves derived from natural regeneration” (UKHab V.2.1).

A number of ancient woodland indicator plant species lists have been published, which were referenced during the tree survey. The presence of ancient woodland indicator plant species may help to identify an ancient woodland site.

It was noted by the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Ecologist that several of the ASNW records are likely historic in nature and no longer representative of the ancient status of the woodland habitat, as much of the Rhondda River valley was deforested during the early 1900's, due to industrial work and

development in the local area (see Photograph 59 and Photograph 60 in APPENDIX VI., showing the historic tree cover of the Rhondda River valley in the 1980's, as provided by the RCTBC).

Ancient Woodland Survey Locations are approximately identified on the Tree Constraints Plan within APPENDIX III.: Results of the surveys, including detailed species list, woodland structure, and presence of any identified ancient woodland indicator species can be found on the first page of the Tree Survey Schedule (see APPENDIX II:).

It was determined that of the areas surveyed, only **Survey Location S4 (Woodland W11) was considered to have significant and clearly visible indicators of ASNW status.** This comprised open structured woodland on a very steep embankment to the north of the existing footpath in Rhondda Valley, with large veteran oak, sycamore, and ash trees that clearly denoted the woodland's historic ancient status (trees T19 – T35). Ground flora indicators were relatively limited, due to limited access on the steep slopes and dense undergrowth of bramble and bracken. However, scaly male fern and moss species were identified as further ancient woodland indicators.

The **15m Ancient Woodland Protection Zone** identified on the Tree Constraints Plan should be maintained with semi-natural habitats and precautionary working measures put in place during construction to prevent damage to veteran and ancient trees, as per the NRW advice page<sup>1</sup>.

**The majority of the other survey locations were considered to be indicative of more recent woodland regeneration** that has naturally occurred since the historic deforestation of the Rhondda River valley. A limited number of ancient woodland indicator species were noted in the ground flora of locations S1, S2, and S3, however no ancient or veteran trees were identified. These indicator species included: Guelder rose, Hart's tongue fern, Lichens, Mosses, and Scaly male fern.

Several of the survey locations identified the **presence of invasive and non-native species** that are considered detrimental to the condition of the ancient woodland designations, this included stands of rhododendron and Himalayan balsam in survey locations S1, S2, and S4. Location S5 also had a significant stand of Japanese Knotweed.

## Preliminary Impact Assessment

A General Arrangement Plan has been produced by the client, to illustrate the proposed route of the new Active Travel Route and any associated engineering works required to facilitate the proposed development (see APPENDIX IV:).

These plans have been refined with reference to the key arboricultural constraints, as illustrated on the Preliminary Tree Retention and Removal Plan (pTRRP – see APPENDIX V:).

The proposed development should be designed to retain significant trees, wherever possible, including providing a sufficient buffer to allow installation of tree protection fencing measures during construction.

The following tree removals could not be avoided, due to design constraints or as a result of physical constraints resulting from the landscape of the site:

- W6 – Category A – removal of understorey and individual trees to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- W7 – Category A – removal of understorey and individual trees to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- G8 – Category C – complete removal to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- G9 – Category B – removal of understorey and individual trees to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath, and construction of pedestrian bridge over the Rhondda River;
- G18 – Category C – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath;
- T22 – Category U – removal to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- T23 – Category U – removal to facilitate regrading of footpath;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/our-role-in-planning-and-development/advice-to-planning-authorities-considering-proposals-affecting-ancient-woodland/?lang=en>

- T25 – Category C – removal to facilitate construction of pedestrian bridge over the Rhondda River;
- T26 – Category C – removal to facilitate construction of pedestrian bridge over the Rhondda River;
- T27 – Category U – removal to facilitate construction of pedestrian bridge over the Rhondda River;
- T28 – Category C – removal to facilitate construction of pedestrian bridge over the Rhondda River;
- G38 – Category C – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath;
- G39 – Category C – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath;
- G43 – Category C – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath;
- G46 – Category C – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath;
- T47 – Category C – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath;
- T48 – Category C – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath;
- T49 – Category C – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath;
- G51 – Category C – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath;
- T52 – Category B – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of the footpath;
- T53 – Category C – removal to facilitate resurfacing and widening of footpath;
- W56 – Category A – removal of understorey and individual trees to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- W57 – Category B – removal of understorey and individual trees to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- W58 – Category B – complete removal to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- W59 – Category A – removal of understorey and individual trees to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- W60 – Category A – removal of understorey and individual trees to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- W62 – Category B – removal of understorey and individual trees to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- G63 – Category C – complete removal to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- T64 – Category C – removal to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- T65 – Category C – removal to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- G67 – Category C – removal of understorey and individual trees to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- T68 – Category B – removal to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- T69 – Category C – removal to facilitate regrading of footpath;
- T70 – Category B – removal to facilitate regrading of footpath, could not be avoided due to below-ground constraints to west of widened footpath (high pressure gas pipe) which does not allow new footpath to be aligned further west;
- T71 – Category U – removal may be required due to potential safety conflict with distance to widened footpath. If possible, target prune and retain as standing dead wood habitat;

The majority of the tree removals are affecting trees and groups of trees considered to be of 'low arboricultural and amenity value' (Category C), including large groups of self-seeded trees and shrubs. All individual 'high' value (Category A) trees and the majority of 'moderate' value (Category B) trees are proposed to be retained.

Any construction work within the plotted Root Protected Areas (RPAs) will need to be carefully designed and undertaken, using no-dig methods under arboricultural supervision, to avoid damage to the below-ground structures of the retained trees.

The majority of route is currently existing unbound and bound gravel, which will be replaced with permeable paving and asphalt, as per the general arrangement plan. Verges and embankments will be required in places, to raise or lower the footpath to the necessary levels, as shown on the general arrangement plan. 1.4m high timber post and rail fences will be required in places and installation of benches are also proposed.

In several locations, the existing footbridges will be replaced with new structures. Where applicable, this has been identified on the pTRRP, to demonstrate where tree removal or impacts within retained RPAs will be necessary to facilitate construction of the new bridges.

The social proximity associated with retained trees has been assessed in relation to the potential impacts future canopy growth, and seasonal nuisances from dropped leaves or fruit on the proposed travel route path. No significant constraints have been identified relating to the social proximity of retained trees, however the ongoing future maintenance and management of trees adjacent to the proposed travel route will be the responsibility of Rhondda Cynon Tag County Borough Council.

The following tree pruning work is recommended to facilitate the proposed development, due to design constraints or as a result of physical constraints resulting from the landscape of the site:

- T24 – Category C – prune north canopy to facilitate grading of footpath;
- T33 – Category B – prune south canopy to facilitate widening of footpath;
- T36 – Category C – prune south canopy to facilitate widening of footpath;
- T40 – Category B – prune west canopy to facilitate widening of footpath;
- T41 – Category B – prune west canopy to facilitate widening of footpath;
- G42 – Category B – prune west canopies to facilitate widening of footpath;
- T54 / T55 – Category B / C – prune east canopy and raise crown clearance to facilitate widening of footpath along disused railway bridge;
- T71 – Category U – removal may be required due to potential safety conflict with distance to widened footpath. If possible, target prune and retain as standing dead wood habitat;

## Recommendations

Due to the likely impacts identified to retained trees by the proposed development, mitigation and compensation measures will be required.

It will be necessary to demonstrate how the above and below ground structures of retained tree cover will be protected during construction of the development. It is therefore recommended that an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) should be produced to discharge a suitably worded Planning Condition, set out by the Local Planning Authority.

As per paragraph 6.4.43 of the recently revised Planning Policy Wales (PPW), **ancient woodland, and veteran trees are irreplaceable natural resources, and have significant landscape, biodiversity and cultural value.** Such trees, woodlands and hedgerows are to be afforded protection from development which would result in their loss or deterioration unless very exceptionally there are significant and clearly defined public benefits; this protection must prevent potentially damaging operations and their unnecessary loss. In the case of a site recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, authorities should consider the advice of NRW during the planning application process.

As per paragraph 6.4.42 of the PPW, **permanent removal of trees, woodland, and hedgerows will only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined public benefits.** As per the Preliminary Impact Assessment section above, the step-wise approach set out in paragraph 6.4.15 has been followed during design of the proposed development. As such, where loss of trees and woodland is unavoidable, PPW requires compensatory planting, which is proportionate to the loss of trees and woodland.

It is recommended in PPW that any replacement tree planting should be at a ratio equivalent to the quality, environmental and ecological importance of the tree(s) lost, and this must be preferably onsite, or immediately adjacent to the site, and at a **minimum ratio of at least 3 trees of a similar type and compensatory size planted for every 1 lost.**

Where a woodland or a shelterbelt area is lost as part of a proposed scheme, the compensation planting must be at a scale, design and species mix reflective of that area lost. In such circumstances, the planting rate must be at a **minimum of 1600 trees per hectare for broadleaves, and 2500 trees per hectare for conifers.** The planting position for each replacement tree shall be fit to support its establishment and health and ensure its unconstrained long-term growth to optimise the environmental and ecological benefits it affords.”

## Conclusions

Trees are a material consideration in the planning process and afforded protection by legislation, referenced in this report (see APPENDIX VII):

Providing that the Arboricultural recommendations outlined in this report are implemented in full, the proposed future development should conform to the National Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policies AW 6, AW 8, and Supplementary Planning Guidance SPG 6, by adequately protecting and enhance the site’s tree cover.

This report will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months from the date of publication. Further surveys may be required to update the information in this report if planning is not obtained, works do not commence, or there are significant changes to the tree cover at the site within this time period.

# APPENDIX I: CASCADE CHART FOR TREE QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Table 1 Cascade chart for tree quality assessment

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			Identification on plan
<b>Trees unsuitable for retention</b> (see Note)				
<b>Category U</b> Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning)</li> <li>Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline</li> <li>Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality</li> </ul> <p><i>NOTE</i> Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</p>			See Table 2
	<b>1 Mainly arboricultural qualities</b>	<b>2 Mainly landscape qualities</b>	<b>3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation</b>	
<b>Trees to be considered for retention</b>				
<b>Category A</b> <b>Trees of high quality</b> with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)	See Table 2
<b>Category B</b> <b>Trees of moderate quality</b> with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2
<b>Category C</b> <b>Trees of low quality</b> with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value	See Table 2

## APPENDIX II: TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

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Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
S1	Ancient woodland survey location 1: Semi mature to mature age distribution, self seeded woodland with crowded canopy layer. Some natural clearings. Ash dieback present. Ground flora dominated by bramble. Rhododendron present in large groups. Canopy species: Ash (Frequent), Goat willow (Dominant). Understory Species: Spruce (Occasional), Goat willow (Dominant), Ash (Occasional), Rowan (Occasional), Holly (Rare). Ground Flora Species: Bramble (Dominant), Scaly male fern (Frequent), Harts tongue fern (Occasional), Herb Robert (Occasional), Dock (Occasional), Creeping buttercup (Occasional), Common nettle (Frequent), Brittle fern sp. (Occasional), Large leaved Avens (Occasional), Common Feather moss (Abundant), Common Striated Moss (Frequent), Dog lichen (Frequent), Remote sedge (Frequent), Bittercress sp. (Occasional).																Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm.	
S2	Ancient woodland survey location 2: Very dense self seeded young trees. Dense moss ground flora. Stands of rhododendron and cotoneaster invasives. Canopy Species: Goat willow (Dominant), Ash (Frequent), Silver birch (Occasional), Fir (Occasional), Oak (Rare). Understory Species: Rhododendron (Frequent), Holly (Rare), Rowan (Occasional), Oak (Occasional), Cotoneaster (Frequent). Ground Flora Species: Scaly male fern (Frequent), Bilberry (Frequent), Willowherb (Occasional), Oak saplings (Occasional), Common Feather moss (Abundant), Common Striated Moss (Frequent), Broom Fork Moss (Occasional), Neat Feather Moss (Frequent), Bank Haircap Moss (Occasional), Wild strawberries (Occasional), Wood Hawkweed (Occasional), Lady fern (Occasional).																Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm.	
S3	Ancient woodland survey location 3: Self seeded woodland, dense bramble shrub layer, established on steep embankment. Canopy Species: Goat willow (Dominant), Larch (Frequent), Spruce (Occasional), Sycamore (Occasional), Norway maple (Rare), Alder (Frequent), Silver birch (Frequent). Understory Species: Hollyberry cotoneaster (Frequent), Rowan (Frequent), Goat willow (Frequent), Rhododendron (Occasional), Oak (Occasional), Gorse (Rare), Guelder Rose (Occasional), Hawthorn (Occasional). Ground Flora Species: Bramble (Dominant), Common Feathermoss (Dominant), Wild strawberry (Frequent), Creeping buttercup (Frequent), Wood Millet (Occasional), Bilberry (Frequent), Dog violet (Frequent), Scaly male fern (Frequent), Ladies fern (Frequent), Cinquefoil sp. (Frequent), Cross leaved heather (Frequent), Wood hawkweed (Frequent), Common vetch (Frequent). Fungus Species: Birch polypore (Occasional), False turkey tail (Occasional).																Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm.	
S4	Ancient woodland survey location 4: Open structured ancient woodland on very steep embankment. Large veteran trees with clearings between. Uniform habitat structure throughout. Large sections of fallen deadwood. Retaining walls at base of valley adjacent to footpath. Canopy Species: Oak (Dominant), Sycamore (Rare), Ash (Rare). Understory Species: Silver birch (Occasional), Ash (Occasional), Rowan (Occasional), Oak (Frequent), Holly (Occasional), Goat willow (Occasional). Ground Flora Species: Bramble (Frequent), Bracken (Dominant), Scaly male fern (Dominant), Fox glove (Frequent), Himalayan balsam (Abundant), Cleavers (Frequent), Willowherb (Occasional), Common Feathermoss (Frequent), Haircap moss (Frequent), Soft rush (Frequent), Lady fern (Occasional), Powdered Ruffle Lichen (Occasional).																Average tree density 1 per 10 sqm.	
S5	Ancient woodland survey location 5: Largely inaccessible, steep embankment. Stand of Japanese knotweed. No ancient or veteran trees identified from footpath. Few mature trees at lower end of wood. Canopy Species: Spruce (Frequent), Goat willow (Dominant), Ash (Occasional), Alder (Frequent), Silver birch (Frequent). Understory Species: Hawthorn (Frequent), Goat willow (Frequent). Ground Flora Species: Japanese knotweed (Dominant), Himalaya balsam (Frequent), Scaly male fern (Frequent), Bracken (Frequent), Gorse (Frequent), Willowherb (Frequent), Bramble (Frequent).																Average tree density 1 per 10 sqm.	

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
W6	Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Cotoneaster ( <i>Cotoneaster frigidus</i> ), Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ), Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), European Larch ( <i>Larix decidua</i> ), Norway Spruce ( <i>Picea abies</i> ), Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ), Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Rowan ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> ), Rhododendron ( <i>Rhododendron</i> )	15m	250(1)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	8.00		Mature	Good	Good	A2	Plotted by eye on plan. Woodland established on steep valley side with existing unmade public footpath running from leisure centre down to the Rhondda river. Drainage channel runs north to south at east boundary of the woodland with small footbridge. High collective amenity value as a woodland, but individual trees are of low to moderate arboricultural value, depending on maturity. Shallow drainage ditch to south of footpath. Identified as ancient semi natural on historic maps, evidence of large scale woodland clearance in recent history. Uniform age structure, with dense canopy dominated by self seeded goat willow. Few large mature trees, no veteran or ancient trees identified. Natural clearings in places, areas of the shrub layer and found flora dominated by bramble. Other sections more floristically diverse, with good range of species, particularly mosses and lichens, wild strawberry, bilberries, and ferns present. See ancient woodland survey points S1 and S2 for further details. Stands of non native invasive rhododendron in places, which would benefit from removal to prevent further spread. Stem diameter is estimated average.	3	28.3	40+	Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm.
W7	Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Cotoneaster ( <i>Cotoneaster frigidus</i> ), Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ), Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), European Larch ( <i>Larix decidua</i> ), Norway Spruce ( <i>Picea abies</i> ), Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ), Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Rowan ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> ), Rhododendron ( <i>Rhododendron</i> ), Guelder Rose ( <i>Viburnum opulus</i> )	15m	250(1)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	8.00		Mature	Good	Good	A2	Plotted by eye on plan. Woodland established on steep valley side with existing unmade public footpath running from leisure centre down to the Rhondda river. Drainage channel runs north to south at east boundary of the woodland with small footbridge crossing. High collective amenity value as a woodland, but individual trees are of low to moderate arboricultural value, depending on maturity. Shallow drainage ditch to south of footpath. Identified as ancient semi natural on historic maps, evidence of large scale woodland clearance in recent history. Uniform age structure, with dense canopy dominated by self seeded goat willow. Few large mature trees, no veteran or ancient trees identified. Natural clearings in places, areas of the wood shrub layer and found flora dominated by bramble. Other sections more floristically diverse, with good range of species, particularly mosses and lichens, wild strawberry, bilberries, and ferns present. See ancient woodland survey points S1 and S2 for further details. Stands of non native invasive rhododendron in places, which would benefit from removal to prevent further spread. Stem diameter is estimated average.	3	28.3	40+	Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm.

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				N	E	S	W											
G8	Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ), Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), European Larch ( <i>Larix decidua</i> ), Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ), Guelder Rose ( <i>Viburnum opulus</i> )	8m	100(1)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	5.00		Young	Fair	Fair	C2	Plotted by eye on plan. Young self seeded trees established on steep embankment adjacent to footpath. Dense bramble understorey. Collective amenity value as part of the wider woodland but lower individual arboricultural value. Very dense growing environment. Diameter is estimated average.	1.2	4.5	10+	Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm
G9	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), Alder ( <i>Alnus sp.</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), European Larch ( <i>Larix decidua</i> ), Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ), Rowan ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> )	12m	100(5)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	3.00		Early Mature	Good	Fair	B2	Plotted by eye on plan. Trees established along north and south banks of the river. Self seeded specimens of young to early mature age. Moderate collective amenity value, individual trees are of low to moderate value depending on maturity and condition. Wooden footbridge crosses river through the tree group, with stems and canopies of neighbouring trees overhanging the bridge. Diameter is estimated average.	2.69	22.7	20+	Average tree density 10 per 10 sqm
G10	Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ), Mixed Shrubs (Mixed Shrubs)	5m	100(1)	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00		Young	Fair	Fair	C1	Plotted by eye on plan. Self seeded scattered trees established around retaining wall on embankment to the north of the footpath. Diameter is an estimated maximum.	1.2	4.5	10+	Average tree density 2 per 10 sqm

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
W11	Common Oak (Quercus robur), Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia), Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus), Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	20m	1000(1)	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	10.00		Veteran	Good	Good	A3	Plotted by eye on plan. Ancient semi natural woodland established on steep valley embankment to north of the footpath and river. High arboricultural, amenity, and biodiversity value due to numerous impressive veteran oak and ash trees displaying several signs of veteranisation, including crown retrenchment, hollowing, dead wood, and old wounds. Large fallen and standing deadwood in places. Generally very open woodland structure with clearings dominated by ferns and some natural regeneration of younger trees. See ancient woodland survey sample point S4 for further botanical details. Diameter is an estimated maximum.	12	452.5	40+	Average tree density 1 per 10 sqm.
G12	Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia), Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Norway Spruce (Picea abies)	18m	150(1)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	6.00		Semi Mature	Fair	Fair	B2	Plotted by eye on plan. Area of self seeded trees at end of woodland, large section of trees removed due to recent landslide. Now natural regeneration taking place with young and semi mature specimens established. Moderate collective value, individual trees are of low arboricultural value. Diameter is estimated average.	1.8	10.2	20+	Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm
G13	Common Alder (Alnus glutinosa), Silver Birch (Betula pendula), Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Goat Willow (Salix caprea)	12m	150(1)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	6.00		Semi Mature	Fair	Fair	C2	Plotted by eye on plan. Low value self seeded trees established at edge of the footpath on top of retaining wall. Diameter is estimated average.	1.8	10.2	10+	Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm
G14	Silver Birch (Betula pendula), Common Oak (Quercus robur), Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	18m	500(1)	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.00		Mature	Fair	Fair	B1	Plotted by eye on plan. Group of trees established along top of rocky cliff edge north of the footpath and river. Unable to access for detailed inspection. Moderate collective amenity value. Ash dieback evident. Diameter is estimated average.	6	113.1	20+	Average tree density 5 per 10 sqm

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
W15	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), Alder ( <i>Alnus sp.</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	20m	250(1)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	8.00		Early Mature	Good	Good	A2	Off site. Plotted by eye on plan. Woodland established on steep valley side with public footpath running along the southwest side of the Rhondda river. High collective amenity value as a woodland, but individual trees are of low to moderate arboricultural value, depending on maturity. Identified as ancient semi natural on historic maps, evidence of large scale woodland clearance in recent history. Uniform age structure, with dense canopy dominated by self seeded goat willow. Few large mature trees, no veteran or ancient trees identified. Not surveyed in detail due to not being impacted by works, has visual amenity value to the travel route. Diameter is estimated average.	3	28.3	40+	Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm
G16	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), European Larch ( <i>Larix decidua</i> ), Mixed Shrubs (Mixed Shrubs)	8m	100(1)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00		Young	Fair	Fair	C1	Plotted by eye on plan. Group of self seeded trees established along northeast bank of river, overhanging adjacent footpath. Dense shrubs and bramble. Diameter is estimated average.	1.2	4.5	10+	Average tree density 20 per 10 sqm
W17	Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ), Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	18m	500(1)	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	6.00		Mature	Good	Good	A2	Inaccessible. Off site. Plotted by eye on plan. Woodland located northeast of the footpath and river. High collective amenity value due to maturity of trees and good overall condition. Ash dieback present. Diameter is estimated average.	6	113.1	40+	Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm
G18	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ), Mixed Shrubs (Mixed Shrubs), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> )	5m	75(1)	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00		Young	Fair	Fair	C2	Plotted by eye on plan. Self seeded young trees and shrubs adjacent to footpath. Diameter is estimated average.	.9	3	10+	Average tree density 20 per 10 sqm

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
T19	Common Oak (Quercus robur)	20m	600(1)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00		Mature	Good	Good	A1	Good quality with high landscape value. Off site. Located on bank. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Diameter estimated.	7.2	163	40+	N/A
T20	Common Oak (Quercus robur)	20m	600(1)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00		Mature	Good	Good	A1	Good quality with high landscape value. Off site. Located on bank. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Diameter estimated.	7.2	163	40+	N/A
W21	Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Silver Birch (Betula pendula), Common Oak (Quercus robur)	10m	250(1)	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	2.00		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	B2	Plotted by eye on plan. Self seeded woodland established on northeast banks of the river, running adjacent to the footpath. Dense understorey of young trees and shrubs, moderate collective amenity value but individual trees are largely of low arboricultural value. Diameter is estimated average.	3.0	28	20+	Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm
T22	Goat Willow (Salix caprea)	12m	200(2)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	6.00		Early Mature	Poor	Poor	U	Declining in health and condition. Major deadwood in crown.	3.4	36	<10	N/A
T23	Goat Willow (Salix caprea)	6m	250(1)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	5.00		Early Mature	Poor	Poor	U	Declining in health and condition. Plotted by eye on plan. Major deadwood in crown.	3.0	28	<10	N/A
T24	Holm Oak (Quercus ilex)	5m	220(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	1.50		Young	Fair	Fair	C1	No obvious significant defects. Fair quality with some landscape value. Low branches over road/footpath.	2.6	22	10+	N/A
T25	Goat Willow (Salix caprea)	8m	150(4)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	2.00		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	C1	Located on bank. Location estimated. Self-seeded group of stems. Low branches over road/footpath.	3.6	41	10+	N/A

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
T26	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	8m	150(3)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.00		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	C1	Located on bank. Location estimated. Self-seeded group of stems. Low branches over road/footpath.	3.1	31	10+	N/A
T27	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	8m	150(3)	5.00	6.00	6.00	4.00	2.00		Early Mature	Poor	Poor	U	Declining in health and condition. Located on bank. Location estimated. Self-seeded group of stems. Low branches over road/footpath. Partially collapsed with dead branches fallen over bank and into river.	3.1	31	<10	N/A
T28	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	8m	150(3)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.00		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	C1	Located on bank. Location estimated. Self-seeded group of stems. Low branches over road/footpath.	3.1	31	10+	N/A
T29	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	15m	600(1)	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	8.00		Mature	Fair	Good	A1	Inaccessible. Woodland edge tree that overhangs the site. Located on bank. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Off-site and inaccessible: diameter estimated.	7.2	163	40+	N/A
T30	Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	18m	1000(1)	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	8.00		Veteran	Good	Good	A3	Good quality with high landscape value. Inaccessible. Off site. Woodland edge tree that overhangs the site. Located on bank. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Ivy on stem. Off-site and inaccessible: diameter estimated.	12.0	452	40+	N/A
T31	Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	20m	800(1)	8.00	5.00	7.00	9.00	8.00		Mature	Good	Good	A1	Good quality with high landscape value. Woodland edge tree that overhangs the site. Located on bank. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Major deadwood in crown. Diameter estimated due to undergrowth.	9.6	290	40+	N/A
T32	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	20m	1100(1)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		Veteran	Fair	Good	A3	Good quality with high landscape value. Woodland edge tree that overhangs the site. Located on bank. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Major deadwood in crown.	13.2	547	40+	N/A

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
T33	Common Oak (Quercus robur)	8m	440(1)	3.00	3.00	5.00	5.00	6.00		Mature	Fair	Poor	B1	Declining in health and condition. Downgraded due to limited life expectancy. Woodland edge tree that overhangs the site. Located on bank. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Wire girdling stem. Cavity on stem. Major deadwood in crown.	5.3	88	20+	N/A
T34	Common Oak (Quercus robur)	15m	600(2)	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00		Mature	Good	Fair	A1	Good quality with high landscape value. Inaccessible. Off site. Located on bank. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Major deadwood in crown. Off-site and inaccessible: diameter estimated.	10.2	326	40+	N/A
T35	Common Oak (Quercus robur)	20m	1000(1)	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	10.00		Veteran	Good	Good	A3	Good quality with high landscape value. Woodland edge tree that overhangs the site. Located on bank. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Cavity on stem. Inaccessible: diameter estimated.	12.0	452	40+	N/A
T36	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	5m	75(5)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00		Young	Fair	Poor	C1	Plotted by eye on plan. Downgraded due to constrained rooting environment. Low branches over road/footpath. Young tree growing out of retaining wall. Diameter is estimated average.	2.0	13	10+	N/A
W37	Common Oak (Quercus robur), Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Mixed Shrubs (Mixed Shrubs)	15m	500(1)	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	6.00		Mature	Good	Good	A1	Good quality with high landscape value. Off site. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Offsite woodland established on steep cliffside escarpments to the east of the footpath. Inaccessible: diameter estimated.	6.0	113	40+	N/A
G38	Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Common Oak (Quercus robur), Mixed Shrubs (Mixed Shrubs), Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	5m	75(1)	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00		Young	Fair	Fair	C2	Plotted by eye on plan. Self seeded young trees and shrubs adjacent to east of the footpath. Diameter is estimated average.	.9	3	10+	Average tree density 20 per 10 sqm

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
G39	Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Common Oak (Quercus robur), Mixed Shrubs (Mixed Shrubs), Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	5m	75(1)	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00		Young	Fair	Fair	C2	Plotted by eye on plan. Self seeded young trees and shrubs adjacent west of the footpath. Diameter is estimated average.	.9	3	10+	Average tree density 20 per 10 sqm
T40	Goat Willow (Salix caprea)	10m	530(1)	5.00	6.00	4.00	3.50	5.00		Mature	Fair	Fair	B2	Fair quality with some landscape value. Roots restricted by hard surface. Established adjacent to drainage outfall pipe, large pruning wound where limb has been removed to west, canopy leans east. Railing fence 1m south of tree.	6.4	127	20+	N/A
T41	Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	15m	510(1)	5.00	6.00	5.00	6.00	5.00		Mature	Fair	Fair	B2	Fair quality with some landscape value. Roots restricted by hard surface. Established adjacent to drainage outfall pipe. Railing fence 1m north of tree.	6.1	118	20+	N/A
G42	Goat Willow (Salix caprea)	15m	300(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00		Mature	Fair	Fair	B2	Fair quality with some landscape value. Plotted by eye on plan. Self-seeded. Part of linear group. Multiple stems at ground level. Diameter is estimated average.	3.6	41	20+	N/A
G43	Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Common Oak (Quercus robur), Mixed Shrubs (Mixed Shrubs), Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	5m	75(1)	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00		Young	Fair	Fair	C2	Plotted by eye on plan. Self seeded young trees and shrubs adjacent west of the footpath. Diameter is estimated average.	.9	3	10+	Average tree density 20 per 10 sqm
W44	Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Silver Birch (Betula pendula), Common Oak (Quercus robur)	10m	250(1)	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	2.00		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	B2	Plotted by eye on plan. Self seeded woodland established on east banks of the river, running adjacent to the footpath. Dense understory of young trees and shrubs, moderate collective amenity value but individual trees are largely of low arboricultural value. Diameter is estimated average.	3.0	28	20+	Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
W45	Common Oak (Quercus robur), Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Mixed Shrubs (Mixed Shrubs), Silver Birch (Betula pendula), Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	15m	250(1)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00		Mature	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair quality with some landscape value. Off site. Woodland edge tree that overhangs the site. Plotted by eye on plan. Diameter is estimated average.	3.0	28	20+	N/A
G46	Goat Willow (Salix caprea), Common Oak (Quercus robur), Mixed Shrubs (Mixed Shrubs), Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	5m	75(1)	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00		Young	Fair	Fair	C2	Plotted by eye on plan. Self seeded young trees and shrubs adjacent west of the footpath. Diameter is estimated average.	.9	3	10+	Average tree density 20 per 10 sqm
T47	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	8m	250(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair quality with some landscape value. Off site. Self-seeded. Low branches over road/footpath. Tree located behind railing fence adjacent to footpath. Location estimated. Inaccessible: diameter estimated.	3.0	28	20+	N/A
T48	Goat Willow (Salix caprea)	6m	72(8)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00		Young	Fair	Poor	C2	Low quality and value. Plotted by eye on plan. Self-seeded group of stems. Low branches over road/footpath. Diameter is estimated average.	2.5	19	10+	N/A
T49	Goat Willow (Salix caprea)	5m	72(8)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	2.00		Young	Fair	Poor	C2	Low quality and value. Plotted by eye on plan. Self-seeded group of stems. Low branches over road/footpath. Diameter is estimated average.	2.5	19	10+	N/A
T50	Goat Willow (Salix caprea)	15m	500(1)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00		Mature	Good	Fair	B1	Fair quality with some landscape value. Unable to inspect stem due to Ivy. Tree established north of footbridge that crosses the river valley, branches encroaching upon structure of the bridge, recommend pruning to reduce canopy conflict and potential for damage.	6.0	113	20+	N/A

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
G51	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> )	8m	150(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	C1	Low quality and value. Located on bank. Self-seeded group of stems. Diameter is estimated average.	1.8	10	10+	Average tree density 5 per 10 sqm.
T52	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	8m	350(1)	5.00	5.00	3.00	5.00	5.00		Mature	Fair	Fair	B2	Fair quality with some landscape value. Unable to inspect stem due to ivy. Tree established north of footbridge that crosses the river valley, branches encroaching upon structure of the bridge, recommend pruning to reduce canopy conflict and potential for damage.	4.2	55	20+	N/A
T53	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	8m	250(3)	3.00	7.00	5.00	5.00	3.00		Mature	Fair	Poor	C1	Downgraded due to limited life expectancy. Self-seeded group of stems. Leaning East. Unbalanced crown shape. Branches encroaching upon building. Tree established beneath footbridge that crosses the river valley, branches encroaching upon structure of the bridge, recommend removal to reduce canopy conflict and potential for damage. Diameter is estimated average.	5.2	85	10+	N/A
T54	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	18m	350(4)	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	1.50		Mature	Fair	Fair	B1	Fair quality with some landscape value. Inaccessible. Off site. Woodland edge tree that overhangs the site. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Low branches over road/footpath. Tree established below disused railway bridge on bank of river. Inaccessible: diameter estimated.	8.4	222	20+	N/A
T55	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	10m	200(5)	3.00	8.00	9.00	8.00	1.00		Mature	Fair	Poor	C1	Off site. Located on bank. Self-seeded group of stems. Low branches over road/footpath. Leaning South-East. One sided crown: suppressed by adjacent specimen.	5.4	90	10+	N/A

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
W56	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> )	15m	200(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00		Early Mature	Good	Good	B2	Group of moderate landscape value. Individual trees within the group are category C. Plotted by eye on plan. Self-seeded. Diameter is estimated average.	2.4	18	20+	Average tree density 10 per 10 sqm
W57	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> )	15m	200(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00		Early Mature	Good	Good	B2	Group of moderate landscape value. Individual trees within the group are category C. Plotted by eye on plan. Self-seeded. Diameter is estimated average.	2.4	18	20+	Average tree density 20 per 10 sqm
W58	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> )	15m	200(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00		Early Mature	Good	Good	B2	Group of moderate landscape value. Individual trees within the group are category C. Plotted by eye on plan. Self-seeded. Diameter is estimated average.	2.4	18	20+	N/A
W59	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Norway Spruce ( <i>Picea abies</i> ), Rhododendron ( <i>Rhododendron</i> ), Mixed Shrubs (Mixed Shrubs), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> )	18m	300(1)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00		Mature	Good	Good	A1	Off site. Plotted by eye on plan. Offsite mature wet woodland established along banks of river, ends at disused railway bridge. Collectively of high arboricultural and amenity value, individual trees of low to moderate value depending on maturity and condition. Many trees covered in ivy or standing deadwood habitats. Diameter is estimated average.	3.6	41	40+	N/A

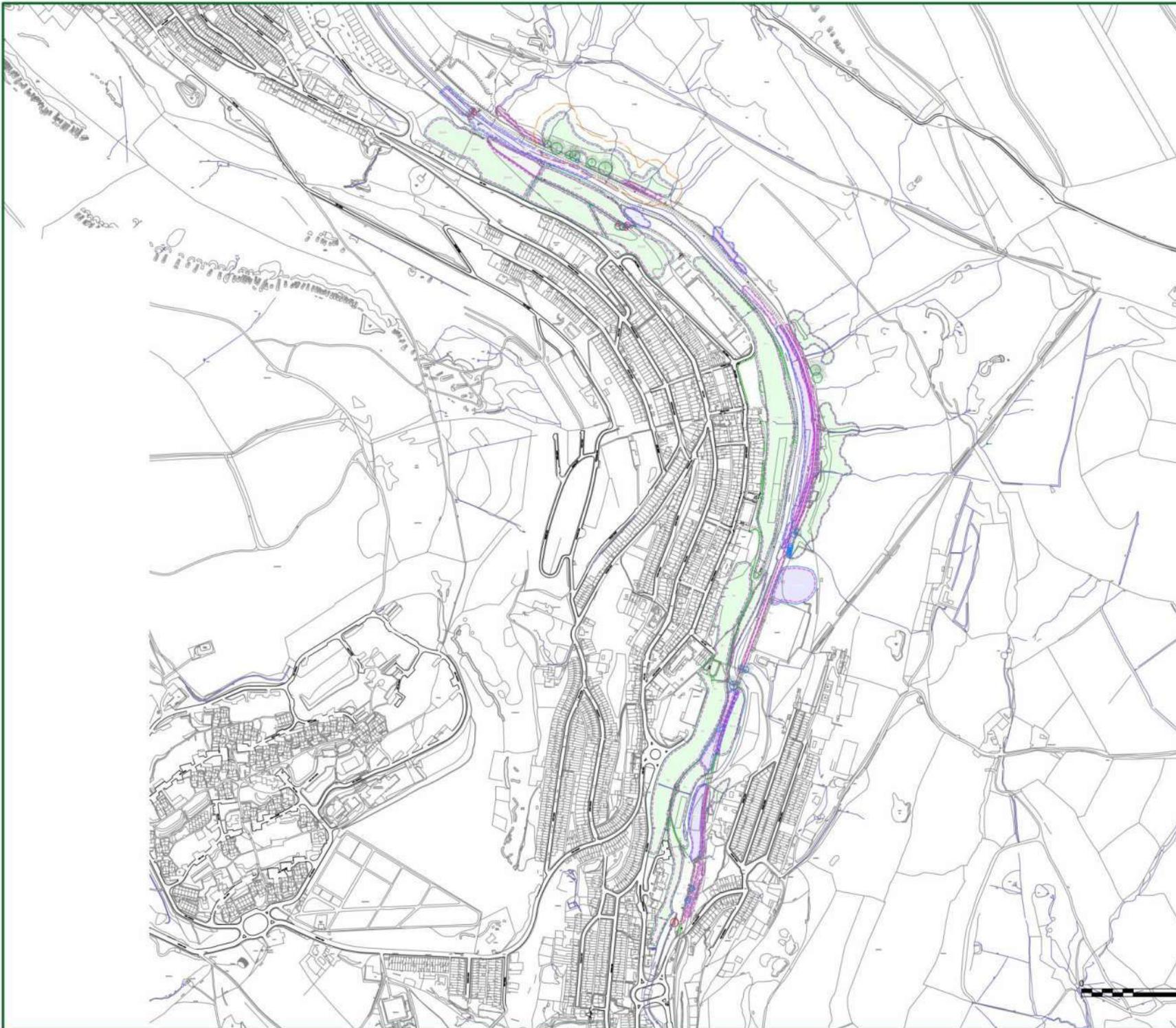
Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
W60	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), Alder ( <i>Alnus</i> sp.), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	20m	250(1)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	8.00		Early Mature	Good	Good	A2	Off site. Plotted by eye on plan. Woodland established on steep valley side with public footpath running along the southwest side of the Rhondda river. High collective amenity value as a woodland, but individual trees are of low to moderate arboricultural value, depending on maturity. Shallow drainage ditch to south of footpath. Identified as ancient semi natural on historic maps, evidence of large scale woodland clearance in recent history. Uniform age structure, with dense canopy dominated by self seeded goat willow. Few large mature trees, no veteran or ancient trees identified. Not surveyed in detail due to not being impacted by works, has visual amenity value to the travel route. Diameter is estimated average.	3.0	28	40+	Average tree density 15 per 10 sqm
W61	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ), Norway Spruce ( <i>Picea abies</i> )	15m	500(1)	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	5.00		Mature	Good	Good	A2	Inaccessible. Off site. Plotted by eye on plan. Area identified as ancient woodland on historic plans. Inaccessible for detailed survey, large area of Japanese knotweed on steep embankment. See ancient woodland survey location S5 for further detail. Off-site and inaccessible: diameter estimated.	6.0	113	40+	Average tree density 5 per 10 sqm
W62	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Guelder Rose ( <i>Viburnum opulus</i> ), Alder ( <i>Alnus</i> sp.), Rowan ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> ), Crack Willow ( <i>Salix fragilis</i> ), Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), Rhododendron ( <i>Rhododendron</i> )	10m	250(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	B1	Group of moderate landscape value. Individual trees within the group are category C. Plotted by eye on plan. Diameter is estimated average.	3.0	28	20+	Average tree density 20 per 10 sqm
G63	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> )	8m	200(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	3.00		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	C2	Fair quality with some landscape value. Plotted by eye on plan. Self-seeded. Part of linear group. Low branches over road/footpath. Diameter is estimated average.	2.4	18	10+	Average tree density 5 per 10 sqm

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
T64	Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> )	8m	250(1)	2.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	4.00		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	C1	Plotted by eye on plan. One sided crown: suppressed by adjacent specimen.	3.0	28	10+	N/A
T65	Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	8m	200(3)	5.00	3.00	3.00	4.50	4.00		Early Mature	Poor	Fair	C1	Declining in health and condition. Downgraded due to limited life expectancy. Triple stemmed from base. Sparse foliage. Dieback in crown. One sided crown: suppressed by adjacent specimen.	4.2	54	10+	N/A
G66	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> )	8m	200(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	3.00		Early Mature	Fair	Fair	C2	Fair quality with some landscape value. Off site. Plotted by eye on plan. Self-seeded. Part of linear group. Low branches over road/footpath. Diameter is estimated average.	2.4	18	10+	Average tree density 5 per 10 sqm
G67	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> ), Common Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), Rowan ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> ), Common Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	8m	250(1)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	3.00		Semi Mature	Fair	Fair	C1	Fair quality with some landscape value. Plotted by eye on plan. Self-seeded. Part of linear group. Low branches over road/footpath. Diameter is estimated average.	3.0	28	10+	N/A
T68	Silver Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> )	10m	430(1)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	3.00		Mature	Good	Fair	B2	Fair quality with some landscape value. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Stem divides above 1.5m.	5.2	84	20+	N/A
T69	Goat Willow ( <i>Salix caprea</i> )	10m	250,200,200(3)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	2.00		Semi Mature	Fair	Fair	C1	Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Self-seeded group of stems. Low branches over road/footpath.	4.5	64	10+	N/A

Ref No.	Species Name(s)	Tree Height (m)	Stem Diameter (and Number)	Branch Spread (m)				Height of Canopy Clearance (m)	First Significant Branch Height (m) and Direction	Life Stage	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	BS5837 Category	Observation, Comments, and Preliminary Management Recommendations	Root Protection Radius (m)	Root Protection Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Remaining Contribution (years)	Average Tree Density
				N	E	S	W											
T70	Goat Willow (Salix caprea)	12m	300,300,30 0,300,300, 300,430(7)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00		Mature	Good	Fair	B1	Roots restricted by hard surface. Downgraded due to constrained rooting environment. Self-seeded group of stems. Multiple stems at ground level. Pruning wounds on stems. Diameter is estimated average. Recommend realigning proposed cycleway if possible to avoid rpa, alternatively sensitive removal of hard standing to avoid damaging major roots and construct new cycle path through the rpa using no dig permeable surfacing.	10.2	328	20+	N/A
T71	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	20m	800(1)	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	5.00		Over Mature	Poor	Poor	U	Declining in health and condition. Off site. Plotted by eye on plan. Location estimated. Unable to inspect stem due to ivy. Dieback in crown. Major deadwood in crown. Likely safe to retain as natural dead wood habitat due to distance from footpath.	9.6	290	<10	N/A

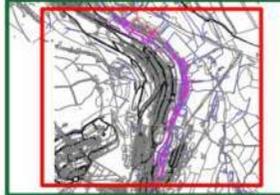
## APPENDIX III: TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN

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-  Category A - Trees of High Quality and Value
-  Category B - Trees of Moderate Quality and Value
-  Category C - Trees of Low Quality and Value
-  Category U - Trees Unsuitable for Retention
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\* Denotes trees and groups not identified on the topographical survey. Stem locations have been approximated using measurements taken on site.



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Project Name: Rhonda Fach Travel Route, Rhonda Cynon Tal - Phase 5

Plan Title: Tree Constraints Plan - Entire Site View

Project Number: WWE24094

Scale: 1:5000 @ A2 Produced By: Mark Bevan

Date: 03.07.2024 Drawn: B. Bishop

Plan Number: P01 Revision: 1



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Project Name: Rhodda Fach Travel Route, Rhodda Cynon Tal - Phase 5

Plan Title: Tree Constraints Plan - Page 1

Project Number: WWE24094

Scale: 1:5000 @ A2	Produced By: Mairi Bowdler
Date: 03.07.2024	BSU/ML/MT/PA
Plan Number: P01	Revision:

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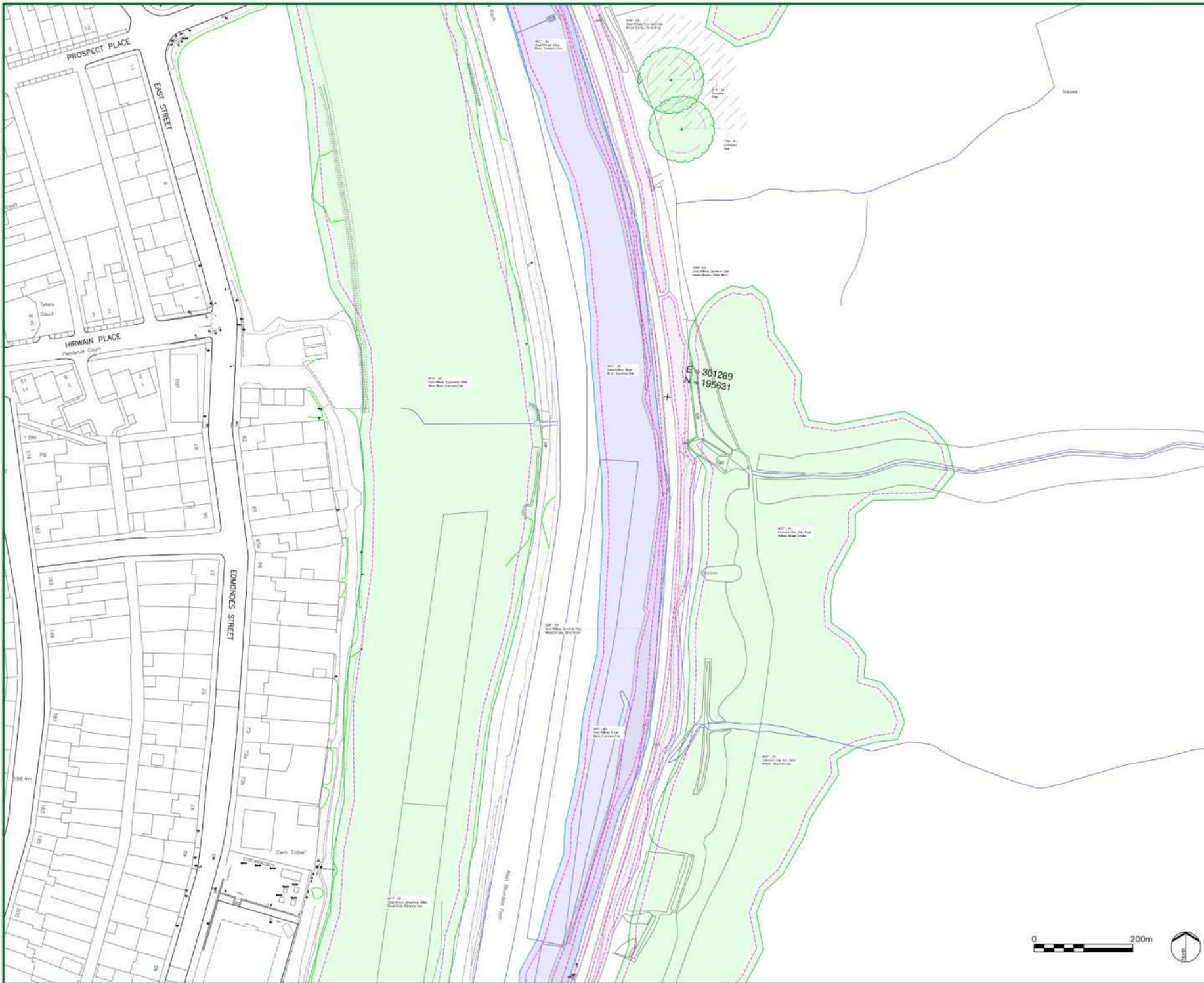
Plan Title: Tree Constraints Plan - Page 3

Project Number: WVE24094  
 Scale: 1:5000 A2  
 Date: 03.07.2024  
 Plan Number: P01

Produced By: Mike Rowland  
 BSU/Hers. M.H.G.P.  
 Revision:  

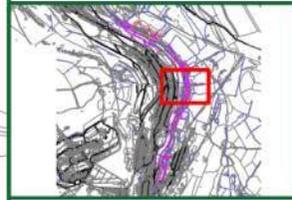
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Project Name: Rhonda Fach Travel Route, Rhonda Cynon Tal - Phase 5

Plan Title: Tree Constraints Plan - Page 3

Project Number: WVE24094

Scale: 1:5000 A2

Date: 03.07.2024

Plan Number: P01

Produced By:  
 Made Good  
 BS11499: M4:04  
 Revision:



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Project Name: Rhonda Fach Travel Route, Rhonda Fach, Phase 5

Plan Title: Tree Constraints Plan - Page 4

Project Number:	WWE24094		
Scale:	1:5000	A2	Produced By:
Date:	03.07.2024		Michele Rowland
Plan Number:	P01		Revision:

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Project Name: Rhonda Fach Travel Route, Rhonda Cynon Tal - Phase 5

Plan Title: Tree Constraints Plan - Page 5

Project Number: WWE24094  
 Scale: 1:5000 A2  
 Date: 03.07.2024  
 Plan Number: P01

Produced By: Mike Rowland  
 BS1449: M10pA  
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Project Name: Rhodda Fach Travel Route, Rhodda Cynon Tal - Phase 5

Plan Title: Tree Constraints Plan - Page 6

Project Number: WWE24094  
 Scale: 1:5000 @ A2  
 Date: 03.07.2024  
 Plan Number: P01

Produced By: Mike Rowland  
 BS11490: M400A  
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# APPENDIX IV: GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN

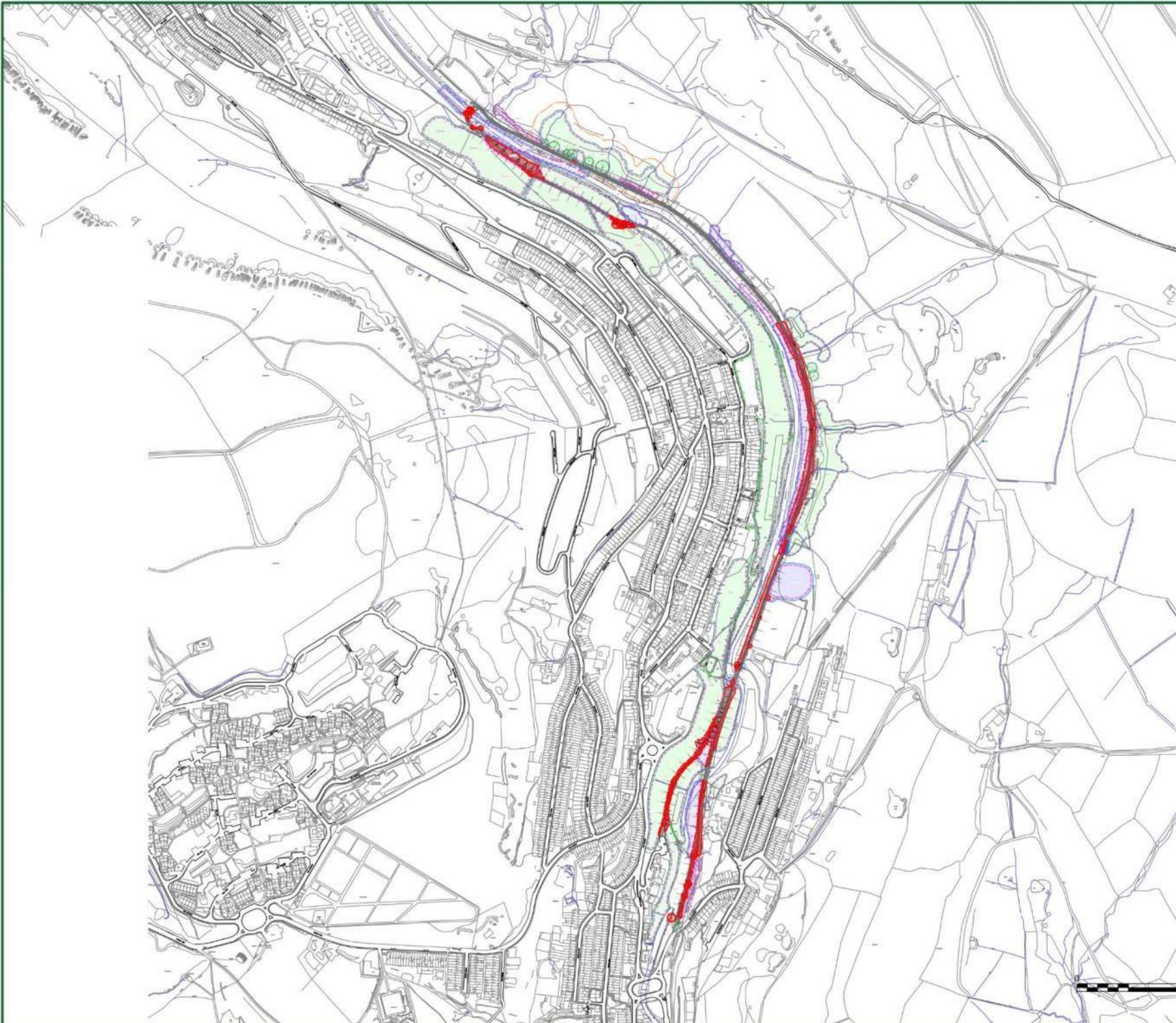






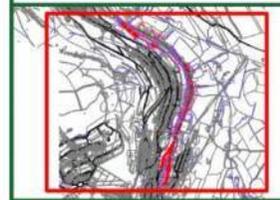
## APPENDIX V: PRELIMINARY TREE RETENTION AND REMOVAL PLAN

TBC



- Category A - Trees of High Quality and Value
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**Project Name:** Rhondda Fach Travel Route, Rhondda Cynon Taf - Phase 5

**Plan Title:** Preliminary Tree Retention and Removal Plan - Entire Site View

**Project Number:** WW24094

<b>Scale:</b> 1:5000 @ A2	<b>Produced By:</b>
<b>Date:</b> 19.07.2024	Melou Baxendale E: <a href="mailto:Melou@wildwoodecology.com">Melou@wildwoodecology.com</a>

<b>Plan Number:</b> P02	<b>Revision:</b>
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Project Name: Rhonda Fach Travel Route, Rhonda Cynon Taf - Phase 5

Plan Title: Preliminary Tree Retention and Removal - Page 1

Project Number: WWE24094

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Project Name: Rhonda Fach Travel Route, Rhonda Cynon Taf - Phase 5

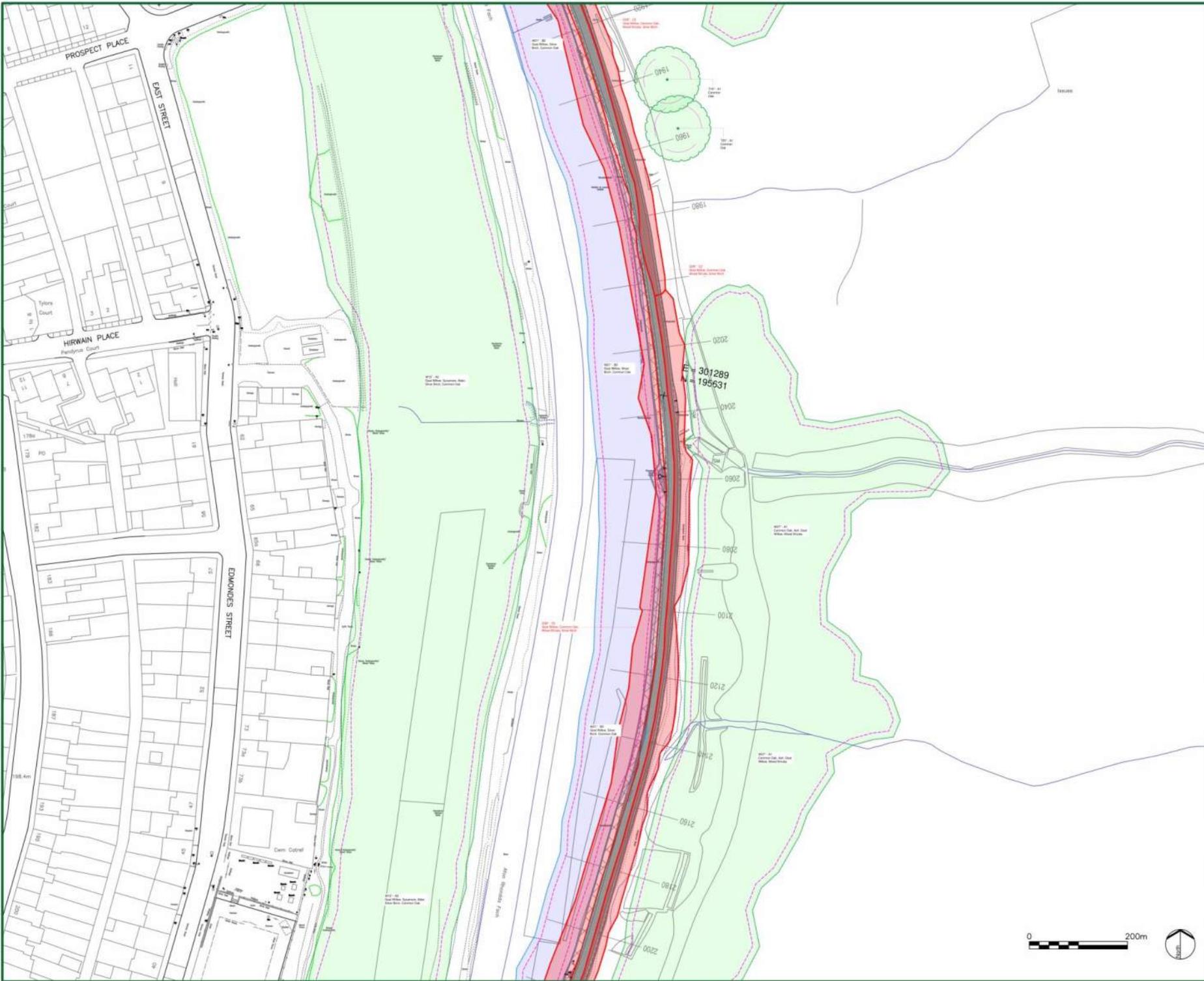
Plan Title: Preliminary Tree Retention and Removal Plan - Page 3

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Plan Title: Preliminary Tree Retention and Removal Plan - Page 3

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Project Name: Rhonda Fach Travel Route, Rhonda Cynon Taf - Phase 5

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Project Name: Rhonda's Fach Travel Route, Rhonda's Cynon Taf - Phase 5

Plan Title: Preliminary Tree Retention and Removal Plan - Page 5

Project Number: WW24094

Scale: 1:5000 @ A2

Date: 19.07.2024

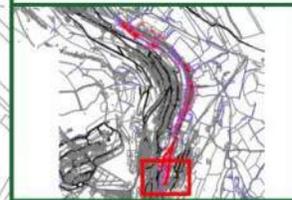
Plan Number: P02

Produced By: Majo Stavros  
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 Revised:

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- Category A - Trees of High Quality and Value
  - Category B - Trees of Moderate Quality and Value
  - Category C - Trees of Low Quality and Value
  - Tree Removal and Pruning
  - Root Protection Area (RPA) (12x stem diameter)
  - Ancient Woodland and Veteran Tree Protection Zone (15x stem diameter or 15m from edge of canopy)
- \* Denotes trees and groups not identified on the topographical survey. Stem locations have been approximated using measurements taken on site.



Revision	Description	Date	Initials



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Project Name: Rhonda Fach Travel Route, Rhonda Cynon Tal - Phase 5

Plan Title: Preliminary Tree Retention and Removal Plan - Page 6

Project Number: WWE24094

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## APPENDIX VI: SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHS

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**Photograph 1 – Aerial image of the site (1).**



**Photograph 2 – Aerial image of the site (2).**



**Photograph 3 – Aerial image of the site (3).**



**Photograph 4 – Aerial image of the site (4).**



**Photograph 5 – Aerial image of the site (5).**



**Photograph 6 – Aerial image of the site (6).**



**Photograph 7 – Site entrance at Ferndale Leisure Centre. W6 visible to right.**



**Photograph 8 – Site entrance at Ferndale Leisure Centre, W6 visible left and G12 right.**



**Photograph 9 – Woodland W6, steep path from leisure centre.**



**Photograph 10 – Woodland W6, tree T23 and T22 visible to left, ancient woodland survey location S1.**



**Photograph 11 – Woodland W6, existing footpath visible with drainage ditch to left.**



**Photograph 12 – Woodland W6, ancient woodland survey location S2**



**Photograph 13 – Woodland W6, drain through woodland visible looking downhill.**



**Photograph 14 – Woodland W6, drain through woodland visible looking uphill.**



**Photograph 15 – Woodland W7, footbridge crossing point.**



**Photograph 16 – Group G8, ancient woodland survey location S3.**



**Photograph 17 – Group G9 and T25 – T28, footbridge crossing Rhondda River.**



**Photograph 18 – Tree T25 at footbridge.**



**Photograph 19 – Tree T27 at footbridge.**



**Photograph 20 – Tree T27, partially collapsed.**



**Photograph 21 – Group G9.**



**Photograph 22 – Group G10.**



**Photograph 23 – Tree T29.**



**Photograph 24 – W11, ancient woodland.**



**Photograph 25 - Tree T30**



**Photograph 26 - Woodland W11.**



**Photograph 27 - Tree T32, branches overhanging existing footpath.**



**Photograph 28 - Tree T33, established close to edge of existing footpath.**



**Photograph 29 - Retaining wall at W11.**



**Photograph 30 - Ancient woodland W11, existing footpath through protection zone.**



**Photograph 31 - Group G12.**



**Photograph 32 - Group G14, trees established on steep rock embankments.**



**Photograph 33 – Offsite woodland W15, established along river valley.**



**Photograph 34 – Group G16, young trees and shrubs established along river valley adjacent to existing footpath.**



**Photograph 35 – Group G18 and W21, self-seeded young trees and shrubs.**



**Photograph 36 – Group G43, shrubs and young trees established adjacent to footpath.**



**Photograph 37 – Tree T40.**



**Photograph 38 – Tree T41.**



**Photograph 39 – Group G42.**



**Photograph 40 – Group G46.**



**Photograph 41 – G51 and Tree T53, established beneath overhead footbridge.**



**Photograph 42 – Disused railway bridge, trees T54 and T55 visible to right, branches overhanging footpath.**



**Photograph 43 – Tree T55, established beneath disused railway bridge.**



**Photograph 44 – Woodland W59.**



**Photograph 45 – Woodland W56, early mature trees established adjacent to footpath.**



**Photograph 46 – Woodland W58, early mature trees established adjacent to footpath.**



**Photograph 47 – Woodland W61, offsite established on steep embankment, ancient woodland survey location S5.**



**Photograph 48 – Group G63, young trees self-seeded adjacent to footpath, ancient woodland survey location S5, Japanese Knotweed visible behind trees.**



**Photograph 49 – Woodland W62.**



**Photograph 50 – Tree T65.**



**Photograph 51 – Group G66.**



**Photograph 52 – Group G67.**



**Photograph 53 – Tree T64 and W62.**



**Photograph 54 – Tree T70, large multi-stemmed goat willow adjacent to footpath, within G67.**



**Photograph 55 – Tree T70, large multi-stemmed goat willow adjacent to footpath, within G67.**



**Photograph 56 – Damage caused to footpath by roots of Tree T70.**



**Photograph 57 – Group G67, site entrance at southern end of the travel route.**



**Photograph 58 – Tree T71, offsite ash tree with significant signs of dieback and dense ivy cover.**



**Photograph 59 – Historic photograph of Rhondda River Valley (circa 1984), provided by Rhondda Cynon Taff Borough Council**



**Photograph 60 – Historic photograph of Rhondda River Valley (circa 1984), provided by Rhondda Cynon Taff Borough Council**

## APPENDIX VII: PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATION

### Wales

At the time of writing this report, the following National Planning Policy and both primary and European legislation relating to Arboriculture are considered of relevance to this report:

#### Planning Policy

##### **Planning Policy Wales – Edition 12 (February 2024)**

The Planning Policy Wales (PPW) document was updated on the 24th of February 2024 and sets out the Government's planning policies for Wales and how these should be applied.

Section 4, Paragraph 4.1.21 states that: “Well integrated green infrastructure, such as SUDS, street trees and verges, not only create a pleasant environment but can also achieve a range of other benefits, including pollutant filtering, urban cooling, water management and habitat creation. Such features should be included as part of a well-designed street layout.”

Section 1, Paragraph 4.1.45 states that: “Manual for Streets and the Active Travel Design Guidance provide advice on reducing the speed and volume of motor vehicles. This includes creating connected and permeable road networks, with filtered permeability to prioritise walking and cycling, and careful consideration of issues such as street layout and dimensions, and the design and location of footways (including use of continuous footways at side streets), crossings, parking, trees, planters and surface materials.”

Section 6 “Green Infrastructure”, Paragraph 6.2.1 states that: “Green infrastructure is the network of natural and seminatural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places. Component elements of green infrastructure can function at different scales and some components, such as trees and woodland, are often universally present and function at all levels. At the landscape scale green infrastructure can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways, peatlands and mountain ranges or be connected networks of mosaic habitats, including grasslands. At a local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, ponds, natural green spaces, public rights of way, allotments, cemeteries and gardens or may be designed or managed features such as sustainable drainage systems. At smaller scales, individual urban interventions such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls can all contribute to green infrastructure networks.”

Paragraph 6.4.15 “The Step-Wise Approach”, section 1b) states that: “Proposals in statutory designated sites are, as a matter of principle, unacceptable and therefore must be excluded from site searches undertaken by developers. This principle also extends to those sites containing protected species and habitats which are irreplaceable (129) Habitats, including the natural resources which underpin them, which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. Examples include, ancient woodland and veteran trees, ancient hedgerows, wet woodlands, sand dunes, peatland, species rich grassland, long undisturbed soils, blanket bog, salt marsh and lowland fen.”

Paragraph 6.4.15 “The Step-Wise Approach”, section 2) states that: “When all locational, siting and design options for avoiding damage to biodiversity have been exhausted, applicants, in discussion with planning authorities, must seek to minimise the initial impact on biodiversity and ecosystems by: “retaining existing features, develop a management plan for their future care (e.g., trees, hedgerows, species rich grasslands, heath, wetlands, ponds and freshwater habitats) and use appropriate buffers to protect these from construction and operational impacts.”

##### **Section 6 “Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows”, Paragraph 6.4.37 states that:**

6.4.37 “Trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland are of great importance for biodiversity. They are important connecting habitats for resilient ecological networks and make an essential wider contribution to landscape character, culture, heritage and sense of place, air quality, recreation and local climate moderation. They also play a vital role in tackling the climate emergency by locking up carbon,

and can provide shade, shelter and foraging opportunities, wider landscape benefits such as air and diffuse pollution interception, natural flood management, and building materials. The importance of trees, in particular urban trees, in creating distinctive and natural places which deliver health and wellbeing benefits to communities, now and in the future should be promoted as part of plan making and decision taking<sup>135</sup>. Planning authorities must promote the planting of new trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland as part of new development.”

6.4.238 “Welsh native tree and hedge species, characteristic of the local area, provide a strong ecosystem resilience function, and they provide resources for local wildlife, particularly other native plants and species. Native tree and hedge species can also complement opportunities for natural regeneration. Alongside broader woodland habitat types, such as wood pasture, parkland and traditional orchards, native tree and hedge species help to define our cultural heritage and landscape, creating a strong sense of place and connection to the past.”

6.4.39 “Planning authorities must protect trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have ecological value, contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality, or perform a beneficial green infrastructure function. Planning authorities should consider the importance of trees and woodland, particularly native woodland and valued trees, and should have regard to local authority tree strategies or SPG and the Green Infrastructure Assessment. Planning authorities should adopt appropriate, locally relevant, time sensitive, minimum tree canopy cover targets for their authority area to guide the protection and where appropriate the expansion of canopy cover. The Green Infrastructure Assessment and tools such as NRW’s Tree Cover in Wales’ Towns and Cities study and Forest Research’s iTree Eco tool will help establish a baseline of canopy cover and guide the identification of appropriate and measurable canopy targets.<sup>137</sup> Tools to help with design and species choice in urban areas are also available.”

6.4.40 “Where trees, woodland and hedgerows are present, their retention, protection and integration should be identified within planning applications. Where surveys identify trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland capable of making a significant contribution to the area, these trees should be retained and protected. The provision of services and utilities infrastructure to the application site should also avoid the loss of trees, woodlands or hedges and must be considered as part of the development proposal; where such trees are lost, they will be subject to the replacement planting ratios set out below.”

6.4.41 “Whilst most focus within the planning system is targeted at urban trees, planning authorities should recognise the importance of trees within the countryside, either as woodlands, within hedgerows and hedge banks, or freestanding trees in fields, or as wood pasture. This is particularly important as the effects of climate change are leading towards pests and diseases that are damaging many of our native species in the rural landscape. Positive mechanisms of rural tree retention should be considered, and measures taken to replace them in an effective and economic manner, either with new planting or by allowing them to grow to their full potential.”

6.4.42 “Permanent removal of trees, woodland and hedgerows will only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined public benefits. Where individual or groups of trees and hedgerows are removed as part of a proposed scheme, planning authorities must first follow the stepwise approach as set out in paragraph 6.4.15. Where loss is unavoidable developers will be required to provide compensatory planting (which is proportionate to the proposed loss as identified through an assessment of green infrastructure. Further advice in relation to ancient woodland is available on NRW’s website. value (including biodiversity, landscape value and carbon capture). Replacement planting shall be at a ratio equivalent to the quality, environmental and ecological importance of the tree(s) lost and this must be preferably onsite, or immediately adjacent to the site, and at a minimum ratio of at least 3 trees of a similar type and compensatory size planted for every 1 lost. Where a woodland or a shelterbelt area is lost as part of a proposed scheme, the compensation planting must be at a scale, design and species mix reflective of that area lost. In such circumstances, the planting rate must be at a minimum of 1600 trees per hectare for broadleaves, and 2500 trees per hectare for conifers. The planting position for each replacement tree

shall be fit to support its establishment and health, and ensure its unconstrained long term growth to optimise the environmental and ecological benefits it affords.”

6.4.43 “Ancient woodland, seminatural woodlands, individual ancient, veteran and heritage trees and ancient hedgerows are irreplaceable natural resources, and have significant landscape, biodiversity and cultural value. Such trees, woodlands and hedgerows are to be afforded protection from development which would result in their loss or deterioration unless very exceptionally there are significant and clearly defined public benefits; this protection must prevent potentially damaging operations and their unnecessary loss. In the case of a site recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, authorities should consider the advice of NRW. Planning authorities should also have regard to the Ancient Tree Inventory, work to improve its completeness and use it to ensure the protection of trees and woodland and identify opportunities for more planting as part of the Green Infrastructure Assessment, particularly in terms of canopy cover.”

6.4.44 “The protection and planting of trees and hedgerows should be delivered, where appropriate, through locally specific strategies and policies, through imposing conditions when granting planning permission, and/or by making Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)<sup>140</sup>. They should also be incorporated into Green Infrastructure Assessments and plans.”

## Legislation

The following summary of legislation in Wales sets out the regulations and legal framework concerning Arboricultural works and legal protection of trees:

### **The Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999 sets out the regulations concerning Tree Preservation Orders, and Trees in Conservation Areas.**

- Trees in a conservation area that are already protected by a Tree Preservation Order are subject to the normal procedures and controls for any tree covered by such an Order.
- Trees in a conservation area that are not protected by an Order are protected by the provisions in section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These provisions require people to notify the local planning authority, using a ‘section 211 notice’, 6 weeks before carrying out certain work on such trees, unless an exception applies. The work may go ahead before the end of the 6 week period if the local planning authority gives consent. This notice period gives the authority an opportunity to consider whether to make an Order on the tree.
- If a tree in a conservation area is removed, uprooted or destroyed in contravention of section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the landowner has a duty to plant another tree of an appropriate size and species at the same place as soon as he or she reasonably can. The same duty applies if a tree in a conservation area is removed because it is dead or presents an immediate risk of serious harm. The duty attaches to subsequent owners of the land.

### **Forestry Act 1967 (as amended) sets out the regulations and legal operations concerning the felling of trees in the UK. The felling of growing trees in England is controlled by the Forestry Act 1967 (the Act).**

- The Forestry Commission (FC) is the government regulator that implements and enforces the provisions of the Act. The Act states that a felling licence is required to fell any growing tree(s) in England unless an exception applies.
- There are several exceptions to the need for a licence, broadly based on the type and species, location and size of the tree, the scale, nature and scope of the felling activity, and person responsible for the felling.
- These exceptions are primarily set out in section 9 of the Act as well as the Forestry (Exceptions from Restriction of Felling) Regulations 1979. You can find an accessible summary of these exemptions in the FC booklet ‘Tree felling: getting permission’.

- Felling trees without the authority of a felling licence where one was required (i.e. no exception applies), is an offence under section 17 of the Act.
- Should a landowner / tree feller wish to fell trees utilising one or more of the exceptions set out in the Act, it is established through case law that the burden of proof lies with the landowner / tree feller to evidence that the exception applied. The FC need only demonstrate that the felling was of sufficient volume to have required a felling licence, and that no felling licence was in place. This is known as a reserve burden of proof.
- When the FC is informed of unlicensed tree felling, an assessment of the felling will be undertaken. If the FC is of the opinion that it appears an offence has been committed, the FC may refer the case for prosecution and / or secure the restocking of a felled site by serving a Restocking Notice in accordance with section 17A of the Act.
- Forestry (Exceptions from Restriction of Felling) Regulations 1979 sets out legal exceptions to the Forestry Act, where a Felling Licence is not required for certain felling operations.

**Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 sets out the regulations for forestry projects, including deforestation. The Forestry Commission is the Relevant Authority for the EIA Regs. This includes the permanent or semi-permanent loss of woodland cover.**

- Clearing an area of woodland over time, through continued and lawful use of an exception to the need for a felling licence, but without the permission to permanent deforest that area of land, may constitute an offence under the EIA Regs. Failure to seek consent where it is required under the EIA Regs may also result in enforcement action being taken by the Forestry Commission.

**The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (as amended) sets out the legal protection of hedgerows, including the criteria for 'importance' and process for an application to remove a hedgerow.**

**The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) sets out the legal protection of all wild birds, including those which may be nesting in trees. It is an offence to:**

- kill, injure or take wild birds;
- take, damage or destroy the nests of species that reuse them, such as osprey;
- take, damage or destroy a nest that's in use or being built;
- take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;
- possess or control any wild bird (alive or dead);
- possess or control an egg or any part of an egg of a wild bird;

**Additional protection applies to birds listed in schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb a schedule 1 bird:**

- on or near a nest containing eggs or young;
- when it's building a nest;
- or its dependent young.

**The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) together with the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) sets out the legal protection of all bat species and their roosts, including roosts which may occur in trees. This means you may be committing a criminal offence if you:**

- Deliberately take , injure or kill a wild bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats.

- Damage or destroy a place used by bats for breeding or resting (roosts) (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)
- Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat of a species found in the wild in the EU (dead or alive) or any part of a bat.
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.

## APPENDIX VIII: RECORDS OF ANCIENT SEMI-NATURAL WOODLAND

