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Construction Environmental Management Plan

Cheping Gardens Retaining Wall
Cheping Gardens
Botley
Southampton
SO30 2FW

June 2026

Rev 1 July 2026

Rev 2 August 2026

Rev 3 August 2026

Rev 4 September 2026

QUALITY CONTROL		
The information which we have prepared and provided is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct.		
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Whilst every effort has been made to guarantee the accuracy of this report, it should be noted that living creatures are capable of migration and whilst protected species may not have been located during the survey duration, their presence may be found on site at a later date.

The views and opinions contained within the document are based on a reasonable timeframe between the completion of the survey and the commencement of any works. If there is any delay between the commencement of works that may conflict with timeframes laid out within this document, or have the potential to allow the ingress of protected species, a suitably qualified ecologist should be consulted.

It is the duty of care of the landowner/developer to act responsibly and comply with current environmental legislation if protected species are suspected or found prior to works.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been developed to avoid, minimise or mitigate any construction effects on sensitive ecological receptors within or near to the proposed development site at Cheping Gardens Retaining Wall, Chewing Gardens, Botley, Southampton SO30 2FW, and to provide the management frameworks required for the planning and implementation of construction activities that comply with legislation¹ and the Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA).

- 1.2. The CEMP will support the discharge of Condition 3 of the Planning Consent with reference F/26/100693 and F/26/101815 which states;

Condition 3 - No development shall commence until a construction environmental management plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To minimise disturbance on ecology.

- 1.3. Extant planning application F/26/100693 pertains to the rear retaining wall remains extant within the site, and localised repairs to be carried out to the crib lock, and a new wall to be constructed in front of the existing wall and concrete poured between the two.
- 1.4. Planning application F/26/101815 pertains to sections of the crib lock to be removed and reconstructed, as localised repairs have revealed that it is too damaged to be retained. This is to ensure the existing footpaths remain at their current width. All additional return wall works relate to this planning reference.
- 1.5. The CEMP is a 'living document' and regular reviews will be undertaken. This document will be shared with all relevant stakeholders (including sub-contractors) to ensure that the environmental requirements are communicated effectively. The details of this document should be considered compulsory unless otherwise stated by a suitably qualified person. All stakeholders should combine this document with their existing site policies and procedures.

¹ See **Appendix 1** for relevant legislation.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. This report aims to:

- Identify key stakeholder requirements;
- Ensure compliance by all stakeholders (landowners, developers, contractors, etc.) with all relevant legislation;
- Identify responsible persons and lines of communication.
- Effectively minimise any potential adverse effects on the environment, designated sites and protected species during construction; and
- Provide site-specific method statements to avoid, minimise and mitigate construction effects on the environment, designated sites and protected species.

2.2. Environmental objectives for the construction phase of the works will include, but may not be restricted to:

- No light, noise, airborne or waterborne pollution incidents;
- Minimisation of disruption to neighbouring residential curtilages;
- Protection of all protected species and habitats on-site; and
- Enhancement of the site for protected species and habitats.

2.3. This report has been informed by previous reporting including a Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) Report².

² Darwin Ecology (2026) *Ecological Impact Assessment: Cheping Gardens Retaining Wall, Cheping Gardens, Botley, Southampton, SO30 2FW*.

3. SITE OVERVIEW

- 3.1. The proposals comprise re-enforcement to an existing retaining wall which spans the rear boundary of the residential gardens of 1 to 19 Cheping Gardens & 5 to 41 Mortimer Road, Botley, SO30 2FW. The works to facilitate this require vegetation clearance, and construction of a new wall in front of the existing criblock structure and subsequently pouring cement into the void between them. Additional wall works pertaining to planning application F/26/101815 involve some sections of the crib lock are to be removed and reconstructed, as localised repairs have revealed that it is too damaged to be retained. This is to ensure the existing footpaths remain at their current width.
- 3.2. The wall itself was assessed as a man-made built linear feature. The immediate surrounding habitats in the gardens include developed land sealed surface, modified grassland, and ornamental and non-native hedgerow.
- 3.3. The wall was assessed as providing opportunities for invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, which may be present within the existing retaining wall during the works period. Due to the localised method required to install a new structurally supported wall, it is considered that standard mitigation and reasonable avoidance measures will not be able to fully protect these species from harm. The process of installing a new wall in front of the existing criblock structure and subsequently pouring cement into the void between them will inevitably disturb the immediate habitat. These species often occupy small crevices, voids, and ground-level refuges within and around such structures, making them particularly vulnerable to entrapment, displacement, or mortality during works.
- 3.4. As the void will be filled with cement, any organisms present within inaccessible sections cannot be safely relocated or excluded with certainty. Furthermore, the limited visibility into the structure and the potential for individuals to re-enter the area during construction further reduce the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Consequently, while reasonable precautions can be implemented to minimise harm, a complete guarantee of protection for these groups cannot be provided.
- 3.5. Additional wall works pertaining to planning application F/26/101815 involve some sections of the crib lock to be removed and reconstructed, as localised repairs have revealed that it is too damaged to be retained. These sections can be carefully deconstructed by hand under ecological supervision mentioned below in Section 6, to ensure any protected species present do not come to harm, and can be carefully translocated out to the active works area.
- 3.6. The wider landscape to the south comprises a rural mosaic of arable and pastoral fields divided by hedgerows and tree lines, and interspersed by parcels of woodland and scattered low-density residential developments. The River Hamble splits and runs to the south and east, flowing approximately 0.04km to the south of the site at its closest. The A334 bisects Botley, running approximately 0.017km north of the site. Botley station and its associated railway line run approximately 0.085km to the northeast.

4. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF CONSTRUCTION PHASE

- 4.1. A habitat walkover to inform this EclA was completed in March 2026, which identified the broad habitat types present surrounding the retaining wall. The survey also broadly assessed the likelihood of European protected species to be present, and how they may be affected by the proposed works.
- 4.2. The wall itself was assessed as a man-made built linear feature. The immediate surrounding habitats in the gardens include developed land sealed surface, modified grassland, and ornamental and non-native hedgerow. The habitats were found to have potential for amphibians, reptiles, breeding birds and invertebrates to be present.
- 4.3. Vegetation clearance has the potential to cause death or injury to amphibians, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals such as hedgehog, breeding birds, and invertebrates. The removal of these habitats on site will result in a loss of foraging, commuting, and resting habitat and resources for protected and notable species. Excavations, storage, and movement of materials on the site may also have potential to cause harm to species present on site.
- 4.4. There is considered to be a low risk of impacts to retained habitats on site and surrounding area. However, impacts to be considered include the potential for dust pollution, littering, contamination by spillage of liquids and run-off and introduction of non-native or invasive species. Noise, lighting and vibration may also cause disturbance to the fauna of the site.
- 4.5. Further mitigation and reasonable avoidance measures have been suggested within this report.

5. OPERATIONAL CONTROL PROCEDURES

Introduction

- 5.1. To ensure the works are undertaken in accordance with the details of the CEMP, a series of control measures will be utilised. These measures include:
- The appointment of an environmental/ecological management team; and
 - Regular site checks, monitoring and review.
 - Overseeing of works where required as Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

Responsibilities

- 5.2. The following persons will be responsible for ensuring the CEMP is adhered to throughout the construction phase and ensuring works comply with legal and contractual agreements:
- Developer/Landowner;
 - Primary Contractors - Construction Site Managers;
 - Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) - Suitably qualified ecologist; and
 - Appointed primary and sub-contractors team leaders.
- 5.3. All personnel will be made aware of their contractual agreements in fulfilling the project's environmental obligations. Any amendments must be communicated with all relevant stakeholders and documents updated where applicable. Hard copies of documentation should be stored on site and accessible to all those who may require it.

Training & Awareness

- 5.4. All personnel whose work may cause a significant impact on the environment will receive a site induction by the **Site Manager**, covering the main environmental points of the CEMP. This may include but is not restricted to:
- Site safety;
 - Waste management;
 - Pollution prevention and emergency spill response;
 - Requirement for specific Toolbox Talks on spillage, noise prevention or mitigation if necessary; and
 - Protected species and habitats legislation.

Ecological Legislation

- 5.5. With current understanding of the presence / likely absence or usage of the site by protected species, a number of precautionary working methods must be employed, including:

- Ground level vegetation to be cleared during the reptile active season (March - October) in two-stages and using hand tools only; (March - September inclusive) or only after a breeding bird survey has been conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist; and
- Removal of vegetation outside of the breeding bird season or only after a breeding bird survey has been conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist;
- Precautionary methods for reptiles, amphibians and hedgehog, including phased vegetation cuts of suitable vegetation and the dismantlement of rubble and brash piles by hand;
- Precautionary methods for badger, including a pre-commencement inspection for badger activity and ramps installed on any excavations overnight;
- Measures to mitigate the adverse effects of an environmental incident; and
- 24 hour emergency contact details and method of notifying emergency services, Local Authorities, Environment Agency and other statutory authorities and key personnel.

Ecological Clerk of Works

- 5.6. The **Site Manager** and **Developers** will be responsible for the overall implementation of the CEMP. A suitably qualified ecologist will be appointed as an **ECoW** to supervise aspects of the CEMP if required.
- 5.7. Pending instruction, the **ECoW** will be responsible for the following:
- Ensuring all works on site comply with relevant legislation in relation to protected habitats and species;
 - Ensuring that the CEMP is adhered to throughout the construction phase of the project;
 - Providing Toolbox Talks to all contractors and developers on protected species, sensitive habitats, their respective locations and what to do if protected species are found during works, when required;
 - Providing advice to developers and contractors on how best to minimise impacts on wildlife throughout the construction phase of the development;
 - Providing the main point of contact should any issues relating to ecology arise during construction;
 - Ensuring the supervision of any construction activities that have the potential to impact on protected species and / or sensitive habitats;
 - Ensuring fence lines and buffer zones are monitored and respected throughout the construction phase of the development; and

- Undertaking site visits for CEMP monitoring during appropriate stages of the works, to be determined by the phasing of the works.

- 5.8. It is the responsibility of the **Developer (or Land owner)** and the **Site Manager** to ensure that the **ECoW** is kept informed regarding work schedules and construction activities, so that they are able to carry out their responsibilities efficiently and reliably.
- 5.9. If the **ECoW** identifies any issues relating to the CEMP during the construction phase, the **Developer** and **Site Manager** will be contacted and measures will be taken to resolve any issues. Likewise, if the **Developer** or **Site Manager** (or their contractors) notice any ecological or environmental issues during the construction phase, the **ECoW** must be contacted for advice immediately.

Access to Ecological Reports During the Construction Phase

- 5.10. Hard copies of this CEMP prepared by Darwin Ecology, and the previous ecological reports, will be kept in the site office during the construction phase. The **Site Manager** will ensure the reports are available for contractors to refer to when necessary.

Environmental Risk Assessments of Construction Activities

- 5.11. The **Site Manager** will undertake risk assessments for the proposed activities to be undertaken on site. These will be shared with all relevant stakeholders and hard copies kept on site in the site office. Risks assessments will be made of each activity and measures for reducing impacts implemented, examples could include dust control and control of hazardous substances.

Environmental Incident Reporting

- 5.12. The **Site Manager** and other key stakeholders will establish and implement an environmental incident procedure as part of their Emergency Plan combined with their management systems on site. This procedure will be designed to respond to anticipated environmental hazards and risks on site and will include emergency control measures taking into account the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention guideline, General Guide to the Prevention of Pollution and Pollution Incident Response Planning.
- 5.13. The environmental procedure will include:
- An environmental incident / pollution reporting and response plan;
 - Measures to mitigate the adverse effects of an environmental incident;
 - 24 hour emergency contact details and method of notifying emergency services, Local Authorities, Environment Agency and other statutory authorities and key personnel; and
 - Measures to be adopted to investigate and prevent the recurrence of an environmental incident.

- 5.14. Minor occurrences relating to ECoW activities will be reported to the **Developer** and **Site Manager** by the **ECoW**. A hard copy will be kept on site in a carbon copy book and an electronic record stored on the suitably qualified ecologist's systems. Any incidents will be followed up by email to all relevant stakeholders and control measures will be reviewed as necessary.

6. ECOLOGICAL CONTROL PROCEDURES

Protection of Surrounding Habitat

- 6.1. The site does not lie within any statutory designated sites, but within approximately 0.37km southeast of the site lies Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI, Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, and Solent Maritime SAC. Approximately 0.81km south of the site lies Manor Farm LNR. The site falls within the IRZ of Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI. Additionally, there are non-statutorily designated sites located within close proximity from the site.
- 6.2. The wall itself was assessed as a man-made built linear feature. The immediate surrounding habitats in the gardens include developed land sealed surface, modified grassland, and ornamental and non-native hedgerow.
- 6.3. The proposals include localised works to reinforce an existing retaining wall, construct a new facade, and fill the gap in between these with concrete. Limited vehicles will require access to deliver construction materials, and complete the works. The following vehicles are anticipated for this project:
- 4 tonne Excavator;
 - 9 tonne Excavator;
 - 3 tonne Dumper;
 - Hand tools, such as shovels and forks;
 - 110v Breakers and battery powered drills;
 - Transformers and 110v Leads; and
 - Petrol generators.
- 6.4. Vehicles should keep to designated access roads where possible and a suitable turning point should be identified and allocated where necessary. **Appendix 2** shows the access routes for the above vehicles.
- 6.5. **Appendix 3** shows the site plan that will include the location for site toilets, contractor's office, contractor's parking, materials storage, fuel storage, refuelling, refuse storage, equipment cleaning areas, and chemical storage. Vehicles will be parked in the already present public parking, highlighted on **Appendix 2**. The site welfare will comprise a 16 ft eco welfare unit supplied by GAP, incorporating toilet facilities. The following will be adhered to:
- Welfare and toilets will be serviced weekly;
 - Materials and equipment will be stored safely and securely within locked 20 ft storage containers;
 - All fuels and chemicals will be stored in accordance with COSHH requirements;

- Spill kits will be available on site at all times;
- Refuelling will be undertaken using drip trays to protect the ground; and
- Ground protection mats will be used where required to minimise disturbance from foot traffic.

- 6.6. The Mobile Welfare Unit that is to be used for this project is sited on wheels, keeping the unit elevated above the ground to reduce vegetation damage. The unit has also been partially placed on pallets to ensure the unit does not move.
- 6.7. Upon completion of the works, the temporary compound areas will be cleared, any disturbed ground reinstated, and the grass verges restored to their previous condition. This may require re-seeding of the verges, which is best conducted in either spring or autumn, depending on when the works are completed. Watering may be required in periods of extended drought. Due to the temporary nature of the site compound, combined with the sensitive nature in which it has been installed, soil compaction is not anticipated to be a constraint in this instance.
- 6.8. The neighbouring houses to the site compound (Nos. 9 and 10 Cheping Gardens, and Nos. 23 and 25 Mortimer Road) will not be disturbed, as all operational works will only be carried out between the hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm on a Monday to Friday basis. There will be no weekend working. The site compound is encased in Heras fencing with gates, which are padlocked at the end of daily site operations.
- 6.9. The Toilet Facility will be cleaned and excrement disposed of on a weekly basis by the designated hire company, to reduce build up of smell or waste near the neighbouring houses.
- 6.10. All refuse will be disposed of into designated skips, which are to be removed only by a certified Waste Disposal Carrier and a replacement skip delivered to site on a tip and return basis.
- 6.11. All Materials must either be kept within a secure on-site container, or stored neatly within the on-site compound, which is encased by Heras Fencing. All bricks, when delivered will be on pallets and encased in a durable plastic membrane and covered by tarpaulin when opened and when not in use.
- 6.12. There will be no cleaning of equipment on site. All equipment will be taken off-site the cleaning is required.
- 6.13. No surface run-off from the construction site will be allowed to flow towards the retained habitats. Appropriate site drainage must be installed to avoid this and to ensure that all surface water runoff discharges into existing drains. The **Land Owner** or **Site Manager** will monitor for any potential issues and advise on any remedial actions if required. **Appendix 4** shows the drainage design information prepared by the engineer for this project. The proposal includes a new soakaway within each individual garden.

- 6.14. All oils and fuels must be stored in compliance with the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulations 2001. Fuel must therefore be stored in dedicated impervious storage areas away from drains and watercourses. Drums over 200L must be stored on drip trays capable of holding 25% of the drum's maximum capacity. The storage of bowzers and fuel tanks must also comply with the regulations ensuring they are stored in areas capable of holding 110% of the volume. If oil or fuel is stored on site, spill kits must be available. All liquids must be stored within a designated fenced off area at each site.
- 6.15. Best housekeeping practice will ensure that spillages of dry and dusty materials will be avoided. These items should be covered when not immediately in use to reduce the risk of materials becoming airborne. All stored materials will be raised off the ground on pallets or skids to remove any refuge potential for protected species such as hedgehogs, reptiles or amphibians. Aggregates such as gravel and sand must be delivered in bulk bags and stored on pallets. All solid materials must be stored within a designated fenced off area at each site.
- 6.16. Waste and litter produced during the construction phase must be disposed of appropriately and must not be allowed to leave the site. Good site management and waste management procedures will prevent litter or debris from the construction site impacting any adjacent or nearby habitats. If any construction waste is found outside the site boundary it will be retrieved and disposed of appropriately and the measures taken to avoid this occurrence will be reviewed.
- 6.17. The impacts of noise and vibration generated by the proposed construction works are expected to be low, however, noise and vibration will be managed in order to reduce impacts wherever practicable. Wherever available quiet equipment will be selected in order to control noise at source. Machinery will be shut down when not in use and throttling will be kept at a minimum. It will be maintained in good working condition to minimise mechanical vibration.
- 6.18. Sensitive lighting will be used throughout the construction period to mitigate any impacts of lighting on surrounding habitats and protected species. It is a formal recommendation that works are limited to daylight hours and no additional lighting is left turned on overnight.
- 6.19. All machinery and tools brought onto site must be cleaned prior to use on the site so that earth and plant material from other locations is not introduced to the site or spread to adjacent habitats.
- 6.20. Contractors working on or between sites must ensure that they are aware of the potential for invasive species at other sites and that the clothing and protective equipment worn on site is clean and free from contamination.
- 6.21. Any soil or aggregate or other loose materials brought onto the site must be from a reputable source, and free from contaminants or pollutants.

- 6.22. The **Site Manager** must make all sub-contractors and labourers aware of all habitats that are to be protected.

Protected Species

Breeding Birds

- 6.23. The works will require a pre-commencement check for bird activity prior to any vegetation clearance works, or the removal of any existing bird boxes that are present in certain areas along the existing retaining wall. The works will also require supervision from a suitably qualified ecologist during the vegetation clearance.
- 6.24. The works proposed at the site are low impact and temporary, with the vegetation clearance affecting a small footprint. Natural regeneration at the site is expected to occur, and the surrounding habitat that is unaffected remains in situ, providing habitat for birds within the site.
- 6.25. Any small-scale vegetation clearance required will be carried out in a phased and sensitive manner under strict ecological supervision, outside of the breeding bird period (March to August inclusive). Any clearance outside of the period (September to February inclusive) also have the chance to impact on wintering and wetland birds that may be present. Should any clearance be required during *either* of these times, works will be preceded by a pre-commencement check and supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist.
- 6.26. As a priority, any vegetation clearance within the site will be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season (March to August inclusive) where possible.
- 6.27. If vegetation clearance is required within the breeding bird season, a pre-works inspection will be undertaken immediately prior to this vegetation clearance by the **ECoW**. Should breeding birds nests be recorded, these will be left undisturbed until chicks have fledged. An appropriate buffer (dependent on species and age of chicks) will be implemented around nests, within which no vegetation clearance can proceed until the **ECoW** has confirmed that the nest is no longer in use.
- 6.28. It is the responsibility of the **Developer** and the **Site Manager** to schedule vegetation clearance works at the correct time of year to avoid impacts to breeding birds where possible. It is the responsibility of the **Site Manager** to inform the **ECoW** if vegetation clearance is required during the breeding bird season to ensure that pre-works checks can be conducted correctly.

Great Crested Newt and Other Amphibians, and Reptiles

- 6.29. Due to the habitats present on site and in the immediate wider landscape, the works will require a pre-commencement check for great crested newts and reptile activity prior to any vegetation clearance works. The works will also require supervision from a suitably qualified ecologist during the vegetation clearance and when the void between the walls is filled with concrete.

- 6.30. Sections of the existing retaining wall are to be removed and replaced as part of the proposed works. Due to the structural nature and condition of the existing wall, the sections identified for removal cannot be safely deconstructed by hand and will require the use of appropriate mechanical equipment. The methodology has therefore been developed to minimise the risk of harm to amphibians and reptiles that may be present within the wall structure, adjacent spoil, or other suitable refugia, while recognising the constraints associated with the structural works.
- 6.31. Prior to the commencement of wall removal, a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will undertake a careful search of the accessible sections of the wall and immediately surrounding areas. This will include inspection of accessible gaps, crevices and voids within the wall, together with any accumulated spoil, vegetation or other suitable habitat immediately adjacent to the wall. Any amphibians or reptiles identified during the search will be safely removed by the ECoW and relocated to a suitable location away from the active works area, in accordance with the advice of the ECoW.
- 6.32. The ECoW will remain present during the initial stages of wall removal and will monitor the works for any amphibians or reptiles that may be exposed as the wall is dismantled or associated spoil is disturbed. Mechanical removal will proceed in a controlled manner, with the contractor maintaining appropriate environmental awareness and following any instructions provided by the ECoW.
- 6.33. The above measures will apply to the removal of the existing retaining wall and associated disturbance of spoil and ground immediately adjacent to the wall. Where sections of the existing wall are to be retained, the same general vigilance will apply during construction of the new wall and associated works, particularly where works may disturb areas providing potential shelter or refuge for amphibians or reptiles.
- 6.34. It is proposed that the mitigation measures employed include the following measures (as appropriate):
 - An **ECoW** will be appointed to provide a watching brief during site works. The **ECoW** will be a suitably experienced ecologist who is a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Managers (CIEEM). The ecologist will hold, or be an Accredited Agent under, a great crested newt survey licence from Natural England. At no point should any unlicensed worker handle a great crested newt or suspected great crested newt. Unlicensed handling is illegal and untrained handling may cause the newt unnecessary stress and injury.
 - In order to minimise the risk of encountering newts it is recommended that construction activities within 250m of any ponds are scheduled to take place between November and January when great crested newts will be in hibernation. Whilst in hibernation it can be safely assumed that great crested newts are less likely to be present within the the open areas of grazed grassland. Hibernating

newts are likely to be restricted to the ditches, woodland habitats, and areas of mixed scrub on site.

- The areas of grassland within the works area will be maintained as frequently mown, with a short (sward <100mm) until construction commences to maintain the sub-optimal nature of these habitats for amphibians.
- Where areas of scrub are to be retained, a buffer of at least 2m will be maintained around these features to prevent any damage occurring in the event that great crested newts disperse through the site.
- A **toolbox talk** will be delivered by the **ECoW to the Site Manager and all site operatives** prior to commencement of work within the site. The toolbox talk will detail protection measures outlined within this NLMS required during construction.
- All works impacting habitat suitable to support great crested newt within the survey area (10m radius around the proposed linear route) will be supervised by the appropriately licensed and qualified **ECoW** (as mentioned above). This supervision will involve walking in front of the works and conducting a fingertip search of the development area. Should any amphibians be identified within the works area, they should be moved to an area of suitable habitat outside of the development boundary.
- No existing hibernacula or refugia (deadwood, fallen trees, brash piles etc) with the potential to support hibernating GCN can be disturbed during the months of November to January. Hibernacula that fall within the designated works area will either need to be fenced off during this period, or it will need to be identified, dismantled and moved off-site under **ECoW supervision** outside of these critical months to ensure that hibernating individuals are not disturbed.
- Works will be restricted to the designated development area and the impact of works on adjacent habitats avoided by the clear demarcation of the works area. A pre-agreed access plan should be produced prior to works commencing outlining key access routes through site to aid in restricting vehicular movement across site. These access routes should be laid with track matting to ensure minimal impact to habitat at ground level.
- Given the ongoing risk to great crested newts during works within the site an **ECoW** will be required to undertake regular (not less than quarterly) monitoring inspections of the site and confirm that ongoing construction activities adhere to the details set out within this CEMP. Where monitoring inspections find failure to adhere to the CEMP the **ECoW** will seek to immediately rectify breaches.

6.35. Ground level vegetation clearance will be undertaken in two stages, using hand-held electric tools such as strimmers or brush cutters only. The first stage will comprise an initial cut to 150mm, with arisings blown off using a leaf blower or rake, and collected. A second



Figure 1: Site location indicated with a red line, and the receptor area indicated with a cyan line (Copyright Google Earth Pro 2026)

cut to ground level will be undertaken at least 48 hours later to remove any remaining cover. During the cutting exercises, vegetation will be removed progressively from the edges of the development towards areas where vegetation will be retained.

- 6.36. Vegetation clearance must only be done during the reptile key active season (March-September, inclusive). Weather should be 9°C or higher, and dry with no strong winds. This will allow active amphibians to move to more suitable habitat nearby, if they are present within the working area.
- 6.37. Works will be restricted to the designated development area and the impact of works on adjacent habitats avoided by the clear demarcation of the works area. A pre-agreed access plan should be produced prior to works commencing outlining key access routes through site to aid in restricting vehicular movement across site. These access routes should be laid with track matting to ensure minimal impact to habitat at ground level.
- 6.38. Additional reasonable avoidance measures which should be implemented in this case include:
- All works which may impact amphibians will be undertaken during the day;
 - The dismantling of any dead wood piles must be done by hand and during the amphibian and reptile key active season and cannot be done in the months of October to March;

- Any excavations or trenches on site must be covered whilst works are paused (such as overnight), or a ramp should be provided in order to prevent animals from becoming trapped;
- In order to prevent creating suitable refuges for amphibians during construction, all stored materials should be raised off the ground on pallets or skids. Aggregates, such as gravel or sand, must be delivered in bulk bags and stored on pallets; and
- In the event an amphibian is discovered on site during the construction phase then all works must stop and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted.

- 6.39. If any amphibians or reptiles are discovered during the works, they will be carefully moved to habitat beneath the retained wooded area to the south of the site, which will not be accessed by contractors during the works (see **Figure 1**).
- 6.40. It is the responsibility of the **Land Owner** and the **Site Manager** to schedule vegetation clearance works at the correct time of year to avoid impacts to hibernating reptiles and amphibians where possible. It is the responsibility of the **Site Manager** to inform the **ECoW** of the timing of vegetation works to ensure that Toolbox Talks and supervision can be carried out as needed.

Invertebrates

- 6.41. The site provides some limited foraging, commuting, and resting habitats for a variety of invertebrate species, and it is considered that the site supports an assemblage of common invertebrates. Stag beetle may be present on the retaining wall.
- 6.42. The ecologist present to conduct the ecological supervision will also conduct a pre-commencement check for stag beetle as part of their works on site.
- 6.43. Should any stag beetle larva or pupa be uncovered, they can be safely moved out of the works area and re-buried under a sod of soil in a damp, shady area, with any original rotting wood it was found with.
- 6.44. Should any stag beetles be moved, log piles and pyramids can be created to the area they are moved to, using only native hardwoods like oak *Quercus robur*, beech *Fagus sylvatica*, crab apple *Malus sylvestris* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. Wherever possible wood should be sourced from the site itself, or locally to prevent the spread of pests and diseases. Treated wood should not be used, or soft woods such as pines *Pinus spp.*, spruces *Picea spp.*, firs *Abies spp.*, cypresses *Cupressus spp.*.
- 6.45. Log pyramids are the best option for stag beetles, as these provide rotting wood which they require for their larval life stage. Pyramids are created by burying several logs upright approximately 50cm deep into the soil. A mix of sizes can be used, but a minimum of logs with a 10cm diameter should be used. Space is left between the logs, which are filled with soil, which ensures stag beetles can use all parts of the log. Log pyramids should be created in areas of dappled shade.
- 6.46. Log piles are created by laying logs on the ground with a mix of sizes and species, ensuring there are some gaps present within the pile. Dead leaves can be incorporated to maintain moisture. Soil sods can be used to cap the log pile, which further retains moisture and lower, stable temperatures. All log piles should be created in areas of dappled shade.

7. SEQUENCE OF WORKS

7.1. The site preparation phase will be carried out by the primary contractor or their sub-contractor. The process of works with relevance to environmental protection will be expected to take place in the following order:

- Fencing, barriers and signage to be installed where required, including fencing to protect retained trees;
- All site operatives to be inducted and made aware of the specific site hazards, or methodology, including the various ecological receptors;
- Prior to works commencing a designated route to move materials and machinery onto site will be demarcated. Areas for safe machinery and material storage will also be demarcated as agreed by site operatives and ECoW;
- Specialist vegetation clearance for invasive plant species if required, under supervision by the ECoW where necessary and following a Toolbox Talk;
- General vegetation clearance works to be undertaken, under supervision by the ECoW where necessary and following a Toolbox Talk;
- Arisings and materials produced through vegetation clearance to be stockpiled and segregated where possible on site in a designated area for use in habitat creation and enhancement.

8. REFERENCES

British Standards Institution (BSI) (2012). BS 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations*. BSI, London.

Darwin Ecology (2026) *Ecological Impact Assessment: Cheping Gardens Retaining Wall, Cheping Gardens, Botley, Southampton, SO30 2FW*.

Edgar, P., Foster, J. and Baker, J. (2010). *Reptile Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

Institute of Lighting Professionals and the Bat Conservation Trust (2018) *Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK - Bats and the Built Environment Series* [online] theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/ [June 2026].

9. APPENDICES

Legislation
<i>Planning Act 2008</i>
<i>Environmental Protection Act 1990</i>
<i>Control of Pollution Act 1</i>
<i>Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002</i>
<i>Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974</i>
<i>Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Regulations 2006</i>
<i>Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations</i>
<i>Badger Act 1992</i>
<i>Controlled Waste Regulations 1992</i>
<i>Contaminated Land Regulations 2006</i>
<i>Natural Environment & Communities Act 2006</i>
<i>Wildlife & Countryside Act 1987 (as amended)</i>
<i>Environment Act 1995</i>
<i>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010</i>
<i>Clean Air Act 1993</i>
<i>Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010</i>
<i>Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007</i>
<i>Water Resources Act 1991</i>
<i>Water Act 2003</i>



Site red line boundary

Area for site compound

Vehicular parking

Vehicular access route

DARWIN
ECOLOGY
integrating nature conservation

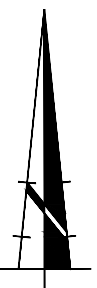
Info@darwin-ecology.co.uk
www.darwin-ecology.co.uk

*NOTE Areas are indicative and are not shown to exact scale.



Block Plan

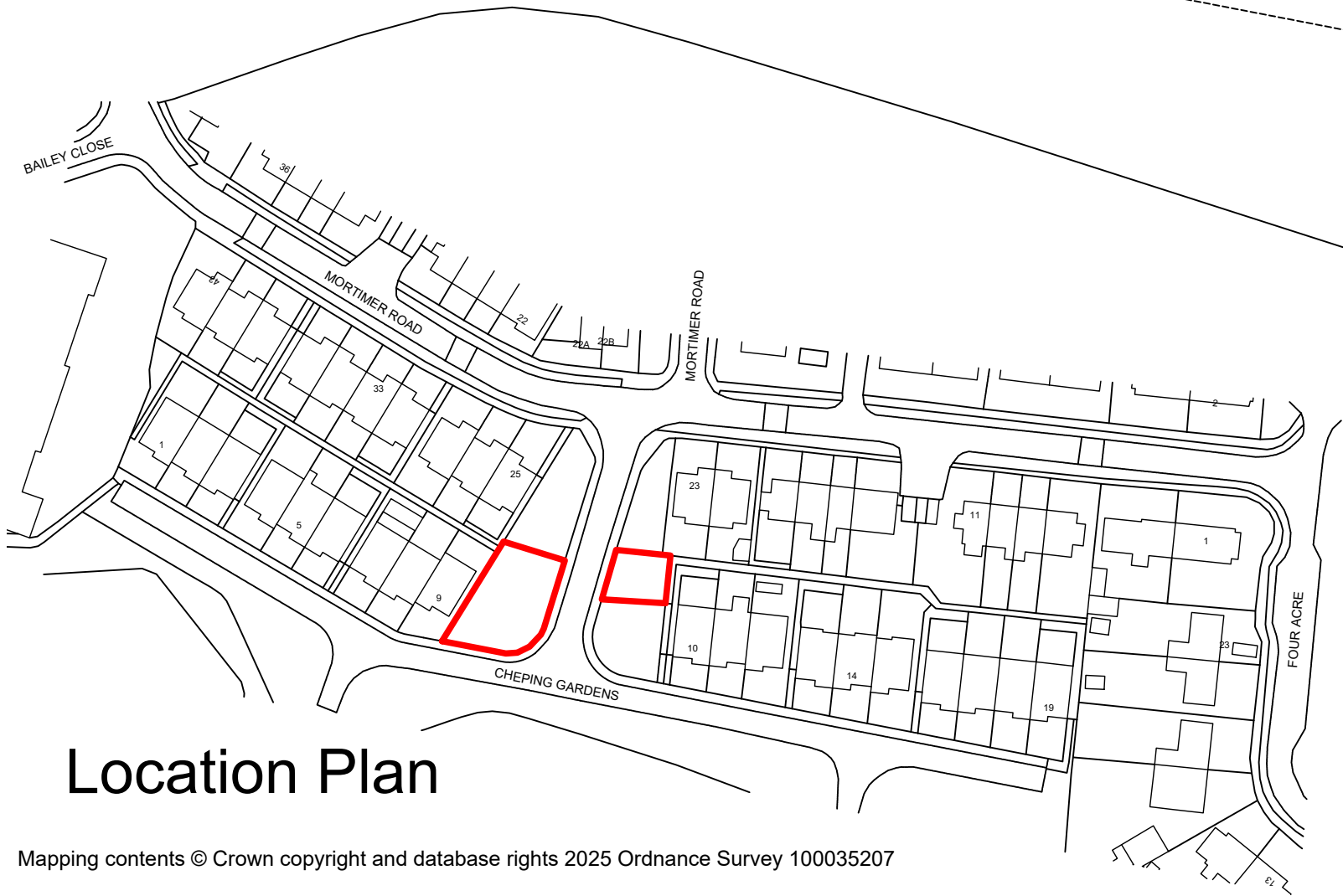
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SITE AREA - 940 sq.m. / 0.094 Ha

Key

Line denotes where contractors compound will be stationed for ease of access to the site.



Location Plan

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SCALE - 1:1250
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A	Removed planning lines and added a line showing the contractor's compound, along with a key.	09.06.26	JLH	JSF
		Date	Rev. by	Chkd by
Rev.	Details			



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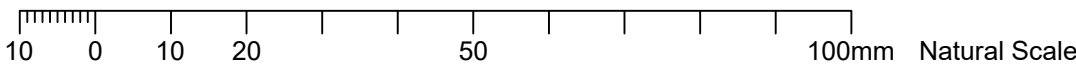
CLIENT
Vivid Homes

PROJECT TITLE AND ADDRESS
10-20 Cheping Gardens & 5-23 Mortimer Rd
Botley
Southampton
SO30 2FW

DRAWING TITLE
Location and Block Plan

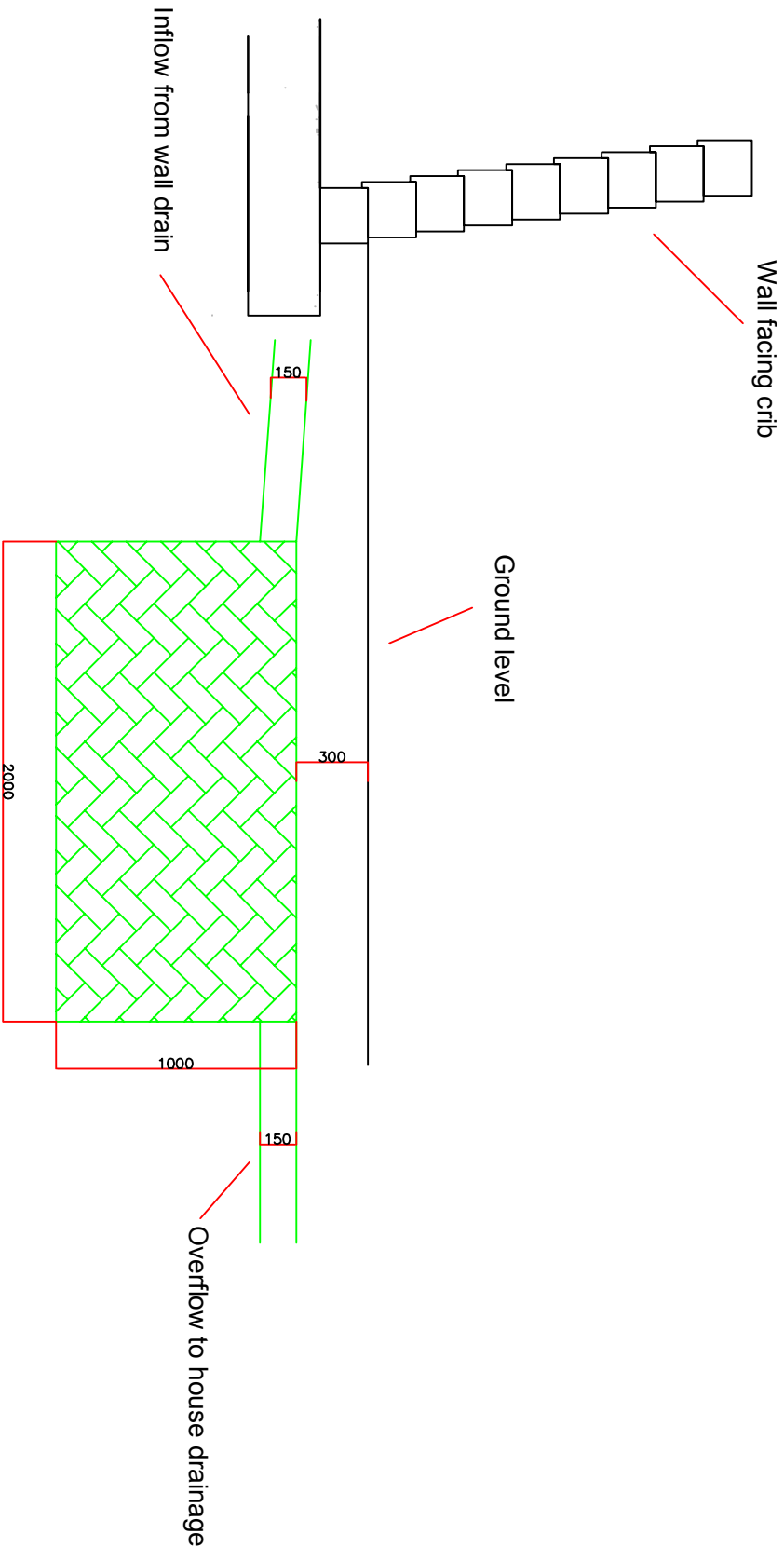


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Cheping Gardens

Reason for issue	SCALE	DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE
☐ Sketch Proposal	As indicated@A1	DGB	JSF	09.06.26
☐ Planning Application	PROJECT NUMBER		DRAWING NUMBER	REVISION
☐ Building Regulations	25027		01	A
☐ Tender				
☐ Construction				



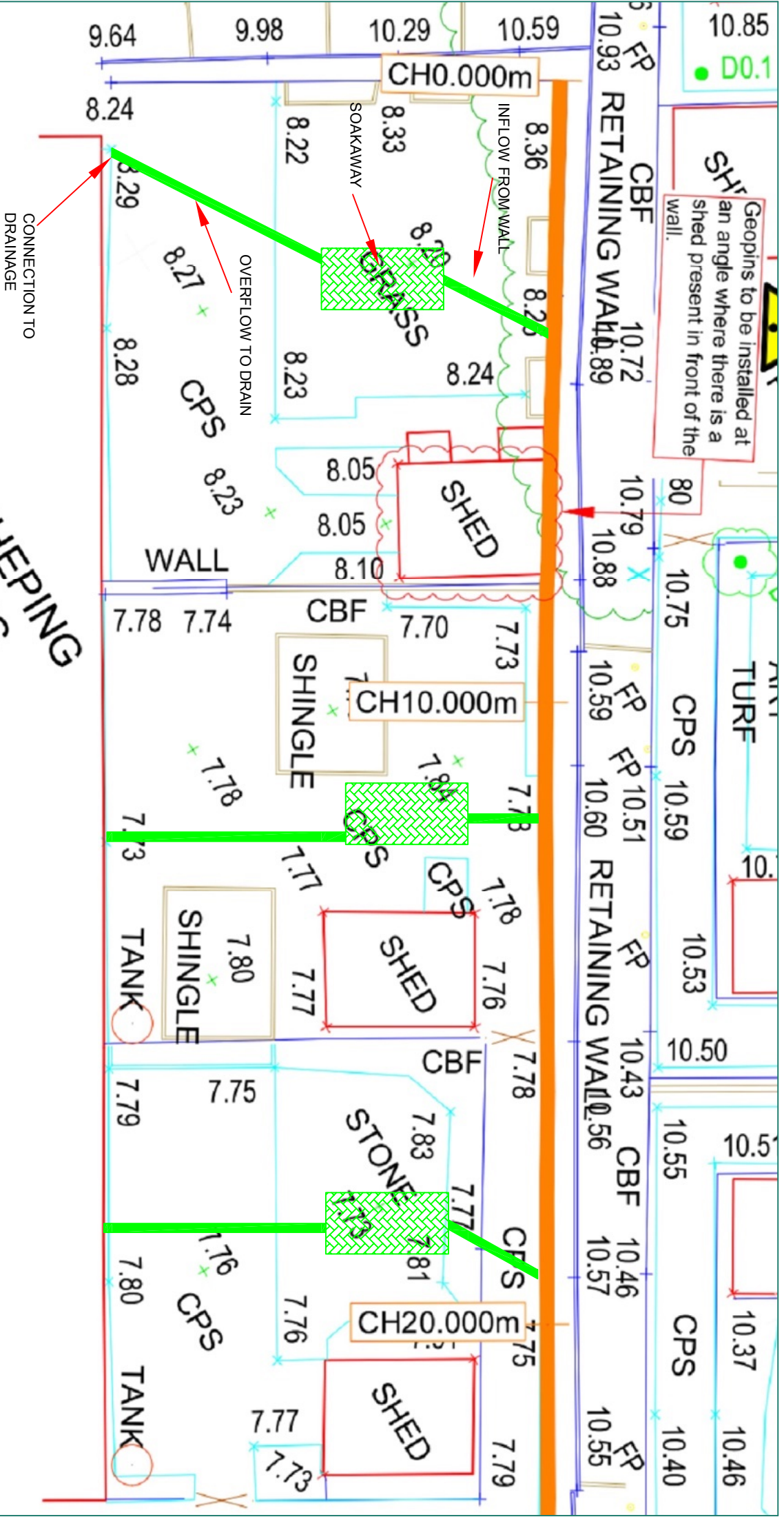
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Drawn: RP		Date: 17-12-2025	Consultant: TBC		Scale: NTS	Project No: 25-3061
Approved:		Date:			Drawing No: 2	Rev: 0



								
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Drawn: RP			Date: 17-12-2025					
Approved:			Date:		Consultant: TBC		Scale: NTS	
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				Drawing No: 3		Rev: 0		



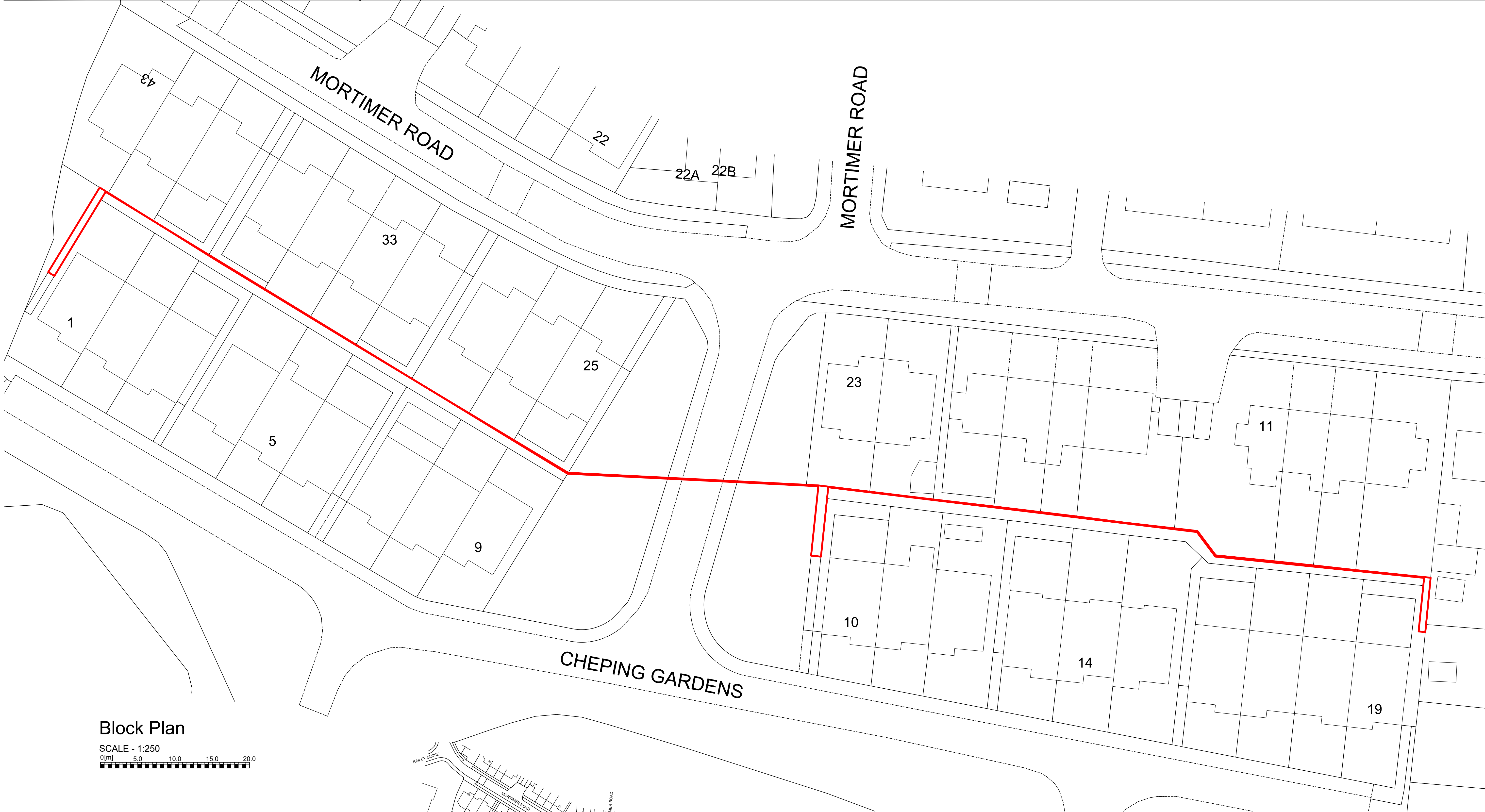


1-3 CHEPING GARDENS



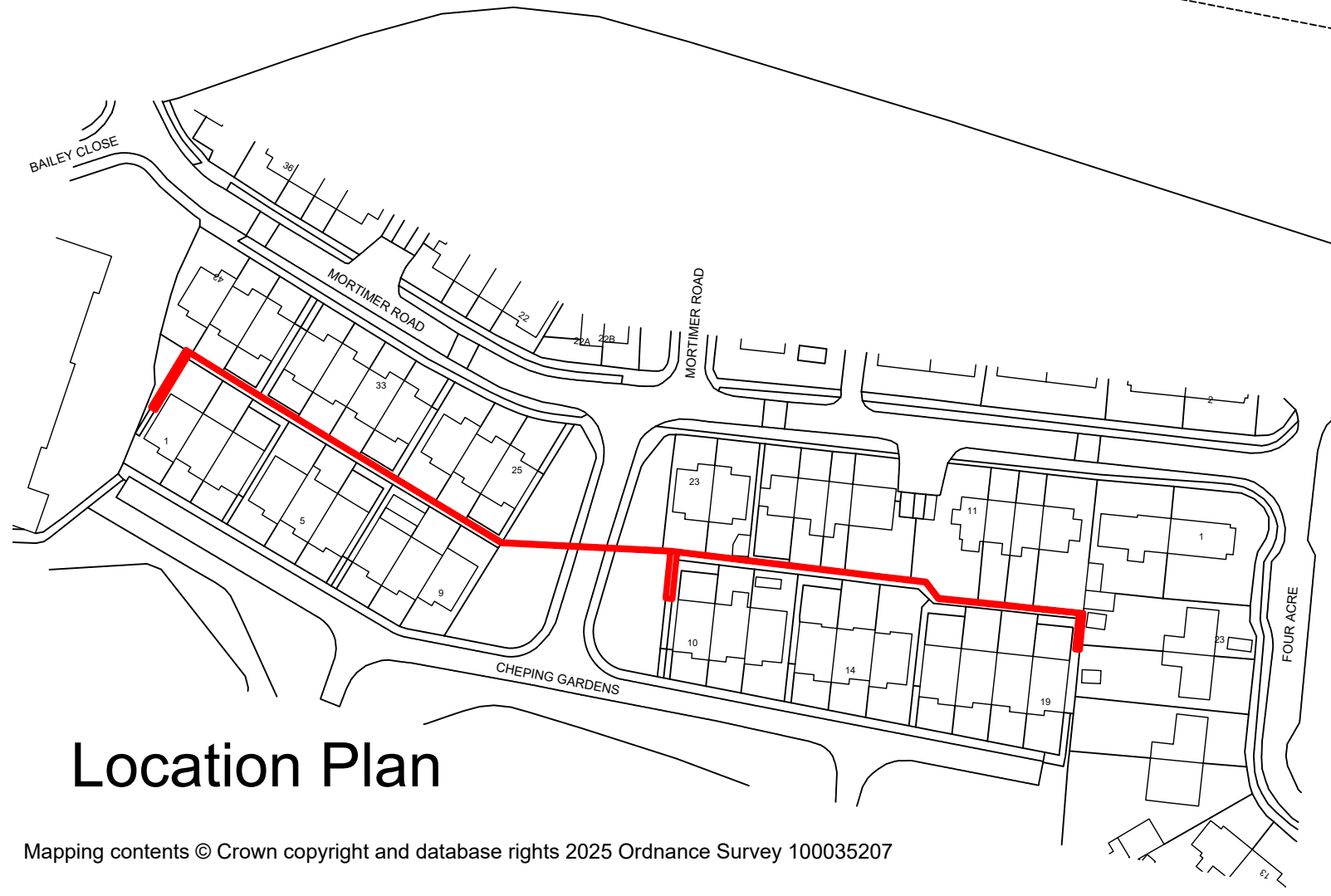
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Approved:	Date:			Drawing No: 1	Rev: 0



Block Plan

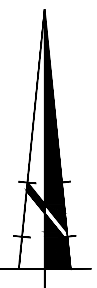
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Location Plan

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SCALE - 1:1250
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SITE AREA - 50.4 sq.m. / 0.005 Ha

Rev.	Details	Date	Rev. by	Chkd by



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CLIENT
Vivid Homes
PROJECT TITLE AND ADDRESS
10-20 Cheping Gardens & 5-23 Mortimer Rd
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Southampton
SO30 2FW

DRAWING TITLE
Location and Block Plan

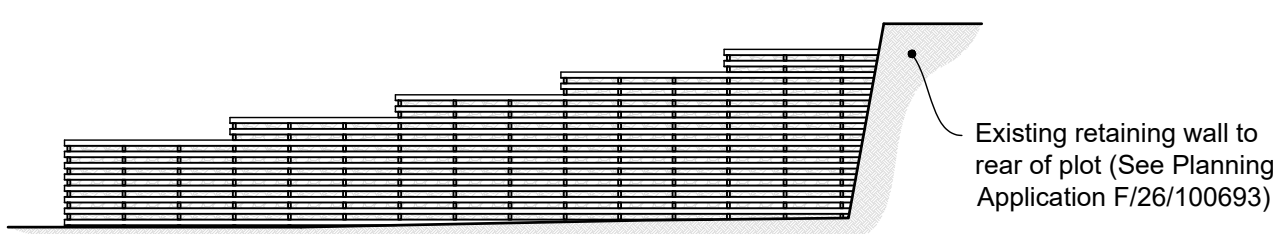
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☐ Building Regulations	25027		101	.
☐ Tender				
☐ Construction				



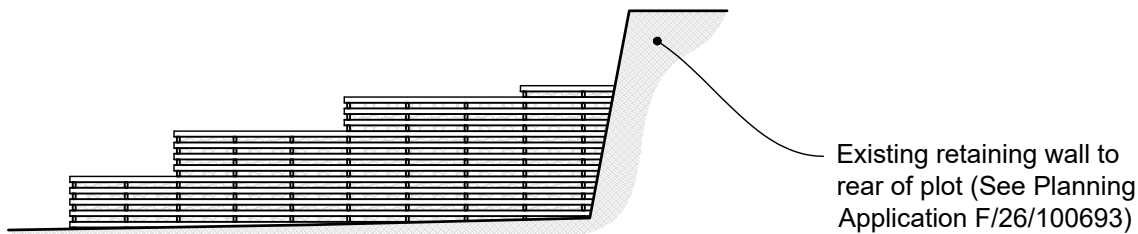
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The contractor is to check drawings and to verify ALL dimensions on site. ANY discrepancies are to be notified to Ellis Belk Associates Ltd immediately.

10 0 10 20 50 100mm Natural Scale

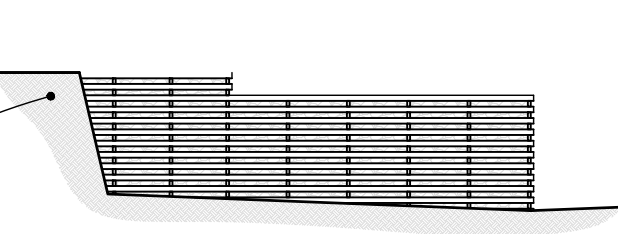
Cheping Gardens



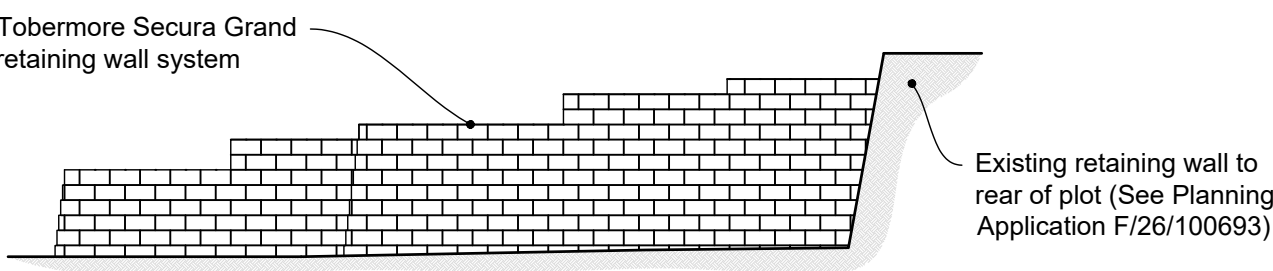
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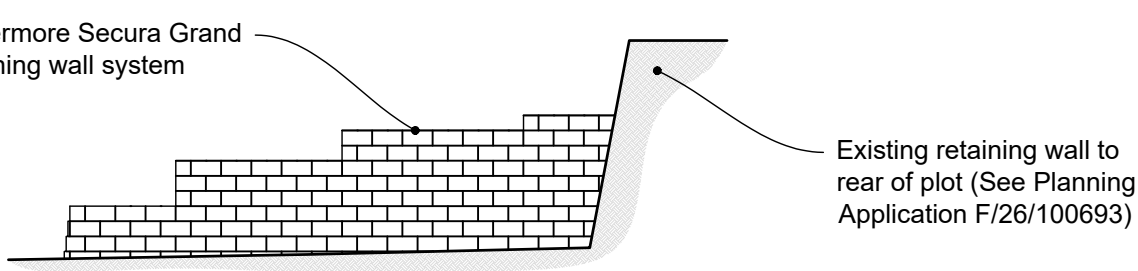
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10 Cheping Gardens



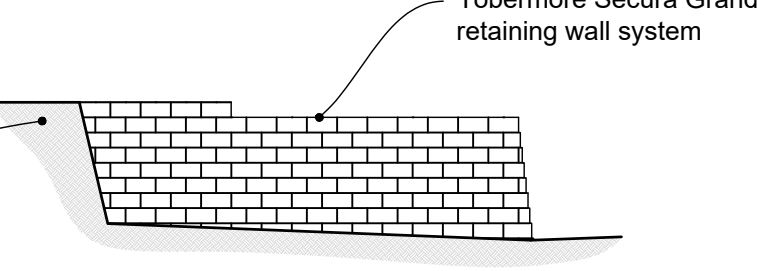
Existing Cribblock Retaining Wall
19 Cheping Gardens



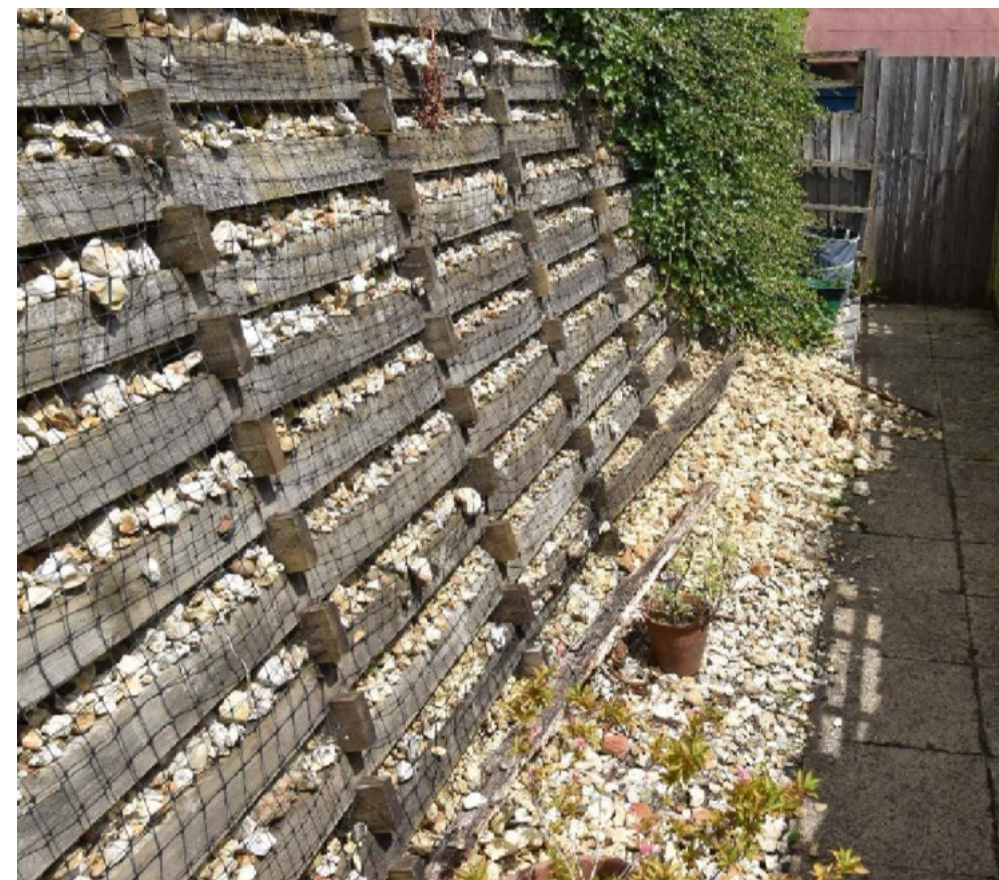
Proposed Retaining Wall
1 Cheping Gardens



Proposed Retaining Wall
10 Cheping Gardens



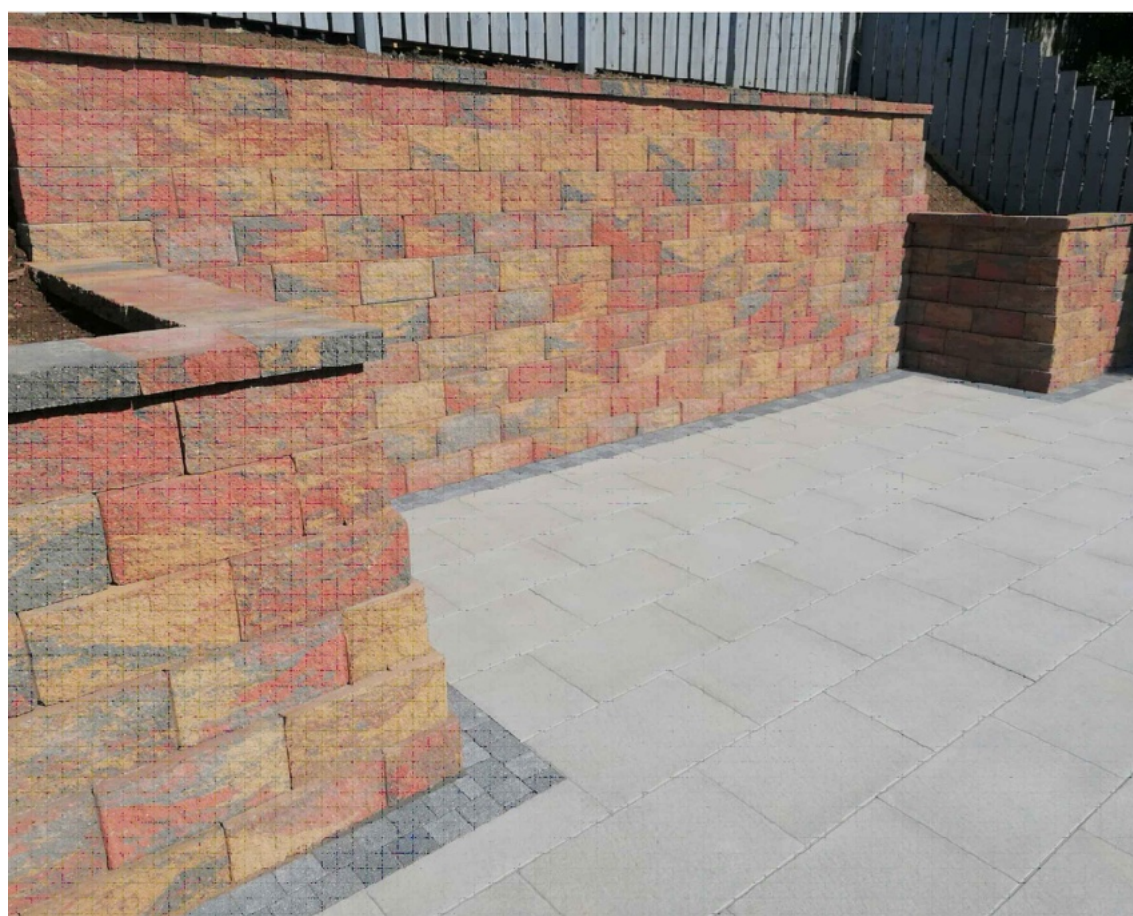
Proposed Retaining Wall
19 Cheping Gardens



Existing cribblock retaining wall

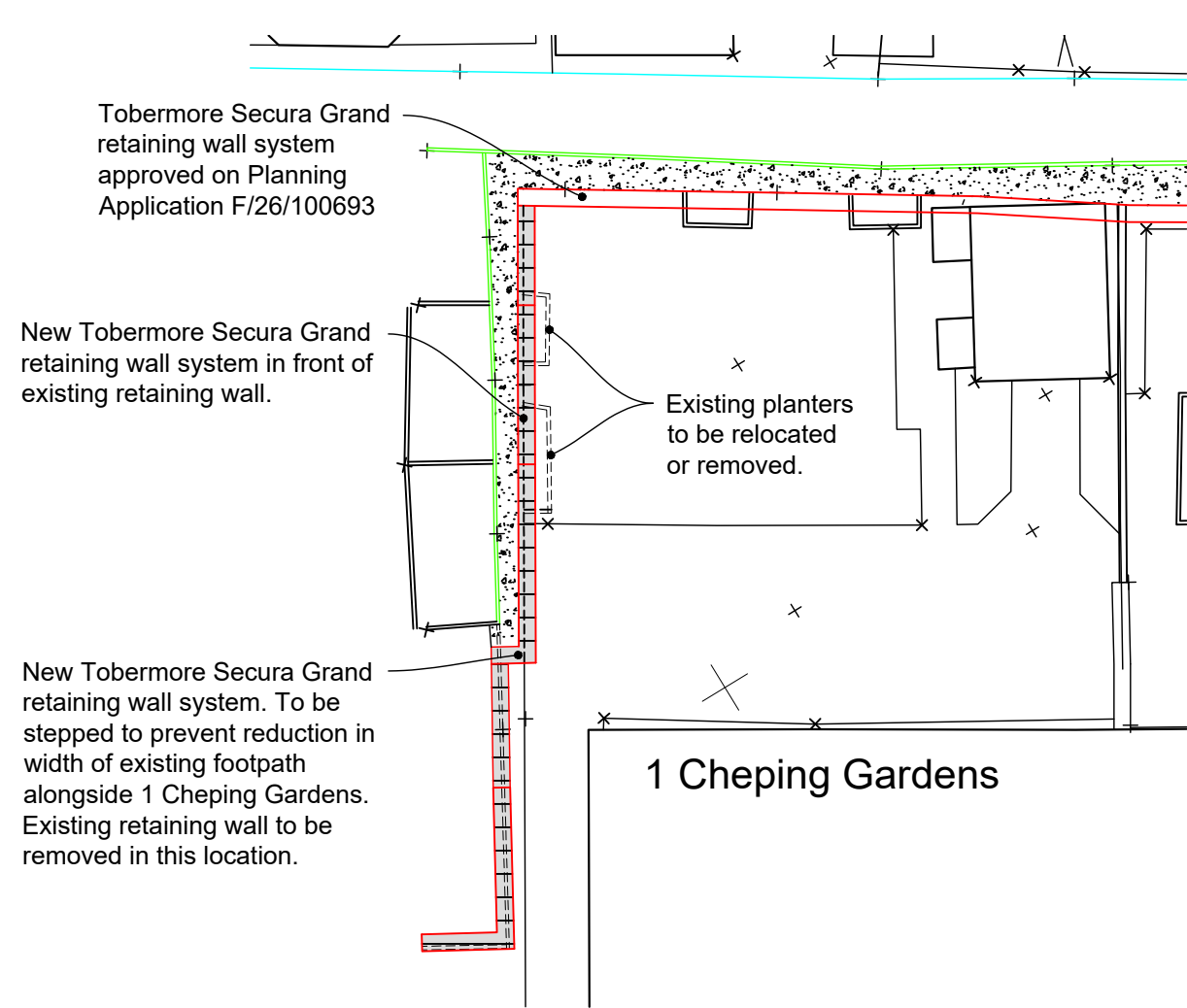


Proposed Tobermore Secura Grand retaining wall system in the Heather Style

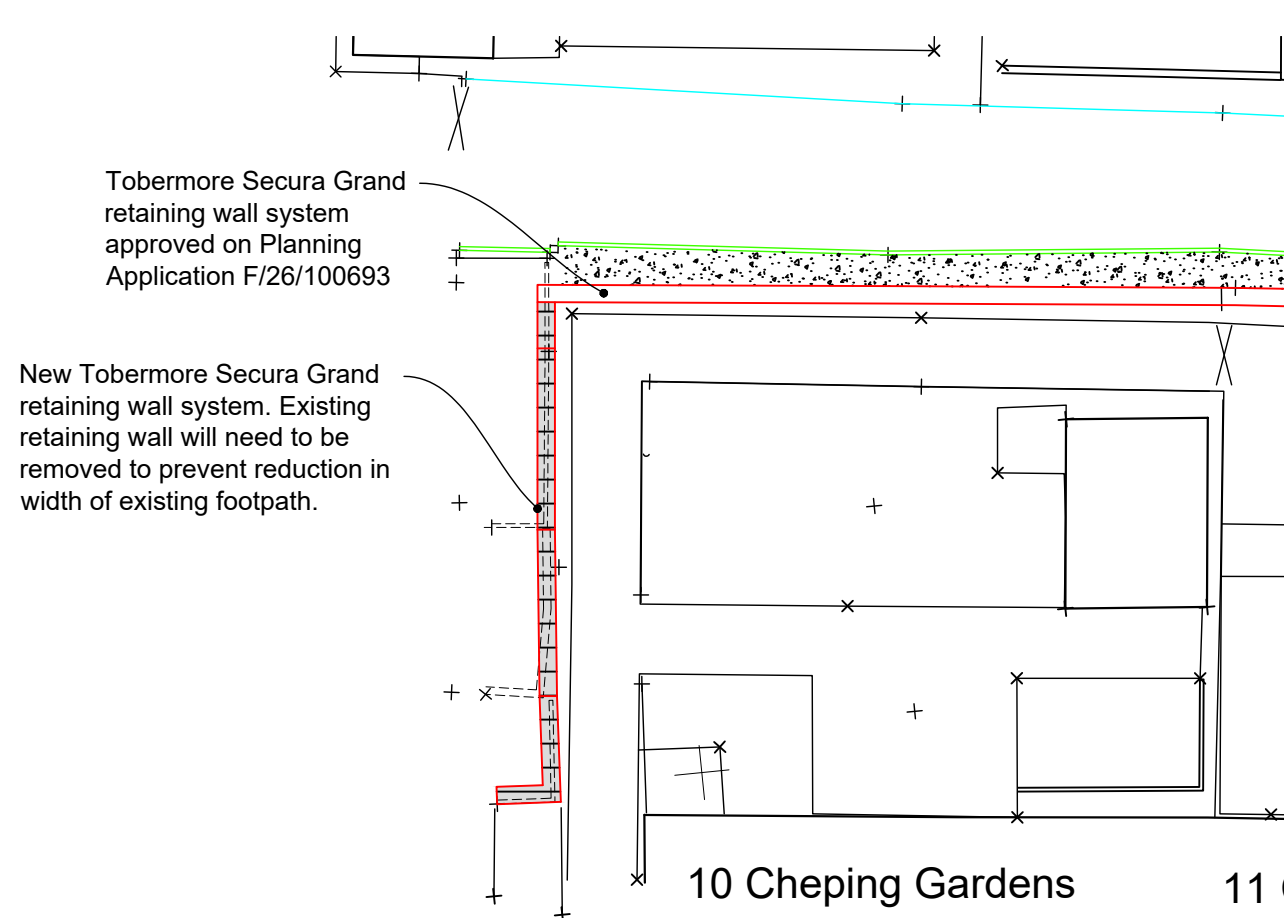


Example of the Heather style of the Secura Grand retaining wall

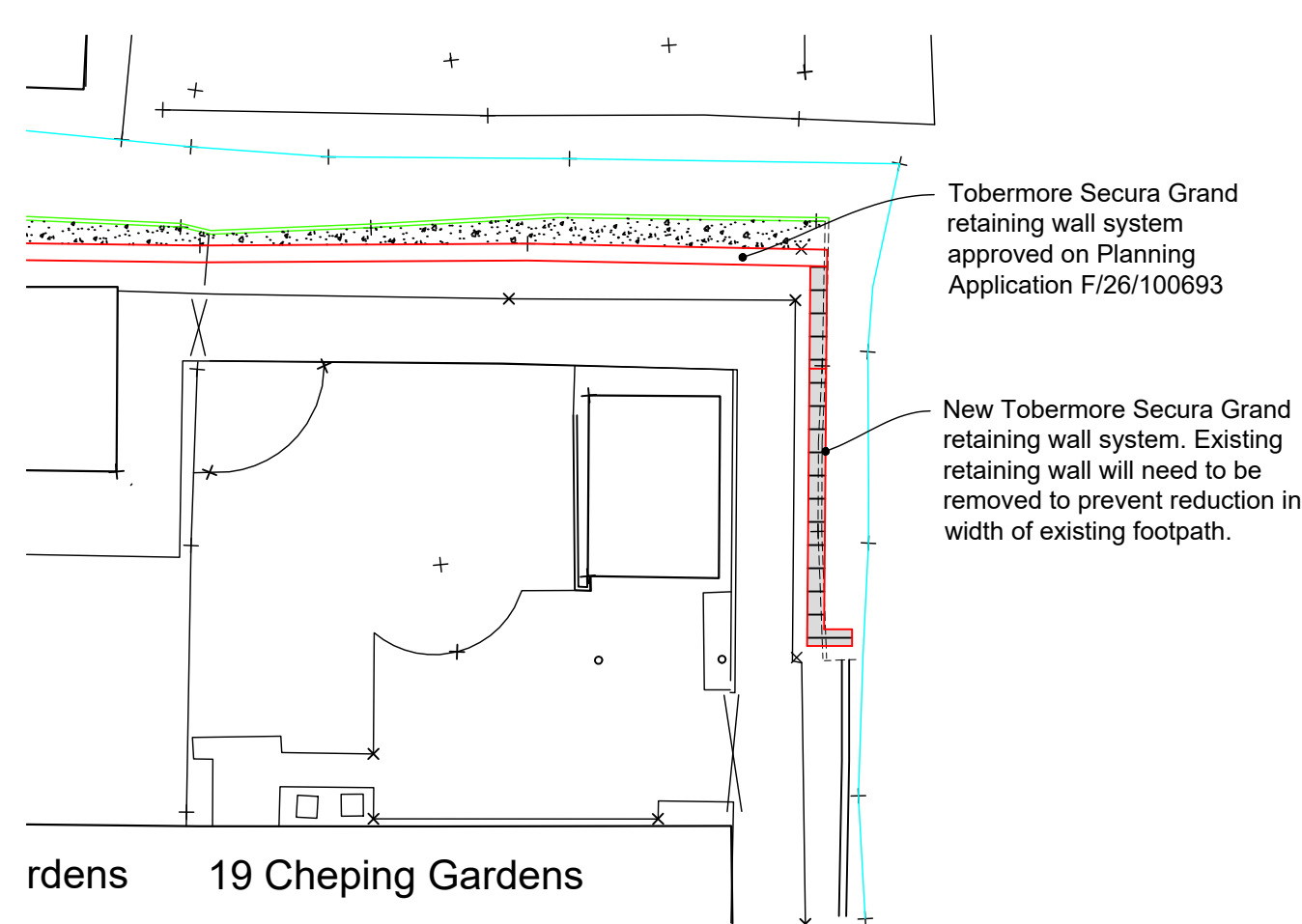
- Key**
- Top of existing cribblock retaining wall to be reinforced and refurbished
 - Top of existing cribblock retaining wall to be removed
 - Concrete and aggregate back fill
 - New Tobermore Secura Grand retaining wall



Site Plan - 1 Cheping Gardens



Site Plan - 10 Cheping Gardens



Site Plan - 19 Cheping Gardens

Rev.	Details	Date	Rev. by	Chkd by
CLIENT VIVID Homes				
PROJECT TITLE AND ADDRESS Cheping Gardens Botley Southampton SO30 2FW				
Tel: 01202 671555 office@ellisbelk.com www.ellisbelk.com				
DRAWING TITLE Numbers 1, 10 & 19 Part Site Plans and Elevations				