



ASHTON ARBOR

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT & METHOD STATEMENT

Proposal: Alterations to dwelling

Address: Winston, Church Hill, West End,
Southampton

Client: Mr & Mrs Jones

Date: 28th October 2025

Ref: 318V1



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1 INTRODUCTION

This Arboricultural Impact Assessment report describes the trees on and near the development area, what the impact of the development proposal on those trees will be and how any adverse impact will be mitigated. The Tree Protection Plan includes an Arboricultural Method Statement describing how trees will be protected and managed during the development.

Ashton Arbor has been contracted to review the condition of the trees at this site regarding the requirements of British Standard 5837:2012 and with consideration for the proposed development.

1.1 PLANS PROVIDED:

Plan Title	Plan Ref	Date
Location Plan, Site Plan and Elevations	P0 01-17	7 th October 2025

1.2 SITE INSPECTION

The site was visited on the 20th of October 2025. Weather conditions were dry and calm with good visibility.

1.3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is a sloping plot with a group of off-site trees to the north, located next door on a strip of land with a public footpath running through. The most significant trees are these.

1.4 PROPOSAL

It is proposed to extend the dwelling, add a garage and a separate storage shed.

2 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2.1 TREES AFFECTED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT

My assessment of the trees that will be affected by this proposal and those that need to be protected by special precautions is summarised below:

2.1.1 Table 1: summary of trees that will be affected and protected:

	British Standard 5837 Category			
	A (high quality)	B (moderate quality)	C (Low quality)	U (Trees to be removed, irrespective of development)
Trees to be removed			T6	
Trees to be pruned		T8	T2 T3	
Trees to be protected			T7 T9	

Abbreviation: T = Tree No G = group H = Hedge

2.2 TREES TO BE REMOVED

T6 (Japanese Maple) will require removal to facilitate the proposed alterations. Transplanting is not considered possible in this case due to likelihood of damaging fence/pathway during excavating.

2.3 TREES TO BE PRUNED TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OR MANAGEMENT REASONS

T2 is an Ash coppice and requires re-coppicing. T2 & T3 are recommended to be pruned away from the property to manage the encroachment of their canopies over the proposed dwelling and to allow for better light penetration to the living areas of the house.

2.4 FOUNDATION TYPE

No new foundations are proposed within any RPAs (Root Protection Areas). Strip foundations can be used outside any RPAs.

2.5 UNDERGROUND SERVICES

All services will be located outside of the Root Protection Areas utilising existing services from the existing house.

2.6 PROPOSALS TO MITIGATE ANY IMPACT

No mitigation is required as the development has little impact on the trees, other than the removal of a small low quality Japanese maple.

2.7 NEW TREE PLANTING

No new tree planting is proposed as there is not sufficient space on the site for new tree planting.

2.8 PROTECTION OF RETAINED TREES

T8 & T9 are the most important trees in relation to this development. They are off-site trees. Existing fences will protect all off-site trees. No excavations near the trees are required so the fences provide adequate protection.

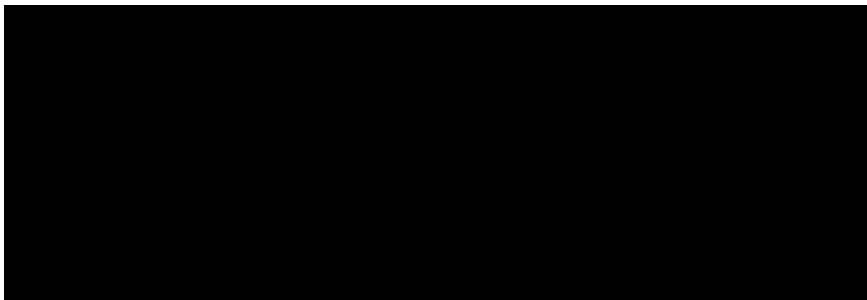
T7 & T9 require additional protective fencing (x3 Heras style fence panels) erected as shown in the plan. Although not comprehensive protection, this is considered reasonable given that they are small, low-quality trees.

2.9 SUMMARY OF THE IMPACT ON VISUAL AMENITY

The impact on the site will be minimal. Viewed from the road, the only change will be the coppicing of the Ash tree (T2).

2.10 POST DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

My evaluation is that there will be minimal adverse impacts on retained trees once the site is completed or in the future, from this development. Managing the encroachment of the vegetation from the southeast towards the property will be the only ongoing management.



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3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 GENERAL METHOD STATEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE TREE PROTECTION

Retained trees are an important factor on construction sites, whether on or near the working areas. Guidance for the protection of trees during development projects is provided in BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations.

Trees are vulnerable to root damage caused by ground disturbance, direct injury of the trunk or branches, environmental change, pests, and diseases. Construction work often exerts pressures on existing trees, and a tree that has taken many decades to reach maturity can be damaged irreparably in a few minutes by unwitting or negligent actions.

For this project temporary fencing will be used during construction to protect two rear garden trees. The fenced off area will be a construction exclusion zone.

Soil compaction quickly occurs if vehicles pass over an area of soil. Compaction may cause reduced infiltration rates of water, poor drainage, reduced availability of water, and reduced air and oxygen supply to roots. This leads to reduced root growth and as a result the health of the tree is impacted. Therefore, to ensure that soil compaction is avoided, it is very important that no vehicles enter the fenced-off areas during construction operations.

All construction staff should be made aware of the following restrictions that apply to the construction exclusion zones and root protection areas:

No excavations	No excavations (including utility trenches) or raising of soil levels is permitted within the construction exclusion zones (RPAs) without written permission from the project arboriculturist.
No storage or mixing of materials	No materials of any kind are to be stored dumped or discharged within the construction exclusion zones or root protection areas. Contaminants such as diesel oil, cement and bitumen must be stored at least 10m from any trees, with provision made for any spillage or run off to be contained away from the protected area. Mixing of cement and concrete must also take place at least 10m from any trees, and over a suitable hard surface, to prevent soil contamination from spillage or washing out.
No offices or welfare facilities	Site offices and staff welfare facilities must be located outside of the construction exclusion zones unless agreed with the local authority's arboricultural officer.
Avoid fires	Fires should be avoided, however if permitted by the site manager, they must not be lit in a position where heat could affect foliage or branches, (At least 15m from the base of a tree would normally be sufficient).
Tie branches back to prevent harm	Care must be taken when planning site operations to ensure that wide or tall loads, or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights can operate without coming into contact with retained trees. Branches may be tied back so that they are out of the way if necessary.

3.2 SPECIFICATION FOR TREE PROTECTION FENCING

Fencing will be installed to protect trees during the development process. Fencing should:

- Exclude construction activity
- Be appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the retained tree(s)
- Be installed in a fashion that makes it difficult to move easily
- Be maintained to ensure that they remain rigid and complete
- Be installed in the positions agreed with the Local Planning Authority and shown as a black dashed line in the Tree Protection Plan.

Installation: The tree protection fencing must be installed before any heavy plant machinery is used on the site and remain in place until the construction works have been completed.

The fencing should not be removed or altered without prior consultation with the project arboriculturist and, where necessary, approval from the local planning authority.

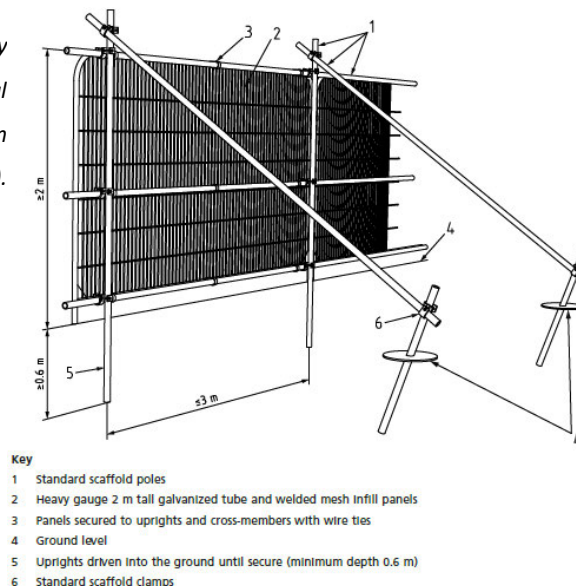
All-weather notices should be attached to the fencing with words such as: 'Construction Exclusion Zone - No Access'. Throughout the construction period attention should be paid to ensure that barriers remain rigid and complete.

Removal: The tree protection fencing may only be removed once construction activity is completed.

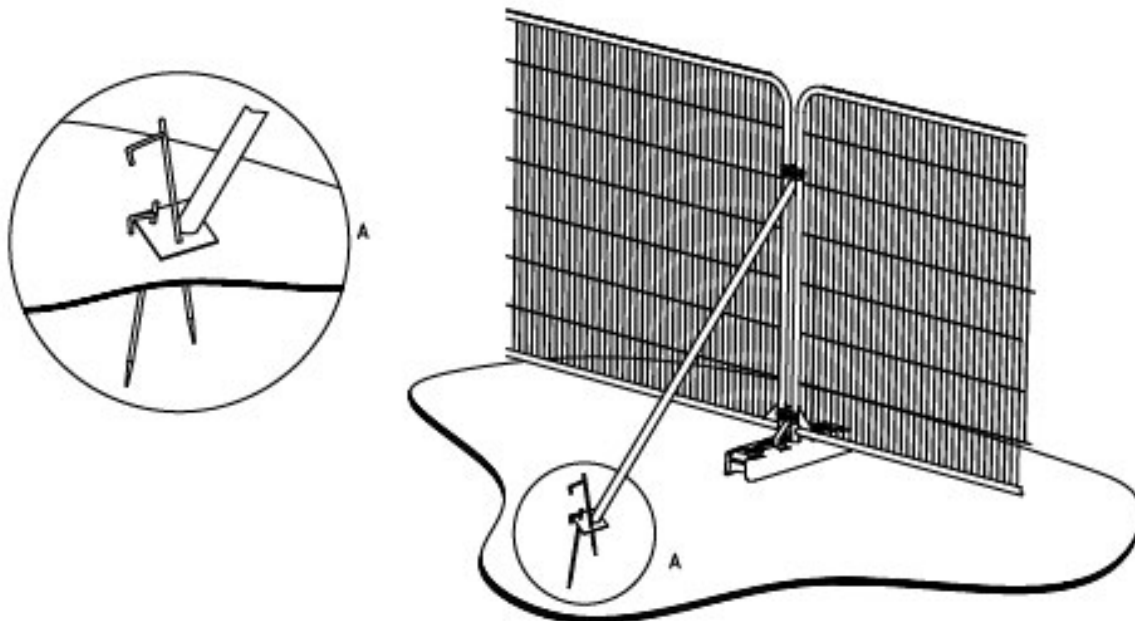
Some landscaping works may be necessary at this stage but it is crucial that root damage does not occur so vehicles must stick to designated transit routes and any digging near trees should be carried out with the use of hand tools only.

Works inside a construction exclusion zone: Arboricultural supervision will be required whenever construction and development activity is to take place within a construction exclusion zone. This supervision must be carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist.

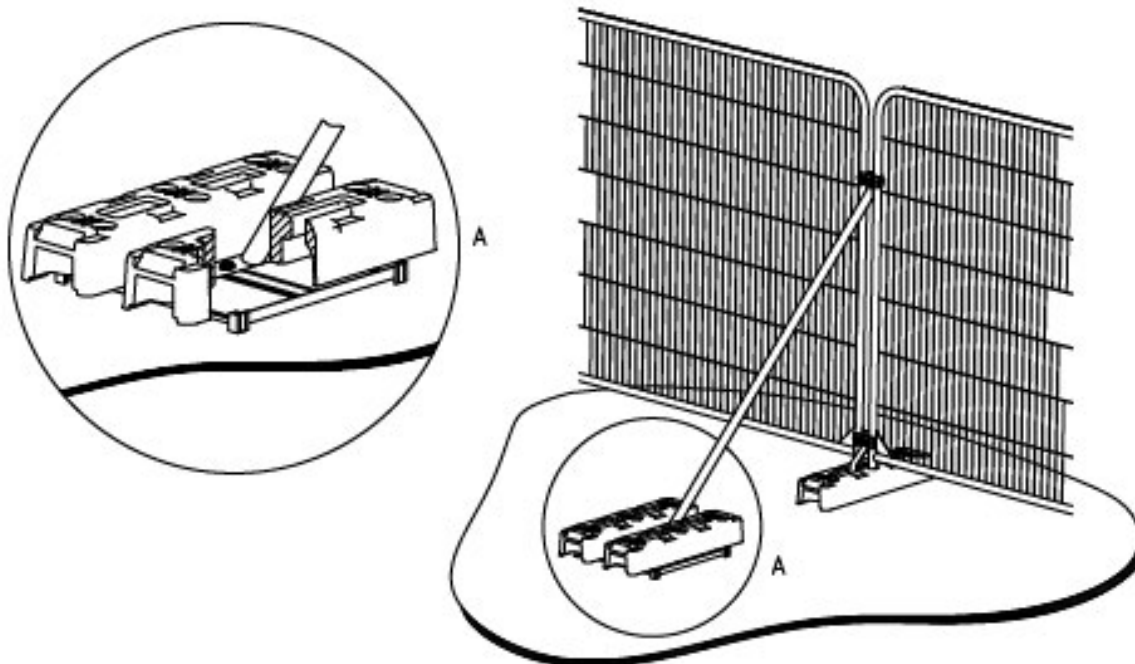
Specification: fencing should satisfy the above criteria. A typical construction is indicated in bs5837:2012 and illustrated (right).



Examples of Above-Ground Stabilizing Systems



a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray

3.3 TREE SCHEDULE

No.	Species	Height	Trunk Dia.	Radial Crown Spread	Crown Clearance	Height to 1st Branch	Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Comments	Category	RPA Radius	RPA m2	Works
G1	Hazel and Hawthorn	3m	Avg 150 est	2m	1m	1m	EM	Good	Good	Located on lower elevation (2m lower).	C (2)	1.8m	10.2m ²	
T2	Ash	8m	300	3m	2m	2m	SM	Good	Poor	Coppiced tree; canopy overhangs boundary.	C (2)	3.6m	40.7m ²	Facilitative: Coppice.
T3	False acacia	10m	320	N1m NE2m E1m SE7m S2m SW1m W1m NW5m	2m	3m	EM	Good	Poor	Tree leans heavily to north-west.	C (2)	3.8m	46.3m ²	Facilitative: Prune back to boundary.
T4	Silver birch	14m	320	3m	4m	5m	EM	Good	Good	Off-site tree.	C (2)	3.8m	46.3m ²	
T5	Western red cedar	20m	900 est	4m	6m	7m	M	Good	Good	Tall off-site tree.	A (1)	10.8m	366.4m ²	
T6	Japanese maple	2m	150	2m	1m	1m	M	Good	Good	May result in conflict with development.	C (1)	1.8m	10.2m ²	
T7	Japanese maple	2m	150	2m	1m	1m	M	Good	Good	Could be retained during landscaping.	C (1)	1.8m	10.2m ²	
T8	Beech	15m	850	8m	4m	6m	M	Good	Fair	Tight compression fork with included bark.	B (1)	10.2m	326.9m ²	Facilitative: Prune NW aspect of canopy back by 2-3m, to boundary line.
T9	Apple	3m	200	1.5m	1m	1m	EM	Good	Good	Will not conflict with development.	C (1)	2.4m	18.1m ²	

4 APPENDIX

4.1 REPORT LIMITATIONS

The categories for measurements used to determine the Retention Category for each tree have been taken from British Standard 5837:2012. Additional information has been provided to facilitate a greater understanding of the trees in relation to construction.

The assessment of trees has been based upon their appearance and condition at the time of inspection and does not consider any alteration in site conditions that may entail from future site development. Whilst this report is designed to provide the necessary information for planning decisions to be made in relation to trees, this report is not intended for use as an arboricultural health and safety report.

The purpose of this report is to describe how to protect the trees on site during the construction processes.

Whilst every attempt has been made to survey and record all arboricultural information accurately, it may have been necessary to estimate the recording of some information where trees have been either obscured or are not easily accessible. This circumstance may arise with Ivy covered trees, on uneven terrain, where trees are in dense groups, access is impaired, or trees are located on private property etc. in such circumstances responsibility lies with the landowner or client to ensure free access and clear lines of visibility to all trees and tree parts to be included within the survey.

4.2 REPORT AUTHOR

I studied Arboriculture for three years at the University of Central Lancashire (Myerscough College) in 2011. I received a Bachelor of Science Degree with honors in Arboriculture (BSc. (Hons) Arboriculture (Level 6 Arb)). During this time, I worked for Future Arbor Ltd in Shropshire where I gained good experience in surveying over 7,000 trees for Hereford Council, Powis County Council and Telford and Wrekin Housing Trust. I have also worked as a climbing arborist in Perth, Western Australia for 12 months and continued here in the UK for 15 years. I am a professional member of Arboricultural Association and am qualified to carry out Quantified Risk Assessments (QTRA) and Visual Tree Inspections. I stay up to date with current theories and procedures through reading and attending conferences.

4.3 CAVEATS & LIMITATIONS

- Alteration to soil conditions within the root area of the tree, including soil level, may invalidate the content and reliability of the Report.
- Tree risk inspections are based on reasonably practicable assessment methods. Every condition that could possibly lead to stem or tree failure cannot expect to be detected. Trees may fail from a range of singular or cumulative reasons, some of which are not yet fully understood. Recommendations following inspections may or may not be accepted by clients.
- Assessment tools are variable and unless otherwise stated inspections are undertaken at ground level based on the permissible access granted. There were no samples of soil or wood for further analysis taken from the tree during the inspection.
- Underground services were inspected visually from the surface only. Underground utility information was not obtained for further analysis. Root area was inspected visually from the surface only.
- No aerial inspection was carried out on the day.
- Any work/vandalism to the tree since the inspection may invalidate the Report and determine it unreliable.
- There is no guarantee or warranty, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the subject tree(s) may not arise in the future as trees are dynamic living organisms. All trees should be routinely inspected at frequencies determined by their condition, health and target area (site use) as per the Occupiers Liability Act.
- It is not possible to make a tree “safe” rather they can be managed to reduce the potential risk of harm to acceptable levels, should the consultant feel this is necessary. Recommendations in this report are based on qualifications, experience, knowledge and the use of assessment tools deemed necessary for the individual inspection.
- This report is confidential to the client(s) and their professional advisers and no liability is accepted to any other parties. No liability is accepted for the contents of the report, other than to that of the client(s).
- Any act of *Force Majeure* affecting the tree(s) may invalidate the report and determine it unreliable.

4.4 TREE SURVEY PROCESS

This report contains the data for all the trees located on site. All information recorded has been tabulated within this report. The positions of trees, their retention categories and their root protection areas are detailed within the location and survey plans provided.

For the purposes of this development, particular consideration is given to:

- a. The individual species, its age, height and condition. The diameter at 1.5m (DBH) and the crown spread have also been measured in accordance with BS 5837:2012.
- b. Identified structural defects have been recorded for trees to facilitate the determination of each tree's "safe usable life expectancy" (SULE). Comments and specific notes regarding the condition of each tree are appended to the tables.
- c. The location of each tree relative to existing site features, *e.g* its value as a screen or as a skyline feature. The tree's relative suitability, within the context of the proposed site development.
- d. The suitability of a tree's retention within the context of the proposed development.

Wherever a tree has been recorded with a retention category of either "A" or "B", roots protection areas (RPAs) have been calculated with reference to BS 5837:2012, section 4.6. The RPA is defined as "a layout design tool indicating the minimum area around the tree deemed to contain sufficient rooting volume to maintain a tree's viability and where the protection of the roots and soil area is treated as priority." For general design, demolition and construction purposes, the RPAs identified within this report should remain undisturbed.

TERMS USED WITHIN THE TREE SCHEDULE

NUMBERING: Each tree (or close growing group) has been given a tree number, to enable it to be identified through reference to the appended tree plans.

DIAMETER AT 1.5m: The diameter is calculated after measuring the circumference at approximately 1.5m above ground level is recorded in millimeters. Small diameter, multi-stemmed trees and those in close growing groups may be given as ranges of this measurement.

HEIGHT has been estimated and is recorded in meters.

CROWN SPREAD has been measured in meters at the four cardinal points.

CROWN START refers to the height at which the crown starts to develop, estimated in meters.

AGE classifications are based on life expectancies of the various species, as follows:

Y	Young	Newly planted or self-establishing trees
EM	Early/Mature	Trees of up to one third of their expected lifespans
M	Mature	Trees between one and two thirds of their expected life expectancy
OM	Over Mature	Trees in the last third of their expected lives

These classifications are estimated by reference to the appearance and stem girth of each tree, subjectivity has been reduced through the provision of these age ranges. The life expectancy of the various species has been adapted from Helliwell & Coombes, *Amenity Valuation of Trees and Woodlands*. Arboricultural Association, 1994.

CONDITION provides an overall assessment of the health of the tree and is based, subjectively, on practical experience. **BS5837:2012** suggests consideration of both structural and physiological condition and within this report, these have been combined. The condition value may be downgraded where it is recognised that the tree may have a reduced life expectancy due to its location, disposition or where local knowledge may have imparted historical information specific to the tree. The following descriptions provide some interpretation for each category:

GOOD: No attention required (Special features may be noted)

FAIR: Generally in good health but attention is advised on grounds of health, safety and significant nuisance concerning general amenity.

MODERATE: Notable hazards, notable nuisance or low amenity value.

POOR: Trees with faults that represent a significant hazard, or a serious threat to general amenity.

VERY POOR: Trees with serious faults where work is essential to remove or ameliorate a hazard.

SAFE USEFUL LIFE EXPECTANCY (SULE) has been determined through reference to "SULE Data collection," Barrel, J; (updated 01/04/2001) and "Tree AZ," Barrel, J; (updated 08/08/2003). These documents allow for the estimation of a tree's life expectancy based upon consideration, principally, for location and condition, to reflect the number of years remaining that a tree could be perceived to have and therefore provide guidance as to whether the tree could feasibly be retained through the course of development.

RETENTION CATEGORY ("Category") is allocated as **A, B, C** or **R**. These categories are intended to indicate the relative importance given to the retention of each tree and are defined, based upon BS5837:2012, as provided overleaf.

ROOT PROTECTION AREA (RPA): In order to avoid damage to roots or rooting area of retained trees, the RPA has been recorded for all Category A & B trees. This is a minimum area in m² which should be left undisturbed around each retained tree. For the purposes of the location and survey plans at the end of this document, the approximate extent of the RPA has been sketched as a dashed circle and the radii of these circles is recorded within the Tree Schedule.