CORMAC

# Arboricultural Report

## Tree risk assessment and recommendations:

Trecarne, Falmouth

**Client:** Cornwall Housing

**Prepared by:** [redacted]

**Reviewed by:** [redacted]

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# 1. Background

## *1.1. Benefits of trees*

It is widely evidenced that trees can provide a variety of benefits to people and the environment. These benefits, termed 'ecosystem services', include providing food and habitat for wildlife, enhancing the amenity value of our local areas, and mitigating some of the negative impacts of our changing climate such as reducing surface water runoff, regulating local air temperatures, filtering air pollution and storing and sequestering carbon.

## *1.2. Conflicts with trees*

Conflicts with trees typically tend to arise when tree size or form is deemed inappropriate for a particular site context, for example, reducing access to light, space and views. This can result in repeated requests for remedial tree works, or even unauthorised tree pruning or felling. Considered, balanced design and careful management of existing trees is therefore important to ensure the enjoyment of local spaces.

Trees are dynamic organisms which can undergo an array of structural and physiological changes throughout their lifetime. Where trees are found in close proximity to people, vehicles and property, particular physiological and structural features can have the potential to present a higher level of risk of harming or damaging a target. As such, tree species, characteristics and location must all be carefully considered when planning new tree planting.

## *1.3. Legislation, guidance and policy*

In order to balance the benefits and conflicts of trees; to manage risks from trees and to avoid unnecessary tree removals, the relevant legislation, guidance and policy should be adhered to.

Cornwall Council (CC) has a duty of care under common law and statute law, and therefore must 'take reasonable steps to manage the risk of harm posed by trees under their ownership or management.'

As part of their duty of care, Cornwall Council has a tree inspection regime, outlined within CC's Tree Risk Management Framework (TRMF). 'The expectation is that the extent and standard of inspection be proportionate to the risks posed by trees and to the size and resources available to the organisation.'

Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas and Felling licences all serve as means of protecting and conserving trees from unlawful pruning or felling. If

the correct applications are not made for trees subject to the aforementioned restrictions, then fines or further legal action could occur.

## *1.4. Instruction*

This report was commissioned by Cornwall Housing. This Arboricultural Report has arisen from the recommendation for a full inspection to be undertaken of the remaining trees in Area 1 (see Map 1), following tree failures during Storm Goretti.

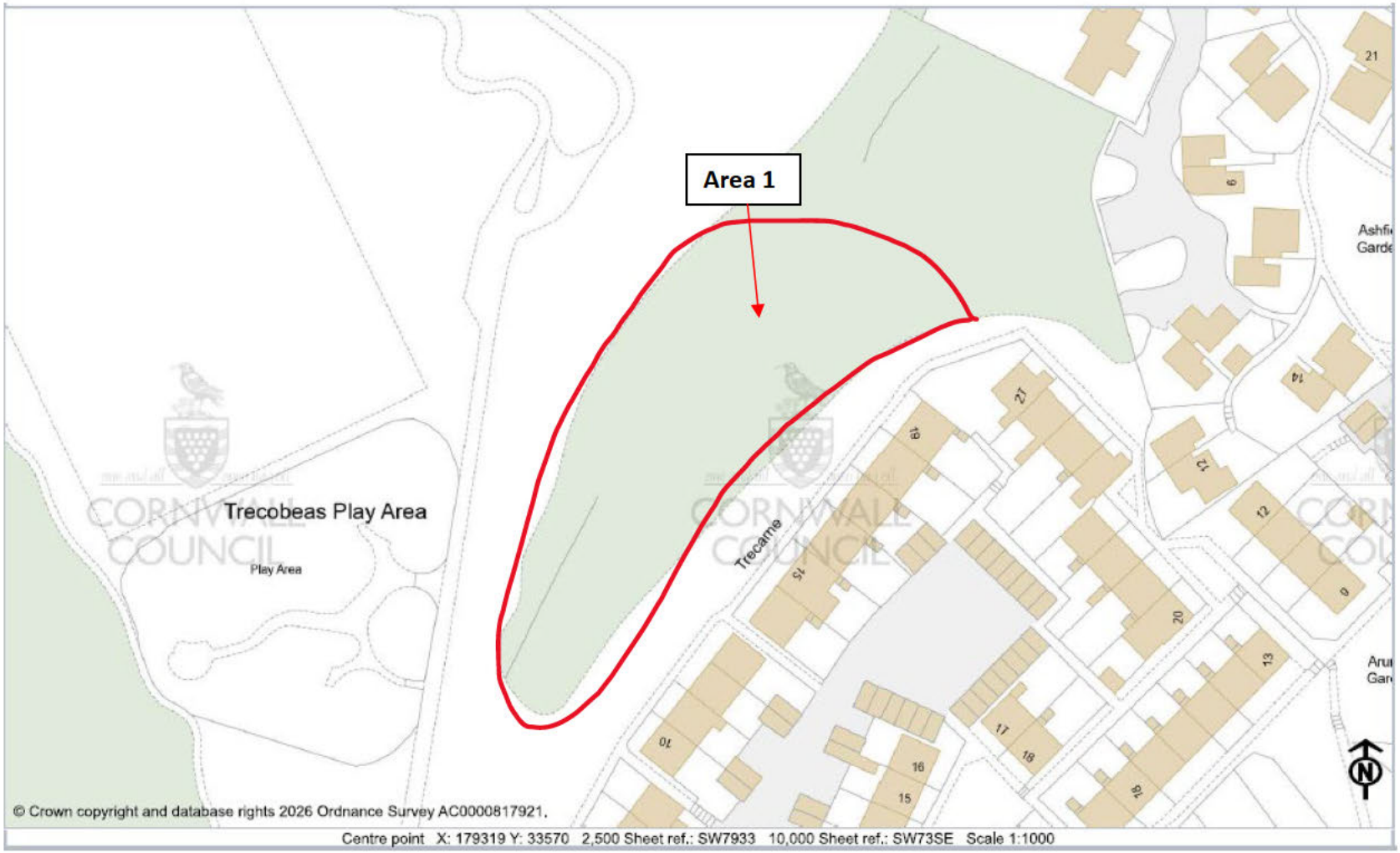
The purpose of the inspection was to identify any actionable defects and to assess the risk and impact of further potential tree failures.

## *1.5. Site context*

The site is located at Trecarne, Falmouth, TR11 2HQ (What3words: ///admire.muddy.sulk). The site is owned by Cornwall Council and managed by Cornwall Housing. The site is designated as a higher use site and is subject to a tree inspection every 18 months. There is a row of terraced houses (a mixture of private and CC ownership), opposite a shelterbelt of trees, marked as Area 1 on Map 1, which are both separated by a greenspace. The shelterbelt comprises a mixture of predominantly semi-mature and mature Monterey pines (*Pinus radiata*) and an understorey of semi-mature mixed broadleaved species.

During Storm Goretti on 8th January 2026, 5x Monterey pines (*Pinus radiata*) and 1x Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) failed from the south-eastern side of the shelterbelt into the adjacent greenspace, with four trees striking houses along Trecarne, causing substantial damage to some of these properties.

An initial search of the Cornwall Council mapping data indicates that there are no Tree Preservation Orders relating to this site and the site does not lie within a Conservation Area.




Map 1. Site location. Area 1 marked by red boundary line.

### *1.6. Report aims*

1. To describe condition of remaining trees and identify any actionable defects.

2. To assess the residual risk posed by the remaining trees to site users and nearby residential properties.

3. To provide proportionate recommendations for any further works or management actions required

### *1.7. Report scope and limitations*

The information and recommendations within this report relate only to those trees in Area 1, which are described in the 'Findings' section of this report.

Trees are living, growing organisms subject to change; therefore, this report and the recommendations within are valid for a period of 12 months only, from the date of inspection.

## 2. Methodology

### *2.1. Inspection methodology*

The site was attended and inspected by [redacted] on Friday 23rd and Monday 26th January 2026. Trees were assessed by using a full ground-based inspection. This entailed undertaking a visual inspection of trees within the site (see Map 2 for tree locations) from ground level (with the aid of a sounding mallet and metal probe). This included an assessment of the following features of each tree:

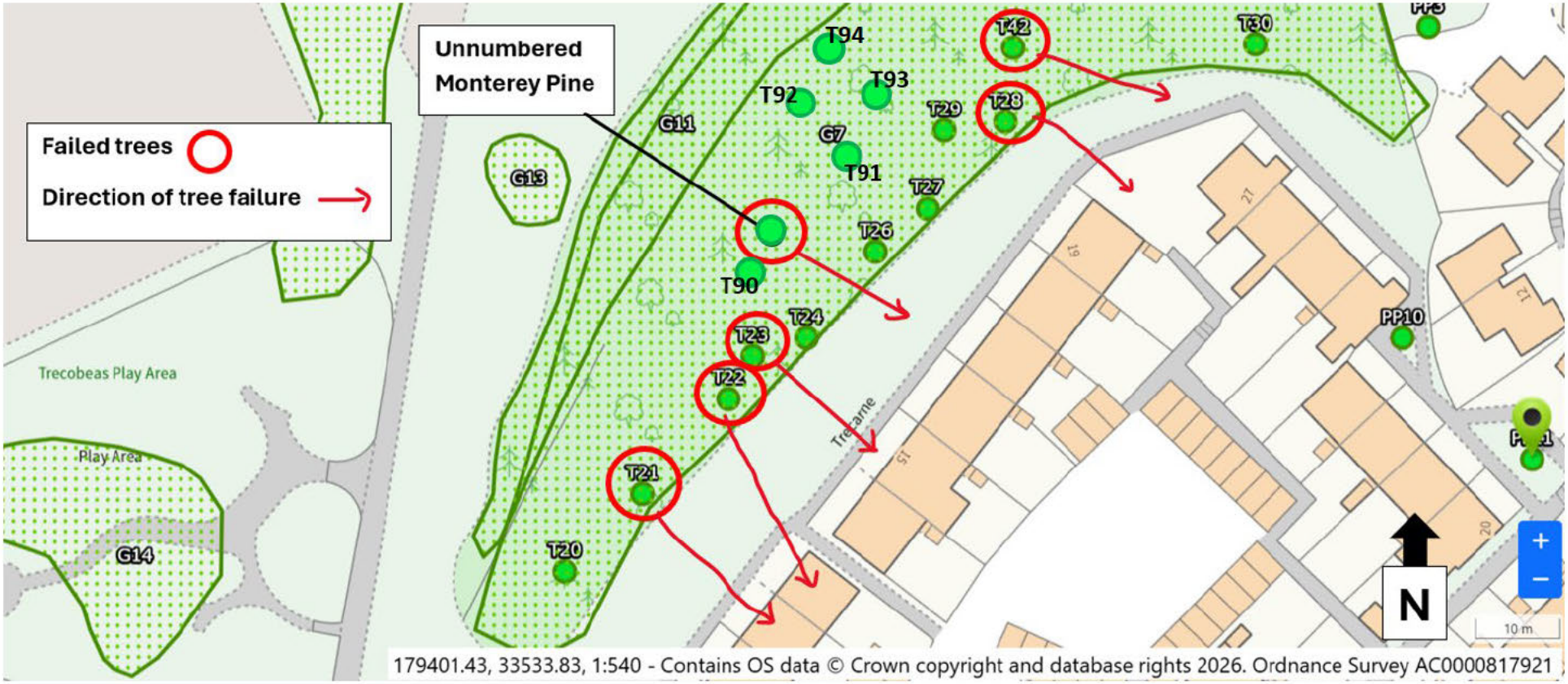
- Tree location and site context
- Rooting environment
- Stem base
- Stem & major branch/stem unions
- Lower, central, upper crown
- Foliage

- Wildlife, Habitat & Protected Species

No climbing inspection or detailed investigation of features/defects (i.e. use of decay detection equipment) were undertaken. No investigations were made of underground parts of the tree. No soil, fungal or plant samples were taken or have been analysed.

## *2.2. Assessing tree risk*

Trees were subject to a full inspection as per inspection methodology to identify any physiological and structural defects. Where defects were identified, the Cornwall Council Tree Risk Matrix Framework (TRMF) was used to identify the relevant risk category for the defect, and a recommendation made for remedial action with a specified time frame. Additionally, each tree was assessed for its likelihood and impact of striking residential properties based on distance from houses and tree condition.




Map 2. Location of recently failed and remaining trees.


Image 1. Remaining trees on site at Trecarne.

# 3. Findings

## *3.1. Summary of tree group features*

The shelterbelt consists of 9x pines and numerous (i.e. 20+) mixed broadleaved trees. Most trees are in good structural and physiological condition, with only some defects noted. Some trees are now relatively exposed to the wind following the recent losses of adjacent trees during Storm Goretti. The key findings for each tree are summarised below.

- **T20 – Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra*)**

  22m height. Generally good condition. Some needle loss on SW side of crown. No structural defects observed at stem base/lower stem. Acute and included unions where main stem divides at 9m. Increased exposure from north/north-west/north-east due to loss of 2x adjacent trees.

- **T24 – Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*)**

  19m height. Crown bias into greenspace and slight lean to east. Small amount of recent resin bleeding on lower stem. No other structural defects observed. Historical pruning wounds noted on east side of tree. Increased exposure from south/south-west/west due to loss of 2x adjacent trees.

- **T90 – Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata)***

  19m height. In good condition. No structural defects observed. Good needle cover throughout crown. Tree situated lower down on slope, further away from properties.

- **T26 – Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata)***

  15m height. Appears to have been struck by adjacent failed tree during Storm Goretti, causing large wounds in upper crown and partially damaged branches overhanging scrub area on edge of greenspace. No stem defects observed. Limited potential due to damage to upper crown.

- **T27 – Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata)***

  Subject to emergency tree works on 23/01/2026 after excessive movement at the primary union was noted during strong gusts (during Storm Ingrid) whilst undertaking the site inspection. Works were undertaken to heavily reduce the crown to decrease wind loading/sail area and subsequent risk of union failure to minimise the risk to adjacent properties. Tree height is now at approximately 10m.

- **T29 – Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata)***

24m height. Tree now more exposed due to recent loss of 2x adjacent trees to NE (T28 and T42) Within falling distance of footpath and properties.

- **T93 – Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata)***

  24m height. Moderate sized deadwood in crown – low target area. Not within falling distance of footpath or properties, but within falling distance of 'desire line'/informal path through woodland to park. Tree now more exposed due to recent loss of 2x adjacent trees to NE (T28 and T42)

- **T94 – Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata)***

  22m height. Crown bias to west. No structural defects identified during inspection. Located lower down slope, further away from properties.

- **T91 – Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata)***

  21m height. 2x *Sparissis crispa* fungal fruiting bodies noted at the base of the tree, on the SE and NE side. Bark death on lower stem (easily pulled away). Slight lean of approx. 5° to the east. Within falling distance of footpath. Slight thinning of needles on east side of upper crown.

- **T92 – Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata)***

  20m height. 1x large snapped hanging limb, overhanging low target area (within shelterbelt). Tree located further down slope, and not within falling distance of footpath or residential properties.

- **G7 – Mixed broadleaved species**

  Mixture of ash, beech and oak. Young ash trees showing signs of ash dieback. Mostly within Health Class 2 (26-50% dieback), but a small number within Health Class 3 (51-75% dieback). No trees within falling distance of residential properties or footpath.

## *3.2. Current tree risk*

Table 1. Risk of whole tree failure in stand

| Tree | Within falling distance of footway? | Within falling distance of residential properties? | Likelihood of whole tree failure + striking target | Impact on target | TRMF Defect Category |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T20 – Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra*) | Yes | Yes | Unlikely | Major | Cat 2.2 |
| T24 – Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) | Yes | Yes | Unlikely | Major | Cat 2.2 |
| T90 – Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) | No | No | Almost certainly not | Major | Cat 2.3 |
| T26– Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) | Yes | No | Unlikely | Major | Cat 2.2 |
| T27– Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) | No | No | Unlikely | Major | Cat 2.2 |
| T91 – Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) | Yes | Yes | Possible | Major | Cat 2.1 |
| T29– Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) | Yes | Yes | Unlikely | Major | Cat 2.2 |
| T93– Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) | No | No | Almost certainly not | Major | Cat 2.3 |
| T92– Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) | No | No | Almost certainly not | Moderate | Cat 2.4 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T94– Monterey pine (*Pinus nigra*) | No | No | Almost certainly not | Moderate | Cat 2.4 |
| G7 – Mixed broadleaved species | No | No | Almost certainly not | Moderate | Cat 2.4 |

# 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

1) Fell to ground level T91 due to suspected brown rot within lower main stem, associated with presence of *Sparissis crispa* fruiting bodies. Risk of tree failure at roots or lower stem and striking footpath or front gardens of residential properties.

   **Time frame:** Within 28 days (Cat 2.1)

2) Fell to ground level remaining stem of T27 following emergency crown reduction.

   **Time frame:** Within 6 months. (Cat 2.2)

3) Consider removal of T20, T24, T26 and T29. This is due to recent loss of several large trees adjacent to these, resulting in increased exposure to wind. There is limited crown development in some of these trees, due to previous suppression by adjacent trees, and therefore the reduced proportion of branches relative to the trunk, coupled with the recent change in wind dynamics may impede these trees' ability to undertake structural damping in higher winds.

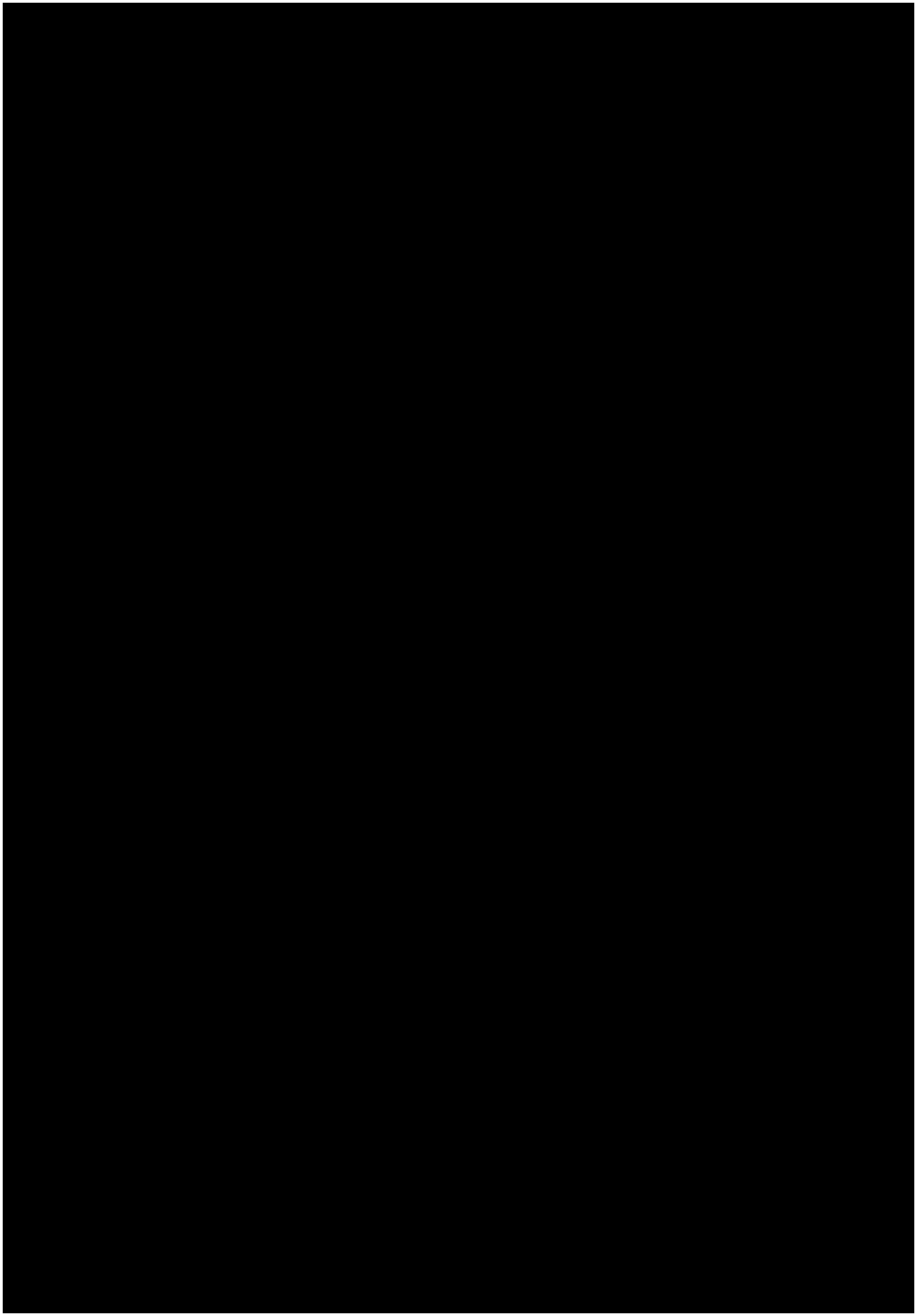
   **Time frame:** Within 6 months. (Cat 2.2).

4) Replant shelter belt to replace tree failures and loss of key trees within this woodland group. Potential to improve structure of shelterbelt, create good habitat value and continue to provide benefits to the residents. Consider instructing a tree planting plan, as species choice needs to be carefully considered at this location.

   **Time frame:** 12 -24 months (Proactive works).

**Report prepared by**: [redacted] Arboricultural Officer

[redacted]



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