

REPORT TO PLANNING COMMITTEE

15 January 2020

Application Reference	DC/19/63392				
Application Received	6 th August 2019				
Application Description	Proposed 20 No. dwellings				
Application Address	Former Resource Centre, Lowry Close, Smethwick				
Applicant	Mr Alan Martin, Sandwell MBC, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE				
Ward	Smethwick				
Contribution towards Vision 2030:					
Contact Officer(s)	William Stevens 0121 569 4897 William_stevens@sandwell.gov.uk				

RECOMMENDATION

Subject to the receipt of satisfactory amended plans and the Lead Local Flood Authority withdrawing their objection, approval is recommended subject to:

- i) Details of retaining walls;
- ii) Finished floor levels;
- iii) External materials;
- iv) Hard and soft landscaping to include additional trees;
- v) Highway Improvements (including waiting bay removal);
- vi) Drainage details;
- vii) Ground remediation validation report;
- viii) Electric vehicle charging point infrastructure being installed;
- ix) Affordable housing;
- x) Construction management plan including hours of working;
- xi) Details for protecting the existing culvert and
- xii) Skills and employment details.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This application was originally reported to your Planning Committee because the applicant is Director of Regeneration and Economy and the proposal has generated local interest.
- 1.2 Members visited the site in December and at your last Committee, Members resolved to defer the application in order that amended plans could be submitted.
- 1.3 At the time of writing this report, suitable amended plans had yet to be received, however, Members will be updated at the committee meeting.

2 SUMMARY OF KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The site is unallocated in the adopted development plan.
- 2.2 The material planning considerations which are relevant to this application are;

Local and Government Policy (NPPF);
Public visual amenity;
Layout and density of building;
Design, appearance and materials;
Access, highway safety, and parking;
Contamination by a previous use;
Loss of trees;
Affordable housing; and
Drainage.

3. THE APPLICATION SITE

- 3.1 The application site is bound by Church Hill Street, and Vicarage Road, Smethwick, with the site separated in two by Lowry Close. The site slopes from Vicarage Road/Church Hill Street towards Stoney Lane Vicarage Street.
- The immediate area is residential with retail and offices nearby. Opposite the application site is a multi-storey car park.
- A water culvert runs along the boundary of the site adjacent to proposed plots 1, 10 and 11.

4. PLANNING HISTORY

- 4.1 Planning Permission was granted in 2018 (DC/18/62088) for the demolition of the former resource centre. The resource centre has since been demolished and the site remains vacant.
- 4.2 Relevant planning applications are as follows: -

DC/18/62088 Demolition of resource centre Approved 15.08.2018

5. APPLICATION DETAILS

- 5.1 The applicant proposes to erect 20 no. dwellings. These will be made up of different house types including 11 no. 2 bedroom semi-detached properties, 4 no. 4 bedroom properties, and 5 no. 2 bedroom bungalows, all with associated car parking and gardens.
- 5.2 The properties will be managed by the council and socially rented.

6. PUBLICITY

6.1 The application has been publicised by neighbour notification letters, site notice and press notice. One letter has been received regarding the publicity procedure. The same person has raised objections to the proposal:

6.2 **Objections**

Objections have been received on the following grounds: -

- (i) Loss of trees; and
- (ii) Overdevelopment of the site.

Immaterial issues have also been raised regarding ownership

6.3 Responses to objections

I respond to the objector's comments in turn;

(i) There are no Tree Preservation Orders on any of the trees on site. Trees have been removed prior to the application being submitted. However, the applicant proposes to replace the lost trees along Church Hill Street, and any approval can be conditioned accordingly, (ii) It is the opinion of the Council that the site can accommodate the 20 proposed properties, and

6.4 **Support**

No comments have been received from the public consultation process which supports the application.

7. STATUTORY CONSULTATION

7.1 Highways

Part of the site relates to highway land and access to driveways for plots 13-16 will require the removal of the existing limited waiting bays. This along with alterations to the proposed footpaths can be conditioned.

7.2 Environmental Health (Air Quality)

They raise no objections, subject to electric vehicle charging points being installed. However; it has been agreed with the applicant that the infrastructure will be provided to enable future installation, if required, by the tenants.

7.3 Environmental Health (Contaminated Land)

The site has potential for ground contamination and Environmental Health recommends that site investigations are carried out, and comments are submitted, along with any remediation works, prior to development commencing onsite. It is considered that a condition requesting that the applicant provides a validation report once any remediation works have been carried out would satisfy this requirement.

7.4 Severn Trent Water

No objections received, however they wish for their standard drainage condition to be attached to any approval.

7.5 **Healthy Urban Design Officer**

Confirms that Electric Vehicle Charging points should be provided, and that secure cycle parking should be made available and not the "opportunity" to just provide them. Given that the proposal is a Council application where these properties will be rented, the applicant is reluctant to provide secure, undercover cycle parking such as sheds etc, as this has the potential to have ongoing maintenance costs. That

said, the applicant would allow future tenants to provide their own cycle storage within their garden areas.

7.6 The Canal and River Trust

No objection subject to a condition that details the protection of the existing culvert that runs along the edge of the site.

7.7 Cadent

Comments received regarding a gas pipeline that lies outside of the application site has been passed onto the applicant.

7.8 **Lead Local Flood Authority**

Recommend refusal on the grounds of lack of information. Additional information has now been submitted and a response is awaited from the Flood authority which will be reported to your Committee.

7.9 **Urban Design**

In the main, the Urban Design Team are satisfied with the layout. However, the garden lengths to plots 10 and 11 are significantly deficient and further information is required given the significant level changes across the site. The house types also require further detailing. Amended plans and subsequent comments will be reported to your Committee.

7.10 Planning Policy

The site is unallocated but meets the guidance for new housing under the housing windfall policy (SAD H2) being previously developed land and housing being compatible to the surrounding area. The site also provides affordable housing with a range of house types (HOU3, SAD H3, and HOU2). The scheme should seek to provide a good quality design, address drainage (ENV5) and air quality issues (ENV8).

8. GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE/NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

8.1 National Planning Policy Framework promotes sustainable development but states that that local circumstances should be taken into account to reflect the character, needs and opportunities for each area.

9. LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

9.1 The following policies of the Council's Local Plan are relevant:-

HOU1: Delivering sustainable Housing Growth HOU2: Housing Density, Type and Accessibility

HOU3: Delivering Affordable Housing

EMP5: Improving Access to the Labour Market

ENV3: Design Quality

ENV5: Flood Risk, Sustainable Drainage System and Urban Heat

Island Effect

ENV8: Air Quality

SAD H2: Housing Windfalls SAD H3: Affordable Housing

SAD EOS9: Urban Design Principles SAD EMP2 – Training and Recruitment

- 9.2 With regard to policies HOU1 and HOU2 and SAD H2, the site is unallocated for housing and hence consideration should be given to the need to provide additional housing to meet future needs, that such sites are on previously developed land, compatible with their surroundings, have good public transport accessibility and provides a mix of house types. The application site is surrounded by existing housing close to public transport, will provide much needed affordable homes and provides a mixture of different house types.
- 9.3 HOU3 and SAD H3 sets out the requirement of 25% affordable housing. This development would provide 100% affordable homes.
- 9.4 ENV3 and SAD EOS9 refers to well designed schemes that provide quality living environments. In the main the layout is considered to be acceptable, however the proposal is currently deficient on garden sizes to plots 10 and 11 and land level changes and boundary treatments need to be clarified to improve the overall appearance of the scheme. In addition, further architectural detailing has been requested. The applicant is addressing these comments and amendments will be reported to your Committee meeting.
- 9.5 ENV5 seeks the incorporation of sustainable drainage systems to assist with reducing the impact of flooding and surface run-off. The Lead Local Flood Authority has raised concerns over the lack of information and further information has now been submitted. Members will be updated accordingly.
- 9.6 ENV8 refers to mitigation measures to offset air quality issues, in this instance, electric vehicle charging infrastructure has been proposed.

9.7 EMP5 Improving Access to the Labour Market Training and Recruitment and SAD EMP2 – Training and Recruitment requires large employment generating schemes to provide opportunities for training and recruitment. This could be conditioned to secure these opportunities.

10. MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 The material considerations relating to Government policy (NPPF) and proposals with the local plan have been referred to above in Sections 8 and 9. With regard to the other considerations these are highlighted below:

10.3 **Public visual amenity**

It is not anticipated that the development will cause any significant amenity issues to occupiers of the existing development.

10.5 Access, highway safety, and parking

The Council's highways Department have raised no issues subject to the existing traffic orders being revoked.

10.6 Ground contamination by a previous use

A condition can be attached to any approval requiring the investigation and remediation of the existing ground contamination.

10.7 Loss of trees

A number of trees were felled prior to this application being submitted. However, the applicant proposes to plant more along the boundary of the site which can be conditioned accordingly.

10.8 Affordable housing

All properties will be affordable homes, and planning conditions can be attached to control this.

10.9 **Drainage**

As indicated above appropriate further information has been provided to ensure that the scheme is deemed to be acceptable and reduces surface water flooding.

11. IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION

- 11.1 The proposal supports Ambition 3, 7, 8 and 10 of the Sandwell Vision 2030:-
- 11.2 Ambition 3 Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy
- 11.3 Ambition 7 We now have many new homes to meet a full range of housing needs in attractive neighbourhoods and close to key transport routes.
- 11.4 Ambition 8 Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.
- 11.5 Ambition 10 Sandwell has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focussed on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

12. CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 The principle of residential development is supported by relevant policies and provides an opportunity to provide new homes which are affordable. Further details have been requested to ensure that the layout of the scheme is acceptable.
- 12.2 Drainage details remain outstanding, however further details have now been submitted to the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and it likely that conditions can then be imposed to ensure that a satisfactory drainage scheme is provided to ensure that surface water flooding is appropriately controlled.
- 12.3 Subject to receipt of the satisfactory amended plans and no objections from the LLFA conditional approval is recommended.

13. STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

When a planning application is refused the applicant has a right of appeal to the planning inspectorate, and they can also make a claim for costs against the council.

14. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

14.1 This application is submitted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

15. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

15.1 There are no equalities issues arising from this proposal and therefore an equality impact assessment has not been carried out.

16. DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

16.1 The planning application and accompanying documentation is a public document.

17. CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

17.1 There are no crime and disorder issues with this application.

18. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

18.1 Refer to the national planning framework (8) and local plan policies (9) and material considerations (10).

19. HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

19.1 Refer to the summary of the report (12) in particular the scheme can be conditioned to provide opportunities for training and recruitment in accordance with SAD EMP2.

20. IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

20.1 The proposal is on Council owned land.

21. APPENDICES:

Site and Context Plan

ZZ ZZ AG(0-) 01 S2

ZZ XX AE(04) 01 S2

ZZ XX AE (04) 02 SE

ZZ XX AP(08) 01 S2

ZZ XX AP(08) 03 S2

ZZ XX AP(08) 02 S2

H1G XX AP(o-) 01 S2

H5 XX AP(0-) S2 P1

H5G XX AP(0-) 01 S2

H9 XX AP(0-) 01 S2

BG XX AP(0-) 01 S2 P3

B3 XX AP(0-) 01 S2 P1

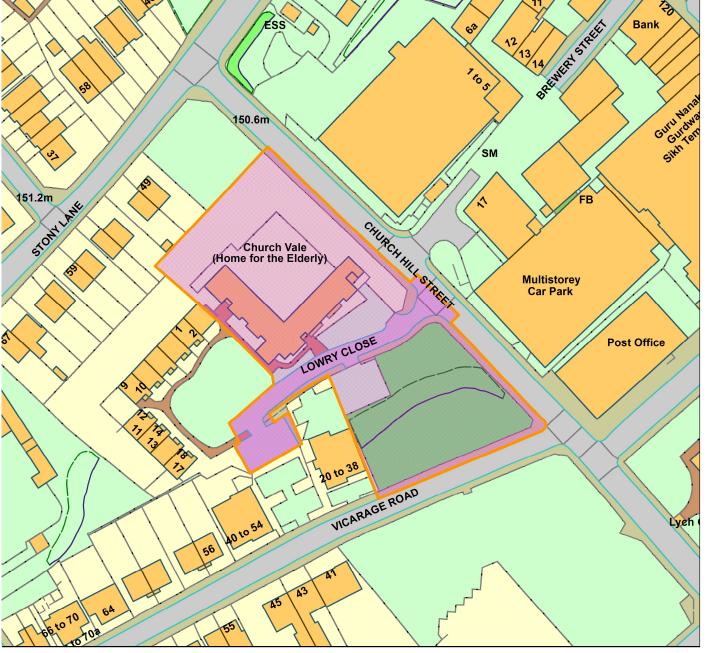


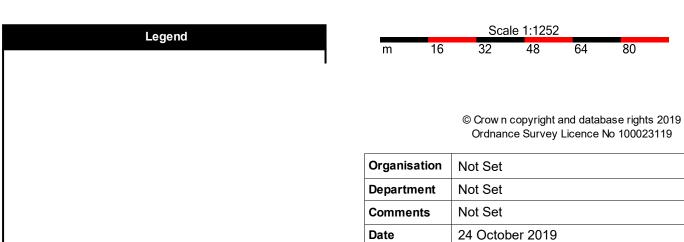
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DC/19/63392 Former Resource Centre, Lowery Close

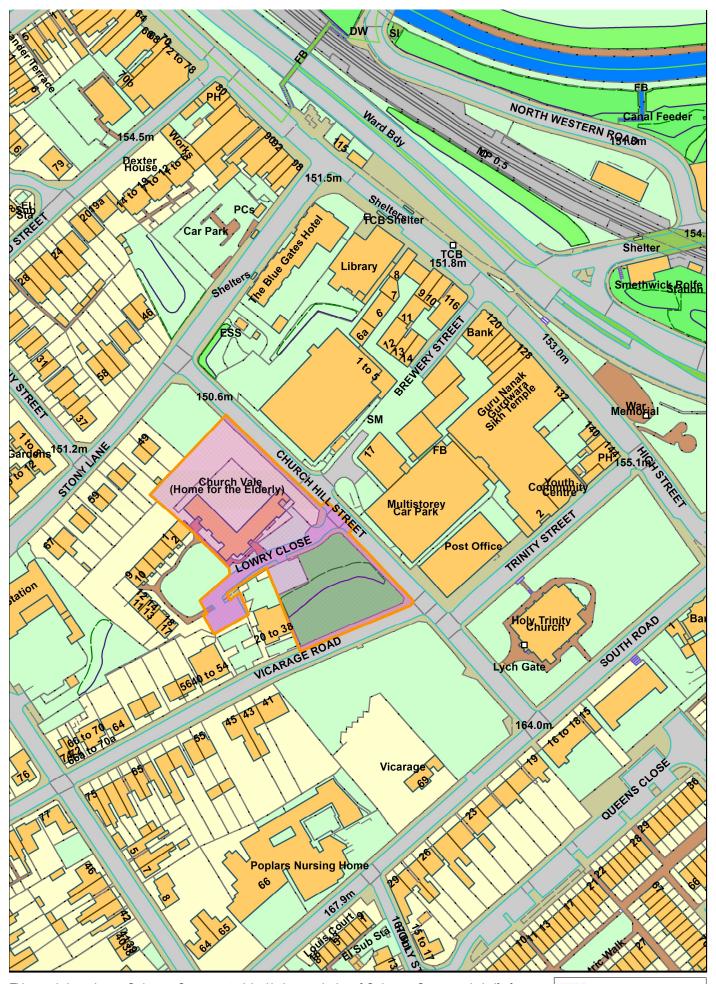
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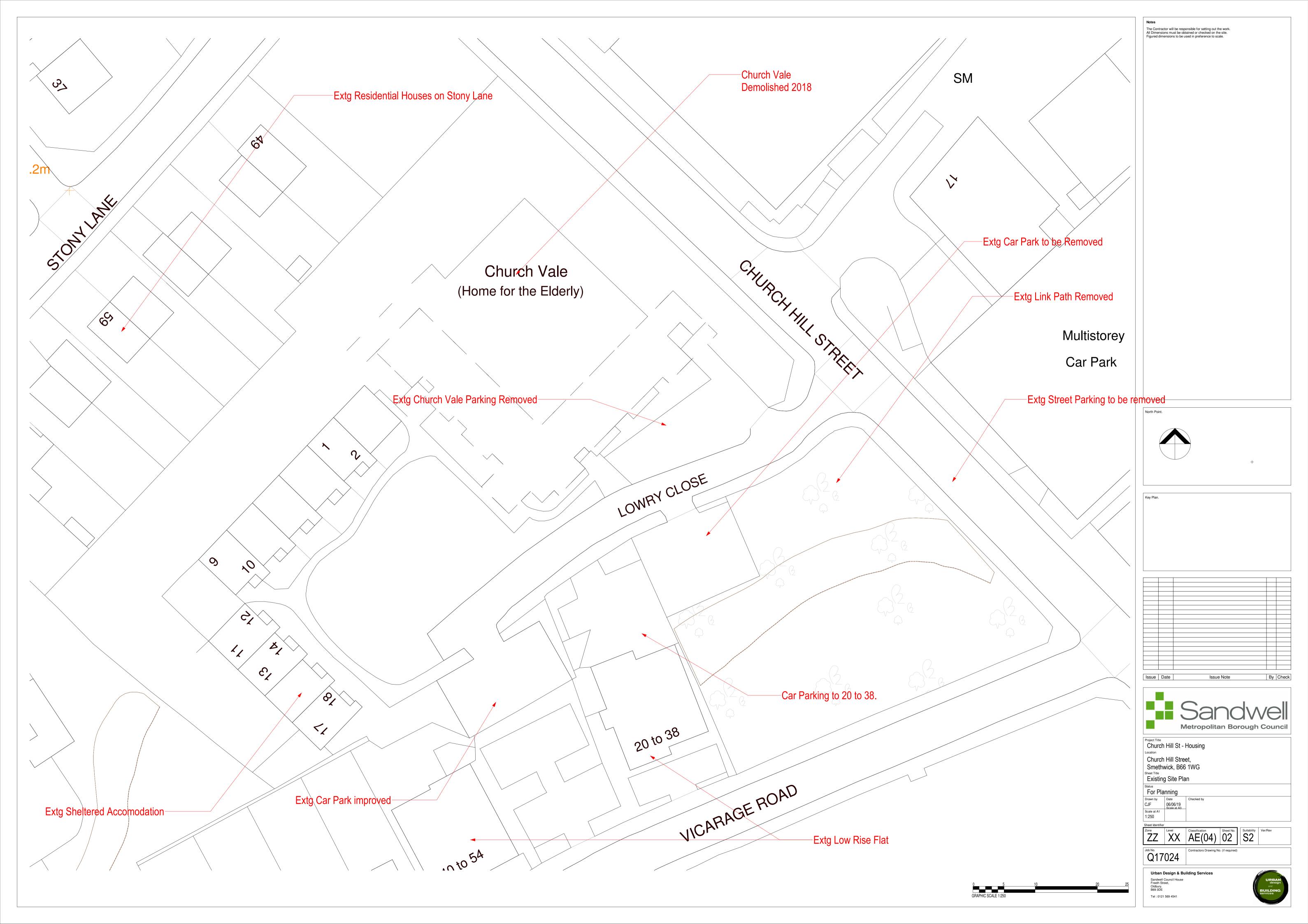


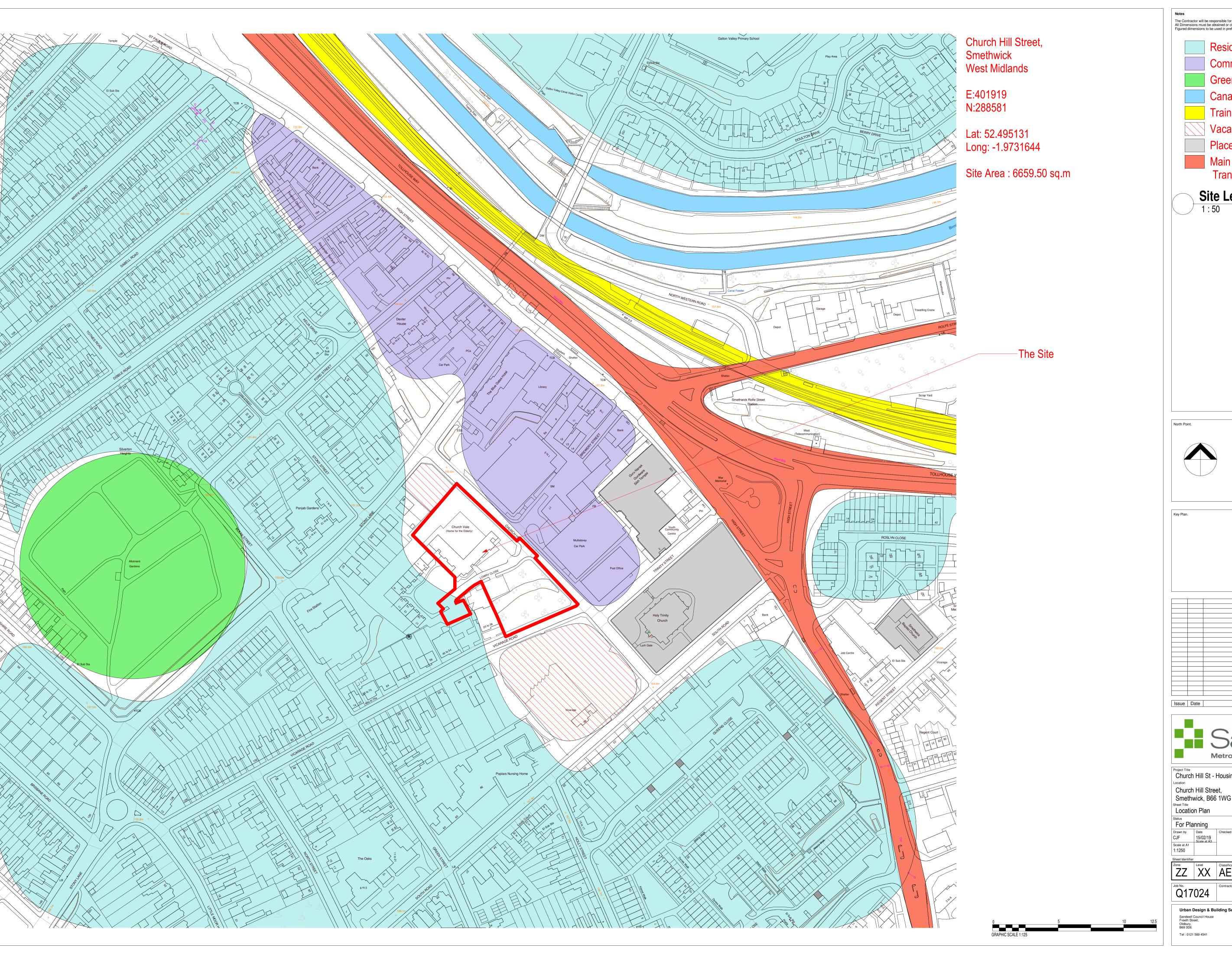
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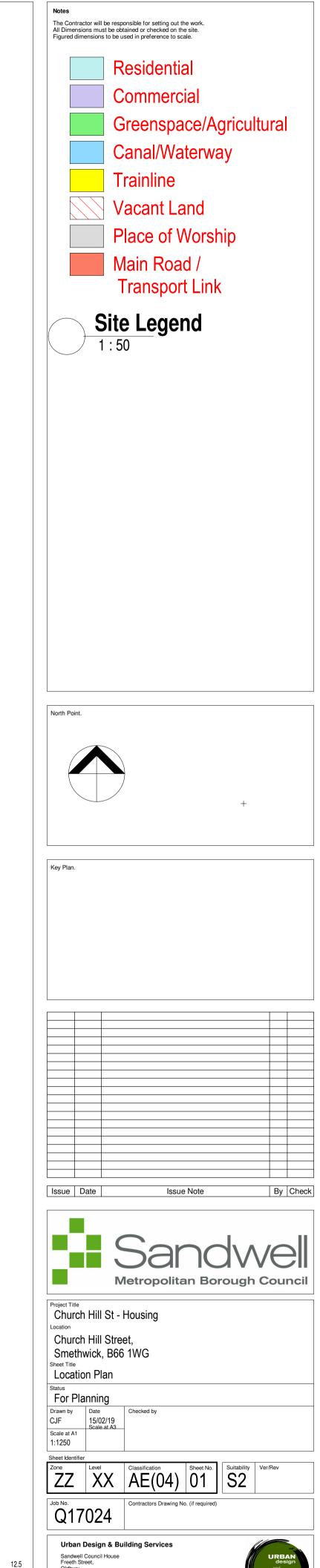


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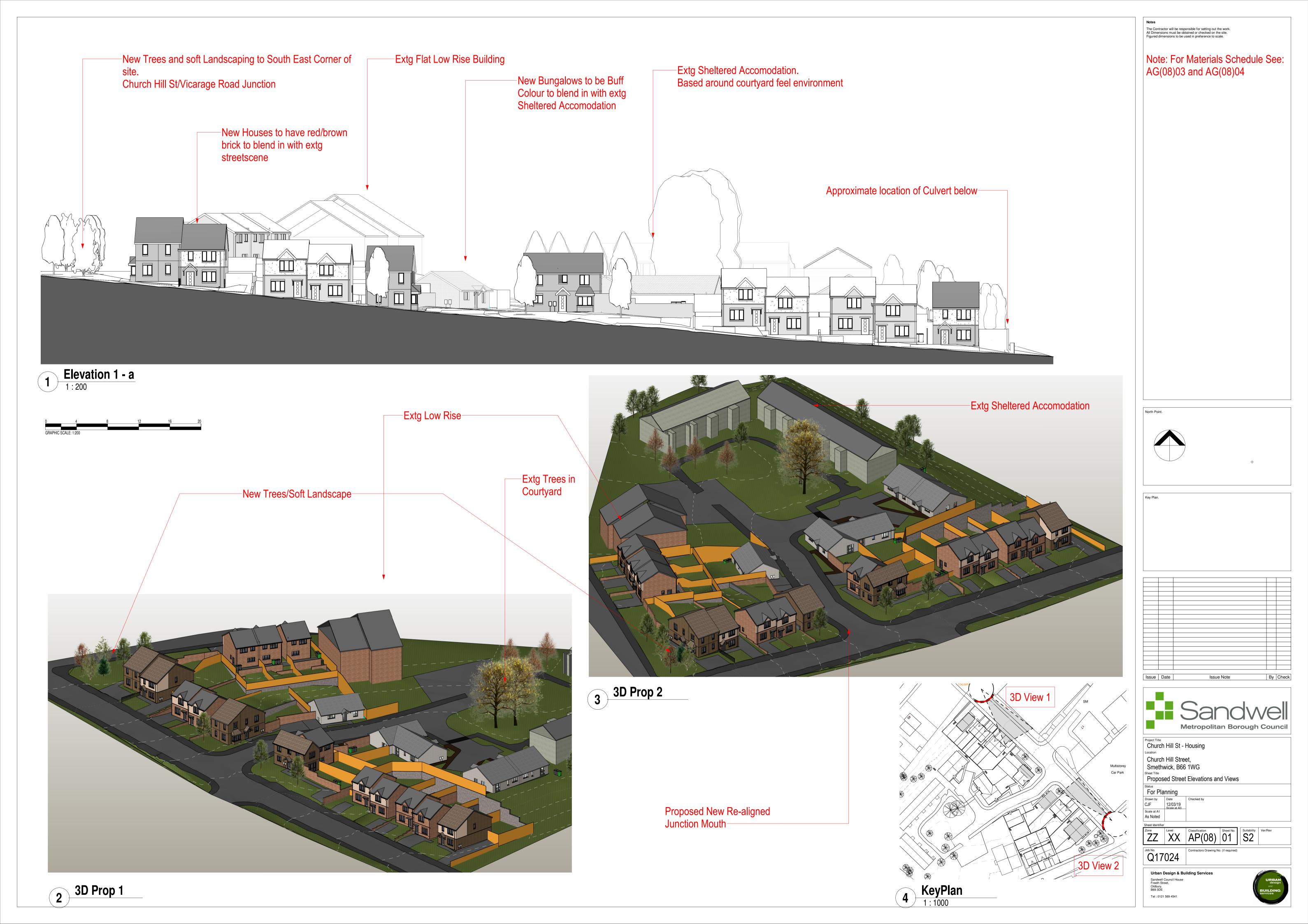


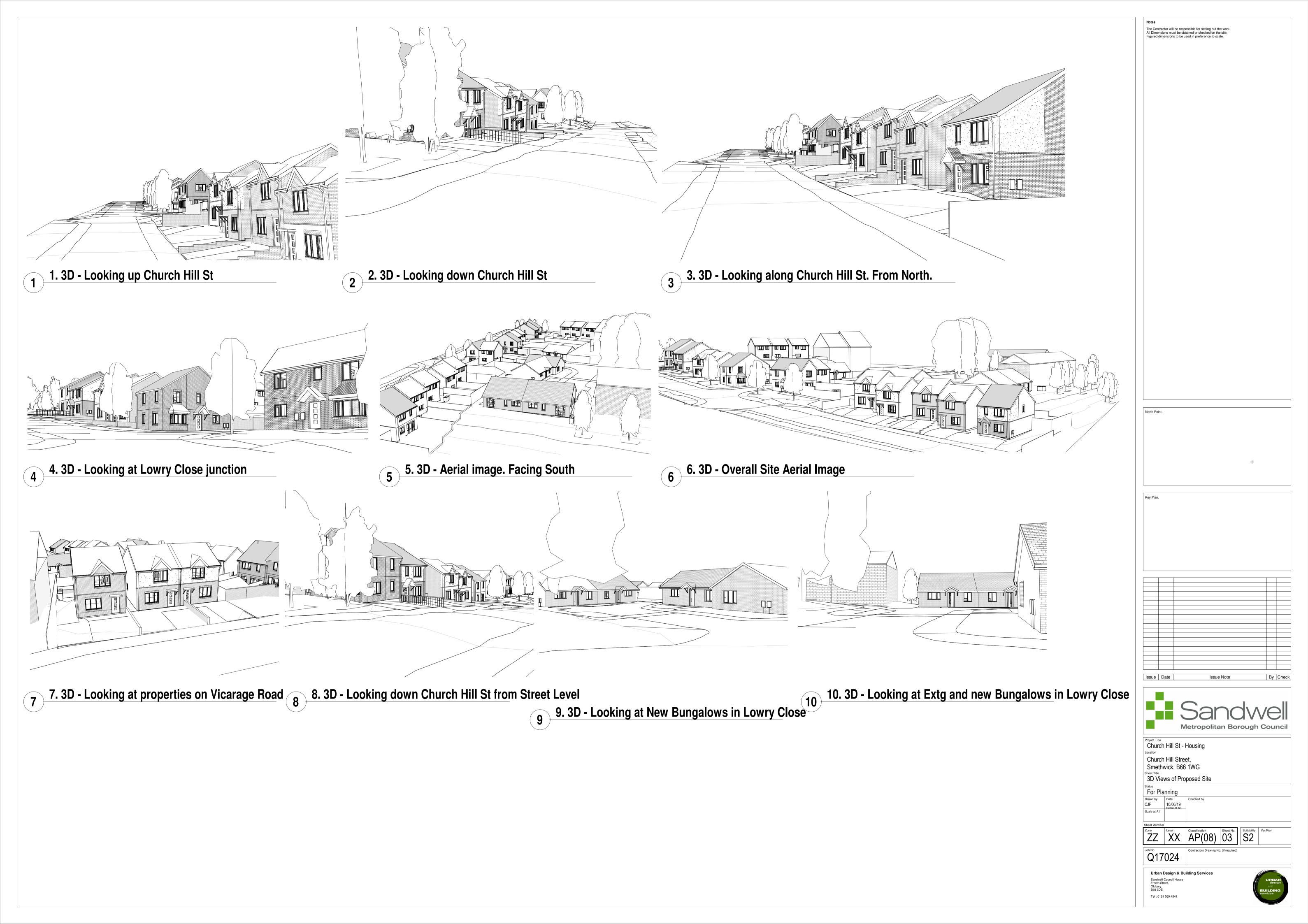


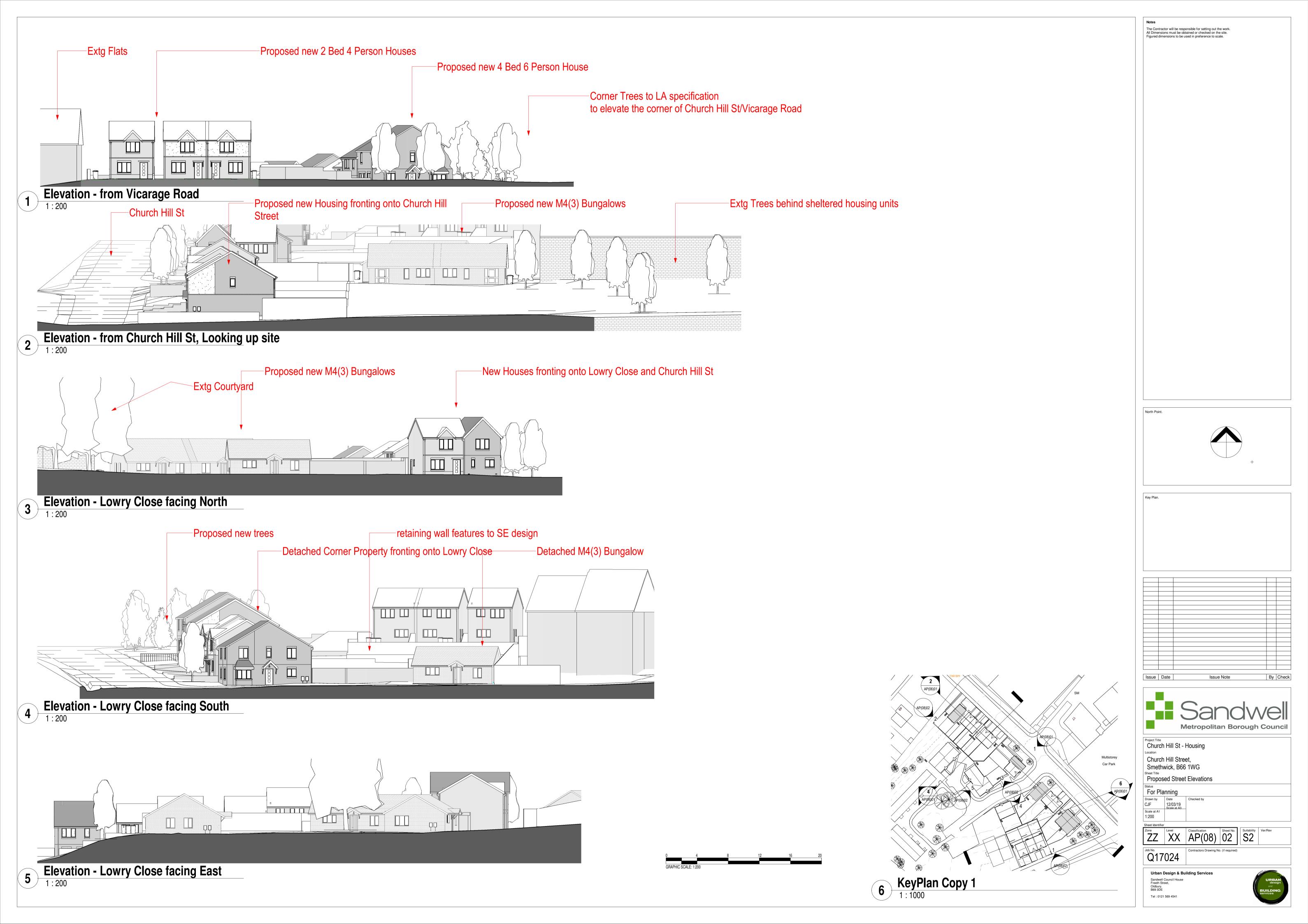








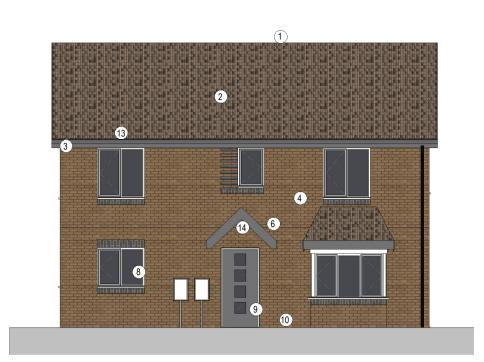






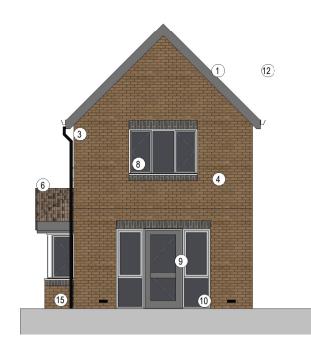
3 Side Elevation - Street Facing

0 1 2 3 4 5 metres
1:100



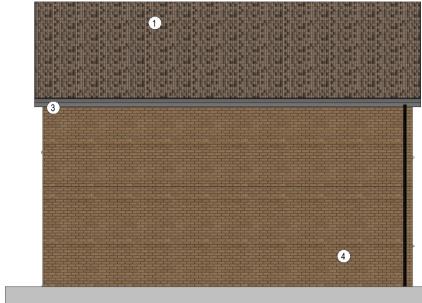
Front Elevation - Street Facing

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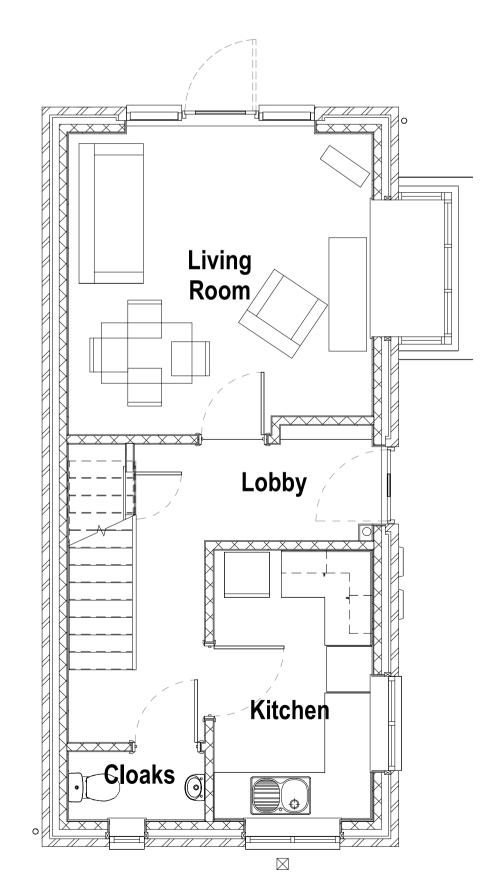


NOTE: Refer to Landscape GA drawing & Drainage Engineers details for exact number & position of rain water down

Side Elevation - Garden Facing1:100



Rear Elevation
1:100



Bedroom

Ground Floor Plan

1:50

NOTE: Refer to Land & Drainage Engineer number & position of pipes.

NOTE: Refer to Landscape GA drawing & Drainage Engineers details for exact number & position of rain water down pipes.

First Floor Plan

1:50



7 3D View

H1G

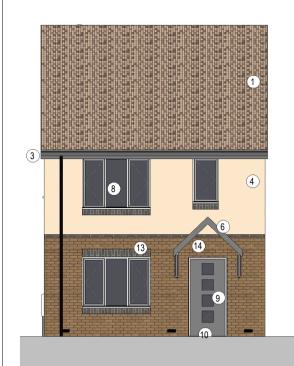
Key Plan. Issue Date Metropolitan Borough Council Project Title
Housing Development Church Hill Street, Smethwick Sheet Title
H1sc - Plans and Elevations For Planning

Drawn by
CFoxall

Scale at A1
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Date
09/10/17
Scale at A3 H16707 Urban Design & Building Services Sandwell Council House Freeth Street, Oldbury. B69 3DE Tel: 0121 569 4541

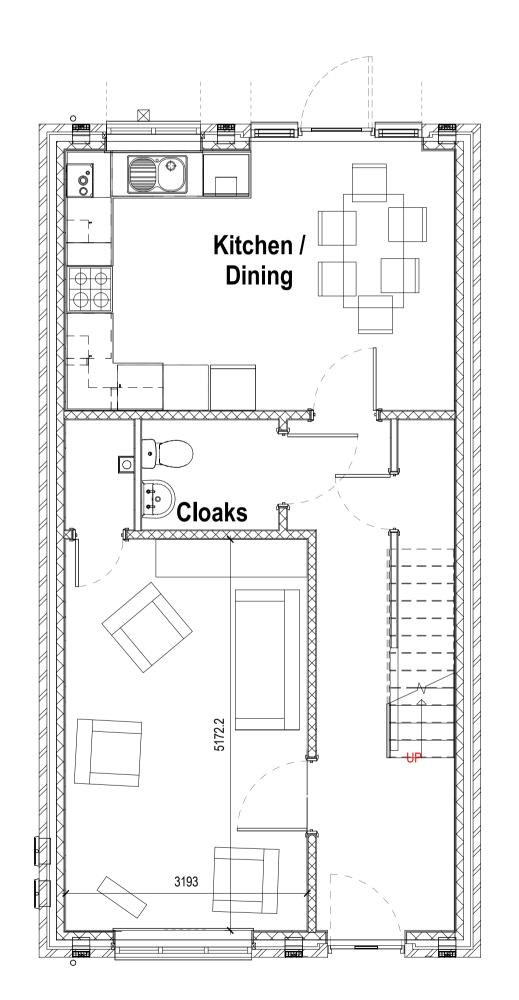
The Contractor will be responsible for setting out the work.
All Dimensions must be obtained or checked on the site.
Figured dimensions to be used in preference to scale.



Front Elevation
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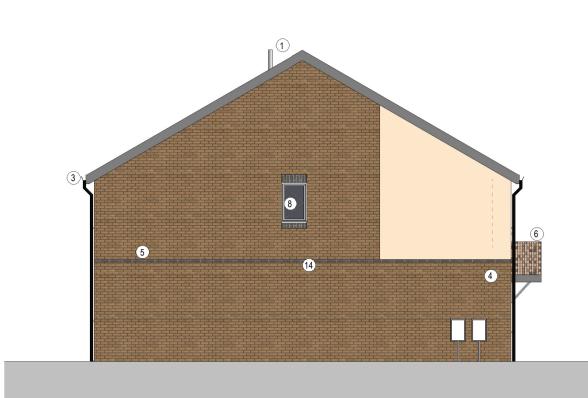
Render Panel to First Floor to Plots 1 only

0 1 2 3 4 5 metres 1:100

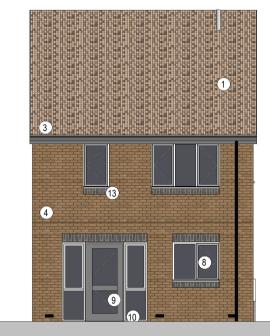


Ground Floor Plan
1:50

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5 metres 1:50



Side Elevation A Render Panel to First Floor to Plots 1 only



Rear Elevation1:100



NOTE: Refer to Landscape GA drawing & Drainage Engineers details for exact number & position of rain water down 6 Side Elevation B

Render Panel to First Floor to Plots 1 only



7 3D View



Metropolitan Borough Council Project Title
Housing Development Church Hill Street, Smethwick H5d - Plans and Elevations For Planning 1:50,100

The Contractor will be responsible for setting out the work.
All Dimensions must be obtained or checked on the site.
Figured dimensions to be used in preference to scale.

3. White upvc fascia with black gutters and downpipes
4. Facing Brick to be
5. Brick Band in constrasting brick
6. Canopy to principle entrance as per AD M
7. First Floor Render

8. Double Glazed Windows, side hung with easy clean

9. Composite GRP Front Door designed in accordance with 'Secured By Design'

10. Level Access to Entrances

Brick Corbelling feature to Gables
 Adjoing Property where used in a Semi-detached
 Plot

13. Brick Header and Cill to Windows in contrasting

14. External Light 15. Bay Window to Street Facing Elevation

hinges. External Elevation to be grey. Window Openings to provide emergency escape to all

Notes Schedulle

1. Roof Tiles to be 2. Dormer Roof

bedrooms.

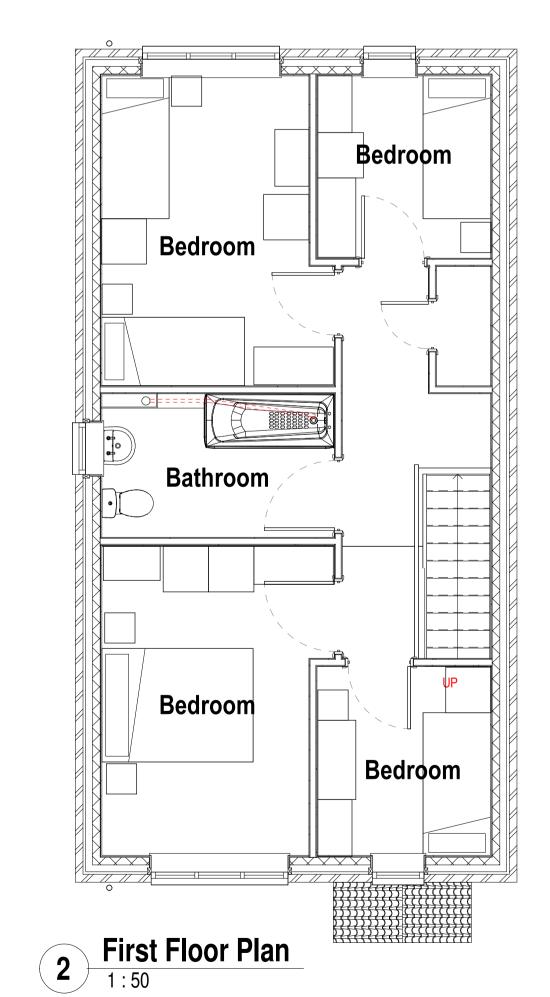
H16707 Urban Design & Building Services Sandwell Council House Freeth Street, Oldbury. B69 3DE Tel: 0121 569 4541

Key Plan.

Issue Date



By Check



NOTE: Refer to Landscape GA drawing & Drainage Engineers details for exact number & position of rain water down



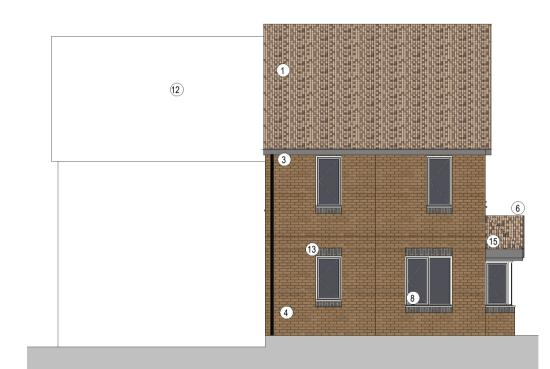
Front Elevation - Street Facing

1:100



Side Elevation B - Rear Garden Facing

0 1 2 3 4 5 metres 1:100



5 Side Elevation A - Street Facing

NOTE: Refer to Landscape GA drawing & Drainage Engineers details for exact number & position of rain water down

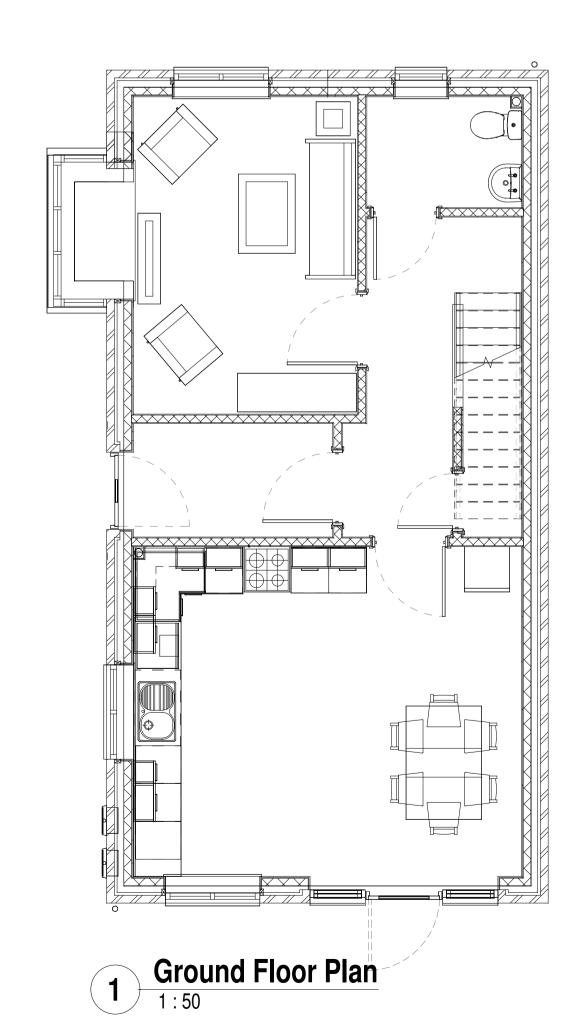
Plot 12 - As above

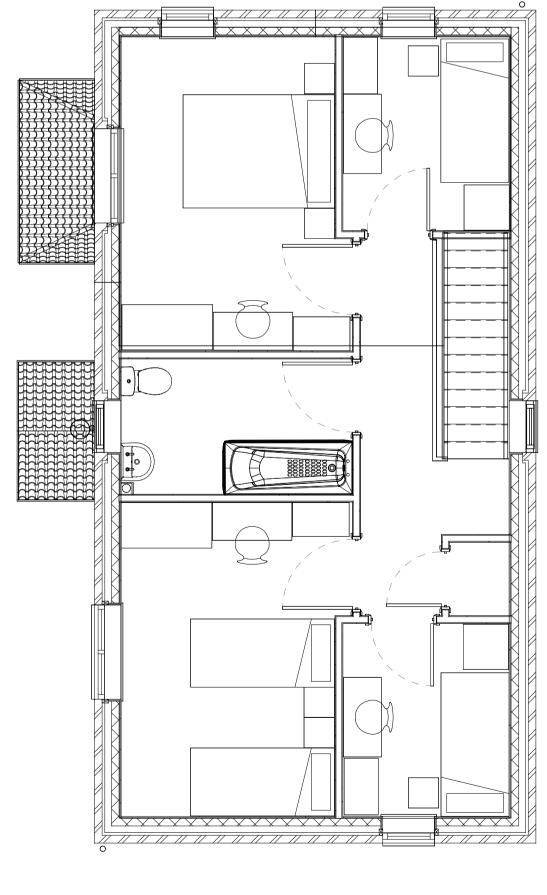
Plot 16 - Handed



Rear Elevation

Window on Gable Elevation B omitted when forming part of semi-detached property









7	3D View 1	

Issue Date By Check **Metropolitan Borough Council** Project Title
Housing Development
Location Church Hill Street, Smethwick H5dc - Plans and Elevations For Planning

Drawn by

CFoxall

Scale at A1

1:50,100

Date
09/10/17
Scale at A3 Q17026 Urban Design & Building Services H5G Sandwell Council House Freeth Street, Oldbury. B69 3DE Tel: 0121 569 4541

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9. Composite GRP Front Door designed in accordance

12. Adjoing Property where used in a Semi-detached Plot

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15. Bay Window to Street Facing Elevation

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Notes Schedulle

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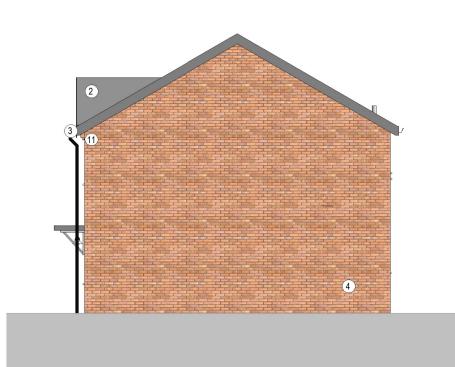
bedrooms.

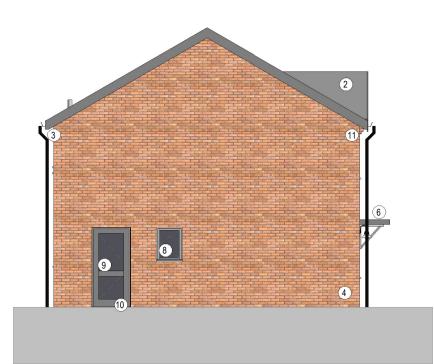
brick 14. External Light

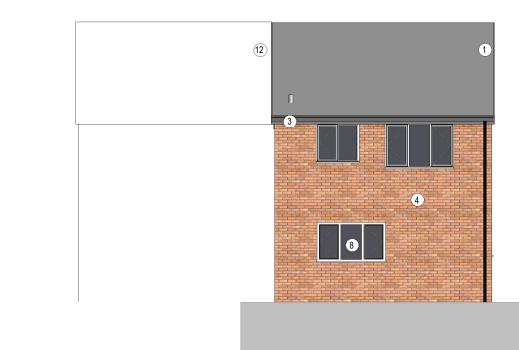
with 'Secured By Design'
10. Level Access to Entrances

11. Brick Corbelling feature to Gables













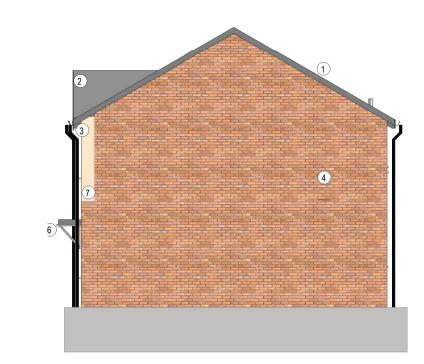




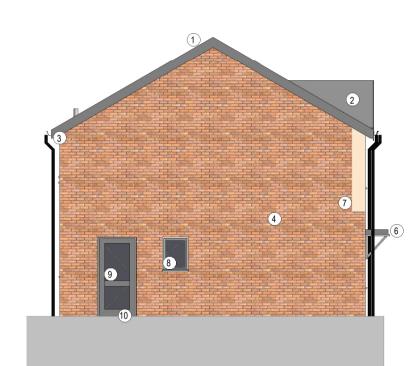
Brick Banding to First Floor to Plots 4/5/7/19



Elevation - A Features 21:100

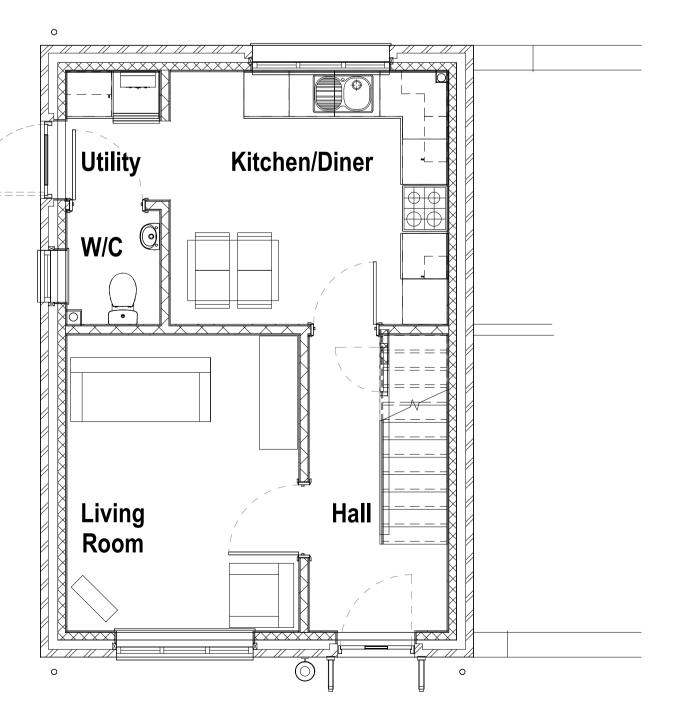


Elevation - B Features 2

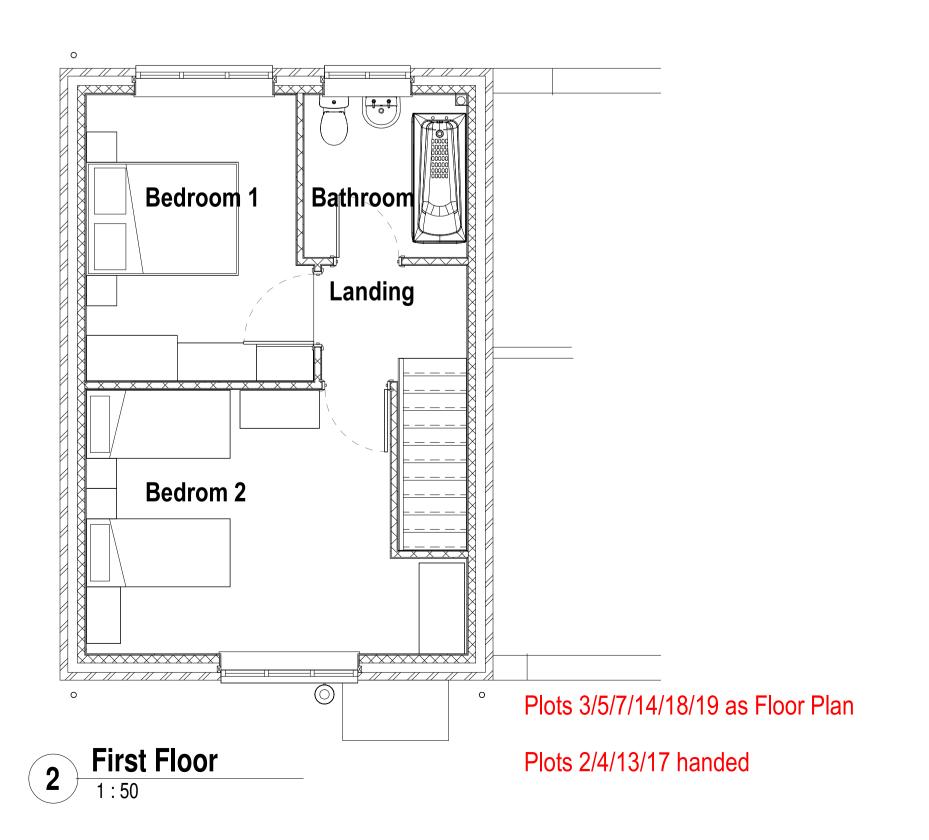


Elevation - C Features 2



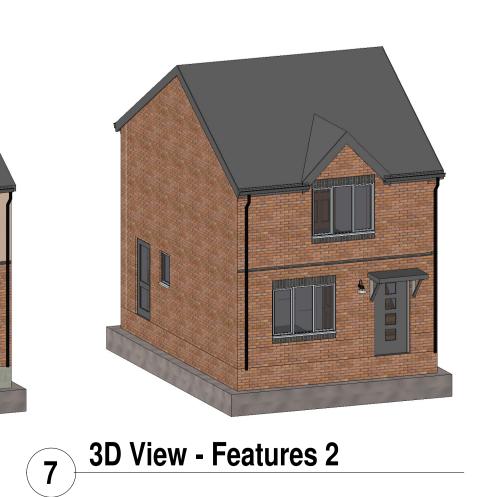








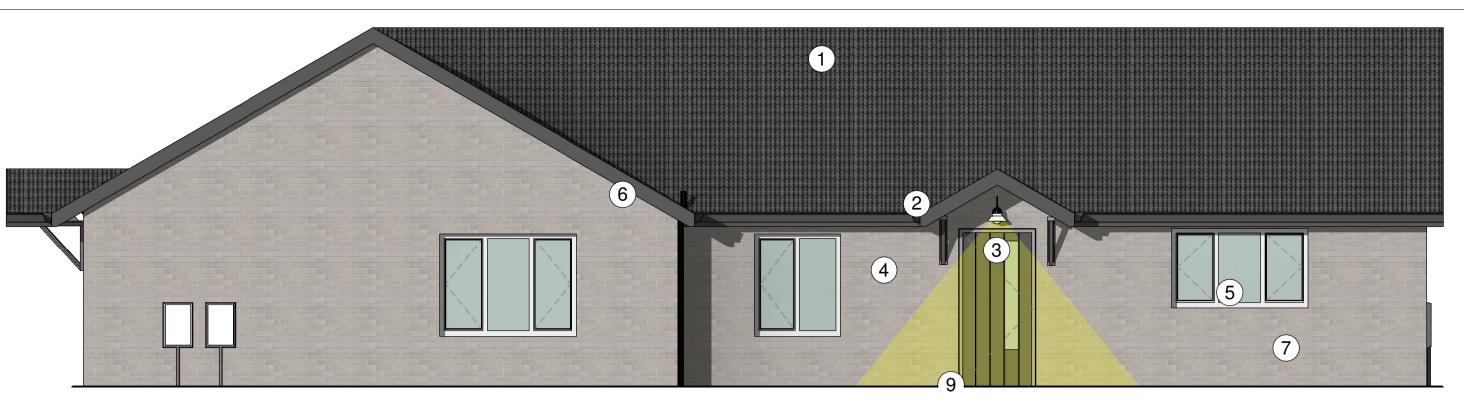
8 3D View - Features 1



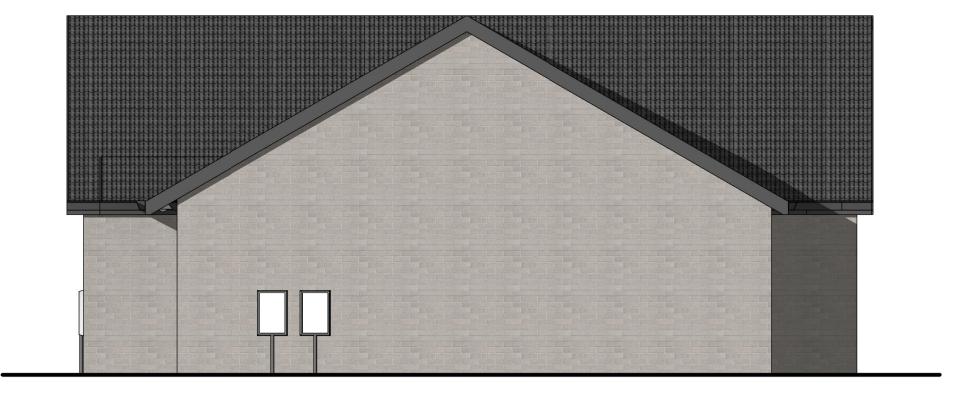
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10. Level Access to Entrances
11. Brick Corbelling feature to Gables
12. Adjoing Property where used in a Semi-detached Plot 13. Brick Header and Cill to Windows in contrasting 14. External Light Note: Refer to Site Plan for Plot Handing/Front **Elevation Feature** Refer to Lanscape GA Drawing and Drainage Engineers details for exact number and position of drainage downpipes.

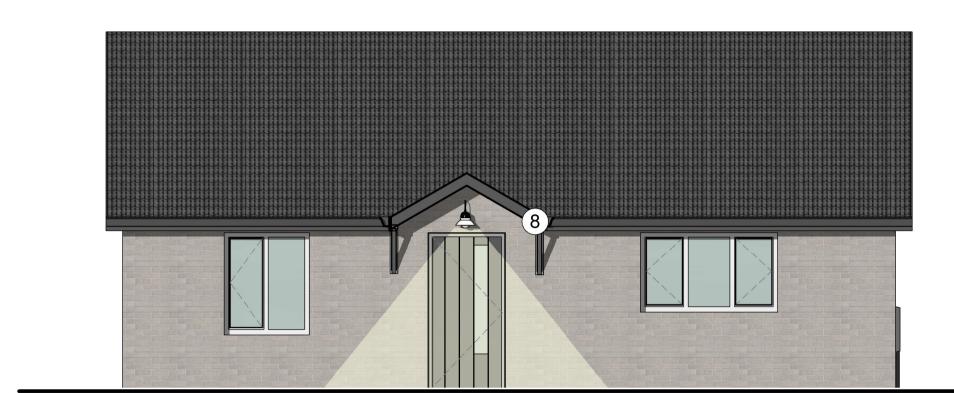
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Front Elevation



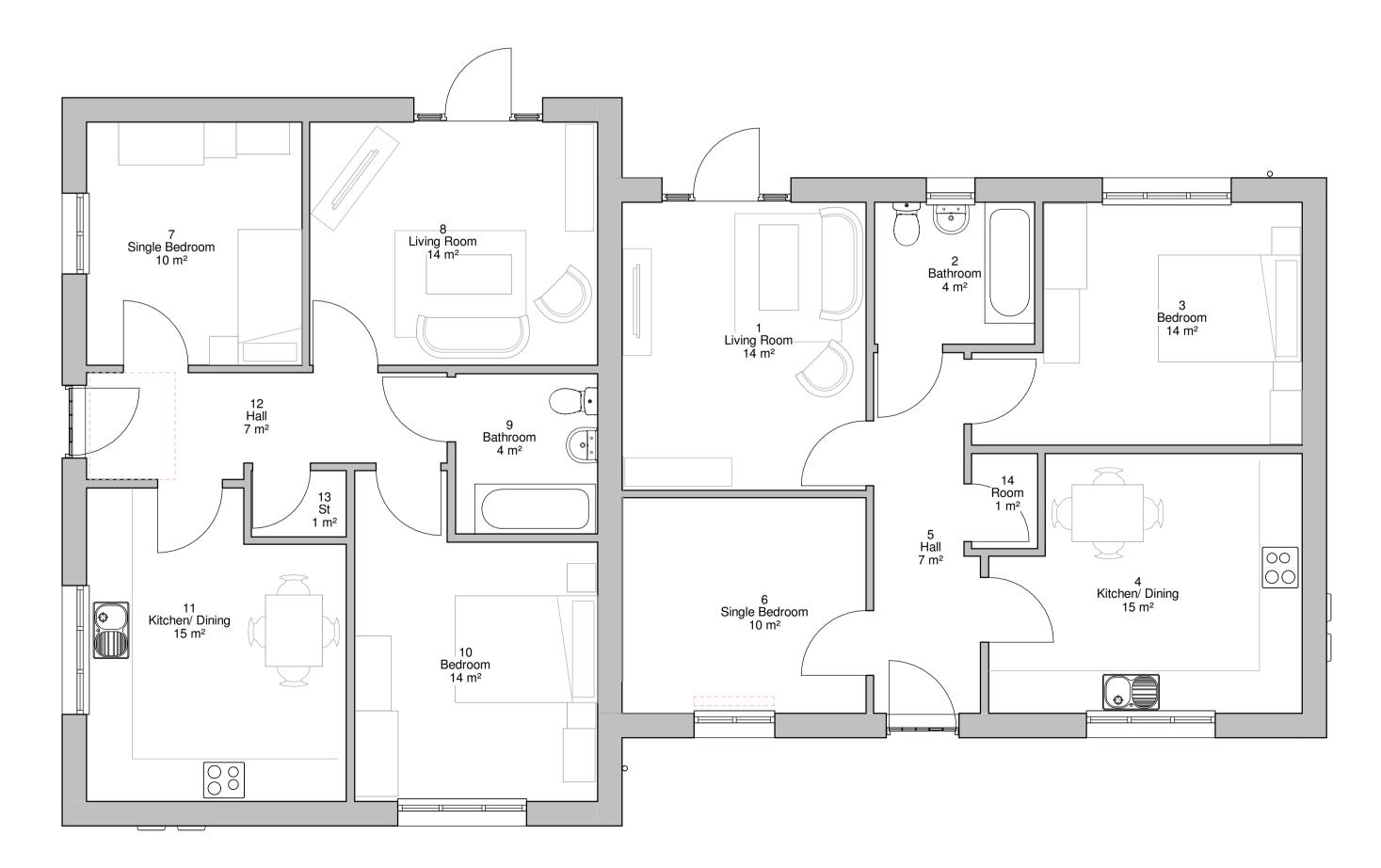
Right Side Elevation



Left Side Elevation

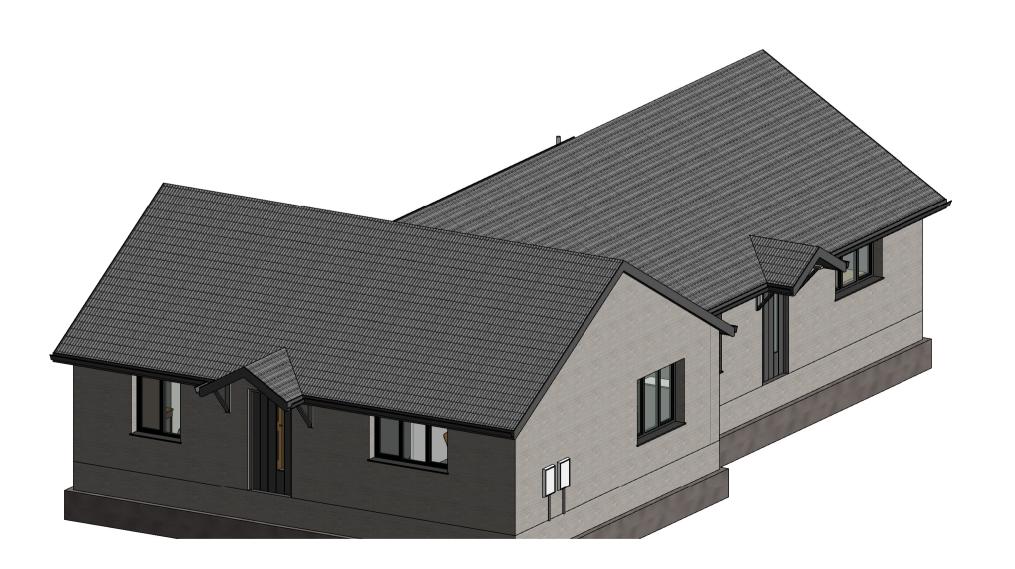


Rear Elevation



Bungalow Set 2 - Ground Floor Plan Area of long Plot - 65m2 Area of Plot - 65m2





Bungalow Set 2 - 3D View

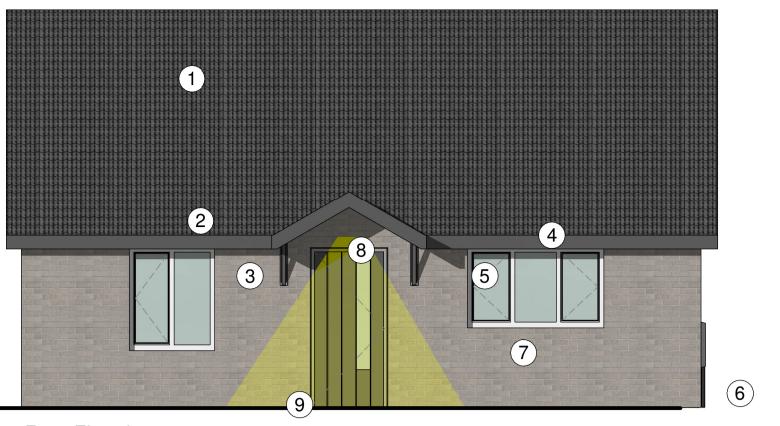
Plots 8/9 - Handed BG Plot 20 - RHS unit only

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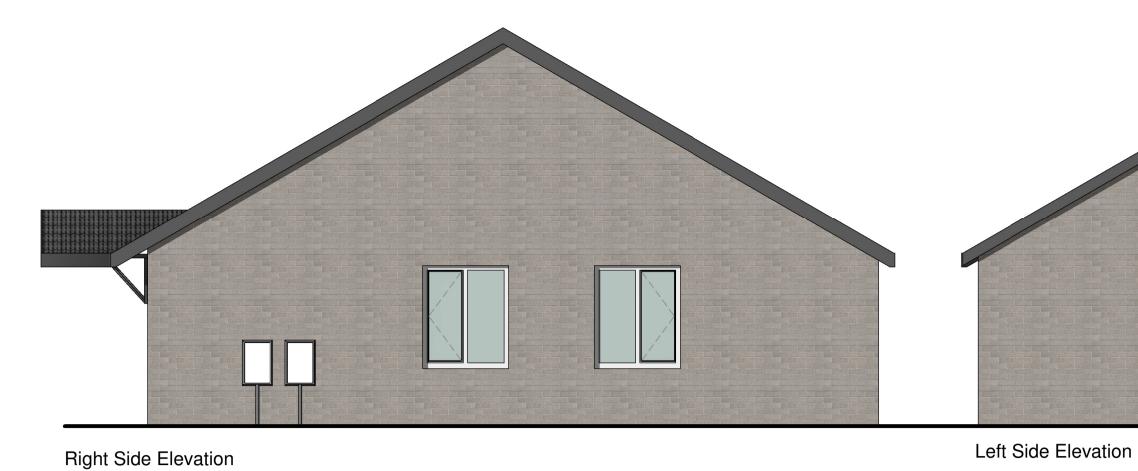
The Contractor will be responsible for setting out the work.
All Dimensions must be obtained or checked on the site.
Figured dimensions to be used in preference to scale.

Materials Schedule

1. Roof Tile Colour tbc



Front Elevation



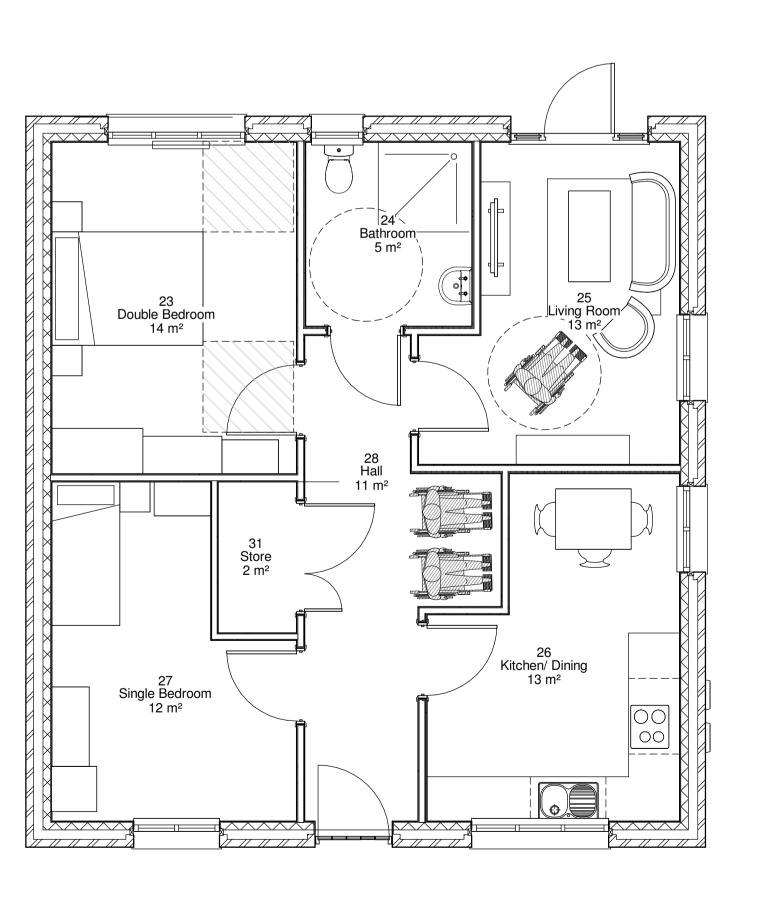


Rear Elevation

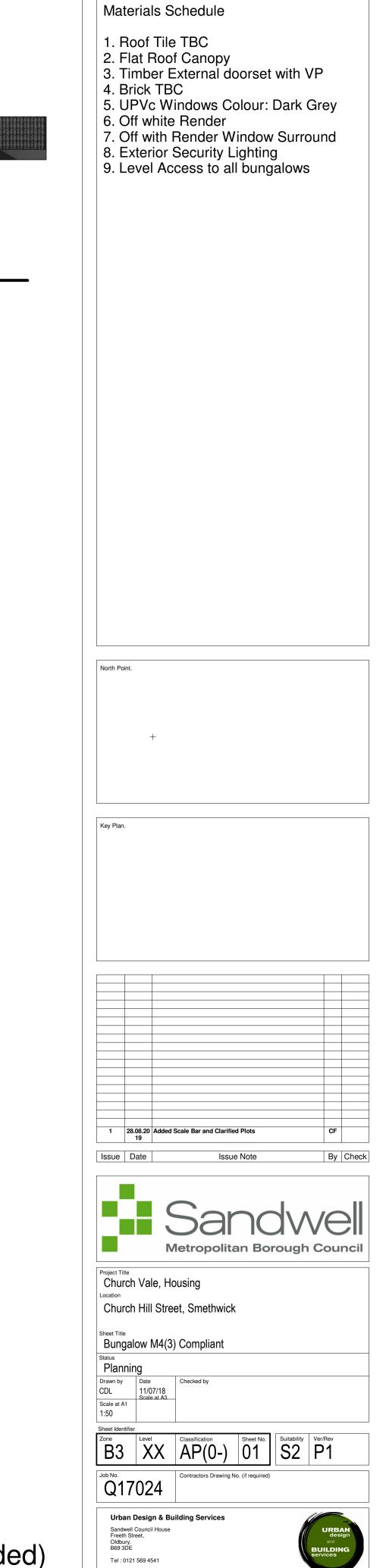


Bungalow Set 1 - 3D View





Bungalow Set 1 - Ground Floor Plan Area Per Individual Plot - 70m2



The Contractor will be responsible for setting out the work.
All Dimensions must be obtained or checked on the site.
Figured dimensions to be used in preference to scale.