



Merewood
Arboricultural Consultancy Services



Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION
Professional Member
No. PRO 1047

**Arboricultural Implications
Assessment
for a proposed development
at
297 Nine Mile Ride
Finchampstead
RG40 3NL
Rev C**

**Client: [REDACTED] Haider
297 Nine Mile Ride
Finchampstead
RG40 3NL**

Prepared by
Simon Hawkins Dip Arb L6 (ABC) N.D Arbor M. Arbor. A.

Date
19/06/2026



Merewood.
Gregory Road, Hedgerley, Bucks. SL2 3XW
M. 07784 915944 T. 01753 647236
E. simon.hawkins@hotmail.co.uk
VAT No: 990 9313 90

1.	Introduction	
1.1.	Instruction.....	2
1.2.	The Site.....	2
1.3.	Survey Date.....	2
1.4.	Scope and Purpose of the Report.....	2
1.5.	Documents referred to.....	3
2.	The Trees	
2.1.	Results summary.....	3
3.	Arboricultural Impact Assessment	
3.1.	Overview.....	3
3.2.	Proposed tree works.....	4
3.3.	Changes to soil levels.....	4
3.4.	The impact of movement around the site.....	4
3.5.	The impact of excavations.....	5
3.6.	The impact of construction site activities.....	5
3.7.	Summary.....	6
4.	Appendix 1	
	Tree survey methodology.....	7
5.	Appendix 2	
	Schedule of tree constraints	9
6.	Appendix 3	
	Impact Assessment Plan	10
7.	Appendix 4	
	Qualifications and Experience.....	11

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Instruction

- 1.1.1 I am instructed by [REDACTED] Haider to undertake an Arboricultural Survey at 297 Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead. I am also instructed to assess the likely impact of development proposals and produce an Arboricultural Method Statement detailing how trees shall be protected from the proposed construction activity.
- 1.1.2 The survey is required to support planning proposals for the erection of a double garage.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 297 is a semi-detached corner house served by a single entrance driveway leading to a parking and turning area in front of the house. The property is situated to the north side of Nine Mile Ride and has a front garden given over mainly to hard standing and rear garden.
- 1.2.2 The site is located to the north of Finchampstead village centre and to the south of Wokingham town centre. The surrounding area is suburban and is typified by medium density residential housing with trees making a useful contribution to local visual amenity.
- 1.2.3 The topography of the site includes a gentle slope down from the road falling south to north towards the house.
- 1.2.4 It has been established at the time of the survey that the trees on the site are not covered by a Tree Preservation Order nor are they located within a designated Conservation Area (search conducted on Wokingham District Council's website dated 09/05/22).

1.3 Survey date

- 1.3.1 The trees at 297 Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead were surveyed on Monday, May 11, 2026.

1.4 Scope and Purpose of the report

- 1.4.1 The tree survey and assessment of existing trees has been carried out in accordance with guidance contained within British Standard B.S. 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations' (hereafter referred to as B.S. 5837). The guidelines set out a structured assessment methodology to assist in determining which trees would be deemed either as being suitable or unsuitable for retention.

1.4.2 The purpose of this report therefore is therefore to first present the results of an assessment of the existing trees' arboricultural value, based on their current condition and quality and to secondly, provide an assessment of impact arising from the development of the site.

1.4.3 The report is designed to support a planning application for development proposals at the above site. The survey has therefore focused on any trees present within or bordering the site that may potentially be affected by the future proposals or will pose a constraint to any proposed development

1.5 Documents referred to

- 1.5.1 The tree survey and this report have been prepared with reference to the following documents:
- The proposed site layout plan
 - The schedule of tree constraints (appendix 1)
 - The impact assessment plan
 - The Arboricultural Method Statement dated 19/06/26 (see separate document)
 - The tree protection plan

2.0 Results

2.1 Results summary

2.1.1 Appendix 1 presents details of the individual trees and groups found during the assessment including heights, stem diameters and rpa's, crown spread (normally measured to cardinal points unless otherwise indicated), an indication of physiological and structural condition, age class, any appropriate management recommendations, estimated life expectancy and a BS5837 category of quality.

2.1.2 The survey has revealed that that of the 4 trees surveyed, 0 are category 'A' 4 are category 'B'; 0 are category 'C' and 0 are category 'U'.

3.0 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

3.1 Overview

Development activity	Potential impact	Consequence	Mitigation
Delivery of materials to the site	Soil compaction and erosion	Root damage and die back limiting the ability of the tree to take up water and nutrients	Create construction exclusion zones (CEZ's) by the erection of barrier fencing that takes account of branch spread as well as roots
Plant machinery accessing the site			
Contractor parking	Damage to branches or bark due to careless handling	Wounding of the bark can lead to infection from wood decay pathogens	Consider the pruning of branches likely to be impacted prior to the commencement of works if appropriate
Distribution of materials about the site			

Storage of materials on the site	Leachate from chemical based products contaminating soil	Roots die back and soil becomes contaminated inhibiting future root recovery	Provide a dedicated area for the storage of materials following delivery away from root protection areas.
Foundation excavation	Severing of roots	Root damage and die back limiting the ability of the tree to take up water and nutrients. Crown die back Death of the tree	Ensure excavation does not spill over onto root protection areas (RPA's) especially if piling and piles need to be relocated. Seek arboricultural advice before proceeding if excavations are likely to overextend
Provision of services requiring excavation	Severing of roots	Root damage and die back limiting the ability of the tree to take up water and nutrients	Route services outside of RPA's. If this is not possible consider the best options for minimizing any potential impact in line with NJUG guidelines
Mixing of cement, plaster, etc.	Leachate from chemical based products contaminating soil	Roots die back and soil becomes contaminated inhibiting future root recovery	Provide a dedicated area for mortar mixing (etc.) with a suitably thick plastic (impermeable) membrane to prevent chemicals leaching. Provide a spare reservoir of water close by to wash away spillages

3.2 Proposed tree works

- 3.2.1 The proposed development will not require the removal or pruning of any of the trees.

3.3 Changes to soil levels

- 3.3.1 There are no changes to soil levels proposed within the RPA's of trees to be retained.

3.4 The Impact of Movement around the Site

- 3.4.1 The construction of the garage requires machinery movement and working space only around the front of the property, making use of the existing driveway area.
- 3.4.2 In order to protect the root protection areas of the nearby trees, fencing and ground protection is to be installed prior to the commencement of works on the site.. This is shown on the tree protection plan (appendix 4).

The installation of protective fencing and ground protection shall be addressed by the Arboricultural Method Statement sections 3.2 and 3.3

3.5 The Impact of Excavations

- 3.5.1 The footprint of the proposed garage overlaps the RPA's of the oak trees (T1 and T3) which are to be retained. The level of impact on T1 is very small, following a reduction in size of the proposed garage in line with officer advice.
- 3.5.2 The potential impact on T3 is greater, amounting to 12.5m² or 13.5% of the total RPA of the tree. As this is a more significant impact, measures are proposed to mitigate this.
- 3.5.3 British Standard 5837:2012 offers guidance in such cases. The Standard states at 7.5.1 that *'The use of traditional strip foundations can result in extensive root loss and should be avoided. The insertion of specially engineered structures within RPA's may be justified if this enables retention of a good quality tree that would otherwise be lost (usually categories A or B). Designs for foundations that would minimize adverse impact on trees should include particular attention to existing level, proposed finished levels and cross sectional details. In order to arrive at a suitable solution, site specific and specialist advice regarding foundation design should be sought from the project arboriculturist and an engineer.'*
- 3.5.4 The proposal therefore includes the use of a raft foundation to help protect the tree roots. This approach minimises the amount of digging required, although does not eliminate it altogether.
- 3.5.5 The use of the raft foundation will help to reduce the impact of the garage, specifically within the area of encroachment, but also across a wider area, ensuring that tree roots beyond the RPA are also affected as little as possible, contributing further to the overall wellbeing of the trees.

3.6 The Impact of Construction Site Activities

- 3.6.1 The site working area will be established on the front drive of the house away from the RPA's of trees..
- 3.6.2 There is plenty of working space around the proposed garage to allow for working areas including the erection of scaffolding, (which may not be needed, or can be kept to a minimum, or placed on the inside of the walls) given this is a single storey structure).
- 3.6.3 Deliveries will be made by means of the driveway. Materials are to be set down at the front of the garage where they can either remain in situ until needed, moved to a more appropriate area or be brought under cover if necessary.
- 3.6.4 The hard standing area at the front of the site is to be used for the storage of

cement and plaster bags hazardous chemicals and petrochemical products and will also provide a suitable area for mortar mixing in line with COSHH regulations to ensure there is no detrimental effect on trees.

3.7 Summary

- 3.7.1 The proposed garage can be built with minimal impact to the surrounds. Full provision can be made for the protection of all trees to remain in order to ensure their continued viability following the completion of construction.



Simon Hawkins Dip Arb L6 (ABC), ND Arb, MArborA

Appendix 1 - Tree Survey Methodology

1. The ground level survey of the trees has been carried out in accordance with the criteria set out in Chapter 4 of B.S 5837. The survey has recorded information relating to all those trees within the site and those adjacent to the site which may be of influence on the proposals.
2. The purpose of this report is to modify the recommendation found in the tree constraints schedule for the future use of this site. Where applicable, trees with significant defects have been highlighted and appropriate remedial works have been recommended. However, this report should not be seen as a substitute for a full *Safety Survey* or *Management Plan* which are specifically designed to minimise risk and liability associated with the responsibility for trees. No climbed inspections or specialist decay detection were undertaken.
3. Evaluation of tree condition within the assessment applies to the date of survey and cannot be assumed to remain unchanged. It may be necessary to review these within 12 months in accordance with sound arboricultural practice as recommended by the National Trees Safety Group guidance 'Common Sense Risk Management for Trees'.
4. Trees have been divided into one of four categories based on Table 1 of B.S.5837, 'Cascade chart for tree quality assessment'. For a tree to qualify under any given category it should fall within the scope of that category's definition.

Category U - Red	Trees in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years.
Category A - Green	Those trees of the highest quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (a minimum of 40 years is suggested).
Category B - Blue	Trees of moderate to high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a significant contribution (a minimum of 20 years is suggested).
Category C - Grey	Trees of low quality and value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (a minimum of 10 years is suggested), or young trees with a stem diameter of below 150mm
Subcategory 1 concerns mainly arboricultural values, how good a specimen is in terms of form and physiological condition; the value of a tree as a component in a group or in a formal or semi-formal arboricultural feature such as an avenue.	
Subcategory 2 concerns mainly landscape values and considers the importance of a tree or group of trees as an arboricultural or landscape feature. Trees present in larger numbers, such as woodlands for example may attract a higher rating than they would as individuals because of their collective value.	
Subcategory 3 concerns mainly cultural values including conservation, historical, commemorative, or other value such as veteran or wood pasture.	

5. RPA's of single stemmed trees are calculated according to the following formula:
RPA radius = 12 x stem diameter (measured at 1.5m above ground level)
6. Where a tree has more than one stem, the equivalent single stem diameter is usually recorded. This is calculated by adding the squares of the stems and then finding the square root of the total. The radius of the RPA is then calculated by multiplying the equivalent stem diameter by 12 (ref B.S. 5837:2012 para 4.6.1). Where access is restricted an estimate of the stem diameter is provided and this is indicated in the appropriate column.

Appendix 2

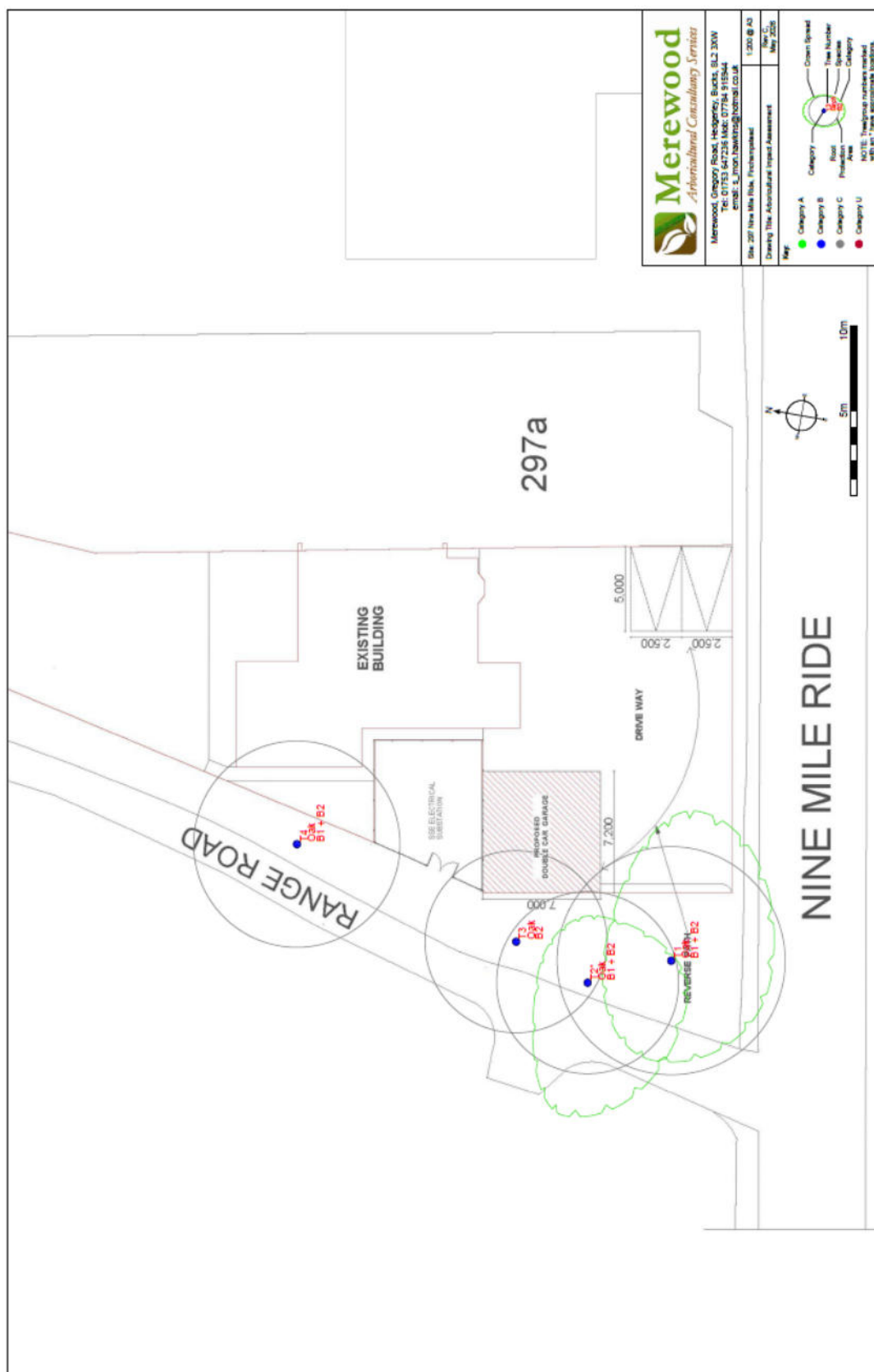
Schedule of tree constraints

Tree no	Species	Height	Stem diameter	Crown spread				Physiological condition	Structural condition	Age	General observations	Life expectancy	Category
				North	South	East	West						
T1	Oak	15	360 320 230 180	4	6	9	6	G	G	M		40+	B1 + B2
T2	Oak	16	510	3	6	4	8	G	G	M		40+	B1 + B2
T3	Oak*	15	450	0	0	0	0	F	G	M		40+	B2
T4	Oak*	17	460	0	0	0	0	F	G	M		40+	B1 + B2

*No canopy following pruning (stem only remaining)

Appendix 3

Impact Assessment Plan



Appendix 4

Qualifications and experience

- I am Simon Hawkins, proprietor of Merewood Arboricultural Consultancy Services.
- I hold the Level 6 Professional Diploma in Arboriculture. This is the highest level of award in the industry.
- I hold the National Diploma in Arboriculture which I attained in 1987. I have studied and practised Arboriculture for over 30 years, during which time I have been involved with both the private and public sector.
- I hold the LANTRA award for professional tree inspections
- I hold professional member status of the Arboricultural Association (M. Arbor A.), recognised as a higher vocational level within the industry.
- I have undertaken an intensive course in the principles and application of VTA Visual Tree Assessment. I have been assessed and found to have attained the advanced level of technical competence of a VTA Practitioner with Elite Training.
- I have over 18 years' experience working in the public sector, during which time I have dealt with all aspects of trees and development in the town planning context, within the inner city; in a greater London Borough; and in the Green Belt. Typically, I have worked with planners, developers, architects and other professionals in the construction industry in which I provide advice and assistance in dealing with arboricultural matters.
- I have appeared at numerous appeals, informal hearings and public enquiries to make formal representations. I have also appeared as an expert witness in court with regard to breaches of a Tree Preservations Order.