



Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Method Statement

**Whitburn Cricket Club
(2026)**

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Executive Summary

- ES1** This Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared in accordance with *BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.
- ES2** Arbux was commissioned to produce this report by Gary Craig Architectural Services to accompany a planning application for proposed hardstanding works at Whitburn Cricket Club.
- ES3** Three individual trees were surveyed, including one off-site tree (T3). No tree removal is required to facilitate the proposal.
- ES4** A crown lift of the overhanging crown of T3 is recommended, to provide 3m clearance above ground level.
- ES5** The proposed hardstanding will impact upon the RPA of T1, T2 and T3. Whilst the extent of RPA affected falls within the acceptable threshold, a reduction in ground level is likely in these areas.
- ES6** Mitigation has been recommended to protect retained trees from the following identified potential impacts:
- Direct tree damage and compaction within RPA (outside existing hardstanding areas) – Temporary protective fencing.
 - Proposed hardstanding within RPA – Sensitive working measures under arboricultural supervision.
- ES7** Potential impacts to retained arboricultural features can be minimised with the installation of temporary protection. Sensitive working methods, including arboricultural supervision, is likely to reduce disturbance within the RPA.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Instruction & Scope

1.1.1 Arbux was commissioned to produce this Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) by Gary Craig Architectural Services to accompany a planning application for proposed hardstanding works at Whitburn Cricket Club.

1.1.2 The survey was undertaken by Liam Robson MArborA on 24th August 2026.

1.2 Survey Details & Methodology

1.2.1 The survey and report were undertaken under guidance of *BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*.

1.2.2 In accordance with *BS5837:2012*, the purpose of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment is to survey arboricultural features within proximity of proposed development and assess how these features may be impacted and, if identified, mitigated for, with protection or sensitive working measures. The report also identifies features that require removal to facilitate a proposed development and assesses these impacts.

1.2.3 Where identified, the Arboricultural Method Statement provides a recommended methodology of works, which may include tree protection and sensitive working measures.

1.2.4 Trees growing as groups or woodlands may be identified and assessed collectively where it is deemed appropriate or necessary due to limitations. The report will also include off-site trees and hedgerows, where necessary.

1.2.5 The quality of each individual tree, group of trees, woodland and hedgerow is allocated to one of four main categories, which is then sub-divided into three further

subcategories. This produces the tree quality assessment output. The categories and their criteria are shown in **Appendix 1 – Tree Quality Assessment – Cascade Chart**.

- 1.2.6 RPA for all trees and groups have been calculated in accordance with BS5837:2012 and plotted on both **Appendix 3 – Tree Constraints Plan** and **Appendix 4 – Tree Protection Plan**. Typically, the RPA is shown as a red circle centred on the base of the tree stem. Where site conditions indicate that root distribution is likely to differ, modifications may be made to the plotted RPA. The RPA should be used as a design tool which ideally excludes proposed construction from the area where possible and/or feasible.
- 1.2.7 The canopy spread for all surveyed features have been measured and are shown on **Appendix 3 – Tree Constraints Plan** and **Appendix 4 – Tree Protection Plan** as a green outline (note alternative symbol for trees to be removed). The spread may be estimated in some areas due to on-site limitations.
- 1.2.8 For off-site surveyed trees, the stated crown clearance (m) relates to the lowest canopy height over the site, where applicable.

1.3 Limitations

- 1.3.1 This report is valid for 24 months from the survey date, as stated in section 1.1.2. Should this time lapse, the project arboriculturist should be consulted, as a re-survey of the site may be required.
- 1.3.2 Where accurate survey data could not be gathered, such as for off-site and inaccessible trees, the estimated data is suffixed with '#' in **Appendix 2 – Tree Schedule**.

2.0 Site

2.1 Existing Site

2.1.1 The site comprises Whitburn Cricket Club.

2.2 Proposed Site

2.2.1 The proposals involve the installation of new hardstanding to the front and north west of the existing clubhouse.

3.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

3.0.1 In accordance with *BS5837:2012*, the purpose of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment is to survey arboricultural features within proximity of proposed development and assess how these features may be impacted and, if identified, mitigated for, with protection or sensitive working measures. The report also identifies features that require removal to facilitate a proposed development and assesses these impacts.

3.1 Surveyed Features

3.1.1 Three individual trees were surveyed. **Table 1** below shows the tree quality category of the surveyed features, to *BS 5837:2012*.

Table 1 – Categorisation of surveyed arboricultural features.

Tree/Group/Hedgerow Number	Tree Quality Category
None	A
T1, T2, T3	B
None	C
None	U

3.1.2 T3 was situated off-site to the adjacent north of the site boundary.

3.2 Tree Removal Impacts & Compensatory Planting

3.2.1 No trees will be removed to facilitate the proposal.

3.2.2 No replacement planting is required to mitigate for the impacts.

3.3 Potential Impacts Upon Retained Trees & Mitigatory Measures

3.3.1 Retained trees are vulnerable to damage from compaction and ground disturbance within the RPA, and/or direct damage of limbs, branches and main stems during the works. The installation of protective fencing is recommended in **Section 4.0 – Arboricultural Method Statement** to 'exclude' the trees, including the RPA as far as practical, from the working zone. The location of the protection is to be reviewed and confirmed prior to the commencement of works.

3.3.2 New block-paved hardstanding will breach the RPA of T1, T2 and T3. Whilst the proportion of RPA affected is within the acceptable threshold, the design is likely to require a reduction in ground levels to facilitate the installation, which may result in root disturbance in these areas. It is of note that stone balustrading provided the boundary extent adjacent to the proposed works, which separated the site from T3. Whilst the depth of foundation to support the balustrading is unknown, it is likely that root encroachment on site is consequentially limited to an extent. Whilst disturbance within the RPA is likely to facilitate the installation, sensitive working measures are detailed within **Section 4.0 – Arboricultural Impact Assessment**, to minimise the potential impacts.

3.4 Tree Pruning

3.4.1 Facilitative pruning of T3 is required to alleviate encroachment on the site and to allow for the proposed installation of hardstanding. Details of the pruning are provided in **Section 4.0 – Arboricultural Method Statement**. A crown lift has previously been undertaken and so the recommended pruning can be achieved through the removal of secondary branches and epicormic shoots, which is likely to constitute a negligible impact.

3.5 Post Development Impacts

3.5.1 No significant post development impacts are anticipated.

3.6 Potential Impacts - Conclusion

3.6.1 Should the proposed hardstanding be installed using a sensitive methodology, it is likely that impacts to retained trees are minimal.

4.0 Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

4.0.1 The AMS provides details of mitigatory measures to help protect retained trees/features on site.

4.0.2 Copies of this document will be accessible on site at all times.

4.1 Tree/Hedgerow Removal

4.1.1 No trees will be removed.

4.2 Tree Pruning

4.2.1 The pruning of T3 should be undertaken prior to commencement of any works.

4.2.2 The pruning works should be crown lifted, over-site only, to provide 3m clearance above the existing ground level. This can be achieved through the pruning of secondary branches and epicormic shoots.

4.2.3 Tree pruning works should be undertaken by a suitably qualified and competent arborists, working under guidance of BS3998:2010 – Tree Work – Recommendations.

4.3 Tree Protection – Protective Fencing

4.3.1 Following the tree pruning works, temporary protective fencing should be installed to 'exclude' the trees and features to be retained as far as practical during all construction works on site. This includes exclusion of the RPA as far as practical. The location is shown on **Appendix 4 – Tree Protection Plan**.

4.3.2 The protection should be fit for the purpose of the construction activity and appropriate to the extent and proximity of work taking place around retained features. A specification as shown in **Figure 1a** and **Figure 1b** is recommended to be installed where space allows. Where space does not allow for the recommended fencing specification, the project arboriculturist should advise on a suitable alternative.

- 4.3.3 Excepting site hoarding, fencing specifications should consist of 2m mesh panels and braced together with anti-tamper bolted couplers. The fencing will be braced to the ground as per the recommended specification.
- 4.3.4 Once installed, the protective fencing will remain in place for the duration of the construction works. If a change to the location of the protective fencing is required, prior consultation should be sought with the project arboriculturist and the local authority.
- 4.3.5 All-weather notices should be attached to the fencing at regular intervals to state that the area is an exclusion zone and there is to be no removal of the protection and/or access until the works are complete. The attached notices should have words such as "CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION ZONE – NO ACCESS".
- 4.3.6 Site hoarding, if used on site, must ensure that the trees (including their RPA and canopy) are excluded from the construction site. The use of hoarding as an alternative method of protection should be reviewed and confirmed with the project arboriculturist prior to the commencement of works, to ensure the trees will be protected.

4.4 Sensitive Works – Proposed Hardstanding Installation

- 4.4.1 New block-paved hardstanding, within the RPA of T1, T2 and T3, should be undertaken using a sensitive methodology under arboricultural supervision.
- 4.4.2 The required reduction in ground level to facilitate the installation should be minimised as far as practical to minimise root disturbance.
- 4.4.3 The removal of surface vegetation and reduction in ground level within the RPA should be hand dug to the required depth only, under arboricultural supervision, whereby the sub base should be laid.

- 4.4.4 Roots should be retained where possible. Where required, root smaller than 25mm diameter may be pruned back using secateurs or handsaw, except when they occur in clumps.
- 4.4.5 Roots exposed during the works should be covered or backfilled immediately, which will be removed when laying the sub base.
- 4.4.6 Where possible, retained roots should be covered with topsoil or an appropriate alternative granular fill. Builder's sand should not be used when backfilling.
- 4.4.7 Kerbs or edging should not require excavation into the soil. Where required, edging should be laid at ground level and pinned into place.
- 4.4.8 It is recommended that the above works within the RPA are undertaken under arboricultural supervision.

4.5 Additional Consideration – Service Installation

- 4.5.1 Trenching for services within the RPA can cause significant root damage and be detrimental to the health and stability of the affected trees, and therefore should be routed to avoid the RPA. Should new service installation be required within the RPA, it is recommended that the project arboriculturist is consulted prior to commencement to assess the impacts upon the trees and to advise on an appropriate installation solution within the RPA. Should service installation be required within the RPA, this document should be updated with site specific advice.

4.6 Additional Consideration – Temporary Site Facilities, Storage & Works

- 4.6.1 The location of on-site temporary site facilities and material storage areas should be situated outside of the protective fencing area and the RPA/canopy of retained trees.
- 4.6.2 Site fires, if required, should be lit away from retained features, where foliage and branches could be affected.

- 4.6.3 Any site materials with the capacity to spill should be stored and used away from the RPA.

4.7 Review

- 4.7.1 The recommendations as described within the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Arboricultural Method Statement should be reviewed in regard to their suitability and feasibility for this project. Any required changes should be consulted with the project arboriculturist prior to the undertaking of any works.

4.8 Arboricultural Supervision

- 4.8.1 Arboricultural supervision is required during all works within the RPA of trees to be retained.

4.9 Site Responsibility

- 4.9.1 The site manager will be responsible for ensuring that all parties working within the development are aware of this document and the measures within.
- 4.9.2 The site manager should record and monitor the measures at frequent intervals of the development to ensure compliance with this document. Dated photographs are recommended to provide specific records of the site as the development progress.
- 4.9.3 It is the responsibility of the site manager contact the project arboriculturist and/or local authority in the event of an unforeseen circumstance with regards to the retained features on site.

4.10 Contingency

- 4.10.1 Arbux Tree Consultancy should be contacted immediately should any unforeseen circumstances occur in relation to the retained features on site. Details for contact are specified below.

4.11 Contact Details

4.11.1 Liam Robson – Arbux Tree Consultancy

Telephone no. – 07741312101

Email: info@arbux.co.uk

Figure 1a – Protective Fencing – Recommended specification for the proposed development.

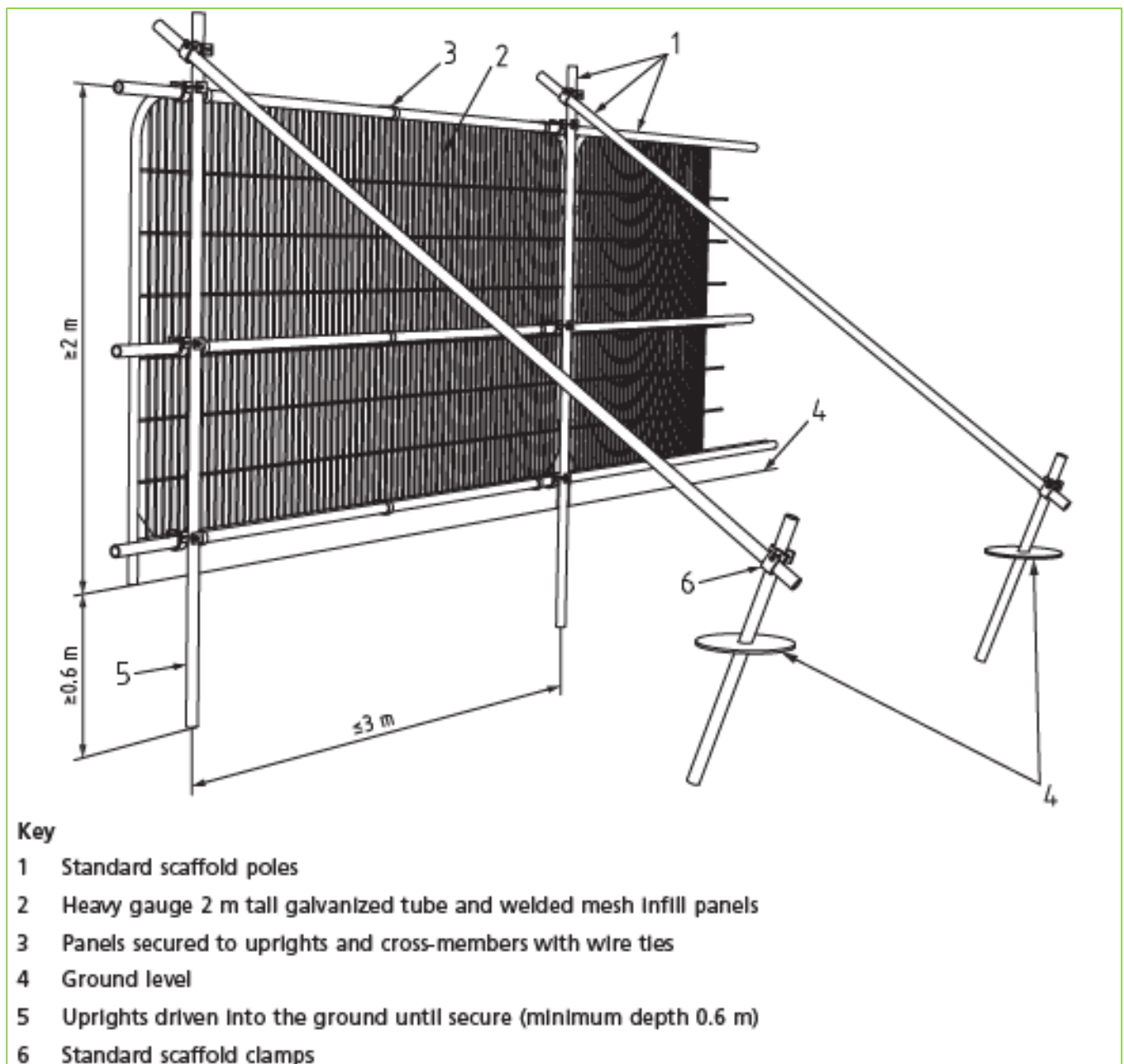
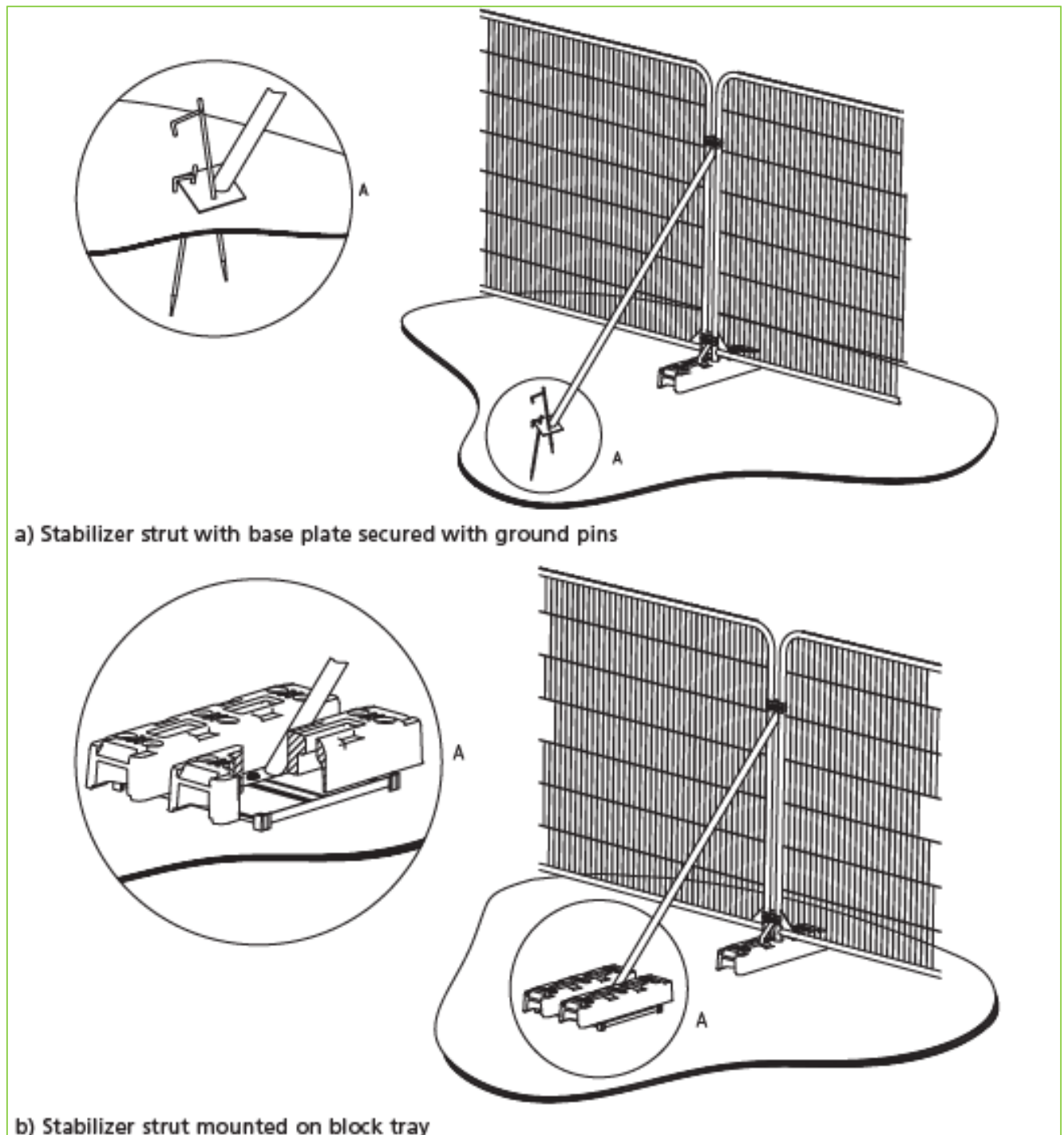


Figure 1b –Protective Fencing – Alternative specification for the proposed development.

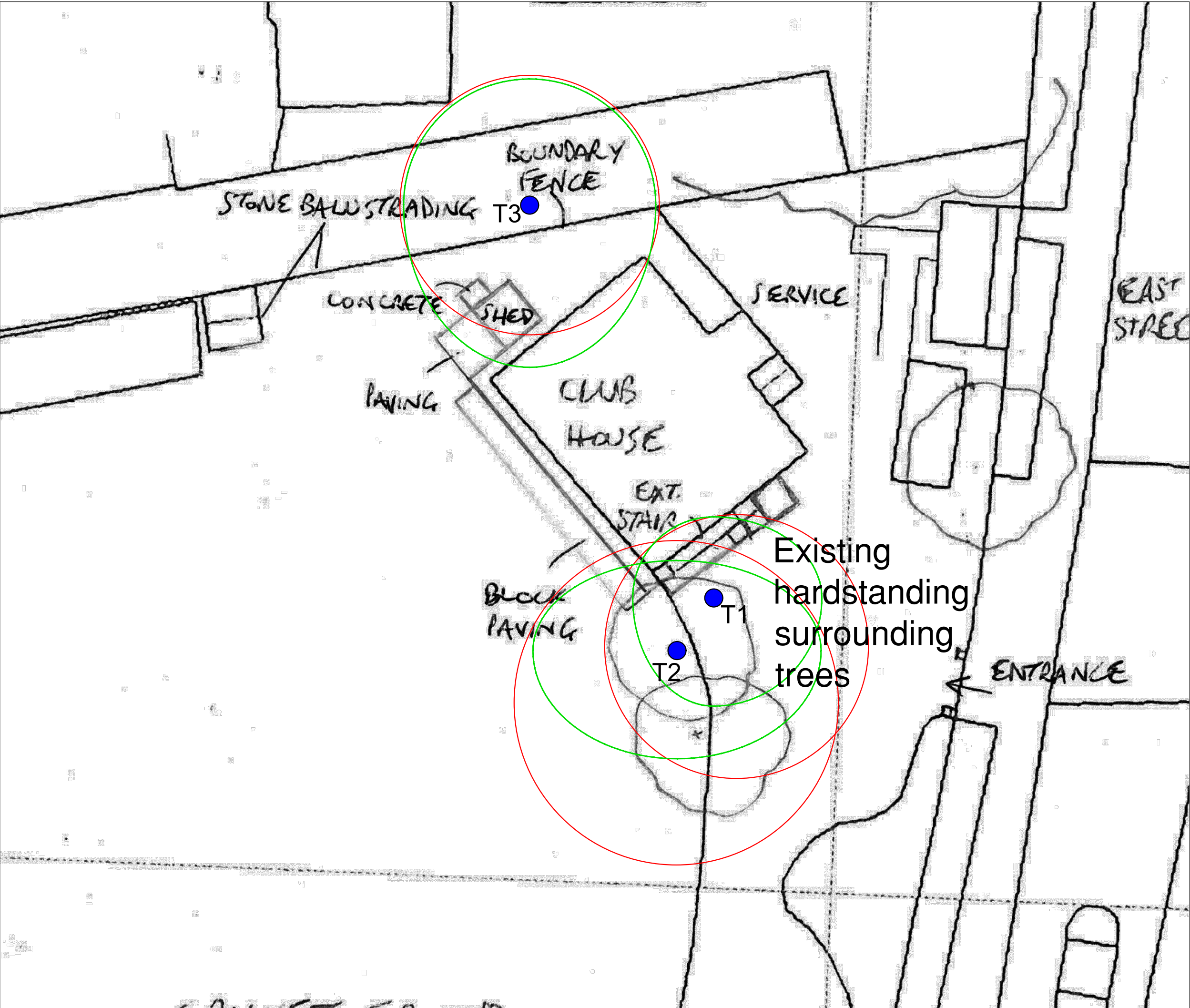


Appendix 1 – Tree Quality Assessment – Cascade Chart. Excerpt from BS 5837:2012.

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)		
Category U 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	• 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) • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline • 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 NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.		
	1 Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 Mainly landscape qualities	3 Mainly cultural values, including conservation
Category A Trees of high quality 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)
Category B Trees of moderate quality 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
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm	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

Appendix 2 – Tree Schedule

ID & No.	Species	Height (m)	Stem diameter (mm)	Canopy Spread (m)				Crown Clearance (m)	Age class	Estimated remaining contribution (Years)	General Comments	Recommendations	BS Tree Quality Category (see Appendix 1)	Root Protection Area (m ²)	Root Protection Radius (m)
				North	East	South	West								
T1	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	16.0	610	4.5	6.0	6.0	4.5	3.0	Mature	40+	No significant observations	<u><i>Sensitive hardstanding installation works within RPA – see Section 4.4</i></u>	B1	168	7.3
T2	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	16.0	750	5.0	8.0	6.0	8.0	2.0	Mature	40+	Two co dominant stems from 1m	<u><i>Sensitive hardstanding installation works within RPA – see Section 4.4</i></u>	B1	254	9.0
T3	Turkey oak (Quercus cerris)	13.0	600	7.0	7.0	9.0	7.0	1.5	Mature	40+	Located off-site in neighbouring land. Low lying crown encroaching shop outbuilding and site	<u><i>Crown lift to provide 3m clearance above ground level</i></u> <u><i>Sensitive hardstanding installation works within RPA – see Section 4.4</i></u>	B1	163	7.2



Appendix 3
Tree Constraints Plan

KEY

Tree Quality Category:

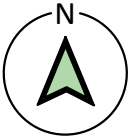
A	B	C	U
			
Crown Spread:		Root Protection Area:	
			

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For:
Gary Craig
Architectural
Services

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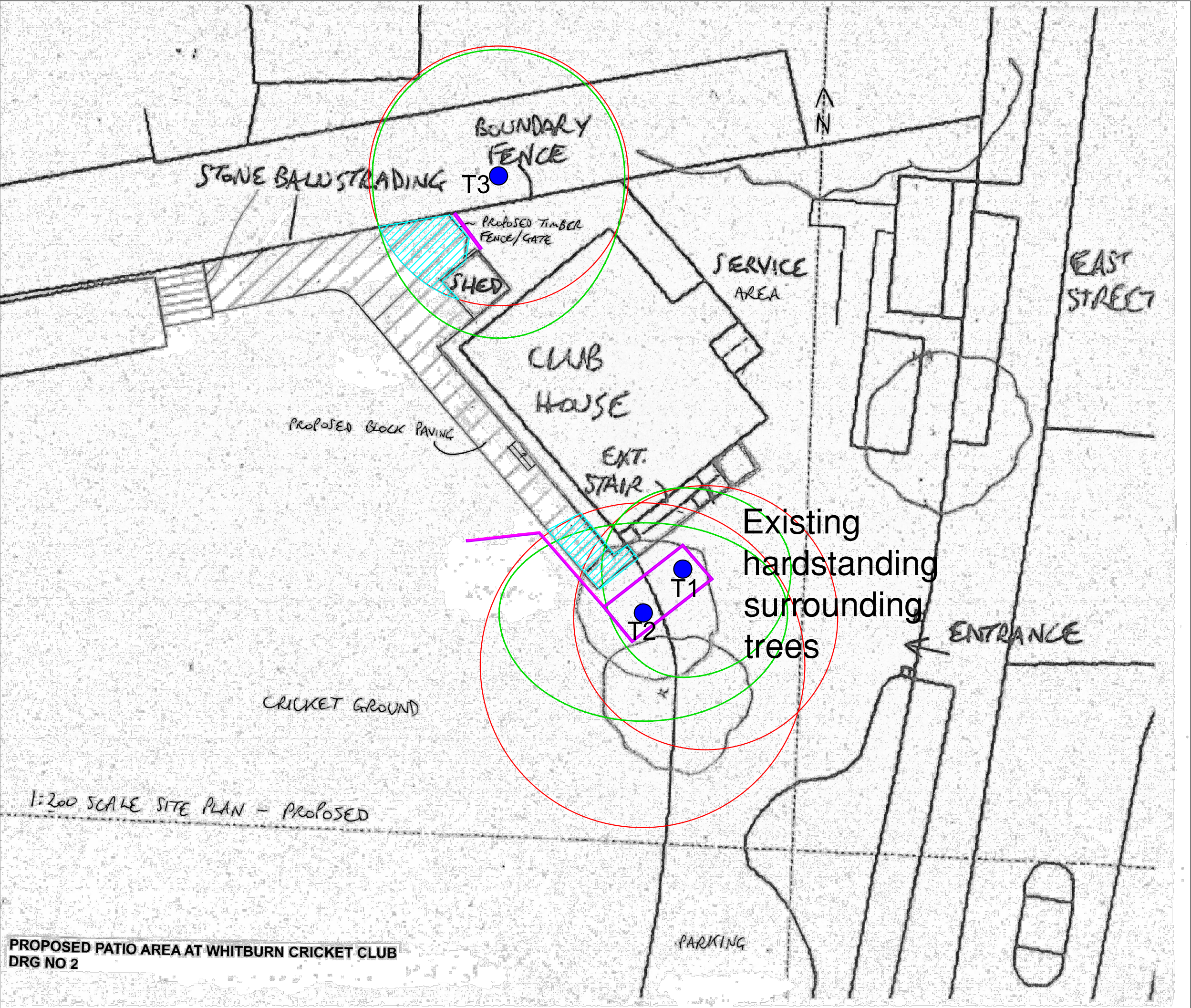
Date: 1st Sep 2026 Scale: 1:200 @ A3



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in colour - a monochrome copy should not
be relied upon.

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PROPOSED PATIO AREA AT WHITBURN CRICKET CLUB
DRG NO 2

Appendix 4
Tree Protection Plan

KEY

Tree Quality Category:

A B C U

Crown Spread: Root Protection Area:

Tree Protection Measures:

Temporary Protective Fencing Sensitive Hardstanding Works

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