Ecourban Limited
Radley House
8 St Cross Road
WINCHESTER
SO23 9HX

T: 01962 877 397 **M:** 07532 373 563
E: barrie@eco-urban.co.uk
W: www.eco-urban.co.uk

Mr Allan
48 Upper St Helens Road
Hedge End
Southampton
SO30 0LH

Our Ref: **17928 - Let 1**

2 August 2017

Dear Mr Allan

RE: ARBORICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT AT 48 UPPER ST HELENS ROAD, HEDGE END

I write to confirm my recent work instruction and subsequent visit to the above address. You asked me to survey a single tree located to the east of your property (and positioned on an adjacent site) and provide brief comments on the possible implications on this tree arising from the proposed plans to construct an extension to your dwelling.

I was provided with a PDF version of a plan by your architect (drawing reference 'Allan/SO/RA') showing the footprint and elevations of your property, the neighbouring dwellings, along with the extent of the new extension. I visited the site on 24 July 2017 with this drawing and during my visit I took some photographs, a small number of which I have appended to the end of this report for reference. The position of the tree was not shown on the provided plan and I have therefore triangulated its approximate location from fixed points on your property. This is shown as tree T1 on the appended plan (drawing reference 'ECO 1') which is an adapted version of the site layout plan provided. For completeness, I have also attached a schedule from my tree survey to this drawing. My brief observations and comments on the tree issues are set out below.

The tree I was asked to look at is a mature Corkscrew Willow (photograph 1) positioned in the garden of number 4 Stockholm Drive and located immediately adjacent to the boundary between the two properties. The tree is approximately 7m in height, with a stem diameter of 0.36m measured at around 1.5m above ground level. The canopy of the tree is approximately 3m in radius, although this was slightly asymmetric in

some directions. The tree has been severely and repeatedly pruned in the past, with its canopy now formed from the resulting regrowth arising from previous cutting points on its main trunk (photograph 2).

In my view the tree is not in particularly good condition due to historic and cyclic pruning activities. I would therefore grade it Category C1 (or a tree of low arboricultural quality) in respect of the guidance given in British Standard 5837: 2012 - *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*. However, having spoken to the tree owners, they appear to attach great value to its health and wellbeing and appreciate the screening it provides. I therefore feel that it is important that we give due consideration to the tree to ensure that it remains in a satisfactory condition post construction.

I have calculated the Root Protection Area (RPA) radius for the tree to be 4.3m based on BS 5837:2012 guidance and I can confirm that the proposed extension to your building would just clip the edge of this zone. However, I noted during my visit that the area to the west of the tree on your side of the boundary was a loose tipped stone chip surfacing overlaying a concrete sub base (photograph 3). In my view, this is likely to have restricted tree root ingress into your site, with most tree root activity likely to be within the garden area of the neighbouring property where tree rooting conditions are likely to be more favourable. Additionally, I would anticipate that the cyclic tree pruning would have had an impact on the size of its root system in any event, with the ratio of tree root abundance influenced by its canopy size, which has been successively constrained by tree pruning activities.

We discussed and agreed that carefully removing the existing surfacing around the tree and returning this area to soft landscaping would be sensible, as this could have significant potential benefits for the tree. The timing of this is important and I would recommend that the surfacing remains in situ throughout the construction phase to act as ground protection for any tree root activity that may be beneath. This should then be carefully removed at the end of the construction phase using hand operated tools and the area backfilled with fresh topsoil in preparation for new turfing or careful shrub planting. I have annotated this area on the attached drawing. The tree will need to be pruned periodically to clear its canopy from the extension, but from my understanding of the discussions with the tree owners, this would not be significantly different from the current situation where the tree is already pruned on a cyclical basis to constrain its size.

In summary, I feel that the position of the extension is acceptable from an arboricultural perspective. This is because although it would just clip the edge of the RPA of the tree, its historic pruning and the position of concrete surfacing is likely to have restricted tree root activity within your site. Furthermore, the careful removal of the existing hard surfacing around the tree at the end of the construction phase and a return to soft landscaping has the potential of being a significant benefit to the tree in the longer term.

Yours sincerely



Barrie Draper **BSc (Hons) Arb TechCert(ArborA) CertArb(RFS)**
Arboricultural Consultant

Attached: 1: Photographs
2: Tree plan

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 1: Tree T1 viewed from garden area of property

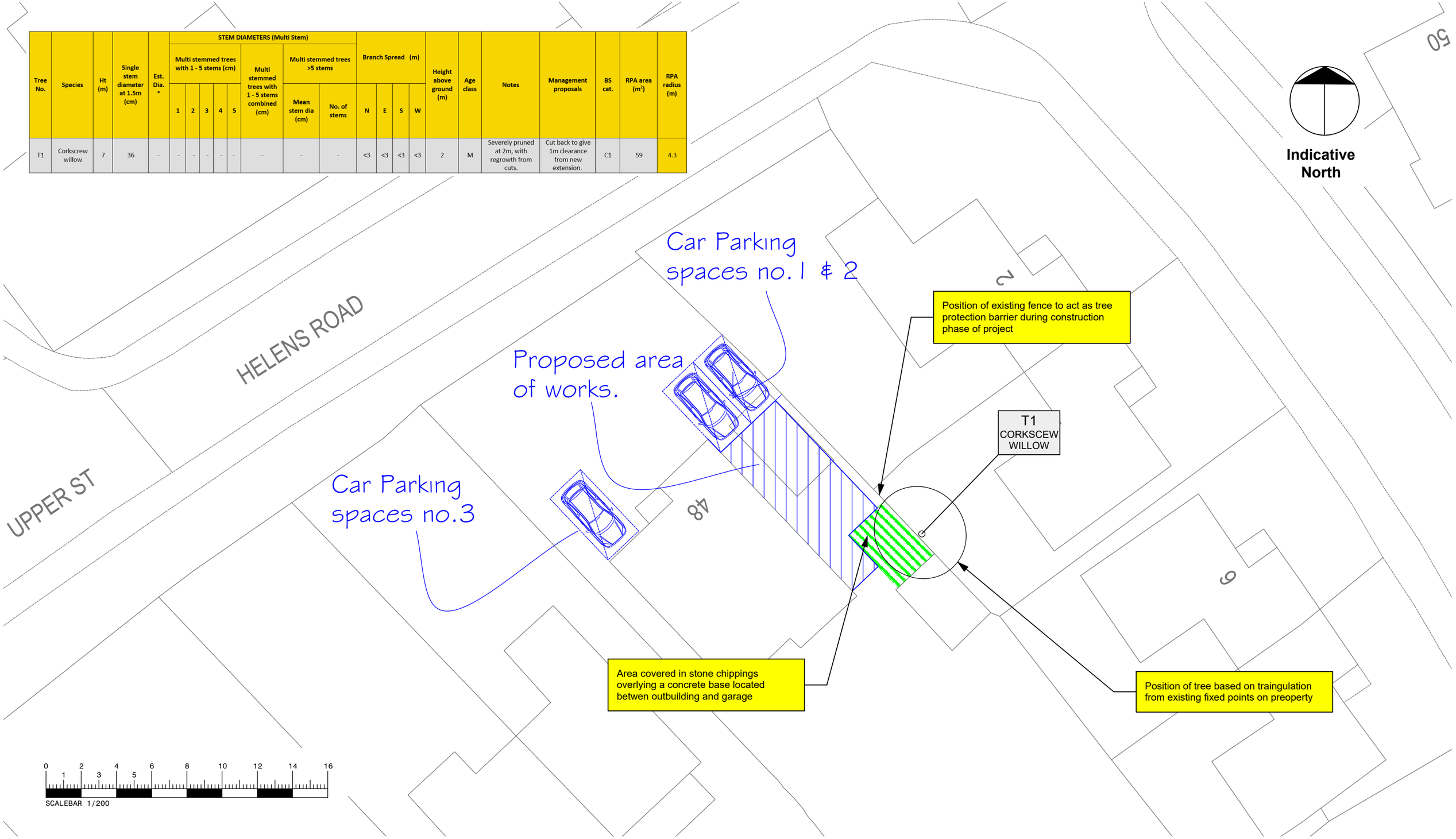


Photograph 2: Canopy of tree showing regrowth from area of previous pruning



Photograph 3: Surfacing around tree consisting of aggregate over a concrete sub base

Tree No.	Species	Ht (m)	Single stem diameter at 1.5m (cm)	Est. Dia. *	STEM DIAMETERS (Multi Stem)							Branch Spread (m)				Height above ground (m)	Age class	Notes	Management proposals	BS cat.	RPA area (m^2)	RPA radius (m)
					Multi stemmed trees with 1 - 5 stems (cm)					Multi stemmed trees with 1 - 5 stems combined (cm)	Multi stemmed trees >5 stems		N	E	S	W						
					1	2	3	4	5		Mean stem dia (cm)	No. of stems										
T1	Corkscrew willow	7	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<3	<3	<3	<3	2	M	Severely pruned at 2m, with regrowth from cuts.	Cut back to give 1m clearance from new extension.	C1	59	4.3



eco urban Limited	ECO 2 - TREE ISSUES AT 48 UPPER ST HELENS ROAD, HEDGE END	SCALE: 1:200 @ A3	COMPOSITE PLAN: EXISTING SITE FEATURES IN GREY, PROPOSED CHANGES IN BLUE	This drawing was originally produced in colour, therefore any subsequent monochrome photocopies may not show appropriate levels of detail and should not be relied upon for the purposes of dealing with site tree issues

T1
Tree sp

BS Category C: Trees of low quality

Area of existing surfacing temporarily retained as ground protection during construction phase and then returned to soft landscaping