



Rhyswg Wind Farm

FINAL DRAFT

**Appendix 8D:
Arboricultural Impact
Assessment
(Incorporating Tree
Protection Measures)**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
Pennant Walters

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APPENDICES

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PLANS

Plan EDP 1: Tree Retention and Removal Plan
(edp6611_d062 08 October 2025 JFr/DGa)

Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 This Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Pennant Walters (the Applicant) in relation to the proposed development of Rhyswg Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as ‘the Site’).
- 1.2 It sets out the nature and extent of tree losses and provides mitigation and protection measures to ensure the viable long-term retention of retained trees in the context of the development proposals.

SITE CONTEXT

- 1.3 The Site is located to the south-east of Abercarn, which is located within the Local Planning Authority of Caerphilly County Borough Council. It currently comprises agricultural land used for pasture.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 1.4 The Proposed Development is a wind farm consisting of a maximum of three wind turbines, each with a three-bladed rotor with a diameter of up to 136m, a hub height of up to 112m and maximum height to blade tip of 180m.
- 1.5 The application also comprises associated infrastructure including:
- Substation and transformer housing;
 - Temporary construction compound;
 - Temporary site offices;
 - Crane pads and cabling; and
 - Access track construction.
- 1.6 This AIA has been prepared using EDP’s arboricultural constraints information contained within the Arboricultural Baseline Note (report reference: edp6611_r005), with the Tree Constraints Plan included. This baseline survey data was collected by EDP in January, February and September 2025.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.7 The purpose of this AIA is to assess the impacts upon the tree stock from the Proposed Development and demonstrate which trees can be retained and which will require removal. In addition, it will provide mitigation measures, such as protective fencing, to

ensure the safe, long-term retention of any retained tree should the development be permitted.

RELEVANT BASELINE DOCUMENTS

- 1.8 EDP's Arboricultural Baseline Note (report reference: edp6611_r005) is relevant to the provisions of this AIA and this AIA should be read in conjunction with it where applicable.
- 1.9 The following best practice guidance and informative standards are relevant to the provisions of the AIA and should be read in conjunction with the AIA where applicable:
- *BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations*. BSI 2012; and
 - *BS 3998:2010 Tree Work - Recommendations*. BSI 2010.

Section 2 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

- 2.1 This AIA has been prepared following site-based observations, a desktop study of the baseline survey data and consideration of the Site Layout Plan (**Appendix EDP 1**). In particular, it relates to the Tree Constraints Plan contained within the Arboricultural Baseline Note (report reference: edp6611_r005), which is overlaid onto the proposed Site Layout Plan. The resulting drawing is a Tree Retention and Removal Plan (**Plan EDP 1**).
- 2.2 This AIA recognises that construction activities pose a threat to subject trees if treated inappropriately and assesses the likely impacts of the proposals on the tree stock and, where appropriate, provides mitigation with the view of achieving a harmonious relationship between the trees and the built form.
- 2.3 Assessment of the impact of the proposals has been determined following consideration of the constraints each surveyed item poses by virtue of its position, branch spread and designated root protection area.
- 2.4 Consideration should be given to retaining all trees where possible. However, ultimately the removal of any tree is dependent on its proximity to the footprint of any proposal and associated landscaping.

CATEGORY U TREES TO BE RETAINED SUBJECT TO FURTHER DETAILED ASSESSMENT THROUGH RESERVED MATTERS APPLICATIONS

- 2.5 The BS 5837:2012 compliant survey identified a total of 29 category U items, the condition of which are considered to be impaired to such an extent that they may be unsuitable for retention within the future context of the development. These are summarised in **Table EDP 2.1** and detailed in the Tree Survey Schedule contained within the Arboricultural Baseline Note (report reference: edp6611_r005).
- 2.6 Due to their condition, category U items often have ecological value and therefore any work to or removal of category U items requires cross-referencing with the ecological assessment prior to any work or felling taking place.
- 2.7 If category U items are to be retained as an ecological asset, arboricultural advice should be sought to ensure their retention is viable.
- 2.8 All 19 of the category U items are proposed for retention and will undergo further evaluation to inform future reserved matters applications.

Table EDP 2.1: Category U Trees and Hedgerows to be Retained or Removed

Tree Number	Tree Species	Retained?	Tree Grade
T33	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	No	U
T41	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	No	U
T45	Common ash	Yes	U

Tree Number	Tree Species	Retained?	Tree Grade
T46	Common ash	Yes	U
T56	Beech	Yes	U
T58	Common ash	Yes	U
T65	Common ash	Yes	U
T68	Pine sp. (<i>Pinus spp.</i>)	Yes	U
T76	Common ash	Yes	U
T87	Beech	Yes	U
T89	Common ash	Yes	U
T95	Common ash	Yes	U
T97	Common ash	Yes	U
T98	Prunus sp. (<i>Prunus spp.</i>)	Yes	U
T111	Common ash	No	U
T112	Common ash	No	U
T113	Common ash	No	U
T114	Common ash	No	U
T115	Common ash	No	U
T116	Common ash	No	U
T117	Beech	No	U
T118	Common holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	Yes	U
T173	Common ash	Yes	U
T180	Beech sp. (<i>Fagus spp.</i>)	Yes	U
T328	Common ash	Yes	U
T401	Common ash	No	U
T447	Common ash	Yes	U
T456	Beech	Yes	U
T464	Beech	Yes	U

ITEMS IMPACTED BY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

2.9 Assessment of the Site Layout Plan (**Appendix EDP 1**) determines that 129 items are impacted by the development proposals; these are detailed within **Table EDP 2.2**. Sixteen items are category A, of high quality; 106 items are category B, of moderate quality and seven items are category C, of low quality.

Table EDP 2.2: Items Impacted by Development Proposals

Ref. Number	Species	Impact	Category Grading
T19	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T20	Beech	Complete removal.	B

Ref. Number	Species	Impact	Category Grading
T21	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T25	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T26	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T27	Common ash	Complete removal.	C
T28	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T29	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T30	Beech	Complete removal.	C
T31	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T32	Beech	Complete removal.	C
T34	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T35	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T36	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T37	Beech	Complete removal.	C
T38	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T39	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T40	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T42	Beech	Complete removal.	C
T43	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T44	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T110	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T124	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T125	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T126	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T127	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T128	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T129	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T130	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T131	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T135	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T152	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T153	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T154	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T155	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T156	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T157	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T158	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T159	Beech	Complete removal.	B

Ref. Number	Species	Impact	Category Grading
T227	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T228	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T229	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T230	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T235	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T236	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T240	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T241	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T242	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T243	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T244	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T245	Common holly	Complete removal.	B
T246	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T247	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T248	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T249	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T250	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T251	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T252	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T253	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T254	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T255	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T256	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T257	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T258	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T259	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T260	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T261	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T262	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T263	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T265	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T266	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T267	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T268	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T269	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T270	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T271	Beech	Complete removal.	B

Ref. Number	Species	Impact	Category Grading
T272	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T273	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T274	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T275	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T276	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T277	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T278	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T279	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T280	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T281	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T282	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T283	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T284	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T285	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T286	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T287	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T288	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T289	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T290	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T291	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T292	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T332	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T333	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T334	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T335	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T336	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T337	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T338	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T388	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T389	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T390	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T391	Common hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	Complete removal.	B
T392	Common hawthorn	Complete removal.	C
T393	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T394	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T395	Beech	Complete removal.	B

Ref. Number	Species	Impact	Category Grading
T396	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T397	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T398	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T410	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T411	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T413	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T414	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T415	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T416	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T417	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T423	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T424	Beech	Complete removal.	B
T425	Beech	Complete removal.	A
T426	Beech	Complete removal.	A
G455	Beech	Partial removal.	B
G462	Common hawthorn	Complete removal.	C
T475	Beech	Complete removal.	A

SUMMARY OF TREE LOSSES AND RETENTION

2.10 A summary of the tree losses and retention based upon the Site Layout Plan (**Appendix EDP 1**) is provided within **Table EDP 2.3**. In this context, the term 'affected' means partial removal of a retained item.

Table EDP 2.3: Summary of Tree Losses and Retention

	Existing	Trees, Groups and Hedgerows Lost Due to Proposals	Trees, Groups and Hedgerows Affected by Proposals	Trees, Groups and Hedgerows Unaffected by Proposals
Category A	118	16	0	102
Category B	287	105	1	181
Category C	49	7	0	42
Totals	454	128	1	325

MITIGATION

2.11 In respect of potential mitigation, the Development of National Significance application includes a micro-siting allowance of 50m for turbines and 100m for associated

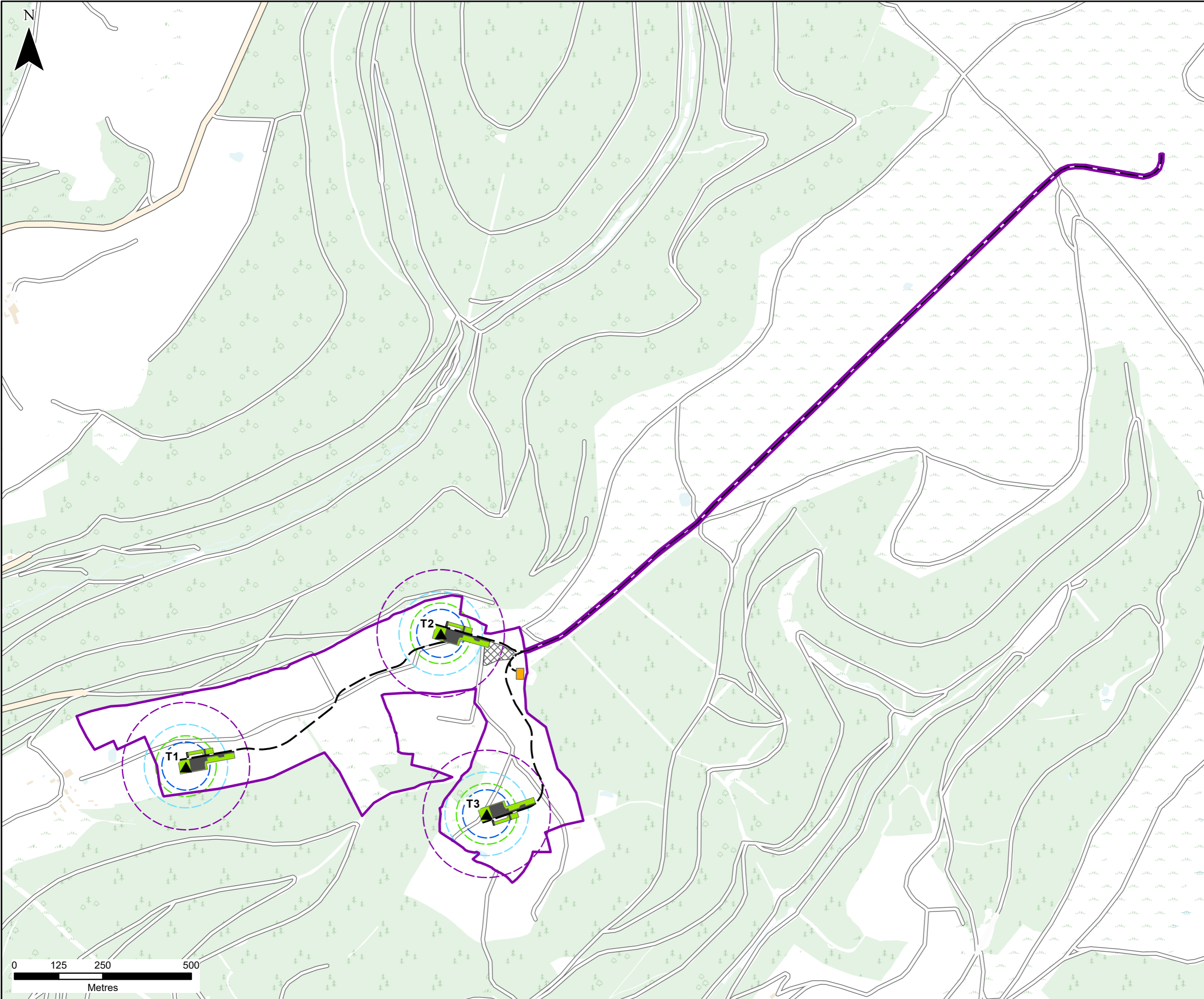
infrastructure. Assessment of the items impacted demonstrates the potential for additional retention of items through application of the micro-siting allowance, including veteran trees.

- 2.12 The application of the micro-siting allowance will therefore remove potential impacts to veteran trees (i.e. **T165**) and allow for the stand-off zones to be maintained between the veteran trees and any development.
- 2.13 Proposed Development will therefore likely result in the removal of 128 individual trees and 0.017 hectares in relation to tree groups. Compensatory planting will therefore be necessary in accordance with those requirements set out within *Planning Policy Wales* (edition 12, published February 2024) (PPW12), with a minimum ratio of at least three trees of a similar type and compensatory size planted for every one tree lost, or in respect of tree groups, for compensatory planting to equate to a minimum of 1,600 trees per hectare for broadleaf trees and 2,500 trees per hectare for conifers. As such, a minimum of 384 individual trees and 27 replacement whips will therefore be required.
- 2.14 Should any trees be affected by the Proposed Development at the detailed design stage, these will be sensitively worked around to minimise any adverse effects. This can be achieved with the use of ground protection, no-dig technologies, hand digging and access facilitation pruning, where applicable. This level of detail will be assessed during the detailed design stage.
- 2.15 Existing trees identified for retention on the appended Tree Retention and Removal Plan (**Plan EDP 1**) will continue to be managed in accordance with *BS 5837:2012*. Critically, this requires arboricultural review of any future emerging detailed design and the implementation of physical protection measures to safeguard the retained trees, including robust protection in the form of a barrier to *BS 5837:2012* (**Appendix EDP 2**), during the construction phases. The importance of such matters cannot be overlooked if a successful outcome is to be ensured.

Section 3 Conclusions

- 3.1 The Proposed Development has been informed by arboricultural recommendations with a resultant loss of 16 category A items, 105 category B items and seven category C items and the partial loss of one category B item. Following the application of the micro-siting allowance, no impacts to veteran trees or ancient woodland will arise.
- 3.2 To ensure succession to the existing tree stock, compensatory planting will be required in accordance with PPW12. The new planting has potential for longevity within the landscape and will enhance the species diversity for the Site, whilst also contributing to the green infrastructure for the area.
- 3.3 Existing trees identified for retention on the appended Tree Retention and Removal Plan (**Plan EDP 1**) will continue to be managed in accordance with *BS 5837:2012*. Critically, this requires arboricultural review of any alteration to the development layout and the implementation of physical protection measures to safeguard the retained trees, including robust protection in the form of a barrier to *BS 5837:2012*, during the demolition and construction phases. The importance of such matters cannot be overlooked if a successful outcome is to be ensured.
- 3.4 A suitably worded condition can secure any mitigation measures which would be required to minimise harm and ensure safe, long-term retention to trees.

Appendix EDP 1
Site Layout Plan
(Drawing Number UK0041469.0596-WSPE-FG-MD-00002_P01.1)



- Legend**
- EIA assessment area
 - Turbine location
 - Crane pad
 - Crane pad storage
 - Substation
 - Compound
 - Access track
 - Extent of rotor (assumed 136m dia.)
 - 180m offset (assumed tip height)
 - 85m offset for bat protection (from tower)
 - 50m offset for PROWs (from tip)

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ORDNANCE SURVEY AC0000808122.



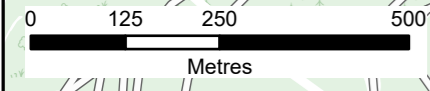
PROJECT TITLE:
RHYSWG WIND FARM

DRAWING TITLE:
**FIGURE 1-2:
SITE LAYOUT PLAN**

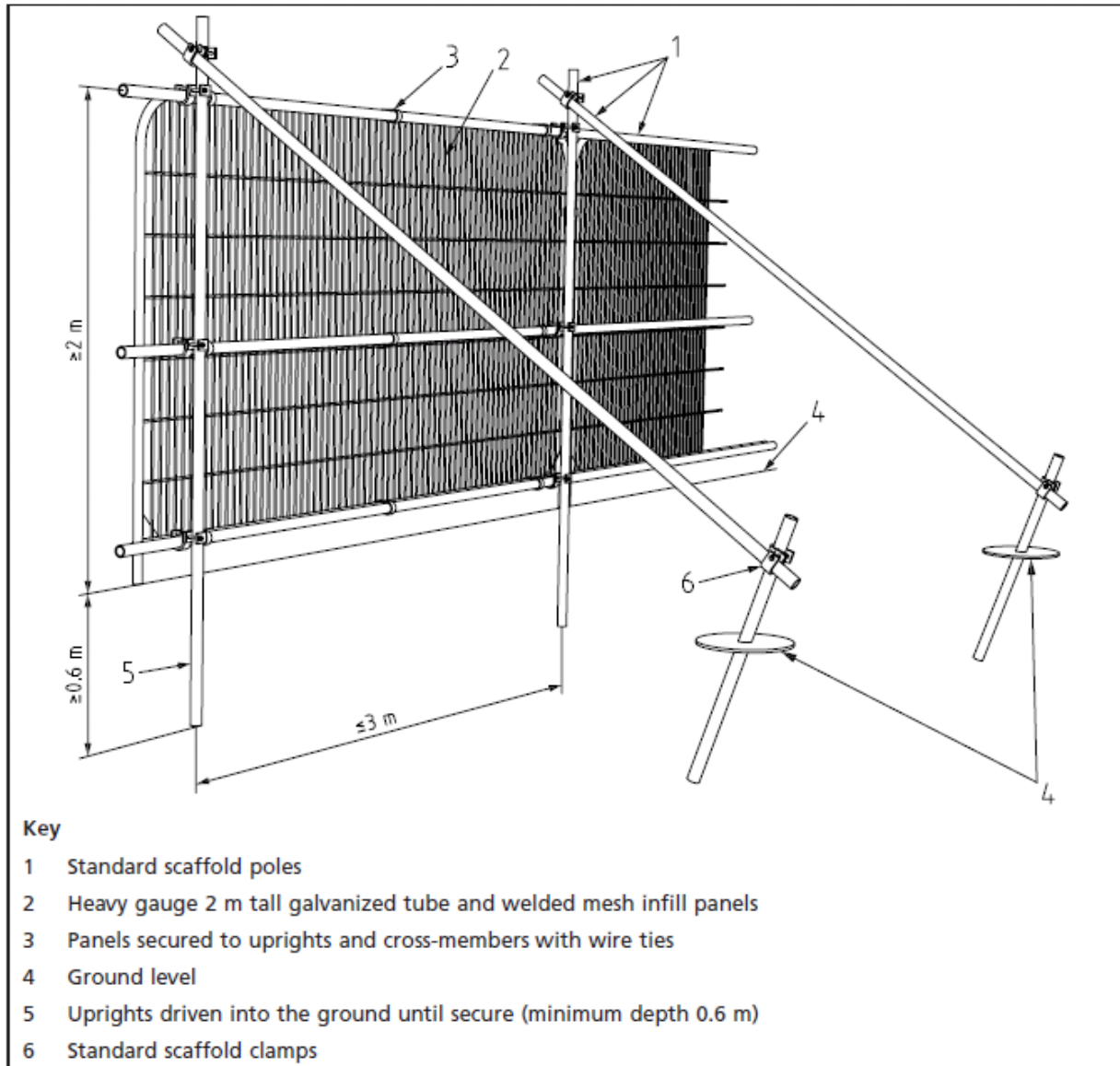
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DRAWN: JP	CHECKED: LB	APPROVED: XX	AUTHORISED: XX
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DRAWING NUMBER:
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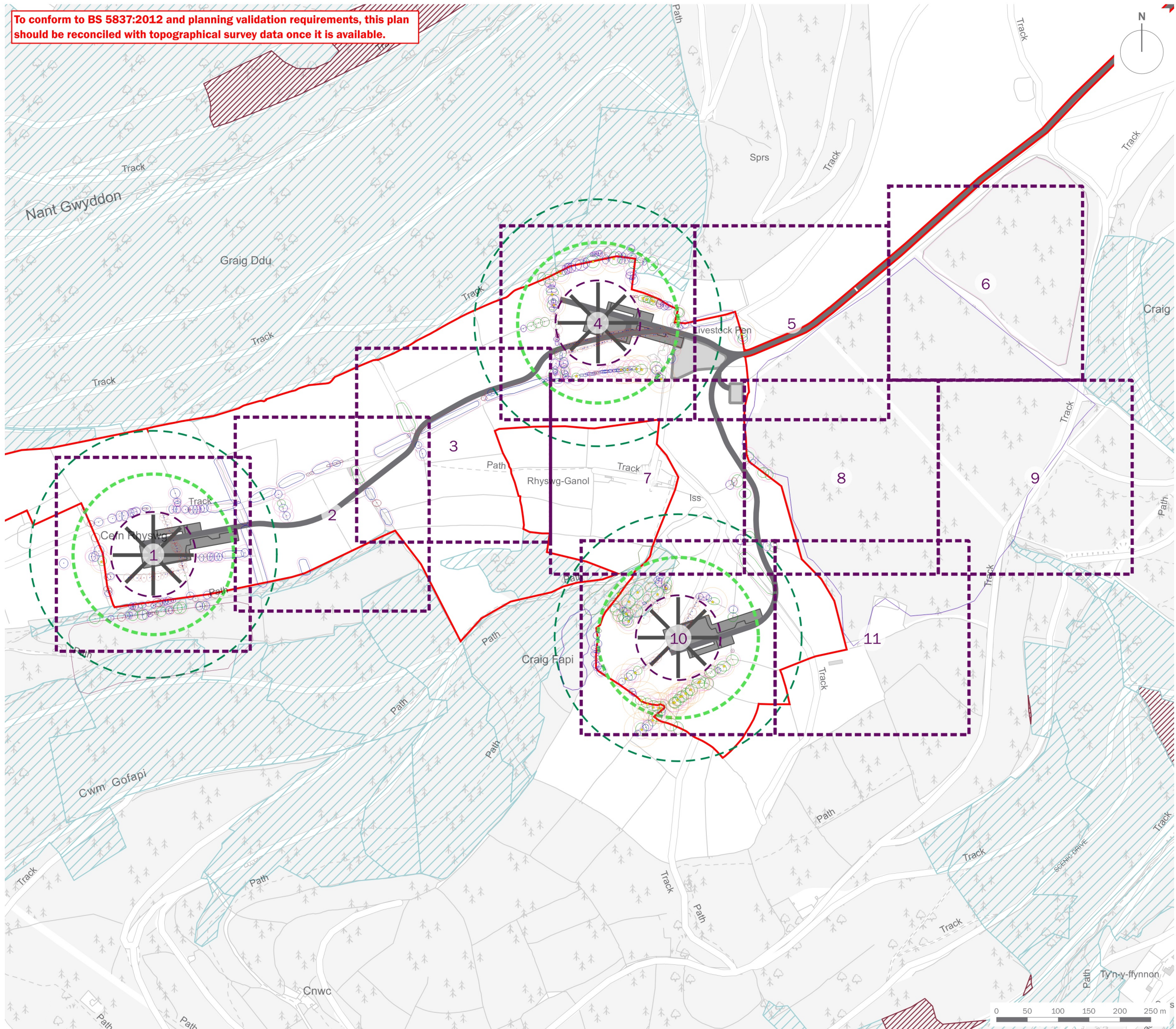
Appendix EDP 2 Tree Protection Barrier on Scaffold 2.0m High (Extract from BS 5837:2012, Figure 2 'Protective Barrier')



Plans

Plan EDP 1: Tree Retention and Removal Plan
(edp6611_d062 08 October 2025 JFr/DGa)

To conform to BS 5837:2012 and planning validation requirements, this plan should be reconciled with topographical survey data once it is available.



Site Boundary

T1 Tree/Group Number
 Tree/Group Canopy
 Tree Stem
 Root Protection Area

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 of poor quality and value

Trees to be Removed

Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site

Veteran Trees

Buffer for Veteran Trees

Survey Buffer (130m)
 200m Buffer
 Bat Buffer Zone (Required Distance of Turbine from Bat Habitat Features to Ensure a Minimum 50m Offset from Blade Tip = 68.6m)

purpose of issue **PLANNING**

-	Original	08/10/2025	JFr
rev	description	date	by

client

Pennant Walters

project title

Rhyswg Wind Farm

drawing title

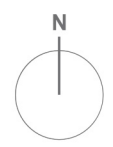
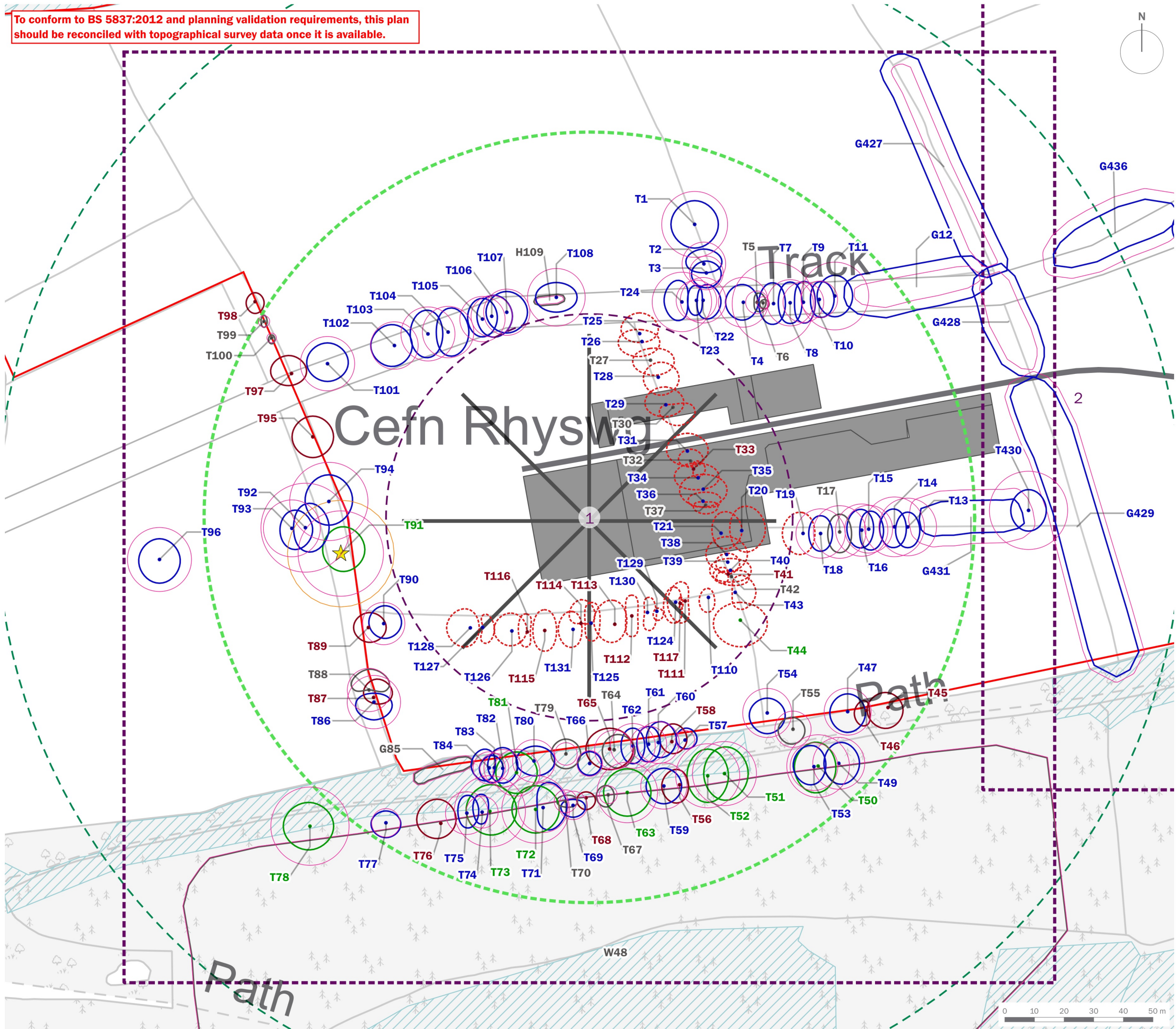
Tree Retention and Removal Plan (Overview)

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drawing number	edp6611_d062	checked	DGa
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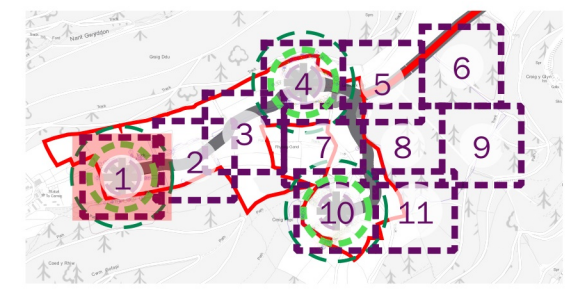


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To conform to BS 5837:2012 and planning validation requirements, this plan should be reconciled with topographical survey data once it is available.



- Site Boundary
- T1..... Tree/Group Number
- Tree/Group Canopy
- Tree Stem
- Root Protection Area
- 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 of poor quality and value
- Trees to be Removed
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
- ★ Veteran Trees
- Buffer for Veteran Trees
- Survey Buffer (130m)
- 200m Buffer
- Bat Buffer Zone (Required Distance of Turbine from Bat Habitat Features to Ensure a Minimum 50m Offset from Blade Tip = 68.6m)



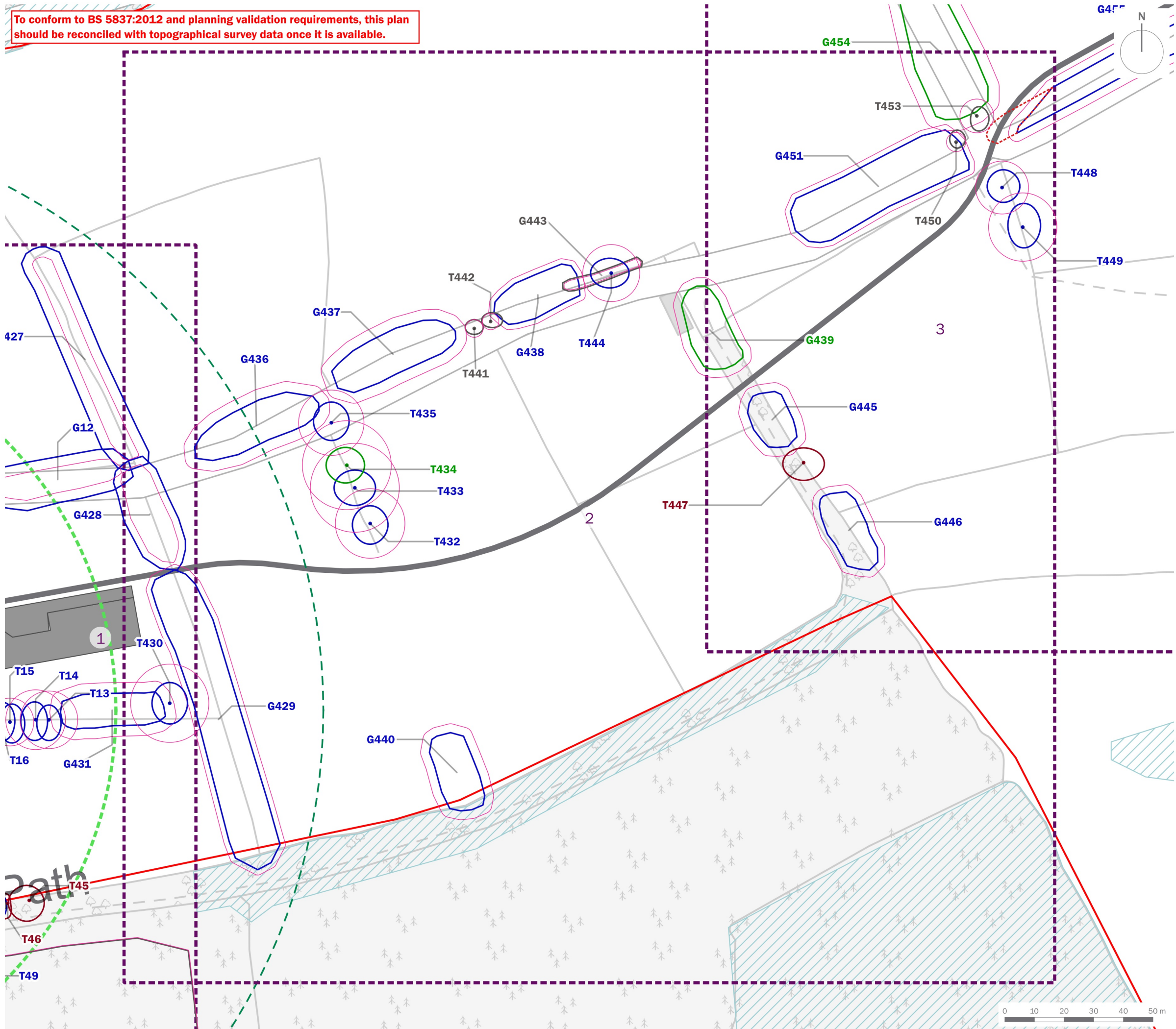
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project title	Rhyswg Wind Farm	
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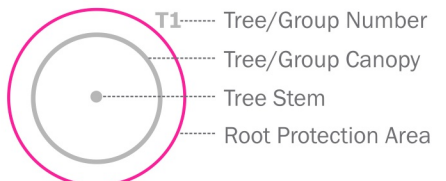













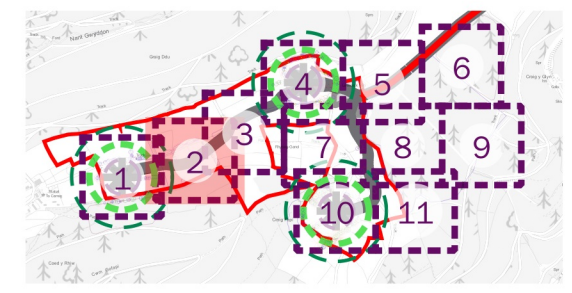
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To conform to BS 5837:2012 and planning validation requirements, this plan should be reconciled with topographical survey data once it is available.



-  Site Boundary
- 
-  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 of poor quality and value
-  Trees to be Removed
-  Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
-  Veteran Trees
-  Buffer for Veteran Trees
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-  Bat Buffer Zone (Required Distance of Turbine from Bat Habitat Features to Ensure a Minimum 50m Offset from Blade Tip = 68.6m)



client
Pennant Walters

project title
Rhyswg Wind Farm

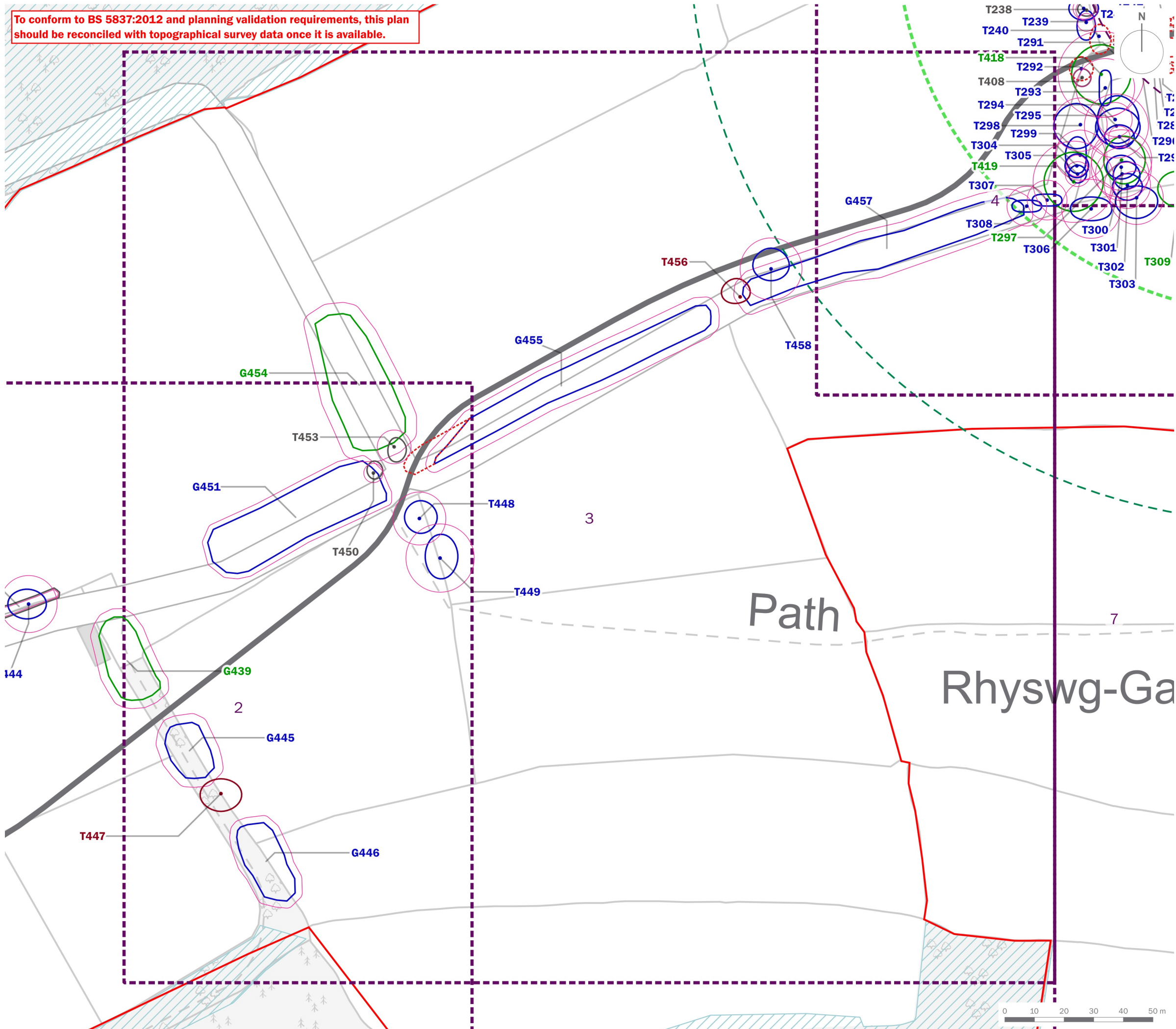
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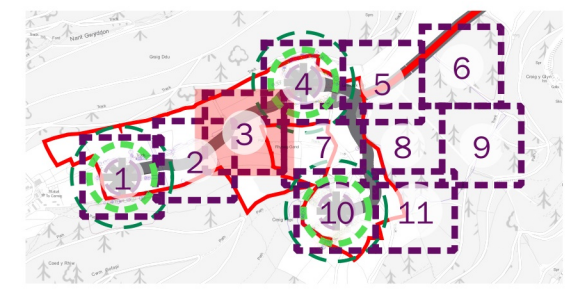


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To conform to BS 5837:2012 and planning validation requirements, this plan should be reconciled with topographical survey data once it is available.



- Site Boundary
- T1 Tree/Group Number
- Tree/Group Canopy
- Tree Stem
- Root Protection Area
- 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 of poor quality and value
- Trees to be Removed
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
- Veteran Trees
- Buffer for Veteran Trees
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- Bat Buffer Zone (Required Distance of Turbine from Bat Habitat Features to Ensure a Minimum 50m Offset from Blade Tip = 68.6m)



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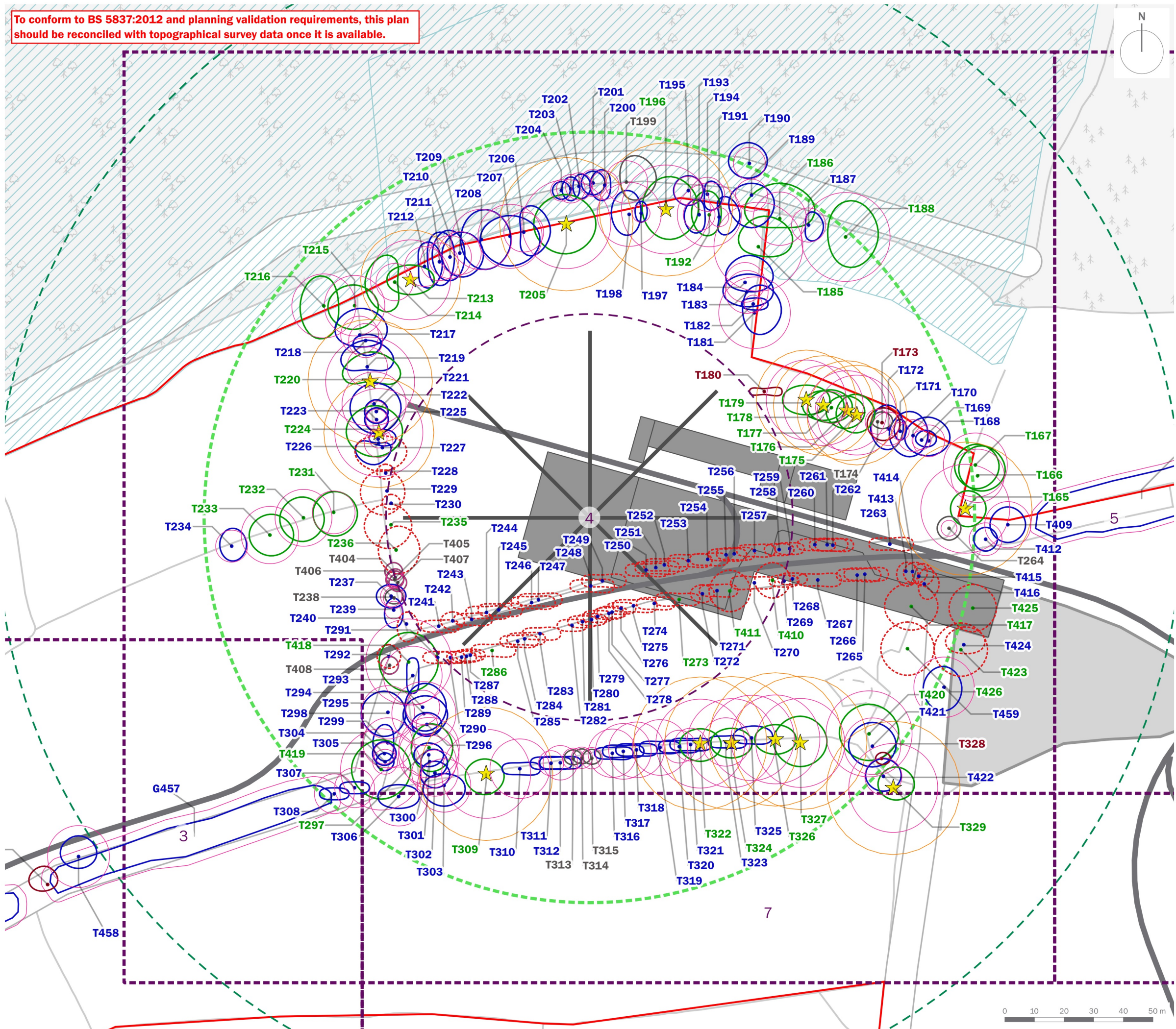
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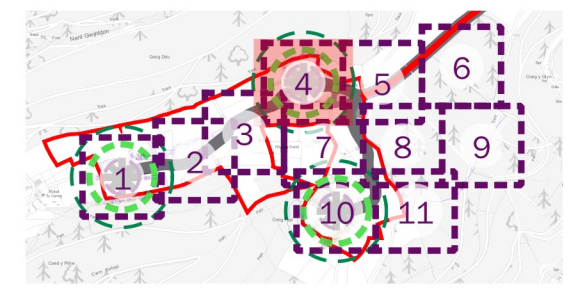


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- Site Boundary
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project title
Rhyswg Wind Farm

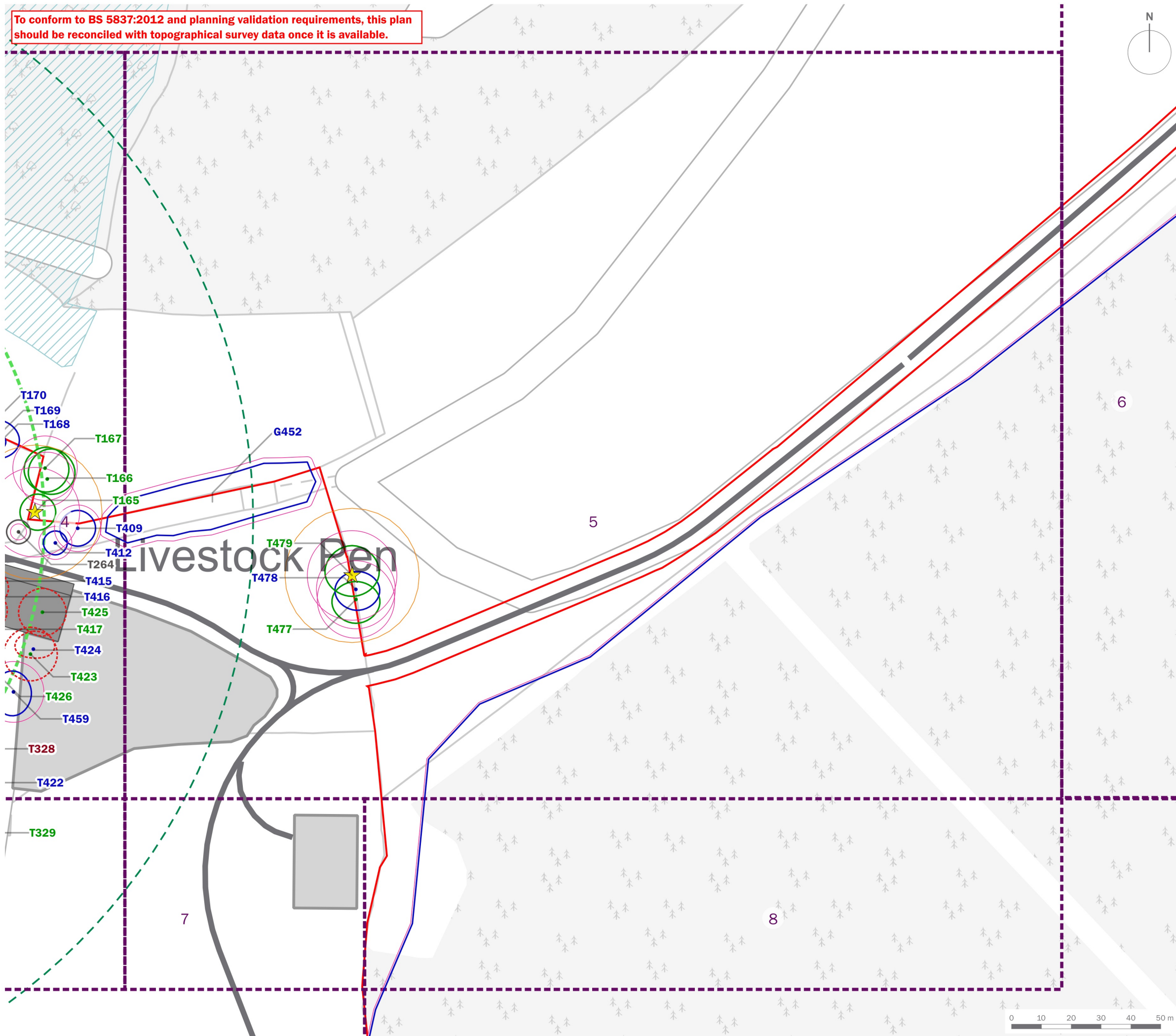
drawing title
Tree Retention and Removal Plan (Sheet 4 of 11)


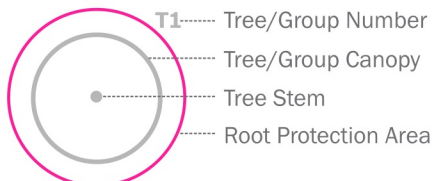











date	08 OCTOBER 2025	drawn by	JFr
drawing number	edp6611_d062	checked	DGa
scale	1:1,250 @ A3	QA	DJo



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To conform to BS 5837:2012 and planning validation requirements, this plan should be reconciled with topographical survey data once it is available.



-  Site Boundary
-  Tree/Group Number
Tree/Group Canopy
Tree Stem
Root Protection Area
-  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 of poor quality and value
-  Trees to be Removed
-  Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
-  Veteran Trees
-  Buffer for Veteran Trees
-  Survey Buffer (130m)
-  200m Buffer
-  Bat Buffer Zone (Required Distance of Turbine from Bat Habitat Features to Ensure a Minimum 50m Offset from Blade Tip = 68.6m)



client
Pennant Walters

project title
Rhyswg Wind Farm

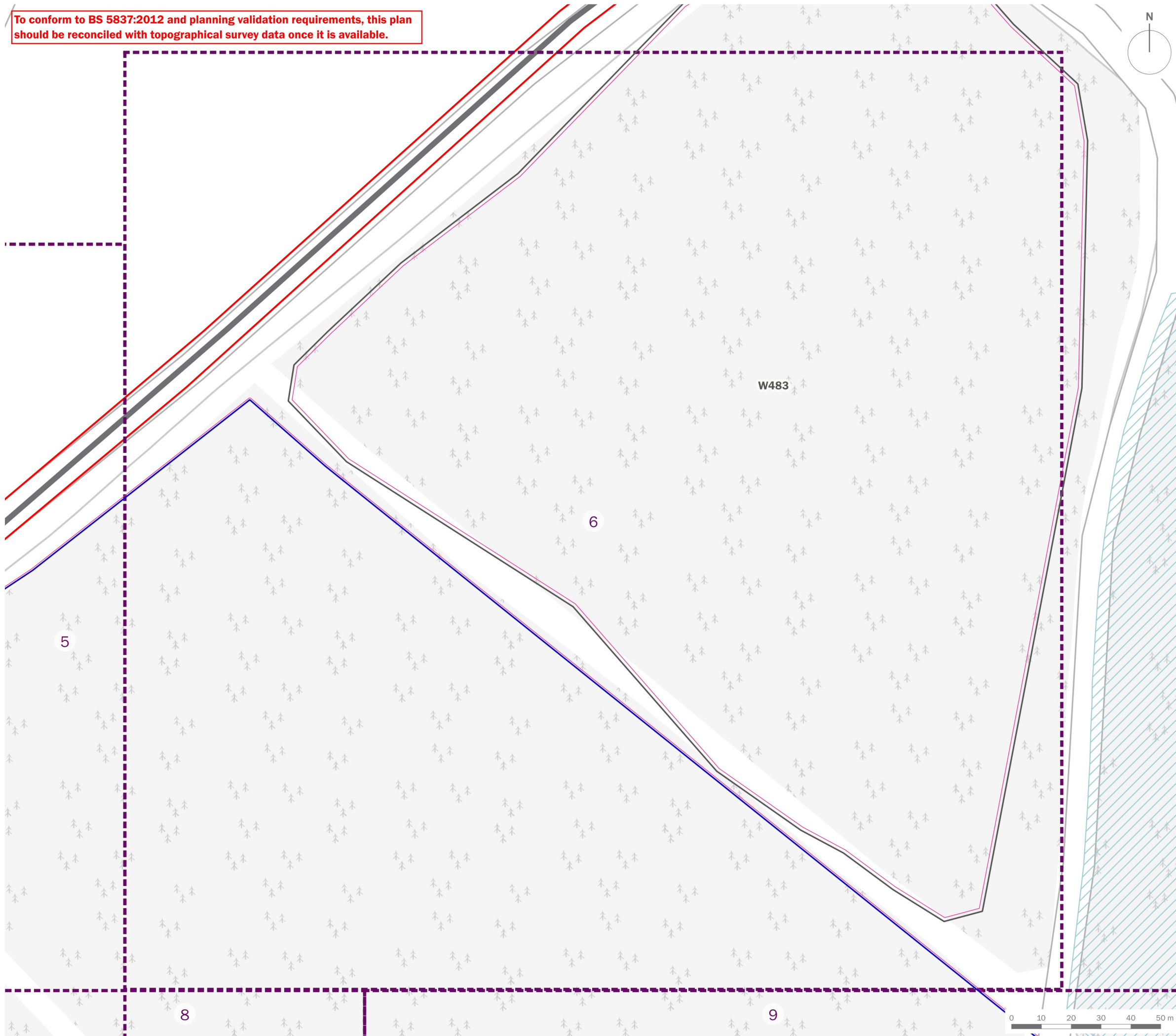
drawing title
Tree Retention and Removal Plan (Sheet 5 of 11)


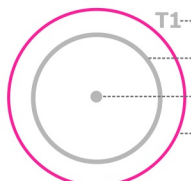














date	08 OCTOBER 2025	drawn by	JFr
drawing number	edp6611_d062	checked	DGa
scale	1:1,250 @ A3	QA	DJo

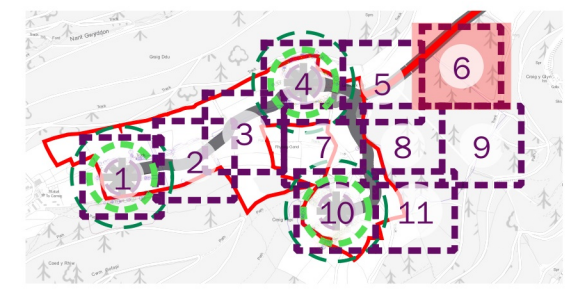


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To conform to BS 5837:2012 and planning validation requirements, this plan should be reconciled with topographical survey data once it is available.



-  Site Boundary
-  T1..... Tree/Group Number
-  Tree/Group Canopy
-  Tree Stem
-  Root Protection Area
-  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 of poor quality and value
-  Trees to be Removed
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-  Bat Buffer Zone (Required Distance of Turbine from Bat Habitat Features to Ensure a Minimum 50m Offset from Blade Tip = 68.6m)



client
Pennant Walters

project title
Rhyswg Wind Farm

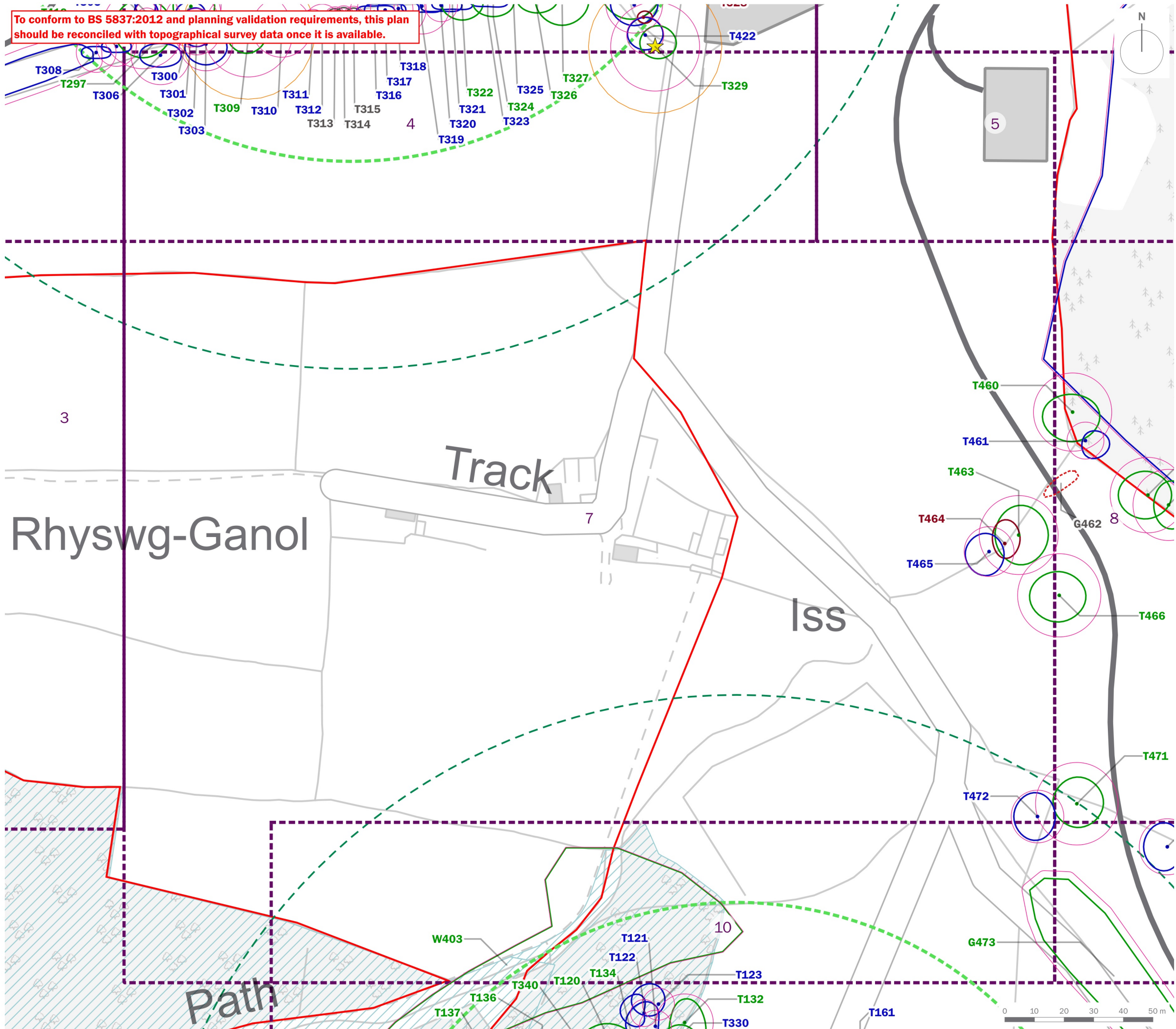
drawing title
Tree Retention and Removal Plan (Sheet 6 of 11)

date	08 OCTOBER 2025	drawn by	JFr
drawing number	edp6611_d062	checked	DGa
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- Site Boundary
- T1 Tree/Group Number
- Tree/Group Canopy
- Tree Stem
- Root Protection Area
- Category A: Trees of high quality and value
- Category B: Trees of moderate quality and value
- Category C: Trees of low quality and value
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- Trees to be Removed
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
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- Buffer for Veteran Trees
- Survey Buffer (130m)
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client
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project title
Rhyswg Wind Farm

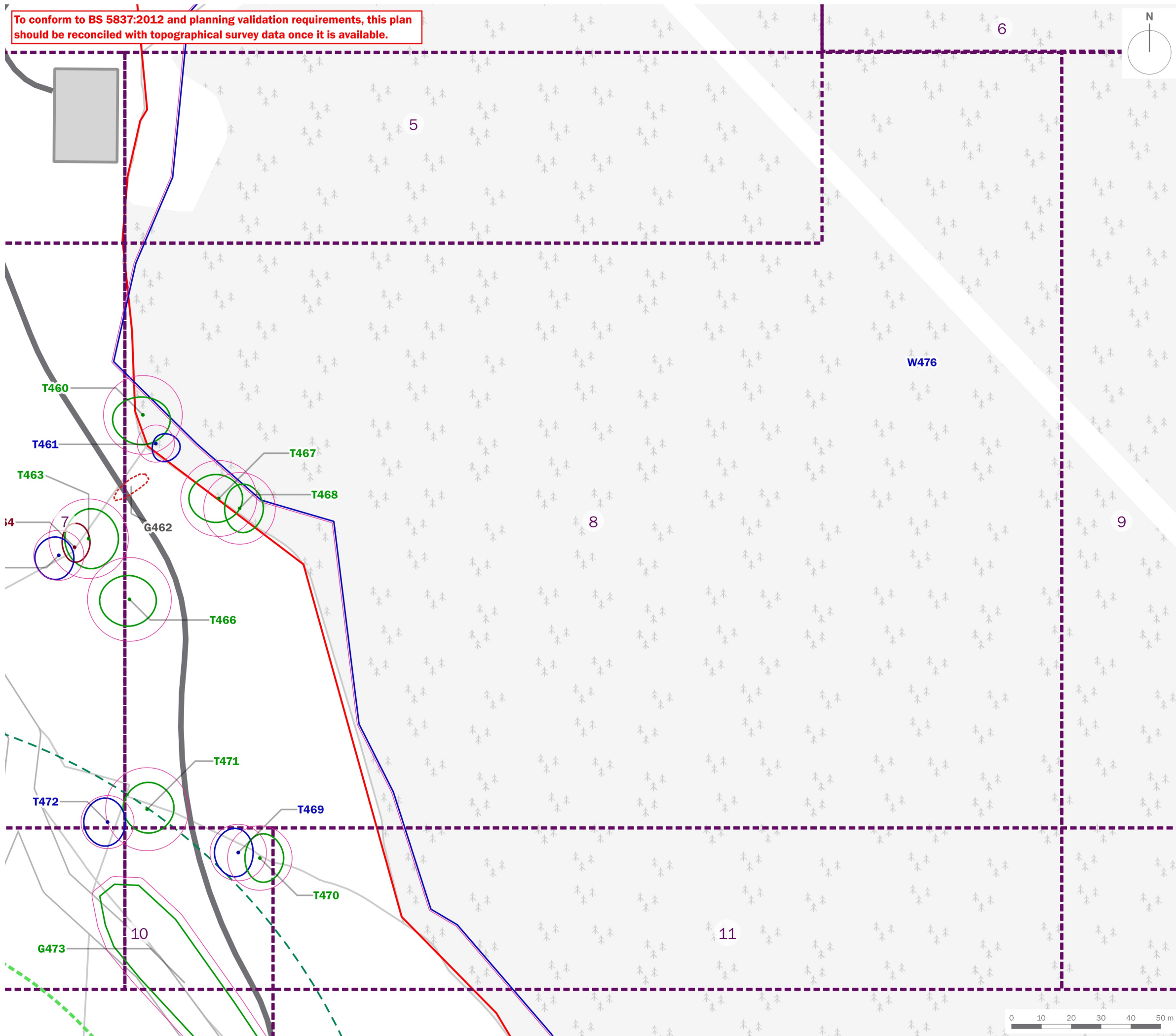
drawing title
Tree Retention and Removal Plan (Sheet 7 of 11)

date	08 OCTOBER 2025	drawn by	JFr
drawing number	edp6611_d062	checked	DGa
scale	1:1,250 @ A3	QA	DJo



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- Site Boundary
- Tree/Group Number
Tree/Group Canopy
Tree Stem
Root Protection Area
- 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 of poor quality and value
- Trees to be Removed
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
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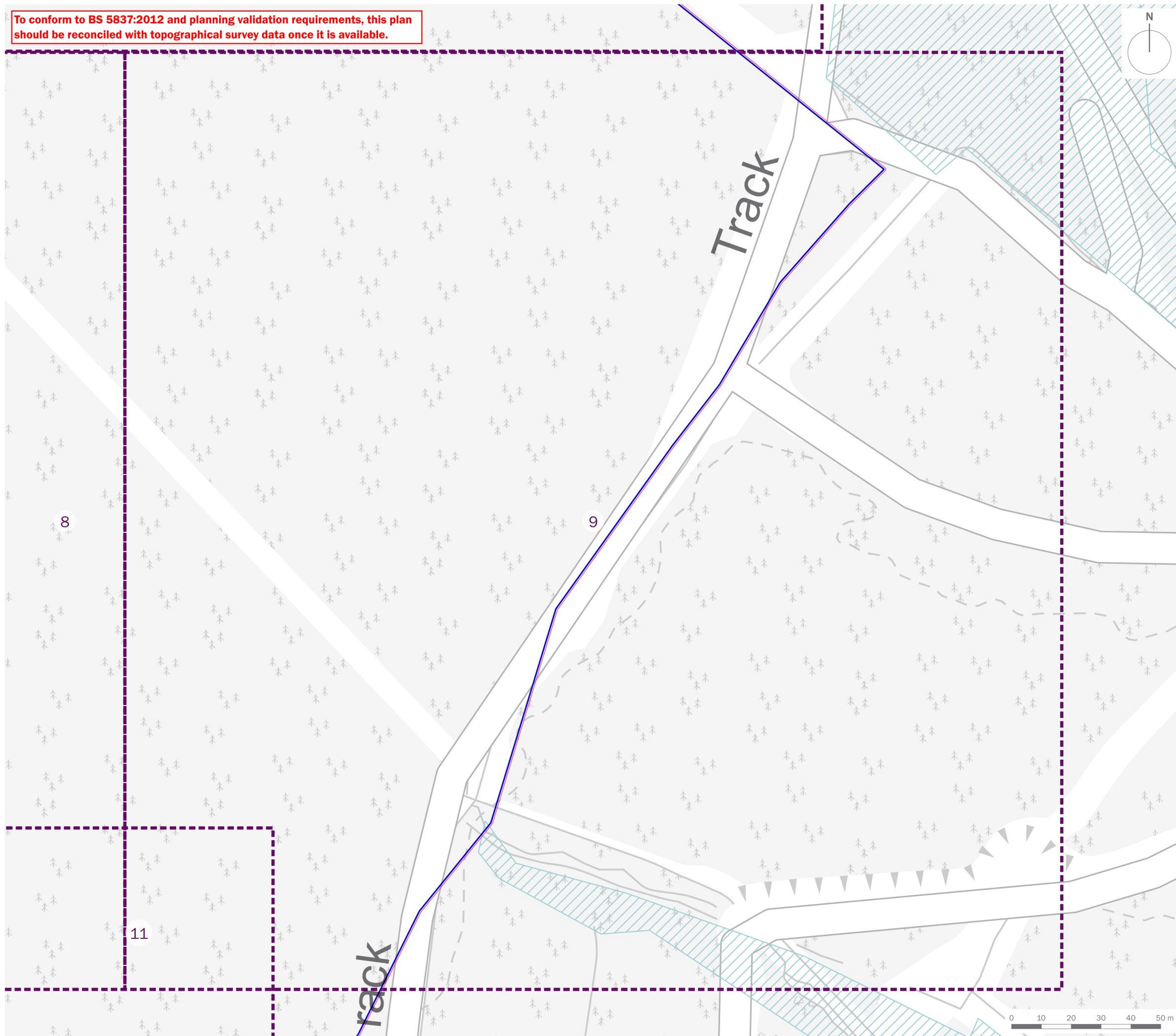



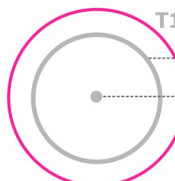














client	Pennant Walters	
project title	Rhyswg Wind Farm	
drawing title	Tree Retention and Removal Plan (Sheet 8 of 11)	
date	08 OCTOBER 2025	drawn by JFr
drawing number	edp6611_d062	checked DGa
scale	1:1,250 @ A3	QA DJo



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-  Site Boundary
-  T1 Tree/Group Number
-  Tree/Group Canopy
-  Tree Stem
-  Root Protection Area
-  Category A: Trees of high quality and value
-  Category B: Trees of moderate quality and value
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client
Pennant Walters

project title
Rhyswg Wind Farm

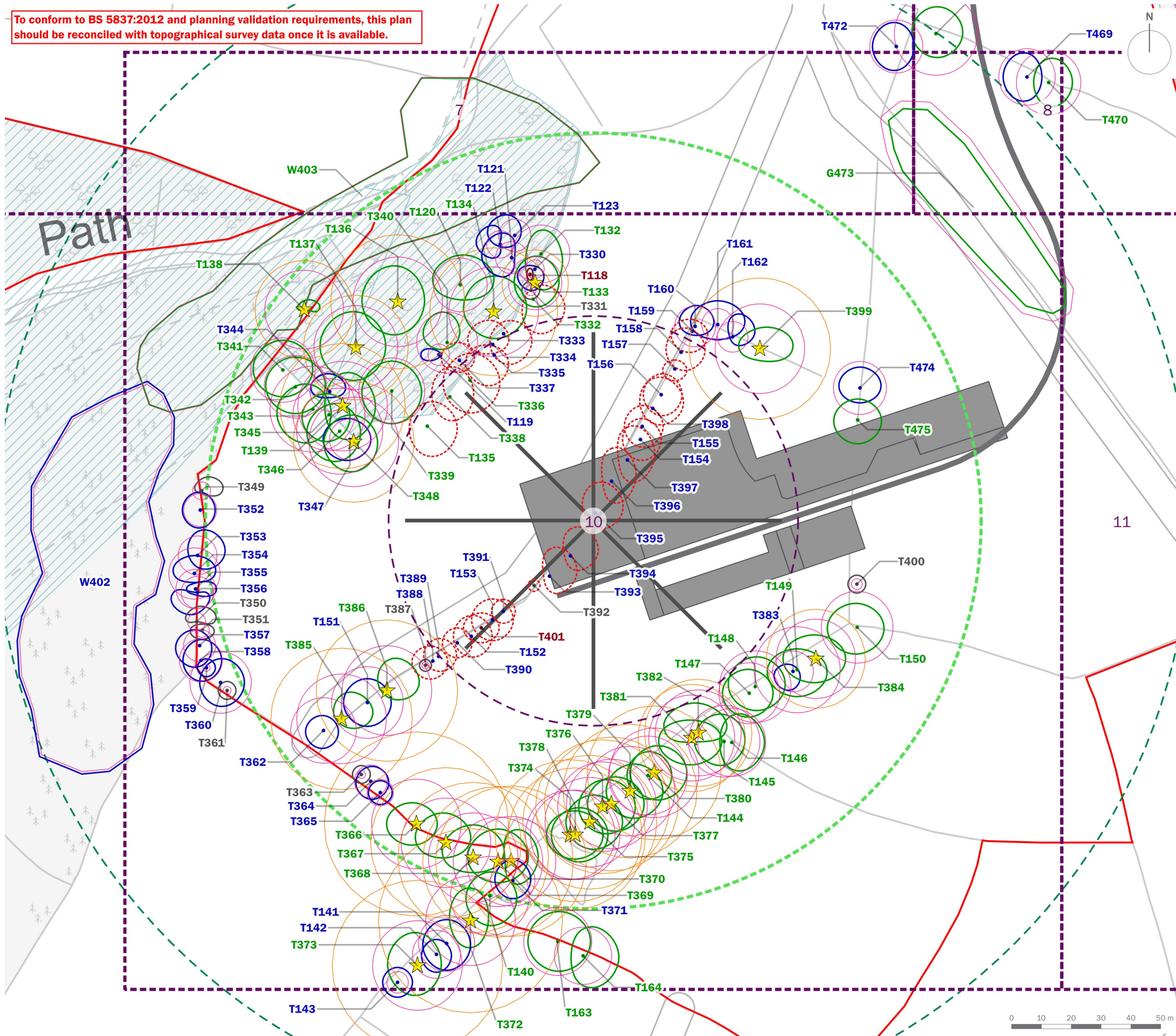
drawing title
Tree Retention and Removal Plan (Sheet 9 of 11)

date	08 OCTOBER 2025	drawn by	JFr
drawing number	edp6611_d062	checked	DGa
scale	1:1,250 @ A3	QA	DJo



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- Site Boundary
- T1..... Tree/Group Number
- Tree/Group Canopy
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- Root Protection Area
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client
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project title
Rhyswg Wind Farm

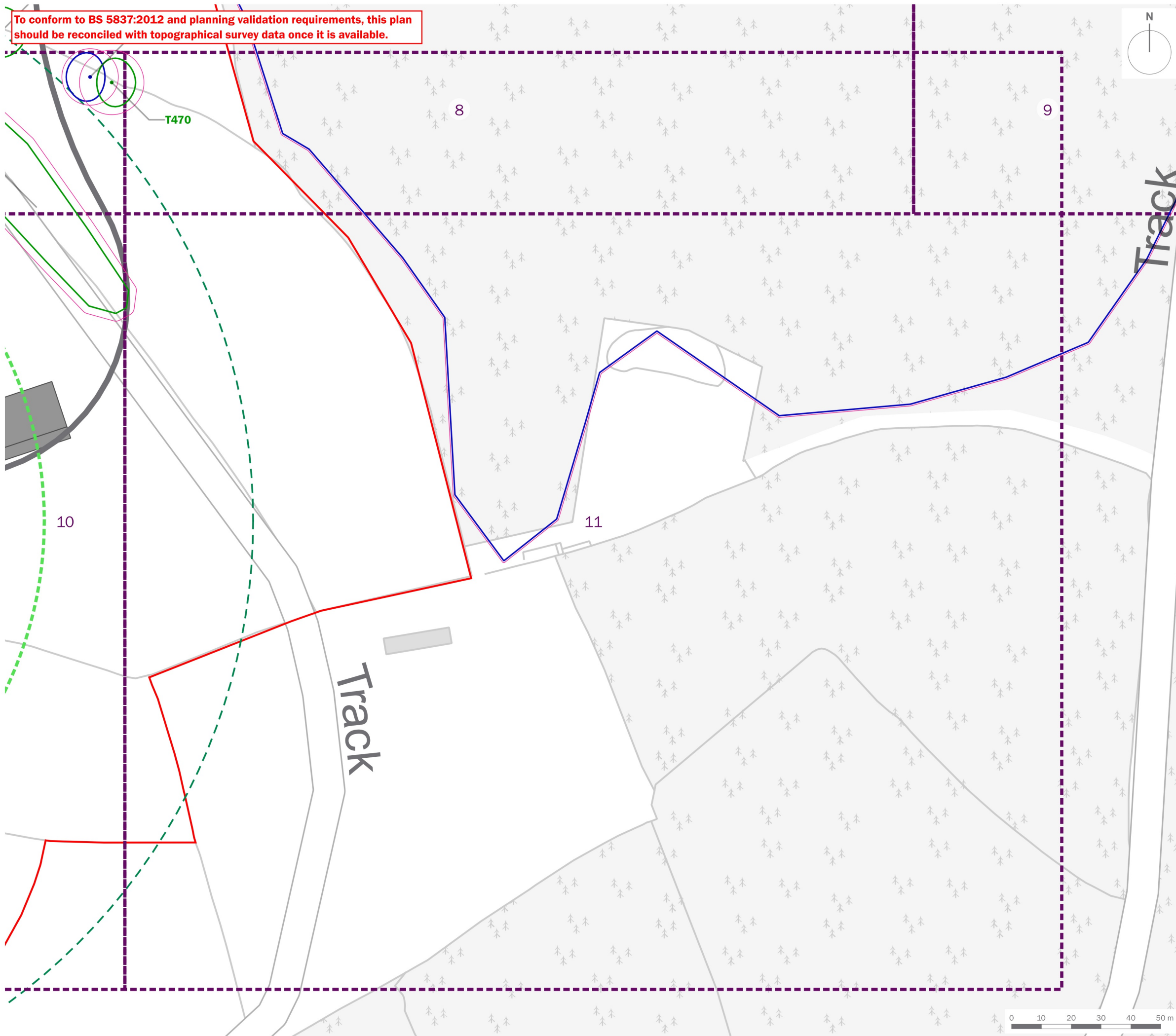
drawing title
Tree Retention and Removal Plan (Sheet 10 of 11)


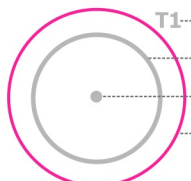











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-  Site Boundary
-  T1..... Tree/Group Number
..... Tree/Group Canopy
..... Tree Stem
..... Root Protection Area
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client
Pennant Walters

project title
Rhyswg Wind Farm

drawing title
Tree Retention and Removal Plan (Sheet 11 of 11)

date	08 OCTOBER 2025	drawn by	JFr
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