



**advanced:**

**progressive** *adj.*  
forward-thinking  
forward-looking  
unconventional  
cutting edge  
innovative

**higher** *adj.*  
superior  
highly developed  
sophisticated  
complex

29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Helen Sharp  
Brendon Cottage  
Wood Hill  
Congresbury  
Bristol  
BS49 5AF

Dear Helen,

## **Re: Brendon Cottage, Congresbury – Effect of Proposed Garage on Trees**

### **Introduction**

Further to receipt of the finalised proposals for the construction of the new garage at Brendon Cottage, I have undertaken a full arboricultural appraisal of the area surrounding the proposed structure and considered the effect of the proposals, following the principles of British Standard 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*. The purpose of this report is to provide a supporting statement for a planning application to North Somerset Council. This report has been undertaken in accordance with your instruction and is intended for your sole and specific use.

### Document Limitations

This document has been prepared based on information available to Advanced Arboriculture Ltd at the time of writing, however, further technical, topographical, arboricultural, architectural, ecological or engineering information may come to light prior to construction. It is the responsibility of your project manager to draw any changes in the project scope to our attention at the earliest opportunity.

Trees are dynamic structures and advice should be taken on validity two years after this report was completed. The report may not be considered valid after more than three years. The report has been prepared using all reasonable skill and care. Opinions are provided in good faith.

### **Tree Stock Appraisal and Arboricultural Impact Assessment**

The proposed new garage is to be constructed on an area currently laid to compacted roadstone to the south-east of Brendon Cottage itself. This area is set some 120m to the north of the nearest public highway and while a public footpath runs approximately 50m to the east, this is entirely screened by a dense belt of trees within the neighbouring property.

There is a single tree within the potential influence zone of the new garage. This is a young to early middle-aged Spruce (see tree T1 on the attached Proposed Site Plan) which has been reduced in height substantially (see Photograph 1 attached). I suspect this tree, more typically associated with commercial forestry, was originally a potted Christmas tree which was planted out and allowed to grow, before being reduced to a height more appropriate for this domestic garden setting.

Whilst the tree is in reasonable condition physiologically, it has limited visual amenity value in the context of the garden and offers no existing or future value to the wider local landscape or environment. The tree is certainly not worthy of the formal protection provided by a Tree Preservation Order and I consider it to be a British Standard 5837:2012 category C specimen overall; on this basis, it is not deemed to be a constraint to any construction proposals.

Taking the wider view of the property, I note the newly planted hedgerow comprising some 250 or so native stems which have recently been planted on the boundary (see Photograph 2 attached). I also note the swathe of mature trees to the south and west of the property which will maintain an effective screen from any public rights of way.

### **Conclusions**

I do not consider the Spruce to be worthy of retention in the context of the proposed new garage due to its incongruous species, negligible visual amenity value and compromised form. Whilst the removal of this tree, irrespective of any construction proposals, will not be detrimental to the local landscape, consideration could certainly be given to the establishment of a new native tree on the area of raised ground currently occupied by the Spruce. I suggest that a Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) would be an appropriate choice given its mature stature, relatively fastigate form, and the habitat value offered by the annual berries.

### **Recommendations**

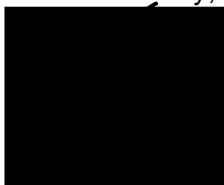
The proposals are considered to be reasonable from an arboricultural point of view due to the poor quality and negligible future potential presented by the British Standard 5837:2012 category C Spruce. I therefore recommend that this tree be removed prior to construction, and consideration be given to the planting of a new Rowan approximately 1.5m to the north-east of the Spruce's location.

In the absence of any adjacent trees, I do not consider there to be any requirement for any tree protection measures in this instance.

A copy of this report must be submitted to the local planning authority as a supporting document to the planning application. If the council's officers have any queries, they are welcome to contact us directly.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

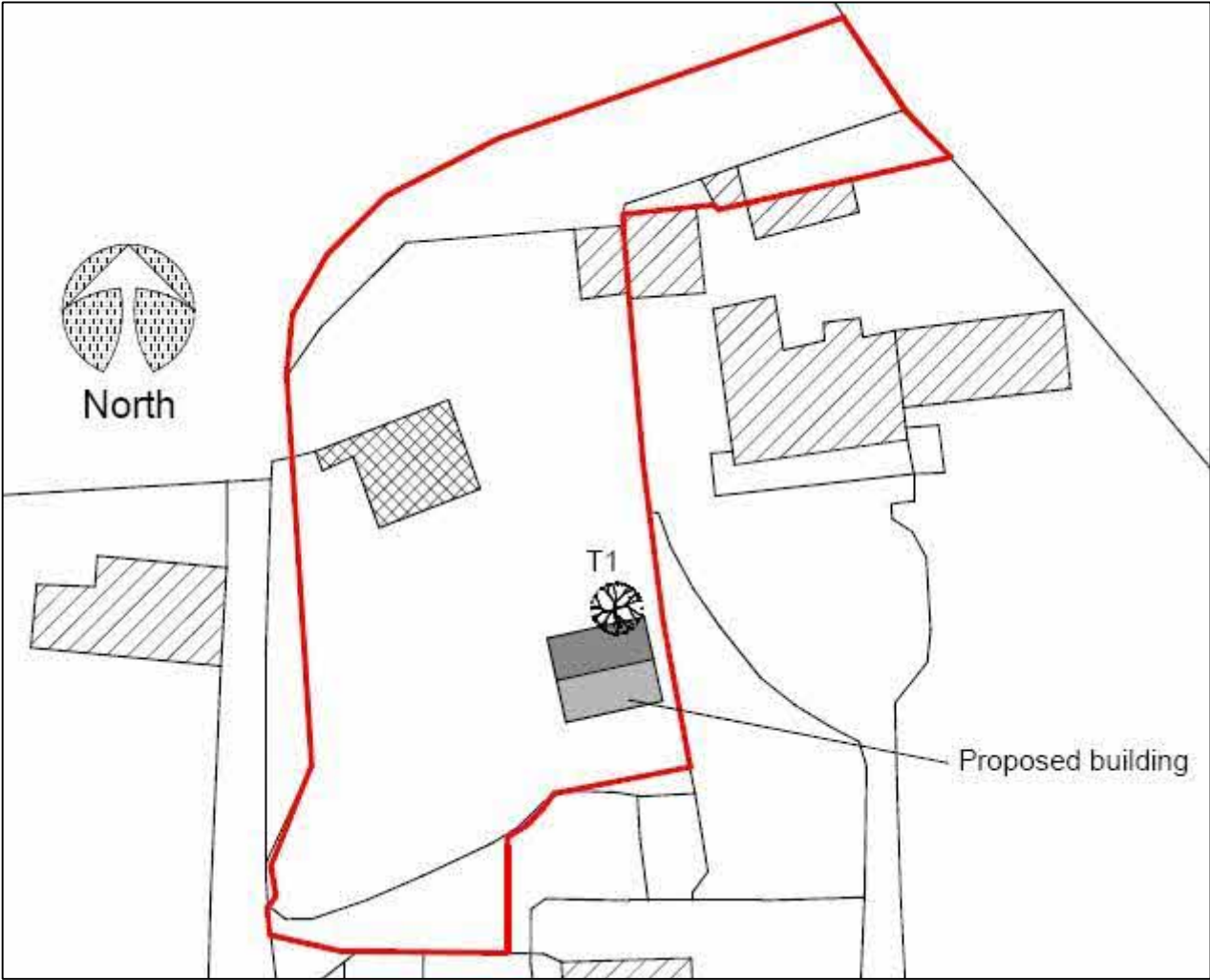
Yours sincerely,



Tom Hurley, BSc(For)Hons, M Arbor A  
Senior Consultant.

Attachments:            Proposed Site Plan  
                                 Photographs

**Proposed Site Plan**



## Photographs



Photograph 1: Spruce T1 adjacent to the area of compacted roadstone adjacent



Photograph 2: New native hedging on property boundary