



## Arboricultural Report

THE HERMITAGE  
CHURCH STREET  
WHITCHURCH  
HAMPSHIRE  
RG28 7AR

16 Manor Close, Wickham, Hampshire, PO17 5BZ



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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report was instructed by Mr. and Mrs. Fisher with regard to the proposed garden redesign at The Hermitage, Church Street, Whitchurch, Hampshire. The report details all trees over 75mm at 1.5m above ground level that are relevant to the siting of the proposed development. The position of the trees on the site is illustrated at **Appendix 1** on the plan.
- 1.2 The existing tree stock has been identified and graded in line with the current British Standard BS 5837 2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations to enable informed decisions to be made regarding tree retention. The report also details methods of construction to be implemented to safeguard the retained trees.
- 1.3 This report details the constraints placed on the proposed development from the rooting area of the trees below ground and above ground by their size and position.
- 1.4 This report will be submitted along with the notification of intention to Basingstoke and Deane Council as some proposed works fall within Root Protection Areas of trees.

## **2.0 SITE VISIT**

- 2.1 The site visit was undertaken on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023. The trees were surveyed visually, externally and from ground level only. No samples or internal decay detection readings were taken for further analysis. All dimensions have been measured unless stated otherwise. Weather conditions at the time of the survey were dry, still and sunny.

## **3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION**

- 3.1 The site is located in the town of Whitchurch Hampshire which is on the River Test and lies 12 miles to the north of Winchester. It is an end of terrace cottage, semi-detached residential property. The garden at the rear is raised above the ground level of the house. There is a lawn area with mature shrubs and trees surrounding it.

## **4.0 TREE SURVEY DATA**

In accordance with BS 5837 2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations, the characteristics of single-stemmed trees over 75mm stem diameter measured at 1.5m above ground level have been recorded and they have been categorised in accordance with Table 1 of BS5837: 2012. The following tree data tables should be read in conjunction with the annotated site plan shown at **Appendix 1** and the legend on the page following the tables.

Tree Number and Species	Height (m)	DBH (mm)	Branch Spread (m)				Existing Height Above Ground Level of Canopy and 1 <sup>st</sup> Significant Branch (m)	Age Class	Estimated Remaining Contribution (Years) & Physiological Condition	Comments	BS Category & Tree Work Necessary for Development	RPA (m <sup>2</sup> )	RPA (m)	
			N	S	E	W								
T1 Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	14	370	3	5.5	6	4	2.5 2.5 W	M	20 Good	In adjacent garden within shrub bed and grassed area. Buttress root to the north side. Sound base and lower stem. Minor past management, good wound occlusion. Bird box on east side of stem at 2m.	A1 Retain and protect	64	4.5	
T2 Apple <i>Malus domestica</i>	7	390	4.5	5	6	4	2 2.5 S	M	20-40 Good	In shrub bed. Sound base and lower stem. Crown break at 2m. Three main scaffold limbs good branch attachments. Minor past management, excellent wound occlusion. Bird box at 2.5m east side of stem.	A1 Retain and protect	72	4.8	
G1 Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Up to 4	Max 140	Two self-seeded trees at the front of the property behind the shed. Both have poor form.									C2 Remove Replacement plant	N/A	N/A

### Key to Terms

- Identification numbers have been used and correspond to the site plan shown at **Appendix 1**.
- Vegetation type has been categorized as one of the following: Tree (T), Hedge (H), Shrub (S), Group (G), Stump (ST)
- Species are listed by common and botanical name where appropriate.
- Where possible, measurements have been made in accordance with the conventions detailed below. Where this was not possible, due to site conditions or the vegetation being in third party ownership, dimensions have been estimated. \* Indicates estimated measurement.
- Height has been recorded to the nearest half metre.
- Stem diameter has been measured at 1.5m and recorded in millimetres, except where forking or swelling has meant that this is not possible, stem diameter has then been recorded at the narrowest point below these features. Multi-stemmed trees have had individual stems measured at 1.5m. Where this was not possible the actual height where the diameter was measured is recorded. G.L. = Ground Level.
- Crown spread has been recorded to the nearest half metre. Rounded up for dimensions up to 10m and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m.
- Age class has been recorded as follows:
  - Y** Young recently planted or establishing tree that could be transplanted without specialist equipment, i.e. up to 12-14cms-stem girth.
  - S/M** Semi mature. An established tree but one that has not reached its potential ultimate height and has significant growth potential.
  - E/M** Early mature. A tree reaching its ultimate potential height, whose growth rate is slowing down but will increase in stem diameter and crown spread, and has a safe life expectancy.
  - M** Mature. A mature specimen with limited potential for any significant increase in size but with a reasonable safe life expectancy.
  - O/M** Over mature. A senescent or moribund specimen with a limited safe life expectancy. Possibly also containing significant structural defects with attendant safety and/or duty of care implications.
- Physiological Condition has been recorded as Good, Fair or Poor.
- Recommendations for tree management have been based on current Arboricultural Best Practice as set out by the Arboricultural profession and all relevant publications.

## **5.0 TREE QUALITY ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The trees have been categorized according to BS5837: 2012 as a guide to their condition and value in terms of visual amenity.
- 5.2 The trees are coloured on the plan attached at **Appendix 1** and the colours are explained in the key of the plan.

## **6.0 ROOT PROTECTION AREAS**

- 6.1 In accordance with BS5837: 2012, the root protection area (RPA) of the trees has been calculated and shown in the following table and on the plan attached at **Appendix 2**.

## **7.0 LEGAL CONSTRAINTS**

- 7.1 Basingstoke and Deane Council have advised verbally that none of the trees detailed in this report are subjects of a Tree Preservation Order, however, the site does fall within Whitchurch Conservation Area. Given the proposed works are to in part be within the RPAs of T1 and T2 a Notification of Intent for this work will be submitted along with proposed removal of G2 Sycamore.

## **8.0 ARBORICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT**

### **8.1 Description of Proposed Development**

There is a current application regarding the extension of the house. However, this report details the Silver Birch within the neighbouring garden and an Apple tree within The Hermitage garden with regard to the proposed garden redesign

### **8.2 Drawings Used**

A plan showing the proposed site layout has been used for this report drawing number 1, scale 1: 100. This has been used to prepare the Tree Quality Assessment Plan **Appendix 1**, the Root Protection Area Plan **Appendix 2** and the Tree Protection Plan found at **Appendix 3**.

### **8.3 Direct Loss of Trees**

The two trees T1 Silver Birch and T2 Apple adjacent to the proposed redesign are to be retained. The Sycamores G1 are to be removed. Two replacement multi-stemmed trees will be planted to provide continuity of tree cover on the site.

#### 8.4 Position of Trees in Relation to Proposed Development

It is not considered that the proposal will increase future pressure to fell T1 Silver Birch or T2 Apple as they are integral components of the garden.

#### 8.5 Protective Barriers and Ground Protection

##### Protective Barriers

Protective barriers will be established prior to any construction taking place. The location of the barriers is shown on the Tree Protection Plans at **Appendices 3**.

Protective barriers in accordance with Figure 2 of BS 5837: 2012 (**Appendix 4**) should be erected around the trees to be retained. The fencing is to be supported with an appropriate stabilizing system (**Appendix 5**). Where possible, the positions of these fences should be based on a distance equivalent to the radius of each tree's RPA. All site personnel shall be made aware of the importance of root protection areas and shall ensure that they are properly maintained at all times. Once established the fencing will define the boundary of the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ).

Once erected all weather signage should be displayed stating 'Construction Exclusion Zone'.

No development works shall commence within the CEZ until written confirmation has been obtained from the Local Planning Authority. The project Arboriculturalist shall supervise all work within the RPAs.

##### Ground Protection for Pedestrian Movement

A layer of 100mm deep woodchip is to be placed onto a geotextile membrane and a single thickness layer of scaffold board or similar to be placed on top. The extent of this is shown at **Appendix 3** Tree Protection Plan.

#### 8.6 Changes in Ground Surface within RPAs

There will be a very minor change of ground surface within both the RPAs of T1 Silver Birch and T2 Apple. This is where the retaining walls are to be established and a small area of the side of the steps. These changes are not considered to be detrimental to either the stability or longevity of the trees. The total change of surface is less than 5% of either RPA.

8.8 Changes in Ground Level within the RPA

There is no proposed change in ground level within the RPAs of any of the retained trees with the exception of the access which will be graded so as to minimise disturbance in this area.

8.9 Excavations for Retaining Walls

These are to be undertaken using hand tools only under arboricultural supervision.

8.10 Access for Contractors and Storage of Materials.

There is ample space on the site outside of the RPAs of the trees for contractor parking and storage of materials.

**9.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 The trees on the site are predominately of a high quality contributing to the amenity of the garden and locale
- 9.2 No trees are to be removed to facilitate the proposed garden design
- 9.3 The establishment of the protective barriers and ground protection should be supervised by the project Arboriculturalist.
- 9.4 Supervision of hand excavations for the proposed retaining walls will ensure minimal disruption within the RPAs
- 9.5 Lining of the footings for the retaining walls with DPCM will prevent damage to fine roots from leeching concrete.
- 9.6 Given these conclusions the following section 'Arboricultural Method Statement' details the recommendations/methodology for the construction of the proposed works in terms of the effect on trees on the site.

**Details within this AIA are considered correct at the time of writing but modifications may need to be made as more information becomes available.**



### ***Important Notes***

*The comments made with regard to the health and stability of the trees within this report were correct at the time of inspection. It should be recognized that trees are dynamic structures that can never be completely predictable and may become unstable or partially unstable even in average weather conditions. Changes can occur not only to environmental triggers but also in response to biological or mechanical events.*

### ***Inspection Caveats***

*The inspection was carried out from ground level. Binoculars were used to observe features higher in the canopies.*

*Foliage, extension growth and/or bud proliferation were assessed visually.*

*No soil or tissue samples were taken during this inspection.*

*No invasive diagnostic equipment was used to detect decay.*

*A nylon hammer was used to test for possible decay and dead or loose bark around the lower stems and bases of the trees.*

*Ivy has been removed during the inspection process only where reasonable and practicable. Where this has not been possible it has been noted as a recommendation to be removed to allow detailed re-inspection.*

*No tree is ever absolutely safe due to the unpredictable laws and forces of nature.*

**ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT**

**1.0 CONTACT DETAILS**

<b>Garden Designer</b>	Katherine Lee	Katherine Lee Garden Design Four Farthings, McFauld Way, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7LR [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
<b>Arboricultural Consultant</b>	Sarah Johnston M.Arbor.A. B.Sc. (Hons.) Arboriculture	Johnston Tree Consultancy 16 Manor Close, Wickham, Hampshire, PO17 5BZ [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
<b>Local Authority Case Officer</b>	Unknown at present	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
<b>Local Authority Tree Officer</b>	Unknown at present	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) has been produced in line with BS 5837 2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction-Recommendations to aid the successful retention of trees on and adjacent to the proposed development at The Hermitage, Church Street, Whitchurch, Hampshire. No development shall take place on the site until this document has been submitted to and approved in writing by Basingstoke and Deane Council.
- 2.2 This document sets out the methodology for all proposed works that affect trees on and adjacent to the site. Compliance with this method statement will be a requirement of all relevant contracts associated with the development proposals. Copies of this document will be available on site for inspection.
- 2.3 For details of trees to be retained and location and types of special protection methods, reference should be made to the Tree Protection Plan (TPP). A copy of which should be displayed prominently on site.

## 3.0 PHASING OF DEVELOPMENT

### 3.1 Phase 1 – Pre Development Phase

#### Tree Work

Tree work will be carried out prior to any demolition or construction takes place.

#### Protective Barriers

Tree protection measures to be installed under the supervision of the retained Arboriculturalist for all the trees.

The protective barriers erected will be in accordance with Figures 2 and 3 of BS 5837:2012 (**Appendix 4 and 5**) and will form the boundary of the construction exclusion zone (CEZ). Where feasible, the positions of the fencing will be based on a distance equivalent to the radius of each tree's RPA. Once erected all weather signage should be displayed stating 'Tree Protection Area Keep Out'.

#### Ground Protection

A layer of 100mm deep woodchip is to be placed onto a geotextile membrane and a single thickness layer of scaffold board or similar to be placed on top. The extent of this is shown at **Appendix 3** Tree Protection Plan.

### Excavations for Retaining Walls

Where any roots over 25mm are encountered during the supervised excavations these will be photographed and details sent to the Tree Officer for consideration. Remedial options may include severance if the project Arboriculturalist deems it not to be detrimental to the stability or longevity of the retained trees. If necessary a design solution to avoid the roots will be submitted.

The excavations will be lined with a DPCM to prevent leeching of chemicals in the concrete into the rooting area.

### Area for Mixing Materials and Storage

The storage of materials and equipment can be outside of the RPAs of any retained tree.

## 3.2 Phase 2 – Construction Phase

### Protective Barriers and Ground Protection

Once established the protective barriers are not to be moved without written consent from Basingstoke and Deane Council.

## **4.0 GENERAL ARBORICULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 Protective barriers must be regarded as sacrosanct, and must only be moved under direct supervision of the LPA or named Arboriculturalist to enable the undertaking of works within the RPAs of trees, as set out in this AMS, and approved in writing by the LPA. It is of paramount importance the fencing is repositioned correctly after any agreed operations.
- 4.2 No materials, chemicals, machinery or vehicles must be stored within the RPAs as defined on the TPP and identified on site by protective fencing and aboveground root protection.
- 4.3 Ground protection must not be lifted or removed without prior consultation with the LPA or named Arboriculturalist.
- 4.4 Damage caused to protective fencing or ground protection must be reported to the site supervisor and the named Arboriculturalist to ensure appropriate repair.
- 4.5 Any damage to retained trees must be reported without delay to the site supervisor, the LPA and the named Arboriculturalist so appropriate remedial work can take place without delay.
- 4.6 No materials that are likely to have an adverse effect on tree health such as oil, bitumen or cement will be stored or discharged within 5 metres of the trunk of the retained trees or any other trees on the site.

4.7 No fires will be lit on site.

4.8 Notice boards, telephone cables or any other signage or services are not to be attached to any part of the retained trees.

## 5.0 SUPERVISION AND MONITORING

5.1 The project Arboriculturalist shall be responsible for monitoring/supervising the following works.

- Establishment of protective barriers and ground protection
- Excavations for retaining walls

5.2 The project Arboricultural Consultant will be responsible for periodical monitoring and will inspect the protective fencing to ensure the CEZ is intact and monitor any works necessary within the exclusion zone. A record of site visits will be maintained for inspection on site and copies forwarded to the agent and planning authority when requested.

***Please note this AMS is not a contract. The retention and services of a project Arboriculturalist for supervision and monitoring must be agreed prior to commencement of construction operations***



### ***CREDENTIALS OF THE AUTHOR***

*Sarah Johnston M. Arbor. A., B.Sc. Arboriculture has worked in the Arboricultural profession for thirteen years. Her experience has been gained from undertaking practical tree work as well as working as an Arboricultural Surveyor and Tree Officer for Eastleigh and Havant Borough Councils respectively. In addition Sarah worked as a consultant for Marishal Thompson for two years from 2005 when she became self-employed. Sarah is a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association and holds Professional Indemnity Insurance.*