

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P09/0346

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	BELLE VALE
Applicant	Mr Chris Garner
Location:	BELLE VALE, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS
Proposal	VARIOUS TREE WORKS
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D653 (2001) – A3

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The trees subject to this application are approximately 50 trees that are situated alongside Belle Vale on the banks of the Lutley Gutter. The trees are principally made up of Willow trees (approximately 20) and Hawthorn (comprising a single overgrown hedgerow with approximately 27 trees); there are also a small number of alder trees and an ash tree.
2. The trees form part of a linear woodland the runs from Drews Holloway for approximately 250 metres towards the River Stour. The trees are mainly mature with some early mature trees and are a mixture of maiden trees and re-grown coppice trees.
3. The majority of the trees are set in close proximity to the highway of Belle Vale, with the rest of the trees being set slightly back within the woodland.
4. Overall the trees are considered to provide a high amount of amenity to the surrounding area; however on an individual basis the trees have a limited value as the result of their general condition.

PROPOSAL

5. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
 - Various tree works involving the pollarding and coppicing of various willow, hawthorn, alder and ash trees.
6. The trees have been marked on the attached plan.

HISTORY

7. There have been no previous Tree Preservation Order applications on this site.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

8. No public representations have been received.

ASSESSMENT

Tree(s) Appraisal

9. The works have been proposed by the Council's Green Care section part of the general maintenance of the woodland and to ensure the safety of the highway of Belle Vale. The works are required following numerous failures of the trees along this woodland onto the adjacent highway.
10. Due to the number of trees involved in this applications the details of the individual trees have no been recorded. Instead the trees have been separated into groups and descriptions of the groups and a discussion of the relevant works have been given. The various groups have been marked on the attached plan
11. **Group 1** - This group consists of 4 mature willow trees. They are all maiden trees and have attained a height of 15 metres with a crown spread of between 8 and 10 metres. The trees are situated on the western bank of Lutley Gutter. The trees have good vigour, with high growth potential, but due to their natural characteristics and exposure their have been a number of limb failures in the trees with a hung up limb and a shattered limb stump are evident.
12. The works that are proposed for these trees is to pollard them at approximately 9 metres in height and allow them to re-grow and maintain them in the future as high pollards. The trees pose little risk to the highway at the moment as they are not quite tall enough to endanger the highway should they fall. However with their growth potential this will certainly be the case within the next 5 years. As such it is

recommended that the proposed works are approved so their management is brought into line with the other trees subject to the application.

13. **Group 2** – This group consists of 5 willow trees and an alder tree, two of the willows and the alder are early mature early mature and the remaining three willows are mature. These trees are situate in close proximity to the highway and pose a current safety hazard to the users of the highway, as they are at a natural risk of failure.
14. The early mature willows and the alder are al growing up underneath the mature willow trees and as such they have developed poor forms as they have grown towards the light. It is proposed that these trees are coppiced at ground level. By the time the next phase of maintenance is carried out on the trees in a number of years they will have re-grown and be ready for re-coppicing.
15. It is proposed that the mature willows in this group are retained as the principal trees in the group but that they are pollarded at 8 metres above the ground to bring the tops of the trees into the shelter provided by the other trees higher up the bank. The trees will then be maintained as high pollards in the future.
16. **Group 3** – This group consists of one tree, a mature willow tree that has re-grown having been coppiced in the past. The tree has now developed a number of cavities in and around the base and there is evidence of previous limb loss. Due to the poor condition of the tree it is proposed the tree is re-coppiced at just above ground level. The condition of the tree almost makes the works exempt from the need for formal permission, as the tree currently poses a high amount of risk to the adjacent highway.
17. **Group 4** – This is the biggest group in the proposals, and consists of approximately 5 early mature trees, and 11 mature maiden trees.
18. The early mature trees are centred on the remains of a fallen tree the lies in close proximity to the back of the foot path. On inspection it was considered that there were approximately 5 trees growing in the location, all of the multi-stemmed. However due to the nature of willow trees it could well be that either all or some of the stem are sucker growth from the roots of the large fallen tree. It is proposed that these trees are coppiced to ground level and then allowed to re-grow. Due to the proximity of the trees to the highway it is considered that this is appropriate as if the trees are left to continue growing they will become drawn up and liable to fail during unsettled weather as the result of their location and the competition from neighbouring trees.
19. The mature maiden trees in this group are situated further from the road then the early mature trees. However due to their height and slenderness they are liable to failure during high winds. Whilst currently if the failed they wouldn't fall onto the

highway, it will not be long until their height makes them a potential hazard to the highway. One of the trees has already partially failed and is now growing at a 45 degree angle. It is likely that this tree will fail in the near future.

20. It is proposed that the partially failed tree is coppiced at ground level and the remaining trees are pollarded at 12 metres above ground, approximately two thirds of their current height. This will allow them to remain as large trees in the area whilst removing the hazard they provide to the adjacent highway.
21. **Group 5** – This group consists of two mature willow trees and two alder trees. The trees are situated in close proximity to the highway.
22. It is proposed to pollard the willow trees at 6 metres above ground, as this will take them out of falling distance of the highway, whilst retaining them as large trees in the area.
23. The alder trees are growing up underneath one of the willow trees and have started to develop a lean towards the road. Due to the dominance of the willow this lean will progress until the trees are liable to fail onto the road. As such it is proposed that the trees are coppiced at ground level and allowed to re-grow. This will remove the potential hazard to the road whilst retaining lower level vegetation as they re-grow.
24. **Group 6** – This group consists of a single ash tree that has become infested with ivy and has started to show signs of poor vigour. Due to the ivy infestation and the low vigour it is now more likely to fail during high winds. In order to prevent its failure onto the road it is proposed that this tree is felled to ground level.
25. **Group 7** – This group is formed by a line of approximately 27 hawthorn trees that were originally planted as a hedgerow, but have not been maintained as such. They have now attained a height of approximately 8 metres, and due to their slenderness, that has developed as a result of their proximity, they are now pre-disposed to failure. It is proposed that these trees are pollarded to 3 metres in height to allow them to be maintained in the future as a hedge.
26. Overall the works are substantial, and will provisionally detract from the appearance of this linear woodland. However as the result of the condition and location of the trees it is considered that the proposed works are justified in order to reduce the amount of partial and total failures that have occurred in this woodland.
27. Any detrimental visual impact that results from the works will be quickly reduced as the trees will start to redevelop their crowns and within two to three growing seasons will have put a substantial amount of re-growth on.

CONCLUSION

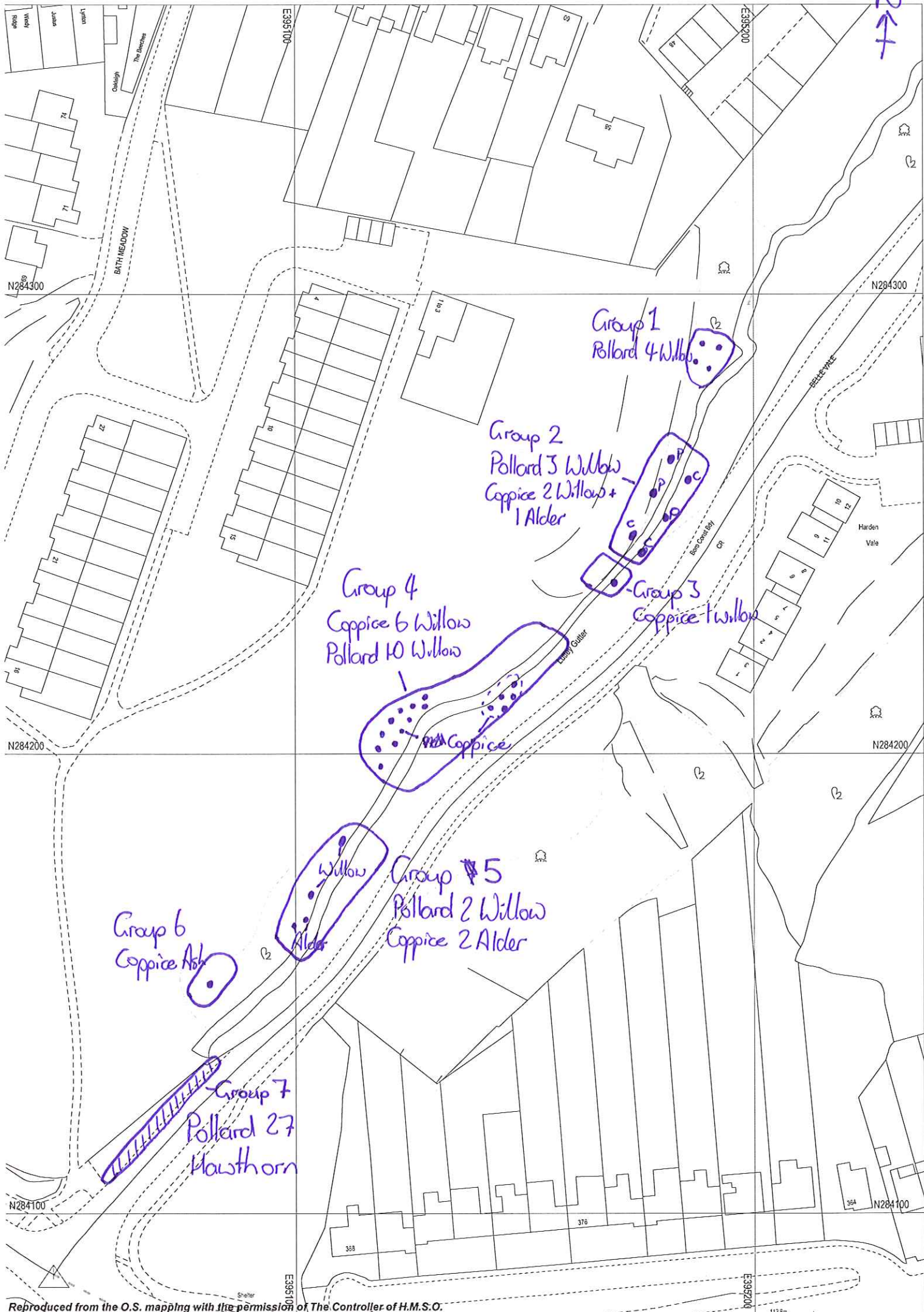
28. The proposed tree works are designed to reduce the number of failures that are currently occurring in this linear woodland that sits adjacent to the highway of Belle Vale.
29. The works are concentrated on trees that currently pose, or are liable to pose a hazard to the highway in the near future. Where trees have been considered to not pose any risk to the highway they will not have any works carried out on them and nature will be left to take its course.
30. The works includes the pollarding, at various heights, and the coppicing of a number of willow, hawthorn alder and ash trees that are within, or will soon grow to be within, falling distance of the highway.
31. It is accepted that the works are substantial and will have a provisionally detrimental impact on the amenity of the surrounding area However it is considered that this is justified in order to reduce the current threat to the users of the highway.

RECOMMENDATION

32. It is recommended that application is approved subject to the conditions set out below.

Conditions and/or reasons:

1. The tree works subject of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:1989 'Recommendations for Treework'.
2. The works hereby approved shall be carried out within 12 months of the date of this decision.



Group 1
Pollard 4 Willows

Group 2
Pollard 3 Willow
Coppice 2 Willows +
1 Alder

Group 4
Coppice 6 Willow
Pollard 10 Willows

Group 3
Coppice 1 Willow

Group 5
Pollard 2 Willow
Coppice 2 Alder

Group 6
Coppice Ash

Group 7
Pollard 27
Hawthorn

SCHEDULE 1

SPECIFICATION OF TREES

Reference on Map	Description	Situation
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Trees specified individually

None

Trees specified by reference to an area

(Within the dotted line on the plan)

A1	All the trees of whatever species within area A1	Land north-west of Holloway House, Drews Holloway
A2	All the trees of whatever species within area A2	Land north of Beecher Road East/Drews Holloway junction
A3	All the trees of whatever species within area A3	Land north of Belle Vue, at the Beecher Road East/Drews Holloway junction

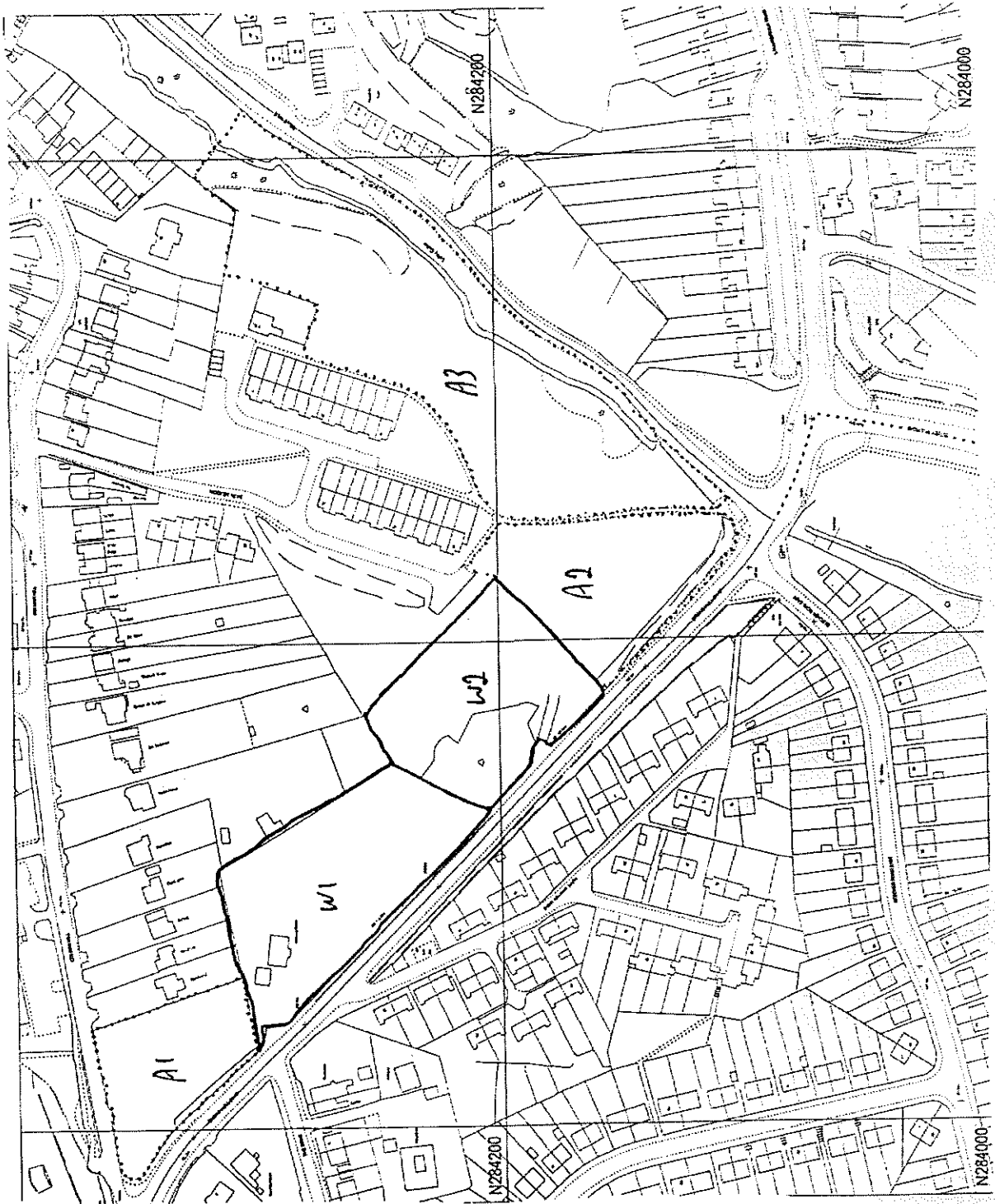
Groups of trees

None

Woodlands

(Within the continuous line on the plan)

W1	The area of deciduous woodland	Holloway House, Drews Holloway
W2	The area of deciduous woodland	Land south-east of Holloway House, Drews Holloway



Map referred to in the Borough Council of Dudley
Tree Preservation Order 2001 No D653
Drews Holloway

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING IS BASED UPON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP WITH THE
SANCTION OF THE CONTROLLER OF H M STATIONERY OFFICE .
LICENCE NUMBER LA 076171

DRAWING A2362

GRID REF

SCALE 1/1250