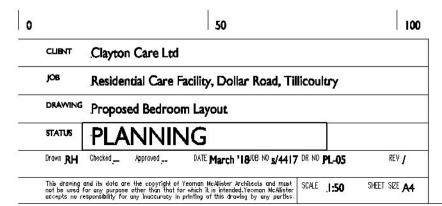


THE CLACKWANNANSHIRE COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACTS PLANS REFERRED TO IN DECISION NOTICE

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Front (East) Elevation



Rear (West) Elevation

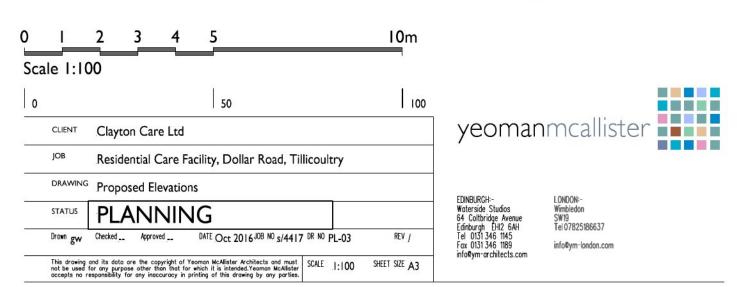
Side (North) Elevation

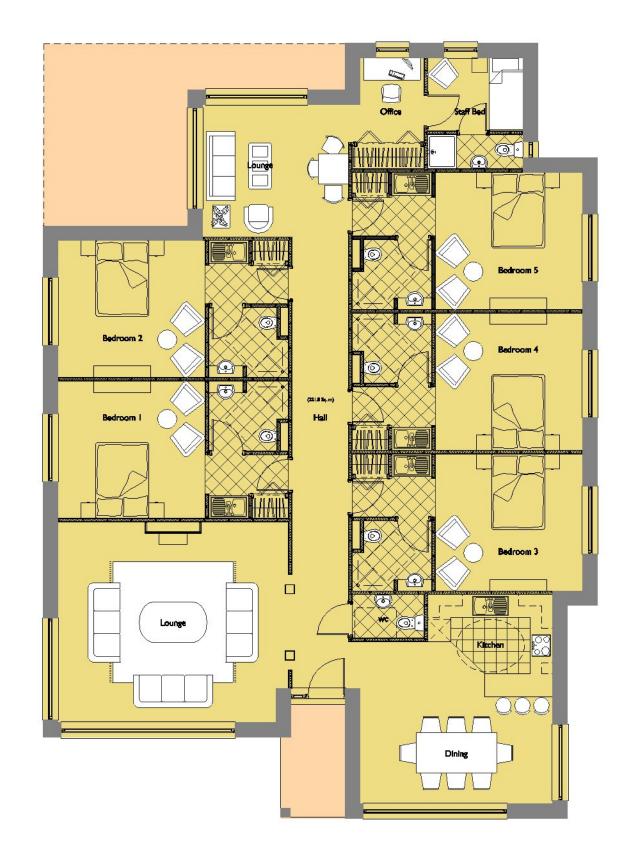


Side (South) Elevation

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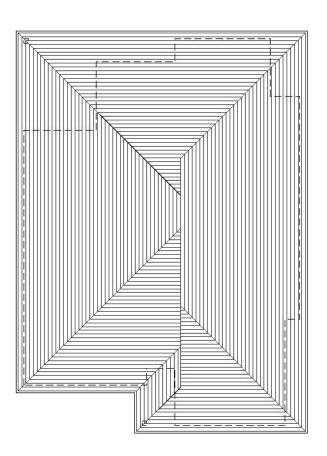


Ground Floor Plan 1:100

Floor Area 221.8 sq.m 2387.4 sq.ft

Capacity - 5 occupants



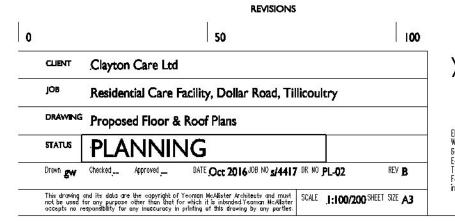


Roof Plan 1:200

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B 30.09.19 am Office layout corrected in response to comments from planning dept.
A 26.04.18 RH Amendments made to room layouts. - -
REV DATE DRAWN DESCRIPTION CHECK APP 1D

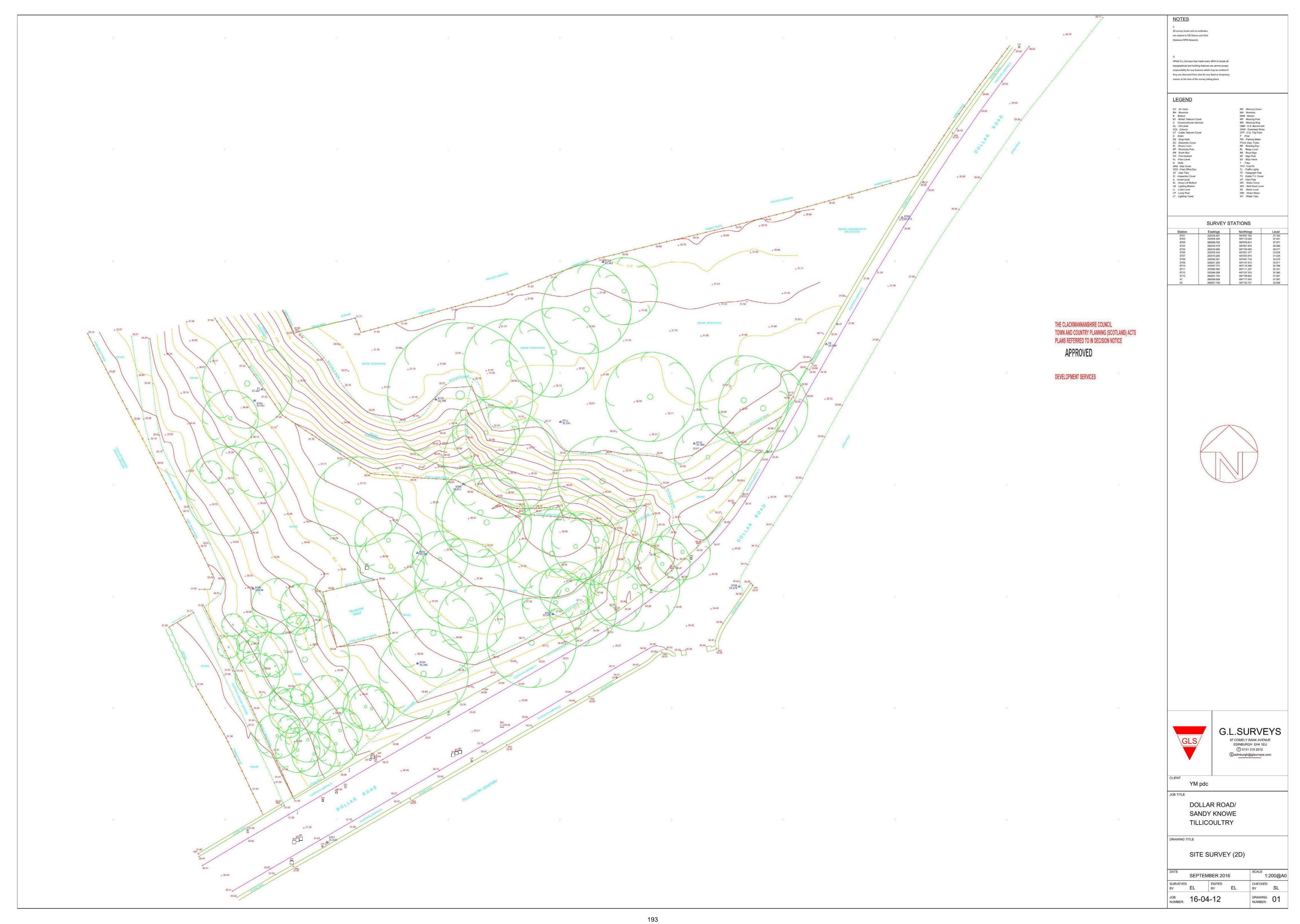




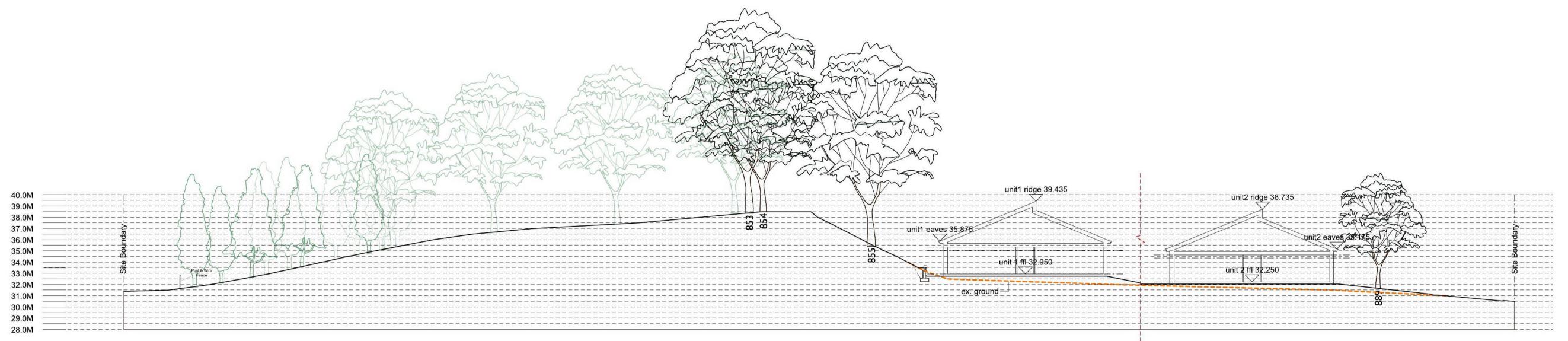
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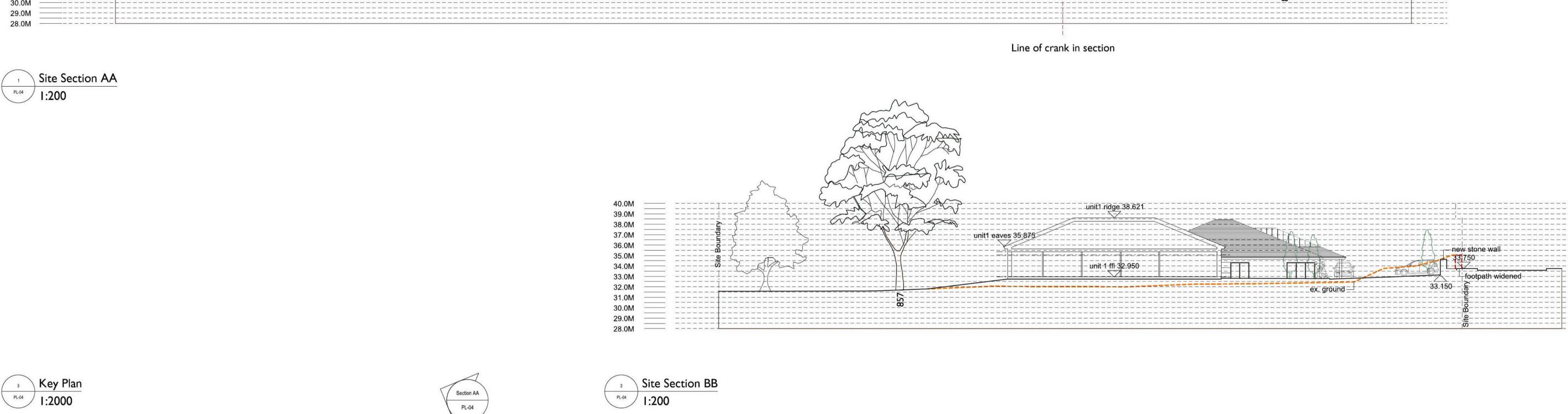
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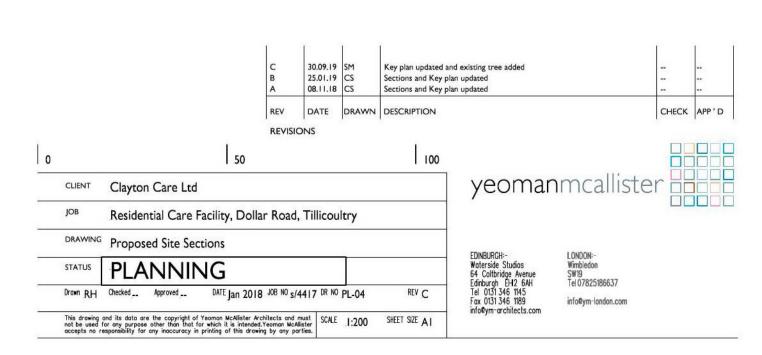








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THE CLACKWANNANSHIRE COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACTS
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Woodland Management Plan and Tree Proposals

for

Dollar Road Tillicoultry

for and on behalf of

Clayton Care Ltd

by

Yeoman McAllister Architects

September 2019

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Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report was commissioned by The Clayton Care in connection with proposals to develop part of the Woodland at Dollar Road, Tillicoultry. The development to which this report relates to is outlined below.

 Erection of a new residential care facility comprising of two single storey buildings.

The proposed site layout plan is illustrated on drawing PL-01 prepared by Yeoman McAllister Architects and this is referred to here.

1.2 Scope of Report

This report has been prepared in support of the development proposals. It is split into two main parts.

1. Woodland Management Plan — This focuses specifically on the mixed woodland to be retained around the site. This has been undermanaged for many years and would benefit from sensitive and proactive silvicultural management to improve overall quality and longevity.

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The proposed development provides a timely opportunity and impetus to do this.

This report relates to the woodland to be retained following the implementation of the development works. It encompasses long term aims and objectives, as well as setting out a range of short-term management proposals.

2. Individual Trees in Relation to Development – This identifies trees for removal to facilitate the proposed development. Indicative suggestions are provided regarding replacement planting.

1.3 Tree Survey

A detailed **Tree Survey** was undertaken across the site by Brindley Associates in May 2018 and a subsequent **Expanded Tree Survey** Report was also undertaken in September 2019. These provide a detailed description and inventory of all of the obvious individual trees within the main body of the site. The trees have been tagged and have been accurately plotted. These were submitted as separate documents and should be read in conjunction with this report. The tree numbering system is adopted here.

2. WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1 Removal and Retention

It is proposed to remove a relatively small number of trees around the northern part of the woodland to accommodate the proposed care facility, as shown on drawing PL-01 (trees 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 885, 888, 890 and 891). It is proposed to remove some of the trees due to poor condition (trees 823, 828, 844, 846, 883, 884, 892, 893, 894 and 895). These are indicated by a hatched line on plan PL-01. The vast bulk of the woodland will be retained. This extends to some 0.34 hectares.

2.2 Woodland Description and Assessment

The woodland forms a long, linear feature running along the south eastern boundary. It occupies a sloping embankment with a north easterly aspect and forms a prominent landscape feature in the locality. An area of public open space adjoins to the east. The main point of access for pedestrians is via a rough track entering from the open space to the north of the woodland and from the west of the site via the garage areas off Johnston Crescent.

The tree cover is essentially woodland and dominated by broadleaved trees that are both native and naturalised. There are some isolated examples of exotic conifer species. Conifers are represented by Sitka Spruce, which tend to form small stands. Broadleaved species are represented by Common Beech, Common Oak, Goat Willow, Mountain Ash, Norway Maple, Sitka Spruce, Sycamore and Wych Elm, representing the deciduous species, scattered throughout. The canopy is more or less complete across the woodland area.

Tree age is also mixed, although tending towards maturity with younger regeneration present in various stages of development.

There is little evidence of any proactive management having been carried out over many years. Dumping of rubbish is evident throughout the woodland and this is unsightly. Occasional large clumps of snowberry form dense thickets in places and these are starting to spread. Ivy is well- established in places and is becoming over-dominant to the detriment of the tree cover. Remedial felling, thinning and pruning works are desirable.

2.3 Aims and Objectives

Aim: To manage the woodland on a sound and sustainable basis, and as an integral landscape feature within the proposed development.

Objectives: It is intended that management of the woodland will fulfil a number of objectives.

- Manage the woodland in a sensitive and sustainable manner as an integral part of the proposed development;
- Minimise risk to public safety;
- Promote and encourage diversity in terms of species composition and age structure;
- Commence the regeneration and re-structuring process to ensure long- term continuity of tree cover;
 - Present a retention/removal plan;

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Present a strategic soft and hard landscaping design, including planting;
Present a subsequent arboricultural impact assessment that quantifies direct and indirect effects of the proposed design on the tree population;

2.4 Long Term Management Strategy

It is proposed to manage the woodland on a continual cover basis to meet a broad range of objectives. This will ensure that the site will remain wooded at all times, thereby minimising visual and environmental disruption to the area.

Over time, a combination of selective thinning and the opening up of small glades throughout the woodland will create 'regeneration areas'. This in turn will provide conditions suitable for the natural regeneration of tree species and provide opportunities for re-planting. Implemented at various points across the site over a long time scale, this approach will gradually create a matrix of different age classes desirable for the long-term perpetuation of the woodland, and create an attractive and sustainable ecosystem with enhanced age structure and species diversity. Invasive, poor quality sycamore will gradually be reduced and controlled in favour of a wider range of broadleaved tree species suited to the site. Oak, beech and ash will be promoted as the dominant species. Areas of bare ground which show no signs of regenerating naturally will be planted with a variety of native species suited to the local site conditions to restore full woodland cover. Regeneration areas will be focused around existing gaps in the canopy or areas of poor tree cover.

The overall aim is to develop the natural character of the woodland by diversifying species composition and promoting greater structural diversity. Natural regeneration of desirable species will be encouraged and promoted within gaps in the woodland canopy, and the site demonstrates good potential

for this. A higher proportion of species native to the area will be introduced by planting, where appropriate. The woodland cover will be allowed to develop in a natural fashion, creating a dynamic and attractive woodland feature of high amenity and wildlife value.

Mature individual trees will be managed along sound arboricultural principles and retained as long as it is safe to do so. Developing regeneration will be selectively re-spaced and thinned to select trees of superior quality and adjust species balance. The presence of sycamore will be controlled during thinning operations to prevent it from becoming over-dominant.

Undesirable understorey species, such as snowberry, will be reduced and controlled to benefit the natural flora, and promote opportunities for replanting or natural regeneration.

The main silvicultural objectives in the long term are therefore to;

Bring the woodland into sound and sustainable silvicultural management;
Retain continuity of woodland cover by adopting a sustainable, continuous cover silvicultural regime;
Commence an ongoing programme of selective tree removal to remove the poor specimens and to improve overall woodland quality;
Create a more uneven age structure where all developmental stages are represented;
Instigate a re-structuring programme by a process of small group felling and regeneration.

Encourage and promote natural regeneration of a wider range of
tree and shrub species native to the area to enhance diversity and
wildlife value;
Control potentially invasive tree species, such as sycamore;
Utilise and promote natural regeneration wherever possible;
Retain and manage the mature tree population for as long as it is
safe to do so;
Enhance wildlife value and biodiversity by retaining standing and
fallen deadwood and installing bird, owl and bat boxes.

2.5 Felling Works

Dead, dying and potentially dangerous trees within the woodland will be removed as and when necessary for reasons of public safety. These will be identified by an annual tree safety audit.

Particular attention will be paid to the larger, mature trees. Potentially dangerous specimens in poor health and condition will be identified at an early stage and made safe for reasons of public safety. Where feasible, rather than fell these to ground level, surgery works could remove the upper portion of the crown to retain a large standing stump for wildlife habitat (see section 4.9).

Potentially dangerous specimens in poor health and condition will be identified at an early stage and made safe for reasons of public safety. Three trees in poor condition are recommended for complete felling at this stage.

P	aσ	e	1	1	of

All trees will be inspected for the presence of bats by a person experienced in this field before any felling works are undertaken.

2.6 Woodland Thinning

Thinning will be carried out selectively throughout the woodland belt. This will concentrate on areas where the tree canopy is particularly dense, and as such will be guided by the prevailing conditions on site. Thinning will seek to remove poor and suppressed trees and retain dominant specimens of superior form and health. Thinning intensity will generally be light and will vary throughout the woodland to create a matrix of varying tree density. Where thinning intensity is heavier, natural regeneration will be encouraged. This operation will also maintain a suitable balance of species; potentially invasive species, such as sycamore, will be controlled to prevent them becoming over-dominant and long term species, such as oak, beech and ash favoured. Trees for removal will be marked-up on site prior to thinning operations commencing.

2.7 Tree Surgery Works

Remedial tree surgery may from time to time be necessary to remove large deadwood, broken and damaged branches and to maintain the tree cover in a safe and healthy condition. All surgery works will be carried out to British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree Work - Recommendations'. A detailed inspection and safety audit of all trees will be carried out annually for reasons of safety by a competent arboriculturalist, and a work programme drawn up accordingly.

Arboricultural work may, from time to time, be required at the interface between the woodland and adjoining properties to minimise potential issues regarding overhanging branches and shading.

2.8 Disposal of Arisings

Large diameter timber of any commercial value will be extracted and utilised where possible. Where extraction is not feasible, large diameter logs will be retained *in situ* to provide wildlife habitat. Smaller trees and brushwood will be chipped directly on site, or alternatively retained as habitat piles.

An informal access track will be created throughout the length of the woodland to allow for future maintenance and management machinery. The existing access point at the western tip of the woodland will continue to be utilised.

2.9 Undergrowth Management

Invasive and undesirable plant species such as snowberry will be controlled to prevent them spreading and becoming over-dominant. This will be achieved by cutting back and the repeated application of an approved herbicide.

Ivy will be controlled where this is encroaching into the crowns of trees by severing the ivy stems at ground level.

2.10 Rubbish Removal

All tipped and dumped rubbish which has accumulated over the years will be removed and disposed of at a recognised tip. Large piles of horticultural waste and tree prunings will also be removed or chipped on site. This will significantly enhance the overall appearance of the woodland.

2.11 Species Composition

The mixed character of the woodland will be retained and enhanced. The occurrence of sycamore will be controlled during thinning operations to prevent it becoming over-dominant. Tree species native to the area will be encouraged and promoted as an integral part of management.

A variety of tree species native to the area will also be introduced by planting within the regeneration areas to enhance diversity and nature conservation value. Suggested species for planting include;

Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) Gean (Prunus avium)

Hawthorn (Crataegus Scots pine (Pinus

monogyna) Rowan (Sorbus sylvestris) Bird cherry

aucuparia) (Prunus padus) Crack

Holly (*llex* willow (*Salix fragilis*)

aquifolium) Oak Alder (Alnus glutinosa)

(Quercus petraea)

Natural regeneration will be encouraged and promoted where possible and early indications on site suggest that this will be successful. Ash, birch, beech and hawthorn all show good potential. Invasion by sycamore may have to be controlled if this is prolific and at the expense of other species.

Planting will utilise cell grown stock approximately 30-50cm in height. These will be planted in an informal and random layout within the areas to be planted at an average spacing of 2.5m (1600 trees/ha). Chemical weed control using an approved herbicide (glyphosate) will be carried out as necessary to ensure full establishment.

2.12 Nature Conservation

Maintaining and enhancing the nature conservation value of the site is an important objective of management. In general terms, the management regime advocated will improve overall conservation value and biodiversity in that it promotes continual tree cover, greater age and structural diversity and native broadleaved trees. Aiming for long-term stability and a matrix of different age classes will ensure that the ecological value of the woodland is protected and enhanced.

Dead and decaying timber, both standing and fallen, provides a valuable habitat for a wide range of fungal, invertebrate and animal species. Provision will be made for retaining a proportion of such material where feasible. Retaining standing dead trees will be most feasible in the less frequented parts of the site away from the proposed housing area. Where public safety is a consideration, dead or dangerous trees will be made safe by judicious pruning or topping, while retaining the bulk of the standing trunk in a safe form.

Habitat piles will be created from the arisings of tree works and will be carefully situated around the woodland for maximum effect.

Bird, owl and bat boxes will be erected throughout the woodland.

2.13 General Management

In addition to silvicultural operations, ongoing management and maintenance of the site will be necessary. This will include the following;

- Litter removal The regular removal of litter from throughout the woodland.
- Safety inspections Regular inspections to ensure that the site does not present any hazard to users. Specialist pruning of trees where necessary.
- Dead and dangerous trees Identification and making safe where appropriate, especially where close to the public highway and adjacent properties. Dealing with unforeseen storm damage.
- □ **Boundary maintenance** Repair of boundary fences and walls.

2.14 Short Term Management Works

Within the first 5 year cycle of the management plan, the following works will be undertaken:

- □ Fell or make safe dead and dangerous trees as identified on site.

 These will be 'topped' where appropriate to leave standing trunks approximately 5 to 8m in height, and leave a proportion of dead timber on woodland floor to enhance biodiversity.
- Carry out any remedial pruning works for reasons of safety.
- Selectively thin woodland to improve overall quality and encourage conditions suitable for natural regeneration.
- Promote and encourage natural regeneration of native broadleaves.
- Install bird and owl boxes.

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- Carry out annual safety inspection and report.
- Remove all litter and rubbish from throughout woodland.
- □ Kill and control ivy where this is encroaching on trees.
- Reduce and control the spread of snowberry.

By the end of the five year programme, work will have been carried out throughout the entire woodland and will have made a significant impact in bringing it into active and planned management. The work programme will be reviewed annually and brought forward on a rolling cycle.

3. INDIVIDUAL TREES

3.1 Tree Removal and Retention

In order to accommodate the proposed development works, a number of individual trees within the main body of the site are to be removed. These either fall within the footprint of proposed development or are located so close that retention would neither be feasible or desirable. A small number of trees outside the site boundary but within the application boundary are to be removed due to poor condition. Individual trees for removal listed below.

Woodland to west of site - tree 823, 828, 844 and 846.
Within application site boundary - tree 858 to 866 inclusive, 883 to 885
inclusive, 888, and 890 to 895 inclusive

Trees proposed for removal are shown by a dashed line. Trees proposed for retention are shaded in green on the plan.

3.2 Tree Planting

It is proposed to carry out new tree planting as part of the landscaping for the development.

PLAN

Drawing PL-01 Rev E

