

Tree Condition Survey Report

Client - Royston Town Council
Site - Green Walk and Stile Plantation
Doc. Ref. - P2292-TCS22
Survey Date - 17/03/22

W. www.lignaconsultancy.co.uk
E. info@lignaconsultancy.co.uk
T. 01284 598008

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PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This purpose of this document is to highlight management recommendations for each of the site's trees/group of trees.

Recommended works are aimed at the following criteria:

- The requirements for access to the tree for future site maintenance.
- Reducing the health and safety risk to the public posed by trees to an acceptable level.
- Reducing the potential for damage to property by trees, especially where close to houses, carparks or fence lines.
- Eliminating trees which have the potential to cause significant health and safety hazards.
- Eliminating inappropriate trees (e.g. tree species that are well known to have safety issues)

1. SUMMARY

1.1 BRIEF

- 1.1.1 Ligna Consultancy Ltd were instructed to undertake a visual condition assessment of the site's tree population; creating an inventory of all significant trees, identifying and assessing possible risks, and specifying any recommended remedial works.
- 1.1.2 This document highlights works that are deemed to be necessary in order to maintain the tree population responsibly and in accordance with relevant legal obligations.

1.2 SITE VISIT

- 1.2.1 The author of this report, P. Goldsmith, visited the site and undertook a visual assessment of the condition of the site's tree population on 17/03/22.

1.3 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS & CONSERVATION AREAS

- 1.3.1 It is understood that there are no protected trees present within the site.

1.4 TREE SURVEY SUMMARY

- 1.4.1 The following table highlights the numbers of trees and groups recorded as part of the survey, and the number of trees/groups requiring management and/or safety related works:

Tree Inventory	No.
Individual Trees	14
Hedges & Groups	2
Woodland Groups	0

Priority of Works	No.
Overdue	0
Due	0
1 Week	0
2 Months	8
6 Months	6
12 Months	0
24 Months	0
IBA (if budget allows)	2
Trees / groups with recommended works	16

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 BRIEF

- 2.1.1 Ligna Consultancy Ltd were instructed to undertake a visual condition assessment of the site's tree population; creating an inventory of all significant trees, identifying and assessing possible risks, and specifying any recommended remedial works.
- 2.1.2 This document highlights works that are deemed to be necessary in order to maintain the tree population responsibly and in accordance with relevant legal obligations.

2.2 SITE

- 2.2.1 The sites discussed within this report is located at:
Green Walk Plantation (SG8 9ET),
Stile Plantation (SG8 9HR),
Royston.
- 2.2.2 The author of this report, P. Goldsmith, visited the site and undertook a visual assessment of the condition of the site's tree population on the 17/03/22.

2.3 SCOPE OF REPORT

- 2.3.1 This report consists of the following:
- Tree survey summary
 - Tree survey methodology
 - Recommendations
 - General site management recommendations
 - Work specification schedule - Individual trees & Group trees
 - Appendix 1
 - Survey schedule - Individual trees & Group trees
 - Appendix 2
 - Tree Location Plan - Green Walk and Stile Plantation (P2292-TLP22)

2.4 AUTHOR

- 2.4.1 Paul Goldsmith has been involved in arboriculture since 2002, working as an arborist for most of this time. He is a professional member of the Arb Association (MARborA) and possesses Lantra PTI certification. His work has included the practical elements of arboriculture and supervisory roles, working with teams on commercial, domestic and street trees. Paul has a keen and active interest in tree issues including fungi, and has always kept up to date with current developments and research. A full CV and list of experience and CPD is available on request.

2.5 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS & CONSERVATION AREAS

- 2.5.1 It is understood that there are no protected trees present within the site.

2.6 NESTING BIRDS / BATS

- 2.6.1 Officially, the 'Bird Nesting Season' is between February and August (Natural England). During this time, it is recommended that vegetation works (tree or hedge cutting) or site clearance is avoided if there is a reasonable potential for the disruption of nesting birds.
- 2.6.2 All parties involved in the management and/or development of a site must actively avoid causing disturbance and disruption to nesting birds. Failure to do this may result in an infringement of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the European Habitats Directive 1992 / Nesting Birds Directive.
- 2.6.3 When tree or vegetation clearance work has to be undertaken during the nesting season, a pre works survey needs to be carried out by a suitably competent person.

2.7 LIMITATIONS

- 2.7.1 Information provided by third parties, considered in the creation of this report, is assumed to be correct.
- 2.7.2 Trees are dynamic structures that can never be guaranteed as 100% safe; even those in good condition can suffer damage under average conditions.
- 2.7.3 This report considers the risks posed by the presence of the tree/trees in their current condition, only. Any impacts of tree retention or removal on soil heave/subsidence should be considered by an expert in soil shrinkage and its impact on structures.

2.8 COPYRIGHT

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3. TREE SURVEY

3.1 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 All observations were from ground level without detailed or invasive investigations, unless otherwise stated.
- 3.1.2 Where appropriate, measurements were taken using a laser clinometer. Where this was not necessary, possible, or reasonably practical, measurements were estimated by eye.
- 3.1.3 Only defects and features which were considered to pose a notable risk to the safety of people and property within the site were noted.
- 3.1.4 The trees were surveyed and assessed impartially.
- 3.1.5 Tree locations were recorded using GNSS.
- 3.1.6 Trees may be recorded as group or woodland where:
- The canopies touch.
 - The trees have more group value than individual merit.
 - They are part of a formal landscape feature like an avenue.
 - It is impractical to record them individually.
- 3.1.7 Trees within groups or woodlands etc. are recorded individually where it is necessary to distinguish them from others.

3.2 SURVEY KEY & GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
Ref.	Tree reference number
Tag	Physical tag attached to some trees with unique identification number (not the same as Ref.)
Height	The measured/estimated height of the tree (measured in metres)
Branch Spread	The estimated average length of a tree's branches from stem to tip.
Life Stage	A quantification of a trees' state of physical maturity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly planted • Young • Semi-mature • Early-mature • Mature • Late-mature • Veteran
Structural	Summary statement relating to the structural condition of a tree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good (no apparent problems / normal optimal condition for a tree of its species.) • Fair (minor problems, no instabilities) • Poor (major problems, potential instabilities) • Unstable (extreme problems, likely to result in failure)

Vitality	<p>Summary statement relating to the overall observed vitality of a tree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good (no apparent problems / normal optimal vitality for a tree of its species) • Fair (minor / temporary reduction in tree vitality) • Poor (major reduction in tree vitality, often with some branch dieback) • Dead / Dying (extreme / total reduction in tree vitality)
Modified QTRA	<p>Quantitative Risk Assessment of Trees – Assessed in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadly Acceptable - No significant hazards - No safety works required. • Tolerable - Hazard present but safety works are not yet required (although may be prudent if budget allows). • Tolerable - Hazard present context of tree makes harm unlikely. • Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.
Recommendations	Works to the tree that would benefit its long-term condition and/or prevent significant defects from developing, or for aesthetic purposes.
SAD	The safe actionable date (SAD) for tree work recommendations
Priority	The timeframe in which the reactive tree works should be undertaken to avoid being negligent.

3.3 SURVEY SUMMARY

3.3.1 The following table highlights the numbers of trees and groups recorded as part of the survey, and the number of trees/groups requiring management and/or safety related works.

Tree Inventory	No.
Individual Trees	14
Hedges & Groups	2
Woodland Groups	0

Priority of Works	No.
Overdue	0
Due	0
1 Week	0
2 Months	8
6 Months	6
12 Months	0
24 Months	0
IBA (if budget allows)	2
Trees / Groups with recommended works	16

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The works listed in the following sections should be undertaken within the stated timeframe. It is recommended that the works are undertaken by suitably qualified and insured tree surgeons.

Work priority has been allocated according to the following factors:

- 1) Risk level*
- 2) Good arboricultural management*
- 3) Spreading of annual costs*

Works listed as 'IBA are works that are in the interests of good general management but do not pose a notable risk to people or property. It is recommended that these works are undertaken within 2 years where budgets allow, however, time prioritised works should be undertaken first.

4.1 GENERAL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1.1 A repeat tree survey should be undertaken in approximately 24 months.
- 4.1.2 It is recommended that 50mm deep mulch/woodchip is used around the base of tree stems as an alternative to using chemical weedkiller or strimming.
- 4.1.3 Deadwood is widely recognised as a valuable part of our ecosystem. It provides a habitat for a diverse range of wildlife. When deadwood is removed, wherever possible it should be stacked on site close to its tree of origin. To reduce the likelihood of vandalism or unauthorised removal it should be left in the largest pieces possible, this has the added advantage of retaining the benefits for the longest possible time frame.

Work Specification - Individual Trees

Ref.	Tag	Species	Height	Branch Spread (radius)	Life Stage	Vitality	Structural	Additional Notes	QTRA	Recommendations	Priority	Due Date
T2	9 3 8 5	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	8-12 m	5	Late-Mature	Poor	Poor	Significant decay in main stem.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Reduce to 4m habitat stem.	2 Months	May-22
T3	9 3 9 6	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	8-12 m	5	Late-Mature	Dead/Dying	Poor	Twin stemmed tree. Advance stages of decline.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Reduce to two 4m habitat stems.	2 Months	May-22
T4	9 3 8 7	Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea (Copper beech)	8-12 m	4	Mature	Good	Fair	Lodged scaffolding failure.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Remove failed section.	2 Months	May-22
T5	9 3 3 7	Ulmus spp. (Elm)	12-15 m	7	Early-Mature	Good	Fair	Bark included union at base of stem.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Brace stems at 7m	2 Months	May-22
T6	9 3 4 3	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	12-15 m	5	Late-Mature	Fair	Fair	Major deadwood and Scaffolding failure over path.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Remove significant deadwood and Scaffolding failure	2 Months	May-22
T8	9 3 3 8	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	12-15 m	8	Late-Mature	Poor	Poor	Twin stemmed. Bark included union at 1.5m. Fungal fruiting bodies, Major deadwood on East stem. Suppressed West stem with over extended limbs. Tree in decline.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Reduce East stem to lowest limb. Reduce the two significant limbs on West stem back to first tertiary branches.	2 Months	May-22
T9	9 3 8 4	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	12-15 m	8	Late-Mature	Good	Fair	Decay hollow at base of stem - tap tested ok. Scaffolding failure over tennis courts.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Remove failed section.	2 Months	May-22

Work Specification - Individual Trees

Ref.	Tag	Species	Height	Branch Spread (radius)	Life Stage	Vitality	Structural	Additional Notes	QTRA	Recommendations	Priority	Due Date
T104	9 3 4 7	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	15-20 m	10	Late-Mature	Fair	Poor	Multiple Fungal fruiting bodies - Ganoderma resinaceum. Significant decay in buttress roots - probed 500mm. Tap tested -Hollow sound indicating decay column to approx. 500mm above Fungal fruiting bodies.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Reduce entire crown by 5m all over.	2 Months	May-22
T1	9 3 5 8	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	8-12 m	4	Early-Mature	Good	Fair	Lodged scaffolding failure.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Remove failed section.	6 Months	Sep-22
T7	9 3 1 7	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	8-12 m	4	Late-Mature	Poor	Poor	Significant decay in top of main stem.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Reduce to 6m habit stem.	6 Months	Sep-22
T10	9 3 4 0	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	8-12 m	5	Mature	Good	Poor	Twin Stemmed. Decay hollow at base. Asymmetric crown weighted over tennis courts.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Pollard to 6m stems.	6 Months	Sep-22
T101	9 3 1 8	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	15-20 m	10	Late-Mature	Good	Fair	Major deadwood over garden North.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Remove significant deadwood.	6 Months	Sep-22
T102	9 3 7 2	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	12-15 m	6	Mature	Good	Fair	Twin stemmed. Bark included union at base.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Brace stems at 6m.	6 Months	Sep-22
T103	9 3 3 4	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	15-20 m	8	Late-Mature	Good	Fair	Bark included union at 4m.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Brace stems at 12m.	6 Months	Sep-22

5. APPENDICES

5.1 APPENDICES

5.1.1 The following appendices are included within this document:

Appendix	Document
1	Survey Schedule - Individual Trees & Group Trees
2	Tree Location Plans - Green Walk and Stile Plantation (P2292-TLP22)

APPENDIX 1 - SCHEDULE OF TREES

Ref.	Tag	Species	Height	Branch Spread (radius)	Life Stage	Vitality	Structural	Additional Notes	QTRA	Recommendations	Priority	Due Date
T1	9 3 5 8	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	8-12 m	4	Early-Mature	Good	Fair	Lodged scaffolding failure.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Remove failed section.	6 Months	Sep-22
T2	9 3 8 5	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	8-12 m	5	Late-Mature	Poor	Poor	Significant decay in main stem.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Reduce to 4m habitat stem.	2 Months	May-22
T3	9 3 9 6	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	8-12 m	5	Late-Mature	Dead/Dying	Poor	Twin stemmed tree. Advance stages of decline.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Reduce to two 4m habitat stems.	2 Months	May-22
T4	9 3 8 7	Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea (Copper beech)	8-12 m	4	Mature	Good	Fair	Lodged scaffolding failure.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Remove failed section.	2 Months	May-22
T5	9 3 3 7	Ulmus spp. (Elm)	12-15 m	7	Early-Mature	Good	Fair	Bark included union at base of stem.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Brace stems at 7m	2 Months	May-22
T6	9 3 4 3	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	12-15 m	5	Late-Mature	Fair	Fair	Major deadwood and Scaffolding failure over path.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Remove significant deadwood and Scaffolding failure	2 Months	May-22
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T101	9 3 1 8	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	15-20 m	10	Late-Mature	Good	Fair	Major deadwood over garden North.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Remove significant deadwood.	6 Months	Sep-22
T102	9 3 7 2	Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)	12-15 m	6	Mature	Good	Fair	Twin stemmed. Bark included union at base.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Brace stems at 6m.	6 Months	Sep-22
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T104	9 3 4 7	Fagus sylvatica (Beech)	15-20 m	10	Late-Mature	Fair	Poor	Multiple Fungal fruiting bodies - Ganoderma resinaceum. Significant decay in buttress roots - probed 500mm. Tap tested -Hollow sound indicating decay column to approx. 500mm above Fungal fruiting bodies.	Unacceptable - Presence of hazard is unacceptable - Works are required.	Reduce entire crown by 5m all over.	2 Months	May-22

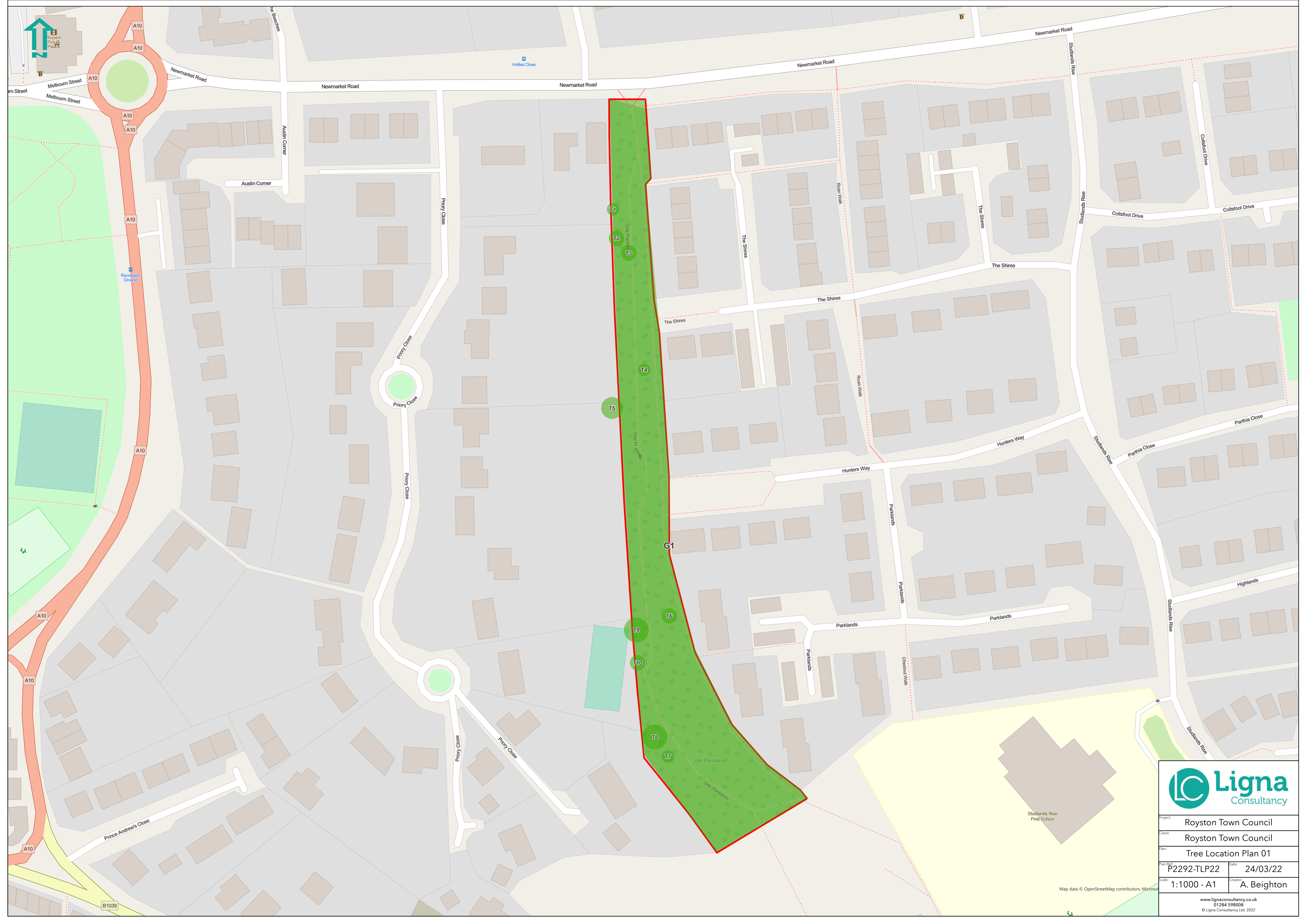
APPENDIX 1 - SCHEDULE OF GROUP TREES

Ref.	Tag	Species	Height	Branch Spread (radius)	Life Stage	Vitality	Structural	Additional Notes	QTRA	Recommendations	Priority	Due Date
G1		Mixed native trees	12-15 m	-	Mature	Fair	Fair	Group contains a mix of understorey specimens (Hawthorn, Snowberry, Hazel and Holly), self-set saplings from the woodland species and larger mature woodland specimens. Some specimens have failed or contain moderate deadwood (considered normal for situation). Significant issues listed separately.	Tolerable - Hazard present context of tree makes harm unlikely.	Stack deadwood from tree work to trees. Instal nesting/roost boxes.	IBA	
G2		Mixed native trees	12-15 m	-	Mature	Fair	Fair	Group contains a mix of understorey specimens (Hawthorn, Snowberry, Hazel, Holly and Privet), self-set saplings from the woodland species and larger mature woodland specimens. Some specimens have failed or contain moderate deadwood (considered normal for situation). Significant issues listed separately.	Tolerable - Hazard present context of tree makes harm unlikely.	Stack deadwood from tree work to trees. Instal nesting/roost boxes.	IBA	



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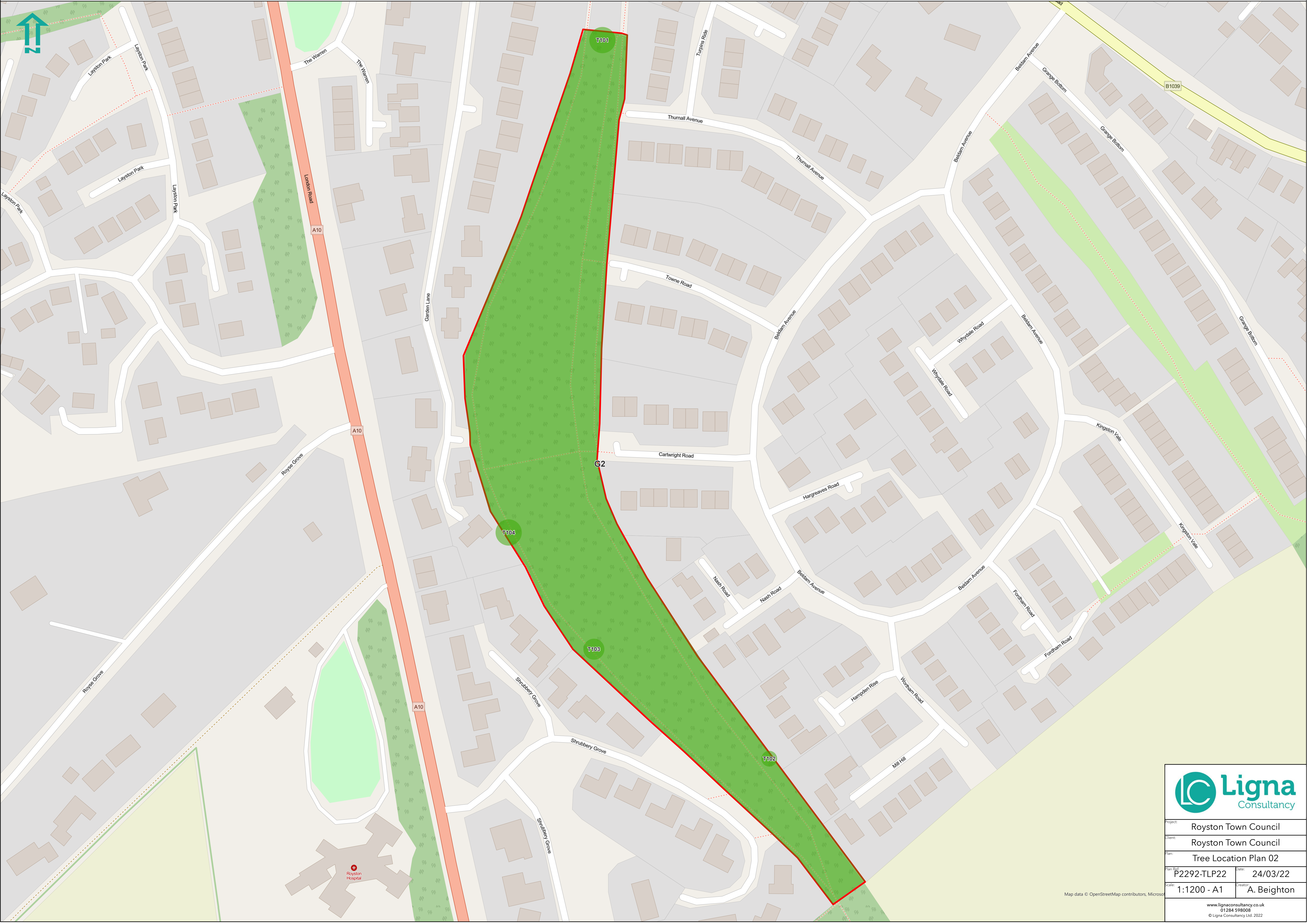
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Project: Royston Town Council
Client: Royston Town Council
Plan: Tree Location Plan 01
Plan Ref: P2292-TLP22 Date: 24/03/22
Scale: 1:1000 - A1 Creator: A. Beighton

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Project: Royston Town Council
Client: Royston Town Council
Plan: Tree Location Plan 02
Plan Ref: P2292-TLP22
Scale: 1:1200 - A1
Date: 24/03/22
Creator: A. Beighton

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