

**GHA Trees**  
**5 South Drive**  
**High Wycombe**  
**Bucks**  
**HP13 6JU**



**Glen Harding MICFor**  
**MSc (Forestry), MArborA**  
**t: 07884 056025**  
**e: [info@ghatrees.co.uk](mailto:info@ghatrees.co.uk)**  
**[www.ghatrees.co.uk](http://www.ghatrees.co.uk)**

**BS5837:2012 TREE SURVEY AND**  
**ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**  
**Cherrylands, New Mill Road, Finchampstead, RG40**  
**4QU**

Dated: 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Our reference: GHA/DS/160292:25

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# Arboricultural Impact Assessment

Location: Cherrylands, New Mill Road, Finchampstead, RG40 4QU

Our reference: GHA/DS/160292:25

Client: DDA

Dated: 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Prepared by: Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA

Date of Inspection: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## **Instructions**

**Issued by – DDA**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE – GHA Trees were instructed to survey the subject trees within and adjacent to Cherrylands, New Mill Road, Finchampstead, in order to assess their general condition and to provide a planning integration statement for the indicative proposed development that safeguards the long term wellbeing of the retained trees in a sustainable manner.**

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## **Executive Summary**

The proposal for the site is to renovate the existing house work that will include new extensions to the rear as well as the removal of some existing outbuildings. The proposed scheme does not require the removal of any trees; therefore, the landscape character of the site will be unaffected by the proposal. The retained trees require protection in accordance with industry best practice and BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations, in order to ensure their longevity.

## **Documents Supplied**

The client supplied the following documents:

- Topographical survey
- Existing layout plans
- Proposed layout plans

## **Scope of Survey**

- 1.1 The survey is concerned with the arboricultural aspects of the site only.
- 1.2 The planning status of the subject property was not investigated in detail.
- 1.3 A qualified Arboriculturist undertook the report and site visit and the contents of this report are based on this. Whilst reference may be made to built structure or soils, these are only opinions and confirmation should be obtained from a qualified expert as required.
- 1.4 Trees in third party ownership were surveyed from within the subject property, therefore a detailed assessment was not possible and some (if not all) measurements were estimated. Where the stem location of a third party tree has been estimated, this is noted on the plan.
- 1.5 Dense vegetation or climbers (such as ivy) also prohibited full inspections for some trees; this is noted where applicable.
- 1.6 No discussions took place between the surveyor and any other party.
- 1.7 The trees were inspected on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breleor (The body language of tree, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994)
- 1.8 The survey was undertaken in accord with British Standard 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 1.9 The client's attention is drawn to the responsibilities under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

## **Survey Method**

- 2.1 The survey was conducted from ground level with the aid of binoculars if needed.
- 2.2 No tissue samples were taken nor was any internal investigation of the subject trees undertaken.

- 2.3 No soil samples were taken.
- 2.4 The height of each subject tree was estimated using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre.
- 2.5 The stem diameter for each tree was measured in line with the requirements set out in BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations.
- 2.6 The crown spreads were measured with an electronic distometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where the crown radius was notably different in any direction this has been noted on the Plan (appendix A) and within the tree table (Appendix B). The crowns of those trees that are proposed for removal, or trees where the crown spread is deemed insignificant in relation to the proposed development are not always shown on the appended plan; however their stem locations are marked for reference.
- 2.7 The Root Protection Area (RPA) for each tree is included in the tree table, both as an area, and as the radius of a circle.
- 2.8 The crown clearance was measured using a clinometer and recorded to the nearest half metre. Where it is significantly lower in one direction, this is noted within the tree table at appendix B.
- 2.9 All of the trees that were inspected during the site visit are detailed on the plan at Appendix A; this plan was produced in colour and **MUST** only be scanned or reproduced in colour. The trees on this plan are categorised and shown in the following format:

#### COLOUR CODING AND RATING OF TREES:

Category A – Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years. Colour = light green crown outline on plan.

Category B – Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. Colour = mid blue crown outline on plan.

Category C – Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 to 20 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm. Colour = uncoloured crown outline on plan.

Category U – Those 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. Colour = red crown outline on plan.

All references to tree rating are made in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations’, Table 1.

## **The Site**

- 3.1 The site is located on New Mill Road, a residential road located to the west of Finchampstead.
- 3.2 A good tree cover is present on the site itself as well as adjacent sites, with many semi-mature and mature trees of both native and exotic origin characterising the local area.
- 3.3 Access to the property is currently gained via a driveway to the front of the site.

## **The Subject Trees**

- 4.1 The details of the subject trees are set out in the Schedule at Appendix B.
- 4.2 Of the twenty-six individual trees and groups of trees surveyed, three have been assessed as BS 5837 category A, fifteen have been assessed as BS category B, seven have been assessed as BS category C with the remaining tree being assessed as BS 5837 category U.

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Category A | 3 trees           |
| Category B | 15 trees / groups |
| Category C | 7 trees / groups  |
| Category U | 1 tree            |

## **The Proposal**

- 5.1 The proposal for the site is to renovate the existing house work that will include new extensions to the rear as well as the removal of some existing outbuildings.
- 5.2 The proposed location of the above structures can be seen on the appended plan.

## **Arboricultural Impact Assessment**

### **PROPOSED TREE REMOVAL / RETENTION:**

- 6.1 The proposed site layout and all of its associated structures allows for the healthy retention of all of the trees on the site itself, and within nearby adjacent sites; therefore, the arboricultural landscape character of the site will be retained.

## TREE PRUNING TO ACCOMMODATE THE PROPOSAL OR ACCESS TO THE SITE

- 6.2 The implementation of the proposal does not lead to the requirement to prune any of the retained trees.
- 6.3 There is no part of the new structure which will have tree canopies (from trees to be retained) overhanging it and the building works can progress safely without the need for any facilitation pruning.

## ASSESSMENT OF RETAINED TREES ROOT PROTECTION AREAS

- 6.4 Section 4.6.3 of BS 5837: 2012 states that the Root Protection Area (RPA) of each tree should be assessed by an arboriculturalist considering the likely morphology and disposition of the roots, when known to be influenced by past or existing site conditions.
- 6.5 The assessed RPAs can be seen on the appended plan where some have amended to take account of the existing structures.

## ASSESSED IMPACT ON RPAS BY PROPOSED STRUCTURES

- 6.6 The proposed new extensions to the house are situated outside of the assessed RPAs of all of the trees; therefore, these trees pose no below ground constraints on the new structures or vice versa.
- 6.7 The new bat shed will be located within a section of the assessed RPA of G21 (see appended plan). The new building will however be constructed using a concrete slab, which will be positioned on top of the existing ground levels; this will mean that no excavations will be required within the RPA of this tree. Wooden formwork will be constructed, and lined with plastic sheeting before the concrete is poured to avoid any damage to nearby tree roots through leaching of harmful concrete agents. This work must be done using hand tools and no machines must enter this area to do these works.

## ACCESS TO THE NEW DEVELOPMENT

- 6.8 The existing driveway and parking areas will be retained and there are no plans to upgrade or extend these areas as part of the proposed site works.

## INSTALLATION OF SERVICES

- 6.9 The full details of existing and proposed new services have not been made available at the time of writing.
- 6.10 New services must be routed to avoid all RPAs of retained trees on site and within nearby sites. From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, there is no reason to assume this isn't possible. Inspection chambers must also be sited outside the RPAs of any nearby trees.

## **Post Development Pressure**

### FUTURE TREE AND STRUCTURE RELATIONSHIPS

- 7.1 The retained trees are at a satisfactory distance from the proposed new building outline and highly unlikely to give rise to any inconvenience.
- 7.2 Regular inspections of the retained trees by a suitably qualified Arboriculturalist and subsequent remedial works will ensure that the trees are maintained in a suitable manner, to exist in harmony with the new structures and its occupants for many years to come.

## **Tree Protection Measures and Preliminary Method Statement for Development Works**

### 8.1 TREE PROTECTION BARRIERS

It is essential for the future health of the trees to be retained on site, that all development activity is undertaken outside the root protection zone of these trees. The position of the fence **MUST** be marked out with biodegradable marker paint on site and agreed with appropriate representatives from the LPA and contractor. The fencing **MUST** be erected **prior** to any works in the vicinity of the trees and removed only when all development activity is complete. The protective fencing **MUST** be as that shown in BS 5837 (see Appendix C). The herras panels **MUST** be joined together using a minimum of two anti-tamper couplers which **MUST** be installed so they can only be removed from the inside of the fence. The panels **MUST** supported by stabilizer struts, which **MUST** be installed on the inside and secured to the ground using pins or appropriate weights.

The Fence must be marked with a clear sign reading:

**“Construction Exclusion Zone – No Access”**

### 8.2 GROUND PROTECTION – LIGHTWEIGHT ACCESS ONLY

Where any additional ground protection is required, these **MUST** be covered with a permeable membrane, with 150mm layer of compressible woodchip overlaying it; an 18mm marine ply boards will then be secured on top of the woodchip to allow a 1.5tonne mini-digger to access the area without causing major compaction or soil erosion.



*Above: ground protection make-up*

### 8.3 GROUND PROTECTION (EXISTING)

The hard surfacing that exists on the drive provides adequate ground protection and **MUST** therefore be retained in situ for the entirety of the site works.

### 8.4 REMOVAL / DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING STRUCTURES

Some existing structures located within the RPAs of retained trees will need to be removed.

#### METHODOLOGY:

- If the fencing detailed in section 8.2 requires relocation, this **MUST** be moved to the edge of the structures which are to be removed, in order to protect the adjacent trees and their surrounding soil. This must be consulted with the retained arboriculturalist.
- The above ground parts of the structure **MUST** be removed by hand, using hand tools only (to include hand held pneumatic drill assuming compressor is positioned outside RPAs).
- The removed material **MUST** be moved to and stored outside of the RPA of all of the retained trees. This can either be done by transporting small pieces by hand or using a machine to lift this material; any such machine **MUST** be parked outside the RPA of on appropriate ground protection.
- The sub bases **MUST** be broken up using a small, lightweight "kango" drill into pieces that can be lifted by hand and removed.
- If during the work, any roots from the retained trees are discovered in excess of 25mm, the retained arboriculturalist **MUST** be contacted immediately to assess the roots and arrange subsequent working methods that will cause no damage to the tree(s).
- Care **MUST** be taken to avoid damage to the soil beneath these structures. If any roots are exposed, these should be covered immediately and the retained arboriculturalist **MUST** be contacted immediately to assess the roots and arrange subsequent working methods that will cause no damage to the tree(s).

### 8.5 SITE HUTS, WELFARE FACILITIES AND STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND CHEMICALS

All site huts **MUST** be positioned outside of the retained trees RPAs.

### 8.6 INCOMING SERVICES, DRAINAGE AND SOAKAWAYS

New services **MUST** be routed to avoid all RPAs of retained trees on site and within nearby sites. From an assessment of the subject site, undertaken in conjunction with the project architect, there is no reason to assume this isn't possible. Inspection chambers **MUST** be sited outside the RPA.

### 8.7 ON SITE SUPERVISION

**Regular site supervision is essential to ensure all potentially damaging activities near to trees are properly supervised.** A pre start site meeting **MUST** occur to ensure all parties are aware of their responsibilities relating to tree protection on site; this **MUST** include a site induction for key personnel.

Key personnel:

| Name         | Position                               | Contact number / email:                                                          |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Glen Harding | Retained arboriculturalist             | 07884 056 025<br>Or <a href="mailto:info@ghatrees.co.uk">info@ghatrees.co.uk</a> |
| TBC          | Local authority Arboricultural Officer | TBC                                                                              |
| TBC          | Site manager                           | TBC                                                                              |

After this pre start meeting, day-to-day responsibility for tree protection will be devolved to the site manager who will make contact with the retained arboriculturalist as needed.

#### 8.8 OTHER TREE PROTECTION PRECAUTIONS

- **NO** fires lit on site within 20 metres of any tree to be retained.
- **NO** fuels, oils or substances which will be damaging to the tree shall be spilled or poured on site.
- **NO** storage of any materials within the root protection zone.

### **Conclusion**

- 9.1 In conclusion, the principal arboricultural features within the site can be retained and adequately protected during development activities.
- 9.2 Subject to precautionary measures as detailed above, the proposal will not be injurious to trees to be retained.

### **Recommendations**

- 10.1 Site supervision – An individual e.g. the Site Agent, must be nominated to be responsible for all arboricultural matters on site. This person must:
- a. Be present on the site the majority of the time.
  - b. Be aware of the arboricultural responsibilities.
  - c. Have the authority to stop any work that is, or has the potential to cause harm to any tree.
  - d. Be responsible for ensuring that all site personnel are aware of their responsibilities towards trees on site and the consequences of the failure to observe those responsibilities.
  - e. Make immediate contact with the local authority and / or retained arboriculturalist in the event of any related tree problems occurring whether actual or potential.

10.2 It is recommended, that to ensure a commitment from all parties to the healthy retention of the trees, that details are passed by the architect or agent to any contractors working on site, so that the practical aspects of the above precautions are included in their method statements, and financial provision made for these.

6<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Signed:

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Glen Harding.

Glen Harding MICFor, MSc (Forestry), MArborA  
For and on behalf of GHA Trees

**Appendix A**  
**TREE PLAN**  
**(see separate PDF)**

## **Appendix B**

### **TREE TABLE**



| Tree Number | Tree Name (species) | Ht (m)  | Calculated Stem Diameter (mm) | Number of Stems | Root Protection Area (Radius, m) | N (m) | E (m) | S (m) | W (m) | Age Class | Clearance (m) | Estimated life expectancy | BS Category | Comments / Recommendations                                            |
|-------------|---------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| T1          | Oak                 | 23      | 850                           | 1               | 10.20                            | 7     | 4     | 6     | 2     | M         | 8             | 40+                       | A1          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection.          |
| T2          | Oak                 | 23      | 850                           | 1               | 10.20                            | 8     | 7     | 6     | 6     | M         | 8             | 40+                       | A1          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection.          |
| T3          | Scots pine          | 25      | 680                           | 1               | 8.16                             | 2     | 4     | 3     | 4     | M         | 14            | 20-40                     | B2          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection.          |
| T4          | Scots pine          | 25      | 470                           | 1               | 5.64                             | 2     | 1     | 2     |       | M         | 14            | 20-40                     | B2          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection.          |
| T5          | Scots pine          | 25      | 860                           | 1               | 10.32                            | 5     | 4     | 4     | 3.5   | M         | 9             | 20-40                     | B3          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection.          |
| T6          | Cypress             | 29      | 1220                          | 1               | 14.64                            | 5.5   | 4     | 5     | 4.5   | M         | 2             | 10-20                     | C1          | Large stem ripout in past at 1m north side.                           |
| T7          | Lawson cypress      | 27      | 920                           | 1               | 11.04                            | 2.5   | 2.5   | 2.5   | 2.5   | M         | 2             | 20-40                     | B1          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection.          |
| T8          | Silver birch        | 12      | 354                           | 2               | 4.24                             | 1     | 3     | 3     | 0     | OM        | 4             | Less than 10              | U           | 70% dead.                                                             |
| T9          | Oak                 | 21      | 460                           | 1               | 5.52                             | 3.5   | 2     | 2     | 5     | M         | 8             | 10-20                     | C1          | Major decay at ground level east side.                                |
| T10         | Oak                 | 14      | 410                           | 3               | 4.93                             | 5     | 5     | 3     | 3     | M         | 4 north       | 10-20                     | C1          | Poor form for species.                                                |
| T11         | Birch, oak, holly   | 8 to 12 | 150                           | 1               | 1.80                             | 2     | 2     | 2     | 2     | M         | 2             | 10-20                     | C2          | Scrub.                                                                |
| T12         | Oak                 | 20      | 400                           | 1               | 4.80                             | 5     | 4     | 4     | 4     | M         | 8             | 20-40                     | B1          | Off site - full inspection not possible. Some measurements estimated. |
| T13         | Oak                 | 21      | 800                           | 1               | 9.60                             | 7     | 2     | 3     | 9     | M         | 4             | 20-40                     | B1          | Slightly sparse crown.                                                |

| Tree Number | Tree Name (species)                                | Ht (m)   | Calculated Stem Diameter (mm) | Number of Stems | Root Protection Area (Radius, m) | N (m) | E (m) | S (m) | W (m) | Age Class | Clearance (m) | Estimated life expectancy | BS Category | Comments / Recommendations                                   |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| T14         | Oak                                                | 16       | 560                           | 1               | 6.72                             | 4     | 2     | 3     | 5     | M         | 4             | 20-40                     | B1          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection. |
| T15         | Oak                                                | 12       | 350                           | 1               | 4.20                             | 5     | 5     | 3     | 5     | M         | 3             | 20-40                     | B1          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection. |
| T16         | Scots pine                                         | 22       | 640                           | 1               | 7.68                             | 3     | 3     | 5     | 5     | M         | 4             | 20-40                     | B1          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection. |
| T17         | Oak                                                | 12       | 680                           | 1               | 8.16                             | 6.5   | 6.5   | 6.5   | 6.5   | M         | 4             | 40+                       | A1          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection. |
| T18         | Oak                                                | 22       | 530                           | 1               | 6.36                             | 1     | 1     | 6     | 7     | M         | 5             | 10-20                     | C1          | Cavity at ground level east side.                            |
| T19         | Scots pine                                         | 21       | 550                           | 1               | 6.60                             | 3     | 4     | 4.5   | 4     | M         | 4             | 20-40                     | B2          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection. |
| G20         | Group containing: oak, birch, aspen, pine          | 10 to 20 | 500                           | 1               | 6.00                             | 4     | 4     | 4     | 4     | M         | 4             | 20-40                     | B2          | One defective aspen noted - see plan.                        |
| G12         | Group containing pine and some small birch and oak | up to 23 | 500                           | 1               | 6.00                             | 3.5   | 3.5   | 3.5   | 3.5   | M         | 4             | 20-40                     | B2          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection. |
| T22         | Scots pine                                         | 23       | 590                           | 1               | 7.08                             | 0     | 0     | 5     | 5     | M         | 5             | 10-20                     | C1          | Poor / twisted stem union from 4 to 9m.                      |
| T23         | Scots pine                                         | 22       | 620                           | 1               | 7.44                             | 4     | 4     | 4     | 4     | M         | 9             | 20-40                     | B1          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection. |

| Tree Number | Tree Name (species)                | Ht (m)   | Calculated Stem Diameter (mm) | Number of Stems | Root Protection Area (Radius, m) | N (m) | E (m) | S (m) | W (m) | Age Class | Clearance (m) | Estimated life expectancy | BS Category | Comments / Recommendations                                           |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| T24         | Cypress                            | 20       | 500                           | 1               | 6.00                             | 4     | 4     | 4     | 4     | M         | 4             | 10-20                     | C1          | Vegetation near base of tree prevented full and detailed inspection. |
| T25         | Group containing oak, holly, birch | 16 to 24 | 400                           | 1               | 4.80                             | 5     | 5     | 5     | 5     | M         | 4             | 20-40                     | B2          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection.         |
| T26         | Group containing oak, scots pine   | 16 to 26 | 600                           | 1               | 7.20                             | 5     | 5     | 5     | 5     | M         | 6             | 20-40                     | B2          | No significant / notable defects observed during inspection.         |

**KEY :**

Tree No: (T= individual tree, G= group of trees, W= woodland)  
Age class: Young (Y), Middle aged (MA), Mature (M), Over mature (OM),  
Veteran (V)  
Height (Ht): Measured in metres +/- 1m

**Appendix C**  
**TREE FENCING DETAIL**

Figure 3 Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems



