DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 18th SEPTEMBER 2023

Case No: 23/01024/FUL

Proposal: DEMOLITION OF EXISTING AGRICULTURAL BARN

AND ERECTION OF 2NO DWELLINGS

Location: LAND SOUTH OF HARBINS FARM HARBINS LANE

ABBOTSLEY

Applicant: MR AND MRS WISSON

Grid Ref: (E) 523018 (N) 256698

Date of Registration: 05.06.2023

Parish: ABBOTSLEY

RECOMMENDATION - APPROVE

This application is referred to the Development Management Committee (DMC) because the Officer's recommendation of APPROVAL is contrary to the Parish Council recommendation of REFUSAL.

1. DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND APPLICATION

Site and Surroundings

- 1.1 This planning application seeks approval for the demolition of existing agricultural barn and erection of 2no. dwellings.
- 1.2 The application site is a former poultry farm measuring 0.17 hectares located on the northern edge of the village of Abbotsley.
- 1.3 The site is bounded to the north by Harbins Farm, to the south are residential properties and agricultural land to the east and south. A paddock lies to the west of the site.
- 1.4 The former agricultural building is located to the western (back) end of the site.
- 1.5 The application site forms part of an application for conversion of the agricultural barn to two residential units under ref. 21/00436/FUL approved at Development Management Committee on 29th June 2022.
- 1.6 As established in the former 21/00436/FUL application, the site is considered to be in the countryside as it relates more to the countryside than to the built form of the village to the south,

- which is identified as a Small Settlement in the HDC Local Plan to 2036.
- 1.7 In terms of other constraints, the site is not within a Conservation Area, there are no Listed Buildings in the immediate vicinity and no protected trees. The site lies within Flood Zone 1, which has a low risk of flooding as identified in the Environment Agency Flood Risk Maps.

Proposal

- 1.8 The current application proposes to demolish the agricultural building to the far west of the site and replace the structure with two detached two-bedroom dwellings located to the centre of the site.
- 1.9 Submitted plans show the dwellings to be handed versions of each other comprising of a single storey building broadly rectangular in shape with pitched roofs with an attached garage / cycle shed to the front elevation and a pitched roof side protrusion to serve as utility and kitchen area.
- 1.10 Each dwelling would be 4.607 metres in ridge height with a maximum width of 10.5 metres and a maximum depth of 15.2 metres. Materials are proposed to be stained weather boarding walls with facing brick plinths, slate roof and stained painted timber doors and windows.
- 1.11 Bin storage and covered cycle storage are shown to the front of each dwelling. Air source heat pumps and EV parking points are shown to the side.
- 1.12 Each dwelling would have a private rear amenity area over 21 metres and would be set off from the side boundaries by at least 2.5 metres.
- 1.13 Both dwellings would share a drive and access from Harbins Lane with gardens to the front approximately 15m in depth comprising of a wildflower meadow. A Landscape Strategy Plan has been submitted with the application providing a schedule of existing planting schedule with details of the proposed planting schedule and biodiversity enhancements. Boundary treatments are shown on plans to be a combination of hedging and trees.
- 1.14 The scheme has been amended since initial submission at the request of the case officer and a high-level window has been introduced to the front elevation of the garage to avoid a blank elevation as viewed from the public realm.
- 1.15 The proposal is supported by the following submitted documentation:

- Accessibility Statement
- Analysis of Watercourses
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment
- Biodiversity Method Statement
- Construction Management Plan (DWG 559X03)
- Contamination Statement
- Existing Plans (DWG 550X04)
- Landscape Strategy Plan (DWG 559X02)
- Location and Site Plan (DWG 559X01)
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Bat Survey
- Proposed Plans and Elevations (DWG 559X0100A)
- Traffic Data
- Site Waste Management Plan
- Structural Survey
- Sustainable Construction Statement
- Transport Statement

2. NATIONAL GUIDANCE

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (20th July 2021) (NPPF 2021) sets out the three objectives economic, social and environmental of the planning system to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The NPPF 2021 at paragraph 10 provides as follows: 'So that sustainable development is pursued in a positive way, at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11).
- 2.2 The NPPF 2021 sets out the Government's planning policies for (amongst other things):
 - delivering a sufficient supply of homes;
 - building a strong, competitive economy;
 - · achieving well-designed, beautiful and safe places;
 - conserving and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment
- 2.3 Planning Practice Guidance and the National Design Guide 2021 are also relevant and material considerations.
- 2.4 For full details visit the government website National Guidance

3. PLANNING POLICIES

- 3.1 Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 (Adopted 15th May 2019)
 - LP1: Amount of Development
 - LP2: Strategy for Development
 - LP5: Flood Risk
 - LP6: Waste Water Management
 - LP9: Small Settlements
 - LP10 The Countryside

- LP11: Design Context
- LP12: Design Implementation
- LP14: Amenity
- LP15: Surface Water
- LP16: Sustainable Travel
- LP17: Parking Provision and vehicle movement
- LP25: Accessible and adaptable homes
- LP30: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- LP31: Trees, Woodland Hedges and Hedgerows
- LP33: Rural Buildings
- LP34: Heritage Assets and their Settings
- LP37: Ground Contamination and Groundwater Pollution

Local For full details visit the government website Local policies

4. PLANNING HISTORY

- 4.1 19/00303/PMBPA for Change of use of an agricultural outbuilding to 2 residential dwellings (Class Q part A and B), PRIOR APPROVAL CHANGE OF USE REFUSED 29.04.2019.
- 4.2 19/01696/PMBPA for Change of use of an agricultural building to two residential dwellings (Class Q Part A and B), PRIOR APPROVAL CHANGE OF USE REFUSED 18.12.2019, Allowed on appeal (Appeal reference 20/00023/REFUSL re:APP/H0520/W/20/3253722)
- 4.3 20/01484/FUL for Conversion of existing agricultural barn to two dwellings and erection of two detached dwellings, WITHDRAWN dated 17.11.2020
- 4.4 21/00436/FUL for Conversion of existing agricultural barn to 2no residential units, PERMITTED 29.06.2022
- 4.5 21/02424/CLPD for Proposed change of use from agricultural building to residential., APPROVAL CHANGE OF USE REFUSED 21.04.2022
- 4.6 22/00444/FUL for Erection of a single detached dwelling, REFUSED 19.12.2022
- 4.7 22/01110/CLPD for Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for change of use of barn at Harbins Lane (from 19/01696/PMBPA), PENDING CONSIDERATION

5. CONSULTATIONS

5.1 Abbotsley Parish Council - OBJECTS to the proposals. Full comments:

The site is outside of established village limits and outside the conservation area. Although less weight may now be attached to

the historic village envelope, the site feels outside of the village limits. The built-up area of the village is terminated by 16 Harbins Lane, Ivy Cottage, and the two-storey dwelling opposite with a further agricultural dwelling set back to the east. It is considered that the area beyond these dwellings, including the application site, forms part of the open countryside to the north of the village.

It is noted that a previous planning application for residential development to the north of Ivy cottage has previously been refused planning permission.

The site analysis indicates that Harbins Lane has historically served only a limited number of dwellings and although this has increased in recent years, the existing character of Harbins Lane would not be enhanced by a long linear dead-end road with dwellings forming the frontage. Approval of the scheme would set a precedent for further development along the lane. The character of the area is defined by the way that dwellings and agricultural buildings link to the more open countryside and a street of new houses is not appropriate.

the proposal is for two new dwellings in the countryside and should be refused.

5.2 Cambridgeshire County Highways Officer - No objections.

Officer note: The case officer contacted the Highways Officer to confirm whether the recommended highways conditions on the previous permission for conversion of agricultural building on the site into two dwellings (21/00436/FUL) would need to be reapplied. The Highways Officer confirmed re-application of conditions were not necessary, noting in an email dated 1.9.23 "as the access is off the unadopted section of Harbins Lane which is surfaced its entire length, the [conditions are] not really necessary".

- 5.3 HDC Environmental Health Services No objection subject to a condition regarding contamination.
- 5.4 HDC Conservation Officer No objections. Summary comments: The proposed demolition of the existing barn and its replacement with the proposed two dwellings is considered to preserve the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and the setting of the Listed Building at 67 High Street. Therefore, recommendation is to support this proposal.
- 5.5 Trees Officer No response. (Comments awaited and will be included within the late representations report).
- 5.6 Cambridgeshire County Archaeologist No objections.
- 5.7 HDC Waste No response.

5.8 Ward Councillor West - supports the Parish's reasons for refusal. Full comments:

I was present during the parish council discussion on this application, sure you will give consideration to comments made. I find myself in agreement with the parish council, realise any decision will be taken after full consideration to policy.

6. REPRESENTATIONS

6.1 None received at time of writing this report.

7. ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 When determining planning applications, it is necessary to establish what weight should be given to each plan's policies in order to come to a decision. The following legislation, government policy and guidance outline how this should be done.
- 7.2 As set out within the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 38(6)) and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Section 70(2)) in dealing with planning applications the Local Planning Authority shall have regard to have provisions of the development plan, so far as material to the application, and to any other material considerations. This is reiterated within paragraph 47 of the NPPF (2021). The development plan is defined in Section 38(3)(b) of the 2004 Act as "the development plan documents (taken as a whole) that have been adopted or approved in that area".
- 7.3 In Huntingdonshire the Development Plan (relevant to this application) consists of:
 - Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 (2019)
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2021)
- 7.4 The statutory term 'material considerations' has been broadly construed to include any consideration relevant in the circumstances which bears on the use or development of the land: Cala Homes (South) Ltd v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government & Anor [2011] EWHC 97 (Admin); [2011] 1 P. & C.R. 22, per Lindblom J. Whilst accepting that the NPPF does not change the statutory status of the Development Plan, paragraph 2 confirms that it is a material consideration and significant weight is given to this in determining applications.
- 7.5 The main issues to consider as part of this application are:
 - Principle of Development
 - Design, Visual Amenity and impact on the surrounding area

- Residential Amenity
- Parking Provision, Access and Highway safety
- Flood Risk and Drainage
- Biodiversity
- Trees
- Other Matters

Principle of Development

- 7.6 The site is located in Abbotsley which is defined as a Small Settlement in the adopted Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. It has been well-established within the last two applications (21/00436/FUL for Conversion of existing agricultural barn to 2no residential units, permitted in June 2022 at June Development Management Committee and 22/00444/FUL for Erection of a single detached dwelling, refused under delegated powers in December 2022) that the site is within the countryside and not considered within the built-up area of Abbotsley.
- 7.7 It must also be noted that the approved conversion of the existing barn on site into two residential units, approved at June 2022 planning committee remains extant and able to be implemented until June 2025 as per condition 1 of that permission. Therefore, the extant permission is a material consideration and provides the applicant a legal fallback for two dwellings on the site.
- 7.8 Policy LP10 of the of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 (Hereon: 'Local Plan') deals with development in the countryside and states:

All development in the countryside must:

- a. seek to use land of lower agricultural value in preference to land of higher agricultural value:
 - i. avoiding the irreversible loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 1 to 3a) where possible, and
 - ii. avoiding Grade 1 agricultural land unless there are exceptional circumstances where the benefits of the proposal significantly outweigh the loss of land;
- b. recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside; and
- c. not give rise to noise, odour, obtrusive light or other impacts that would adversely affect the use and enjoyment of the countryside by others.
- 7.9 The Parish Council has raised that the site is outside the historic village envelope and would set a precedent of houses along Harbins Lane. The distinction between what is considered as within the 'built up area' or outside the built-up area is no longer assessed against a 'village envelope' or can officers consider potential development that may / may not come forward. Each

site is assessed individually in relation to the policies in the Local Plan to 2036. The 'built up area' is defined within the Local Plan to 2036 as: a distinct group of buildings that includes 30 or more homes. Land which relates more to the group of buildings rather than to the surrounding countryside is also considered to form part of the 'built-up area'.

- 7.10 The site does not meet the criteria for a 'built up area' as defined in the Local Plan to 2036 and instead relates more to the countryside.
- 7.11 The land is classified as Grade 2 agricultural land. This agricultural land and the existing agricultural building, has been disused for a considerable time. The land is not linked physically to a larger agricultural holding and the loss of this piece of agricultural land would not be significantly harmful. In the event of an approval decision being given to the proposal, it is recommended that Permitted Development Rights are removed to control further development on the site and assessment given to both recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and not give rise to noise, odour, obtrusive light or other impacts that would adversely affect the use and enjoyment of the countryside by others.
- 7.12 Taking the above into consideration the development is considered to accord with Policy LP10 as it has potential to comply with parts a), b) and c).
- 7.13 Paragraph 119 of the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework 2021 ('NPPF') states planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions.
- 7.14 Support for development in the countryside is provided within Policy LP33 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 and requires proposals that would not be dealt with through 'Prior Approval/ Notification' to demonstrate that:
 - a. the building is:
 - i. redundant or disused;
 - ii. of permanent and substantial construction:
 - iii. not in such a state of dereliction or disrepair that significant reconstruction would be required; and
 - iv. structurally capable of being converted for the proposed use; and
 - b. the proposal:
 - i. would lead to an enhancement of the immediate setting; and
 - ii. any extension or alteration would not adversely affect the form, scale, massing or proportion of the building.

A proposal for the replacement of a building in the countryside will be supported where criteria a, i to iii above are fulfilled and the proposal would lead to a clear and substantial enhancement of the immediate setting. A modest increase in floorspace will be supported.

The position of the replacement buildings within the site should be considered comprehensively so that it is located where it would have the least possible adverse impact on the immediate surroundings, the wider landscape and the amenity of the users of existing buildings nearby.

- 7.15 The proposal is for a replacement building and therefore criteria a, i to iii of Policy LP33 above are relevant alongside a requirement that the proposal would lead to a clear and substantial enhancement of the immediate setting, with a modest increase in floorspace supported.
- 7.16 As confirmed in planning approval 21/00436/FUL for Conversion of existing agricultural barn to 2no residential units, the existing barn on site is disused and has been verified by the case officer on a site visit conducted in July 2023. A submitted construction survey confirms that the existing building is of permanent and substantial construction and not in such a state of dereliction or disrepair that significant reconstruction would be required. The proposal is therefore considered to meet Local Plan Policy LP33 criteria a.
- 7.17 The current site is overgrown with a disused agricultural barn to the rear. Therefore, it can be considered that the introduction of two dwellings with associated landscaping would lead to a clear and substantial enhancement of the immediate setting. There is not a strict linear pattern of development on Harbins Lane. The dwellings would be sited toward the centre of the site with good-sized private amenity areas whereas the approved scheme sited the dwellings to the rear of the site not providing any private amenity areas and would be more in-line with the current building pattern. The existing footprint of the barn is approximately 183 sqm, while the proposed is 194 sqm, which is considered to be a modest increase in floorspace. These would comply with criteria b (i) and (ii).
- 7.18 Overall, therefore, it is considered that the proposal meets Local Plan Policies LP10 and LP33 and the NPPF (2021) and is acceptable in principle.

Design, Visual Amenity and impact on the surrounding area

7.19 Policy LP11 of the Local Plan states that proposals will be supported where it is demonstrated that they positively respond to their context and draw inspiration from the key characteristics

- of their surroundings, including the natural, historic and built environment.
- 7.20 Policy LP12 of the Local Plan states that proposals will be supported where they contribute positively to the area's character and identity and where they successfully integrate with adjoining buildings, topography and landscape.
- 7.21 The proposed dwellings are located centrally within the site with equal plot widths, setbacks and rear enclosed gardens. There are differing layouts on Harbins Lane, with a mixture of detached and terraced dwellings prevalent around the site with a mixture of building lines and shapes of buildings. However, the revised siting of the dwellings (as compared to the siting on the extant permission for two dwellings) is, in terms of layout, considered an improvement on that approved as well as providing ample space around the buildings for rhythm and amenity. With no established layout or pattern of development, the proposed dwellings, in a broad rectangular shape with a modest 194 sqm footprint are considered to be appropriate and acceptable in this instance.
- 7.22 It is acknowledged that Abbotsley Parish Council has raised concerns regarding design. The proposals would replace a single storey agricultural structure on the site which currently has a ridge height of approximately 4.5 metres with a gable roof. While the proposal would retain a pitched-roof form, the proposed ridge height at approximately 4.7 metres would result in an increase of approximately 0.2m in height. It is considered that this increase would not look out of place given that there is a mixture of single storey and two storey gabled buildings in the vicinity of the site and the proposal would, in terms of form, massing and materials (stained weather boarding, doors windows and slate roof) would retain its barn-like agricultural appearance. It is recommended to append a materials condition to any consent given to the application to ensure the proposals appearance and another condition to confirm levels of the site to ensure the proposal would not dominate surrounding buildings. With these conditions in place, it is considered that the form and massing of the proposal would appropriate to its location and be acceptable in this instance.
- 7.23 Hard and soft landscaping includes a shared Indian stone paving drive to the front of the dwellings, with hedging round the site to separate the houses and enclose front gardens. A number of trees are proposed to be planted to the front, rear and sides of the site and each dwelling would feature a wildflower meadow to the front. It is considered that the greening of the site is a welcome improvement to the overgrown hardstanding that is presently on site and would soften and screen the development from public view.

- 7.24 It is noted that the site boundary of the proposal is approximately 41 metres north of Abbotsley Conservation Area and 100 metres north of Home Farm, High Street, Abbotsley which is a domestic Grade II Listed Building.
- 7.25 The Council's Conservation Officer was formally consulted on the proposals and after careful review raised no objections to the proposal, noting that the character of the Conservation Area in Harbins Lane comes mainly from the Listed Building 67 High Street (a timber framed, thatched cottage dating from the 17th century or earlier with a hall and cross wing). Apart from the late 19th century building at 16 Harbins Lane, which is unlisted and outside the Conservation Area, the other buildings in Harbins Lane are modern.
- The Conservation Officer regards the contribution of the proposal 7.26 site to the setting of the Conservation Area is limited. The existing barn is not a historic building nor of architectural merit or interest and the rest of the site is overgrown and partly of concrete hardstanding. The proposal uses the existing access to the site and the proposed dwellinghouses are of a similar scale and height to the existing barn and of a traditional style and materials. In this location they relate to the existing modern houses and bungalows along Harbins Lane. The proposal site lies outside the Conservation Area and because of the distance and intervening buildings the proposal is not considered harmful to the setting of the Conservation Area. The proposed dwellinghouses are also distant from the Listed Building with intervening buildings and so are not considered to fall within its setting. Officers therefore conclude that the proposed demolition of the existing barn and its replacement with the proposed two dwellings are considered to preserve the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and the setting of the Listed Building at 67 High Street and subsequently would not cause any significant detriment to designated heritage assets, in line with Local Plan Policy LP34.
- 7.27 Although the site is considered to relate more to the open countryside and is therefore not considered to be in the built up area of the settlement, the change of use to residential is overall considered to be acceptable in terms of visual amenity. It is important to retain the rural character of the area via suitable landscaping of the proposed curtilage and the retention of existing hedgerows. This will serve to soften the transition from the built form of the settlement that surrounds the existing agricultural building, to the open countryside to the north to ensure the development will have minimal impact on the rural character of the area. Specific details of the proposed hard and soft landscaping can be secured by suitable landscaping conditions and the removal of Permitted Development Rights associated with the proposed dwellings.

7.28 On balance, the proposal is considered to respond positively to its context within the countryside setting and contributes positively to the areas character and identity. The proposal is therefore considered to accord with Policies LP11, LP12 and LP34 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036, the Huntingdonshire Design Guide (2017), the National Design Guide and the NPPF (2021) in this regard.

Residential Amenity

- 7.29 Policy LP14 of the Local Plan to 2036 states a proposal will be supported where a high standard of amenity is provided for all users and occupiers of the proposed development and maintained for users and occupiers of neighbouring land and buildings. A site visit was carried out by the case officer during the consultation period of the application.
- 7.30 The proposed dwellings would face east toward Harbins Lane and are single storey. Harbins Farm sits approximately 25 metres from the side elevation of Plot 2 to the north, approximately 49 metres from No.11 Harbins Lane opposite the site to the east and approximately 22 metres from No.3 Harbins Lane to the south. The rear of the site is open land.
- 7.31 Page 143 of the Huntingdon District Design Guide states: 'A general rule of thumb of 21m distance between properties ensures privacy for residential use.' It is noted that the proposals exceed this distance requirement to ensure no loss of privacy for users of the site or nearby properties.
- 7.32 Given the proposed layout of the development together with the proposed height of the building and proximity to neighbouring residential buildings, it is considered that the amenity standards of neighbours would be acceptable and would not give rise to significant levels of overlooking, overbearing, overshadowing impacts, noise disturbance, obtrusive light and odour and are acceptable in this instance.
- 7.33 The proposed dwellings would each be two bedroom, 4 person and would have a gross internal floor area of approximately 192 sqm and 207.6 sqm and so exceed and accord with national space standards of 70sqm for a 2 bedroom, four person single storey dwelling. All habitable rooms would have natural light with acceptable private residential amenity garden areas. It is considered therefore that future occupiers of the site would have an acceptable standard of amenity in this respect. It is also regarded that situating the dwellings to the middle of the site would allow for better amenity to the extant conversion of the agricultural building which provided no rear amenity area for residents.

- 7.34 The proposal has been reviewed by the Council's Environmental Health team, who have not raised any significant concerns regarding the impact of the change of use from agricultural buildings and land to residential subject to a condition requiring a contamination investigation to be carried out and submitted to the Local Planning Authority which would ensure that risks from land contamination to the future users of the land and neighbouring land are minimised and to ensure that the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to workers, neighbours and other offsite receptors, in accordance with Local Plan Policy LP14 and the National Planning Policy Framework. It is recommended that this condition be appended to any consent given in the event of an approval decision being made on the application to safeguard residential amenity.
- 7.35 Overall, subject to condition, it is considered that the proposal would provide a high standard of amenity for future users and occupiers of the site and would retain and improve a high standard of amenity for users and occupiers of neighbouring land and buildings in accordance with Policy LP14 of the Local Plan and Paragraph 130(f) of the NPPF 2021.

Parking Provision, Access and Highway safety

- 7.36 Policy LP17 of the Local Plan to 2036 seeks to ensure that new development incorporates appropriate space for vehicle movements, facilitates access for emergency vehicles and service vehicles and incorporates adequate parking for vehicles and cycles.
- 7.37 A Highways Traffic and Transport Statement has been included with the application alongside speed data.
- 7.38 The proposal includes at least one off-road parking space to the front of each dwelling with a shared access off Harbins Lane and additional space for vehicles to turn and exit the site in forward gear. Each dwelling would provide for the required 2 cycle spaces (one per bedroom) via secure covered cycle spaces in the attached garages.
- 7.39 Cambridgeshire County Council as the Local Highways Authority have reviewed the proposals and has noted that following a careful review of the documents provided to the Highway Authority as part of the above planning application, it was noted that application no. 21/00436/FUL for the conversion of the existing barn to 2 no. dwellings was granted permission. The access with and visibility is adequate for the traffic volumes and speeds previously recorded in Harbins Lane, therefore, no significant adverse effect upon the Public Highway should result from this proposal should it gain benefit of Planning Permission.

- Consequently, it is considered that the proposal is acceptable in highway safety terms.
- 7.40 It is considered that the shared driveway is of an adequate width (approximately 6.3 metres) and the required vehicular and pedestrian visibility are acceptable and shows suitable pedestrian visibility. Furthermore, the additional traffic arising from two, two-bedroom dwellings is not anticipated to cause significant detriment to pedestrians or drivers which would cause the proposal to be refused on parking provision, access or Highway safety grounds.
- 7.41 The application therefore complies with Policy LP16 and LP17 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 as the access roads would provide appropriate space for vehicular movements within the site, provide for sufficient parking and would take into account highway safety when entering or leaving the site and within the site.

Flood Risk and Drainage

- 7.42 National guidance and Policy LP5 of the Local Plan to 2036 seek to steer new developments to areas at lowest risk of flooding and advises this should be done through application of the Sequential Test, and if appropriate the Exceptions Test (as set out in paragraphs 159-169 of the NPPF (2021)).
- 7.43 The application site is situated in Flood Zone 1 based on the Environment Agency Flood Maps and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2017). The site therefore is at low risk of flooding and does not require a flood risk assessment. In this regard, the proposed development is considered to accord with Policy LP5 of the Local Plan to 2036.
- 7.44 The applicant has proposed that surface water be dealt with by soakaway. It should be noted that the existing building footprint roof area is not proposed to be significantly increased such that the development would lead to an unacceptable increase in the level of surface water discharge.
- 7.45 The proposal does not commit to the method of foul water disposal. However, given the low flood risk and minor scale of development, officers are satisfied that full details of the surface and foul water drainage can be secured as part of building regulations and other relevant legislative requirements in this instance.
- 7.46 The proposal is therefore considered acceptable with regard to Policies LP5, LP6 and LP15 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 and the NPPF 2021 in this regard.

Biodiversity

- 7.47 Policy LP30 of Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 requires proposals to demonstrate that all potential adverse impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity have been investigated. Policy LP30 also requires development proposals to ensure no net loss in biodiversity and provide a net gain in biodiversity where possible.
- 7.48 In terms of siting, the proposal is considered to be open countryside and given the agricultural nature of the site, the building and its surrounds hold the potential for habitat species to be found.
- 7.49 The application is accompanied by a Landscape Strategy Plan alongside a Method Statement and Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (MSBEP). A cover letter explains that given the 2022 proposals are extant, the MSBEP serves to update listed documents where necessary and notes that the Ecologist visited the site on 9th April 2023.
- 7.50 The MSBEP notes that no significant change has taken place since the last visit and ecology report dated 26th December 2021 and recommends a suite of biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures including (but not limited to) working hours and prior to commencement preparatory works. Mitigation measures relating to the construction phase and post-construction monitoring. These recommended protection measures which can be secured by condition.
- 7.51 In terms of biodiversity enhancements, the MSBEP proposes bat boxes, insect boxes, bird boxes, hedgehog boxes, trees, hedgerows and wildflower meadow A landscape strategy plan has been submitted listing all proposed location of biodiversity enhancements, timings of implementation and maintenance. It is recommended that the proposals can be approved subject to all the recommendations and mitigation measures set out in the report being implemented. A suitably worded condition will ensure that these measures are carried out.
- 7.52 Overall, subject to condition, it is considered the proposed development accords with Policy LP30 of the Local Plan and paragraph 174 d) of the NPPF 2021 and that a net gain in biodiversity will be achieved. The proposal is therefore considered to be acceptable and in accordance with the aims and objectives of Policy LP30 of the Local Plan to 2036 and the NPPF 2021.

Trees

7.53 Policy LP31 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 requires proposals to demonstrate that the potential for adverse impacts

- on trees, woodland, hedges and hedgerows has been investigated and that a proposal will only be supported where it seeks to conserve and enhance any existing tree, woodland, hedge or hedgerow of value that would be affected by the proposed development.
- 7.54 An Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been submitted with the application, and further tree information has been provided within the Landscaping Strategy Plan and MSBEP. No trees are proposed to be removed as part of the proposals.
- 7.55 At the time of writing this report, the Council's Trees Officer has not reviewed the submitted information and provided comments. It is anticipated that these comments will be provided as a late representation.
- 7.56 Nevertheless, subject to the imposition of compliance conditions to ensure the proposal is carried out in accordance with the submitted arboricultural details, the proposal is considered to be in accordance with Policy LP31 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 and paragraph 174 b) of the NPPF (2021) in this regard.

Other Matters

Other applications on Harbins Lane

Abbotsley Parish Council have made reference to a recent 7.57 refusal of residential development at land north of Ivy Cottage (16 Harbins Lane). Although no reference was provided, the most recent application refused on this land relates to a proposed two-storey extension to the side / rear and was refused on the basis of 'its prominence, location, scale, bulk and design would be harmful to the significance of the Abbotsley Conservation Area.' The proposal was refused on heritage grounds on a householder extension which bears no relation to this current application for consideration. Notwithstanding this, The Council's Conservation Officer was formally consulted on the current application and raised no objections to the proposals impacts to nearby heritage assets. While the Parish Council's comments are acknowledged, the case officer respectfully points out that the proposal is not for householder development, nor is it in Abbotsley Conservation Area and is therefore considered acceptable in this instance.

Archaeology

7.58 Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeology Team were formally consulted on the application. The Archaeology Officer notes that their records indicate that the development sits to the north of the historic core of Abbotsley, in an area likely utilised for agriculture in the medieval to post-medieval periods, with

earthwork remains of ridge and furrow cultivation being known to the west and north of the development area (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record reference. MCB18961). To the north-west lie a series of enclosure known from cropmarks of an unknown date (CHER ref. MCB18962). However, due to archaeological potential and the scale of the development, the Archaeology team do not consider archaeological intervention to be proportionate. Therefore officers do not regard that the proposal would cause significant detriment to any archaeological potential in Line with the National Planning Policy Framework and Local Plan Policy LP34 (Heritage Assets and their Settings).

Accessible and Adaptable Homes

- 7.59 Policy LP25 of the Local Plan to 2036 requires proposals that include housing to meet the optional Building Regulation requirement M4(2)" Accessible and adaptable dwellings" unless it can be demonstrated that site specific factors make this unachievable.
- 7.60 The agent has confirmed within paragraph 6.12 of the submitted Planning, Design and Access Statement that the proposed development would be designed in accordance with the M4(2) standards and will be built in accordance with these. A condition will be imposed upon any consent to ensure that the development is built in accordance with these standards and that they are maintained for the life of the development.

Water Efficiency

- 7.61 Policy LP12 of the Local Plan to 2036 requires proposals that include housing to comply with the optional building regulation for water efficiency, as set out in Approved Document G.
- 7.62 The agent has confirmed in an email dated that the proposed development is designed in accordance with the standards and will be built in accordance with these. A condition will be imposed upon any consent to ensure that the development is built in accordance with these standards and that they are maintained for the life of the development.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):

7.63 The development will be CIL liable in accordance with the Council's adopted charging schedule; CIL payments will cover footpaths and access, health, community facilities, libraries and lifelong learning and education.

<u>Unilateral Undertaking for Wheeled Bins:</u>

7.64 A Unilateral Undertaking to secure the provision of wheeled bins has been submitted as part of the application. On this basis, the

proposal would provide a satisfactory contribution to meet the tests within the CIL Regulations. The proposal would therefore accord with Policy LP4 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 and the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (2011).

7.65 There are no other material planning considerations which have a significant bearing on the determination of this application.

Conclusion:

- 7.66 The proposed development is considered to be compliant with relevant national and local planning policy as:
 - The principle of the development of this site for the demolition of existing agricultural barn and erection of 2no dwellings is acceptable.
 - The proposed development would have no significant adverse impact on the overall character of the area due to its scale, bulk and massing.
 - The proposed development would have a neutral impact on heritage assets.
 - The proposal would satisfactorily safeguard the amenities of neighbouring dwellings and the future occupants of the proposed dwellings.
 - There are no overriding highway safety issues and the proposal is acceptable with regards to parking provision.
 - The proposal is acceptable with regards to biodiversity.
 - The proposal is acceptable with regards to the impact on trees and landscaping.
 - The proposal is acceptable in terms of flood risk and drainage.
 - The proposal is acceptable with regards to meeting requirements for accessible and adaptable homes.
 - The proposal is acceptable with regards to meeting requirements for water efficiency.
- 7.67 There are no other material planning considerations which have a significant bearing on the determination of this application.
- 7.68 Having regard to applicable national and local planning policies, and having taken all relevant material considerations into account, it is therefore recommended that planning permission should be granted.

8. RECOMMENDATION - APPROVAL subject to conditions to include the following

- Time Limit
- Approved Plans
- Details of external materials
- Details of Hard and Soft Landscaping
- Details of Biodiversity Method Statement
- Removal of PD Rights

- Contamination
- Levels
- Compliance with Arboricultural Impact Assessment
- Compliance with LP12j (water efficiency standards) and
- LP25 (accessible and adaptable homes)

If you would like a translation of this document, a large text version or an audio version, please contact us on 01480 388388 and we will try to accommodate your needs.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Enquiries about this report to Marie Roseaman Senior Development Management Officer – marie.roseaman@huntingdonshire.gov.uk



Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street Huntingdon. PE29 3TN Developmentcontrol@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

01480 388424 www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Head of Planning Services Pathfinder House

St. Mary's Street Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire PE 29 3TN
Application Number: 23/01024/FUL. Case Officer Marie Roseaman Proposal: Demolition of existing agricultural barn and erection of 2no dwellings Location: Land South Of Harbins FarmHarbins LaneAbbotsley Observations of Abbotsley Town/Parish Council. Please √ box as appropriate
Recommend approval because(please give relevant planning reasons in space below)
Recommend refusal because(please give relevant planning reasons in space below)
Please see letter attached.
No observations either in favour or against the proposal
Abbotsley Parish Council Clerk to Abbotsley Tewn/Parish Council. (For GDPR purposes please do not sign)
Date: 15th July 2023
Failure to return this form within the time indicated will be taken as an indication that the Town or Parish Council do not express any opinion either for or against the application.
Please send response to email address below:-
Development.control@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
(Development Management)

ABBOTSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Marie Roseaman
Development Control
Huntingdonshire District Council

14th July 2023

Dear Marie

23/01024/FUL - Demolition of existing agricultural barn and erection of 2no dwellings Land south of Harbins Farm, Harbins Lane, Abbotsley

Abbotsley Parish Council considered this application at its meeting held 13th July 2023. Members of the Parish Council voted unanimously to recommend **refusal**.

The site is outside of the established village limits and outside the conservation area. Although less weight may now be attached to the historic village envelope, the site feels outside of the village limits. The built-up area of the village is terminated by 16 Harbins Lane, Ivy Cottage, and the two-storey dwelling opposite with a further agricultural dwelling set back to the east. It is considered that the area beyond these dwellings, including the application site, forms part of the open countryside area to the north of the village.

It is noted that a previous planning application for residential development to the north of lvy Cottage has previously been refused planning permission.

The site analysis indicates that Harbins Lane has historically served only a limited number of dwellings and although this has increased in recent years, the existing character of Harbins Lane would not be enhanced by a long linear dead-end road with dwellings forming the frontage. Approval of the scheme would set a precedent for further development along the lane. The character of the area is defined by the way the dwellings and agricultural buildings link to the more open countryside and a street of new houses is not appropriate.

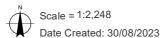
The proposal is for two new dwellings in the countryside and should be refused.

Yours sincerely

Katie Bates

Katie Bates Clerk to Abbotsley Parish Council

Development Management Committee

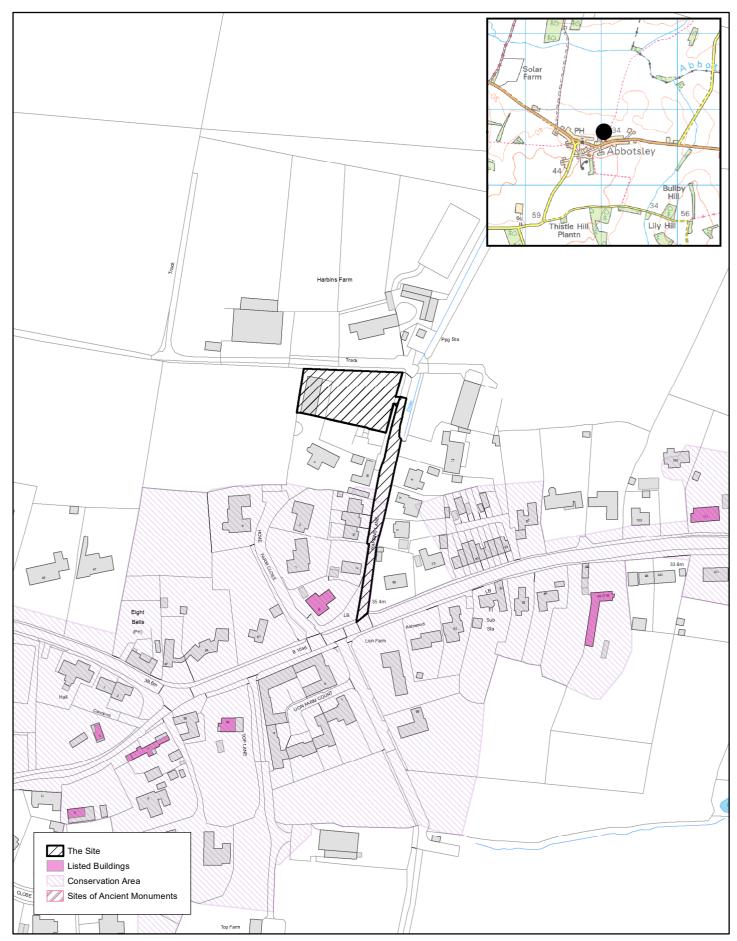


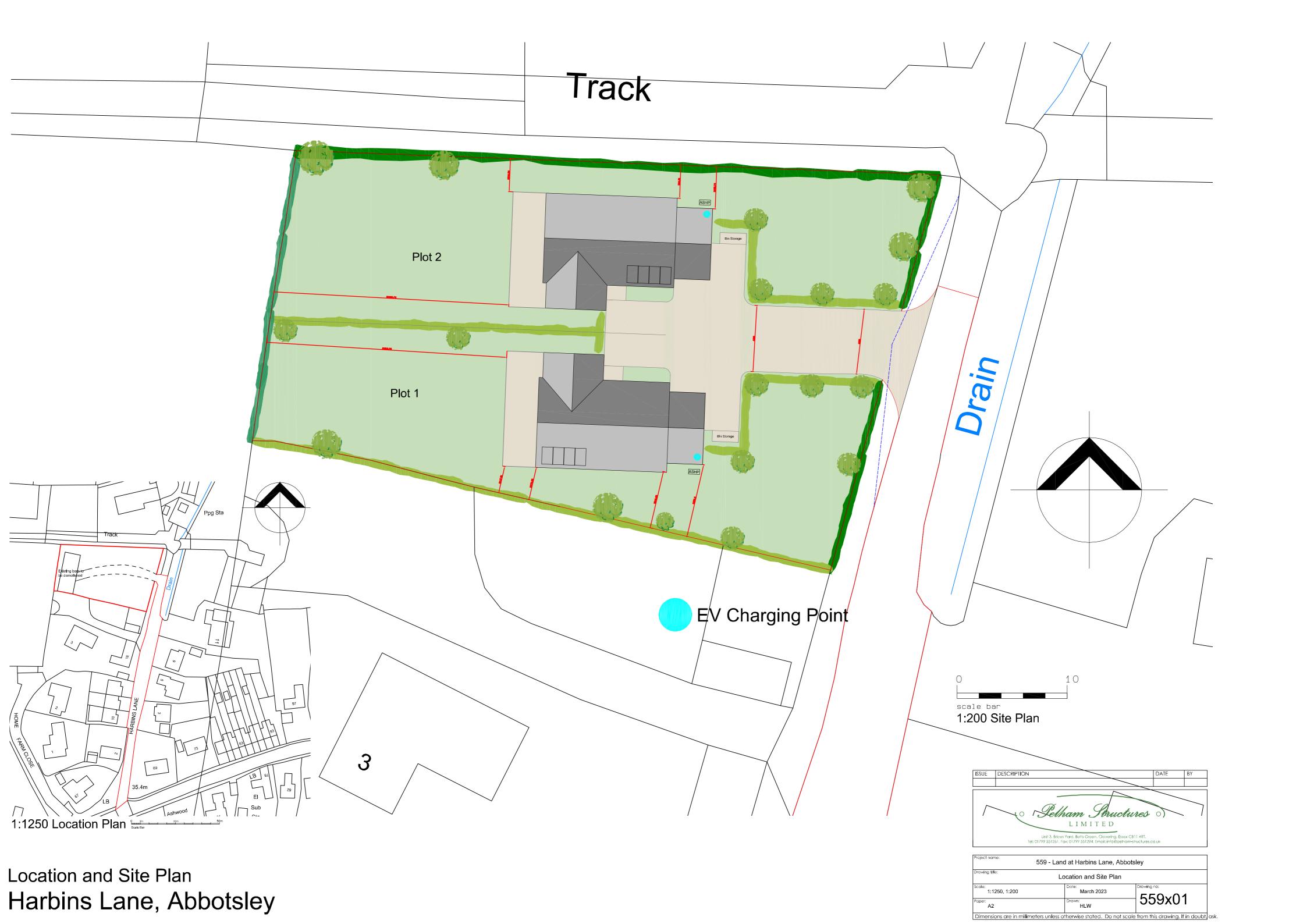
Application Ref:23/01024/FUL

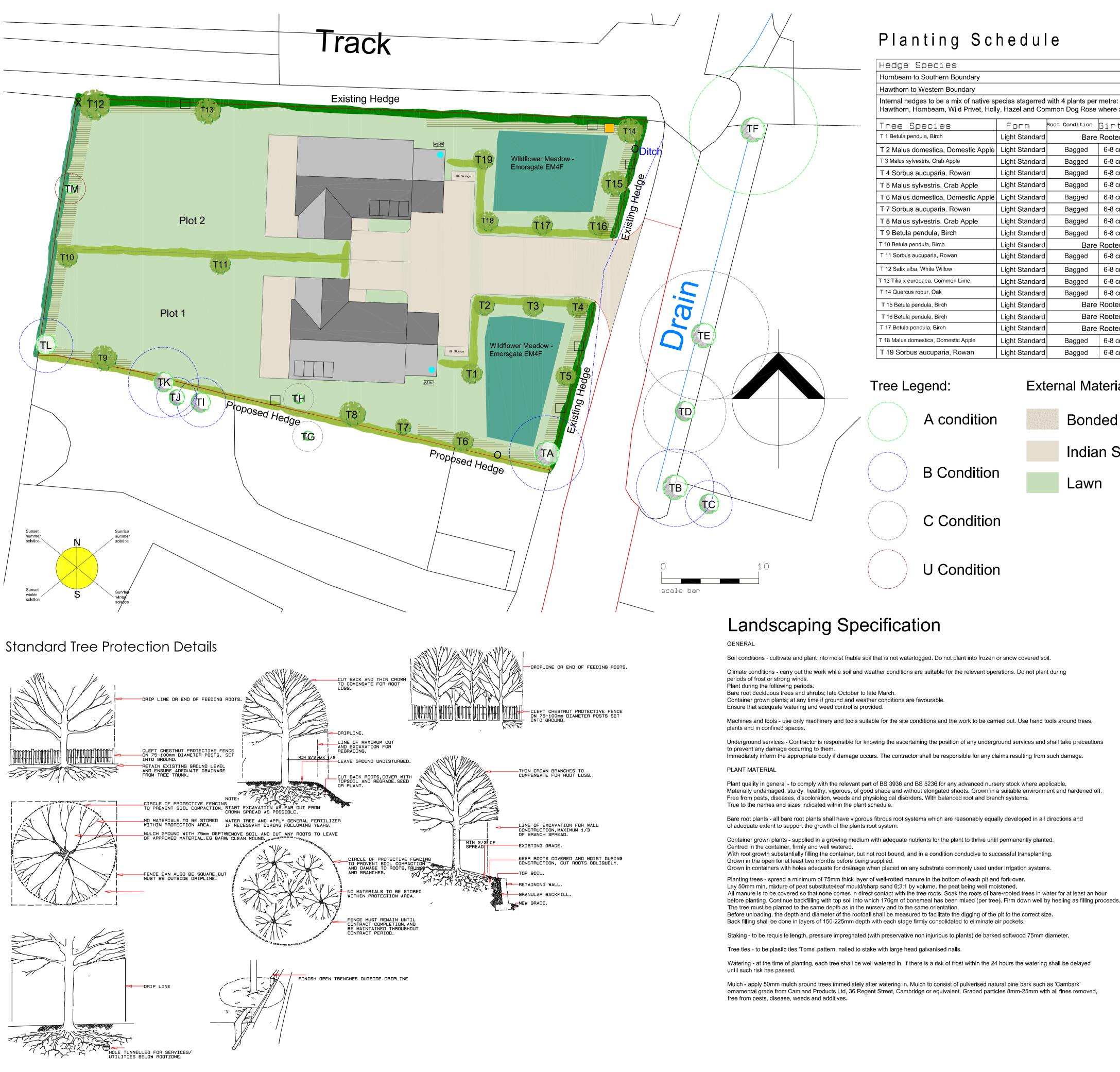
Location: Abbotsley



© Crown copyright and database rights 202: Ordnance Survey HDC 10002232







Landscape Strategy Plan Land at Harbins Lane, Abbotsley

Planting Schedule

Tree Legend:

A condition

B Condition

C Condition

U Condition

Hedge Species				
Hornbeam to Southern Boundary				
Hawthorn to Western Boundary				
Internal hedges to be a mix of native sp Hawthorn, Hornbeam, Wild Privet, Holl				
Tree Species	Form	Root Condition	Girth	Height
T 1 Betula pendula, Birch	Light Standard	Bare	Rooted S	hrub
T 2 Malus domestica, Domestic Apple	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 3 Malus sylvestris, Crab Apple	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 4 Sorbus aucuparia, Rowan	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 5 Malus sylvestris, Crab Apple	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 6 Malus domestica, Domestic Apple	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 7 Sorbus aucuparia, Rowan	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 8 Malus sylvestris, Crab Apple	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 9 Betula pendula, Birch	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 10 Betula pendula, Birch	Light Standard	Bare Rooted Shrub		
T 11 Sorbus aucuparia, Rowan	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 12 Salix alba, White Willow	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 13 Tilia x europaea, Common Lime	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 14 Quercus robur, Oak	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 15 Betula pendula, Birch	Light Standard	Bare	Rooted S	hrub
T 16 Betula pendula, Birch	Light Standard	dard Bare Rooted Shrub		
T 17 Betula pendula, Birch	Light Standard	Bare Rooted Shrub		
T 18 Malus domestica, Domestic Apple	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm
T 19 Sorbus aucuparia, Rowan	Light Standard	Bagged	6-8 cm	250-300 cm

External Materials:

Lawn

Bonded Gravel

Existing Planting

Tree Species	Height	Stem Diameter	RPA	Condition
T A Fraxinus excelsior, Ash	10000	320	3840	B1 Rot at base, Ivy, previous surgery
T B Crataegus monogyna, Common Hawthorn	6500	570	3970	B1 Rot at base, Ivy, previous surgery
T C Alnus glutinosa, Common Alder	6000	280	2400	B1 Twin stem from base
T D Crataegus monogyna, Common Hawthorn	6000	490	4265	C1 Rot in some libs, Ivy
T E Fraxinus excelsior, Ash	8500	960	6655	C1 Dying, Inonotis hispidus, limb death
T F Salix fragilis, Crack Willow	11000	550	6600	A1 Pollarded historically but good
T G Picea abies, Norway Spruce	4500	130	1560	C1 Immature
T H Prunus domestica ssp domestica, Cultivated Plum	5500	130	1560	C1 Immature
T I Betula pendula, Silver Birch	9500	210	2520	B1 Previous bad surgery
T J Betula pendula, Silver Birch	9500	240	2040	B1 Twin stem from base
T K Betula pendula, Silver Birch	9500	300	3600	B1 Previous bad surgery
T L Crataegus monogyna, Common Hawthorn	6500	230#	2760	B1 Growth confined
T M Crataegus monogyna, Common Hawthorn	5000	130#	1560	U

Key:

Terrestrial Habitat

Bat Box

Insect Box

Bird Box

Existing Trees to be retained

Indian Stone Paving **Proposed Trees**

Existing Hedge

Proposed Double Row Hedge Proposed Single Row Hedge

Wildflower Meadow

Hedgehog Box **EV Charging Point**

Rootballed plants - root balls shall be well filled with fibrous roots and consist of reasonably cohesive natural soil which has been carefully lifted at the nursery so that it remains fully attached to the roots of the tree. Plants which have had bear roots bagged up with soil or containerised are not acceptable.

Transplanted at least twice in the nursery. Single, straight leader. Substantial and evenly developed side shoots to within 0.5m of ground level. Main stem to be substantial enough to be supported by short stake and single tie.

Labelling - when supplied to site trees to be labelled in accordance with the relevant part of the latest BS 3936 in order that they can be readily

Substitutes - if specified trees are unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at the time of ordering, submit alternatives and obtain approval from LPA before making any substitution.

PREPARATION OF PLANTING

Site clearance - Prior to cultivation all rubbish including stones, bricks, concrete, mortar, building materials, bottles, cans, litter, wood, plastic Remove all weed from planting areas either by hand pulling or using a herbicide containing glyphosate as the active ingredient which should be applied

Cultivation - do not dig or cultivate within the root spread of trees and shrubs to be retained. Break up compacted topsoil to its full depth.

Tree pits - shall be of a diameter 600mm greater that the root ball. The depth of the pit shall be 225mm deeper than the root ball and not less than 600mm deep. The base of the tree pit shall be forked over to a depth of 225mm.

MAINTENANCE AND MAKING GOOD DEFECTS

Maintenance prior to practical completion - at all times maintain planted areas in a clean, tidy and largely litter weed free state.

in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions allowing sufficient time prior to cultivation for the chemical to be effective.

Maintenance and defects liability period - the maintenance and defects liability run concurrently for thirty months (three years) after practical completion.

Maintenance - Make visits at approximately monthly intervals during the growing season and as necessary to fulfil the requirements of this specification. After each visit remove soil and other debris from surrounding hard surfaces and leave the site in a clean and tidy condition. Fork over beds as necessary

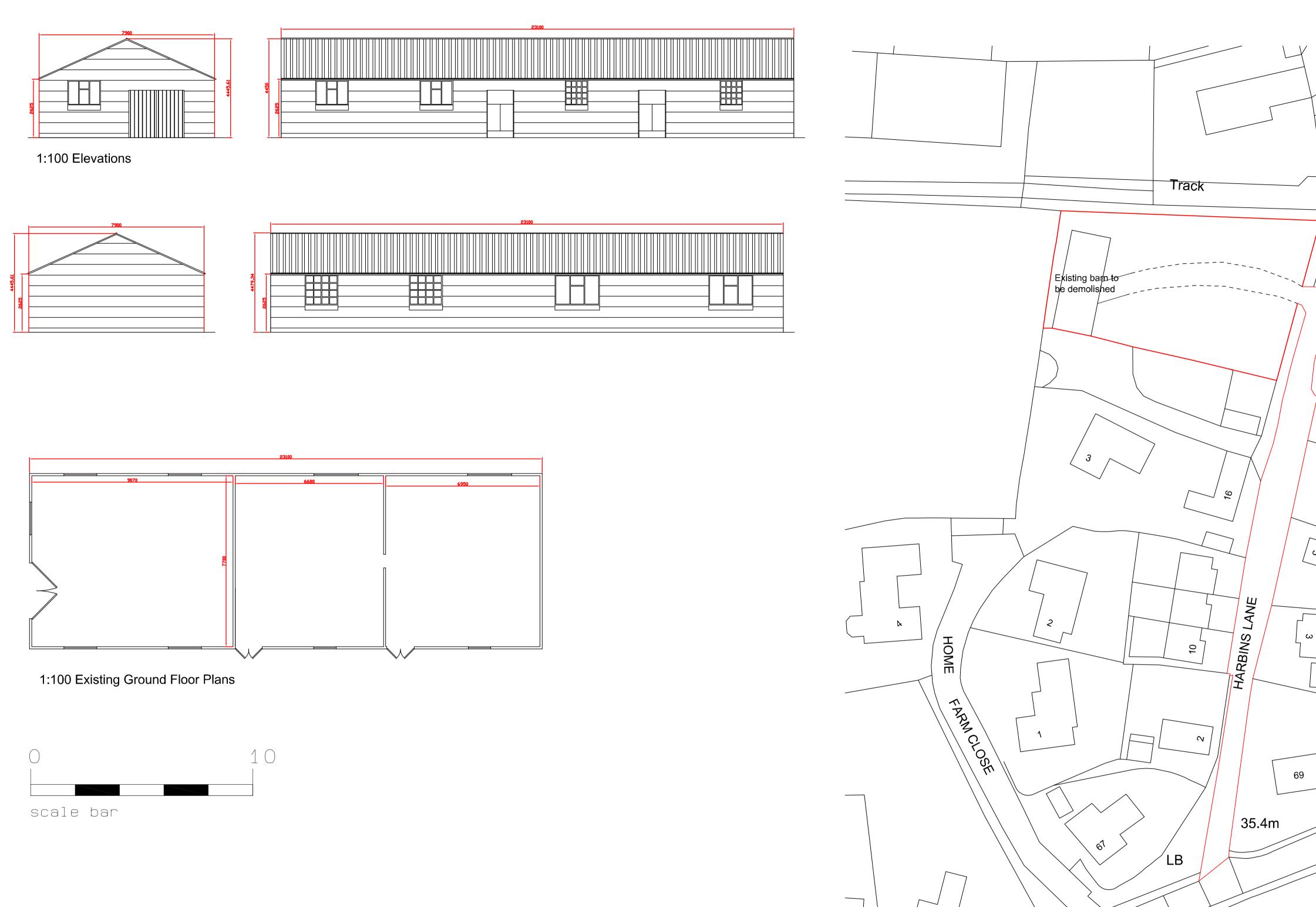
Ensure that the trees are not damaged by the use of mowers, nylon filament rotary cutters and similar powered tools. Every two months check condition of stakes and ties and replace if missing or broken. Adjust as necessary to allow for growth and prevent the rubbing of bark. Prune at appropriate times to remove dead, dying, diseased or damaged wood and suckers, to promote healthy growth and natural shape.

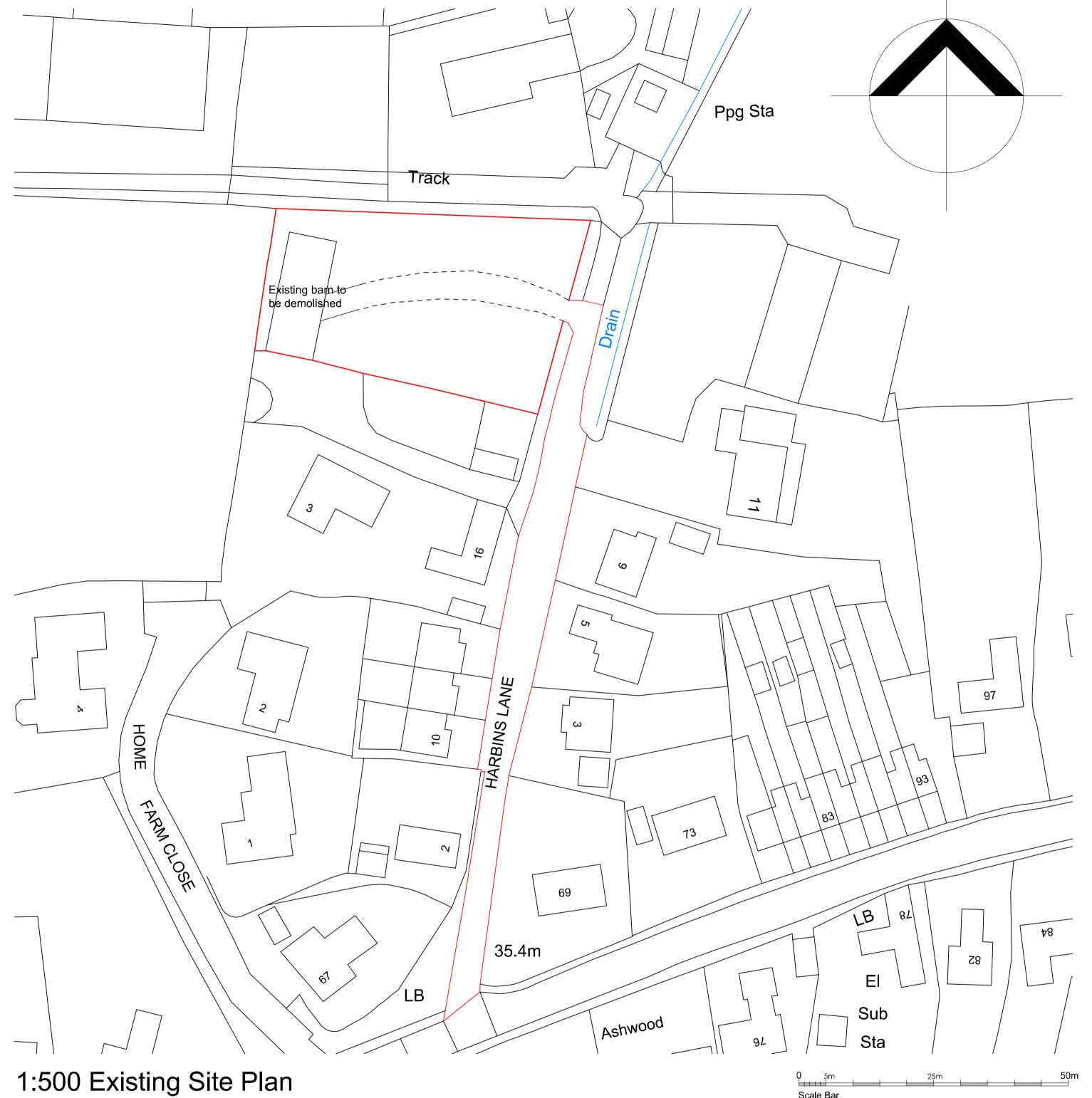
Failures of Planting - Excepting theft or malicious damage after practical completion, any of the trees that have failed to thrive, during the defects liability period, will be regarded as defects due to materials or workmanship not in accordance with this specification. Unless otherwise instructed they must be replaced by approved

Replacements must match the original specification. Replacement planting is to be carried out during the planting season within which the defects are discovered.



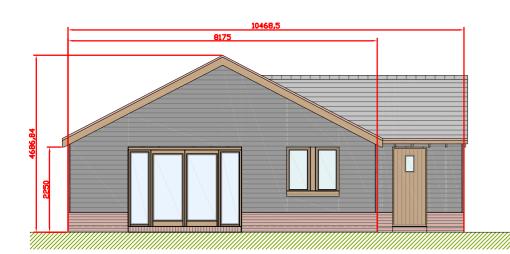
Project name:	559 - Land at Harbins Lane, Al	bbotsley
Drawing title:	Landscape Strategy Pla	ın
Scale: 1:200	Date: March 2023	Drawing no:
Paper: A1	Drawn: HLW	─ 559x02







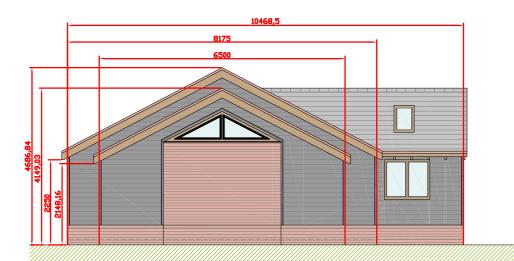
Existing Plans Land at Harbins Lane, Abbotsley

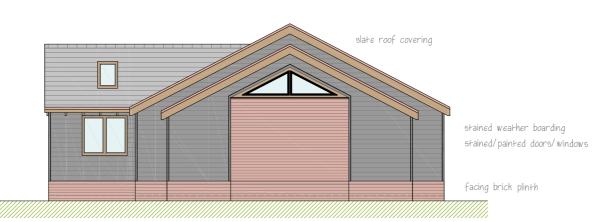


Rear Elevation - Plot 2

) as 1 2 3 4 5m

Plot 1

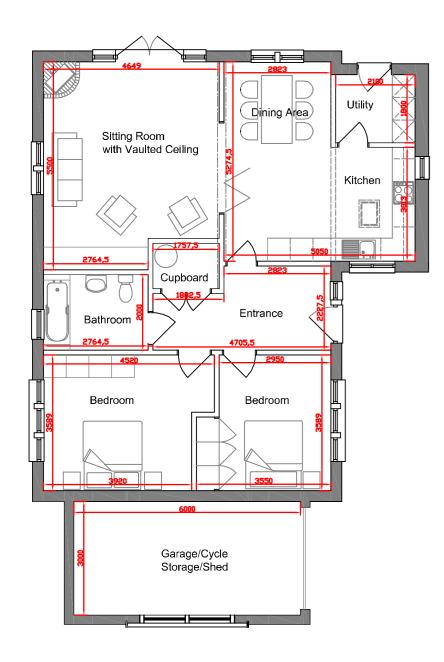


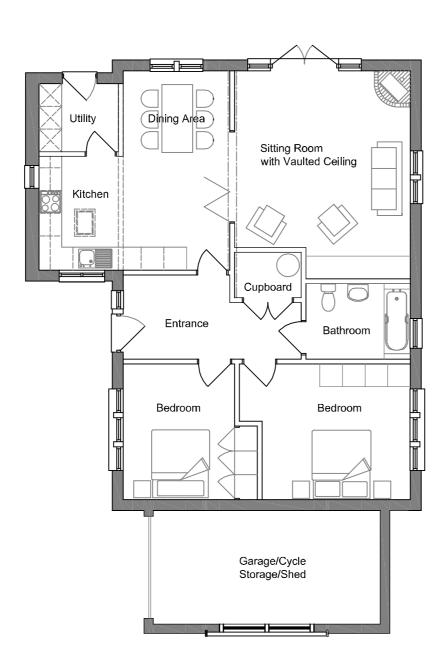


1:100 Front Elevation - Plot 1

0 0,5 1 2 3 4 5

Plot 2

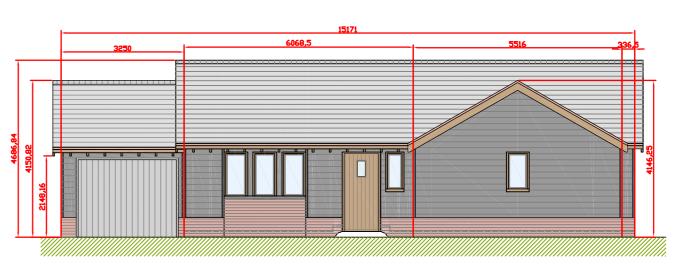




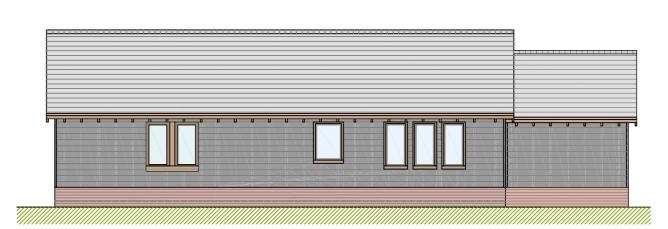
1:100 Ground Floor Plans Plot 1

Plot 1+2 Plans
Harbins Lane, Abbotsley

Plot 2



Entrance Elevation - Plot 1 (Plot 2 handed)



Flank Elevation - Plot 1 (Plot 2 handed)



ject name:	559 - Land at Harbins Lane,	Ahhoteley
	559 - Land at Harbins Lane,	Abbotsley
wing title:	Plot 1+2 Plans	
ale: 1:100	Date: March 2023	Drawing no:
per: A2	Drawn: HLW	559x0100A
mensions are in millime	ers unless otherwise stated. Do r	not scale from this drawing. If in doubt, as