

Summary Information

Title of proposal	Erection of a shelter at the back of the garden of a residential home
Site address	2, Avery Close, Finchampstead, Wokingham, RG40 3SQ
Location details and site plan	Included. See Section 1 See Figure 1 – Detailed view, site location and location of the TPO tree See Figure 2 – Site plan, site location in Finchampstead
Description of the existing site	Included. See Section 2 See Figure 3 – Photographs of current site, off-site oak tree, existing paths and fencing
Description of proposed development	Included. See Section 3 See Figure 4 – Approximate proposed boundary See Figure 5 – Reference image of the proposed shelter
Method Statement	Included. See Section 4 See Figure 7 – Application of cellular confinement system

1. Location details and site plan

The shelter will be erected in the back garden of the residential property (House No. 2, Avery Close Finchampstead, RG40 3SQ). The property has access through Avery Close road which is connected to the main road Nine Mile Ride (B3430). Details are shown in the Figure 1.

The intended site is positioned in the Root Protection Area (RPA) of the oak tree located in the grounds of the Nine Mile Ride Primary School. The oak tree is subject to the TPO-0091-1975. The tree diameter is approximately 700mm with an approximate RPA radius of 8.5m. The proposed site sits almost entirely within the PRA. Approximate RPA is marked in Figure 2.

2. Description of the existing site

The proposed site is towards the back of the garden of the property. The area is very shaded with some shrubs. There is fencing to the left side (when viewing the property from the front) and towards the back of the property. There are existing paved paths / divisions present which have been professionally installed with a good solid subbase and cemented in slabs. There are no exposed roots, however dead wood and branches occasionally fall to the ground below. The current site is shown in Figure 3. The area under tree is very shaded and its difficult for the vegetation or lawn to grow under the tree.

3. Description of the proposed development

The proposed development is for erection of a shelter (e.g. a roofed gazebo or a garden room) at the back on the garden. The development greatly improves the usability of the garden for the residential occupants who have a young family and a pet. Approximate location mark-up (as rectangular red boundary overlayed on current site) is shown in Figure 4. The work will involve some ground preparation and then installation of the wooden structure. It will be raised area above ground level where the base will be created for supporting the shelter. Excavation of the site will not be required except for installation of support posts / pegs to support the retaining elements. Where possible, initial layout / features will be accommodated into the plan with minimal impact to the surrounding environment. A representative example of the shelter is shown in Figure 5.

4. Method statement

The methods used for construction will ensure preservation of the oak tree especially ensuring measures to reduce the pressure on the roots, as the site is within the RPA, such as;

- The construction will be above current ground level and existing soil levels will be retained, top soil will be retained in-situ, no digging is required and roots will not be exposed.
- A cellular confinement system of approx. 100mm depth (e.g. geocell) above ground level with aggregate infill will be used to reduce vertical loading of the soil and hence the roots. A suitable surface such as tiled patio will then be installed atop the substructure as a base for the shelter and to support even distribution of the shelter loading. A suitable retaining system such as gravel boards supported by the short fencing posts or wooden sleepers will be used to laterally stabilise the filled cellular confinement system.
- No mechanical means / heavy machinery will be used during installation; work will be carried out using hand tools minimising invasive works.
- Surrounding area will be semi porous with a membrane and gravel or similar surface. This will ensure that the soil conditions are not adversely affected.
- Heavy equipment such as excavators will not be used to ensure that there is no undue pressure on the roots during construction.
- No construction material will be stored in the RPA to avoid sustained compression of soil within the RPA.
- Proposed structure comprises of a paved area that is the size of approx. 6% of the RPA considering max. base dimension of 5.5m by 3.5m. It is intended to minimise the base dimensions as much as practically possible. This allows for minimal adverse impact on the tree.
- The new paved area will not be used for any vehicular traffic – note that the site does not have vehicular access and is in the back garden of a residential property.

A representative arrangement is as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 1 : Site Plan – Detailed view, site location and Avery Close access road B3430

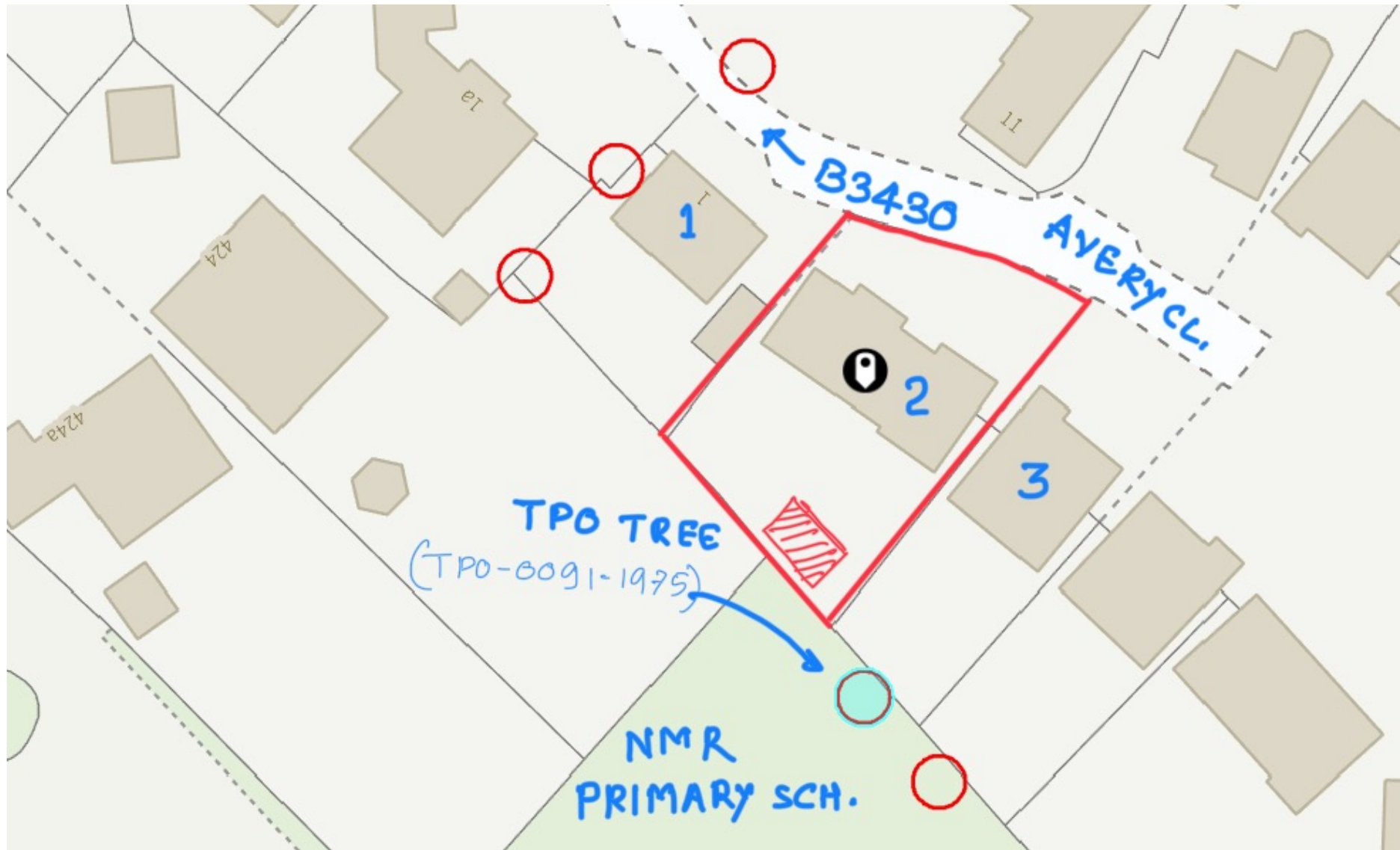


Figure 2 : Site Plan, site location in Finchampstead

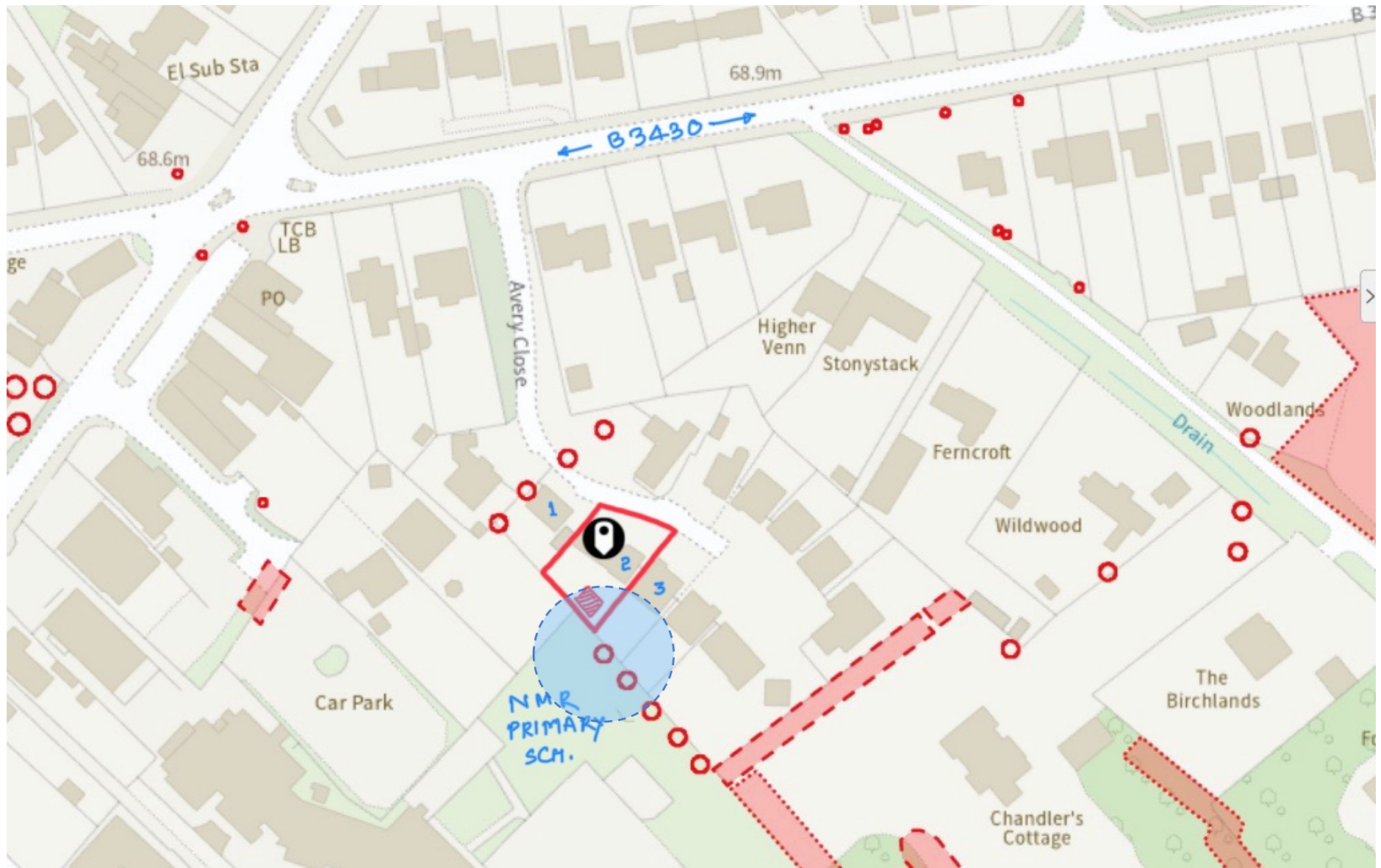


Figure 3 : Photographs of current site, off-site oak tree, existing paths and fencing



The TPO Oak Tree in the corner behind (Not within the site boundary of) the proposed site.



Existing paving and shrubs. Part of existing left fence visible



Existing paving and shrubs. Part of existing back fence visible

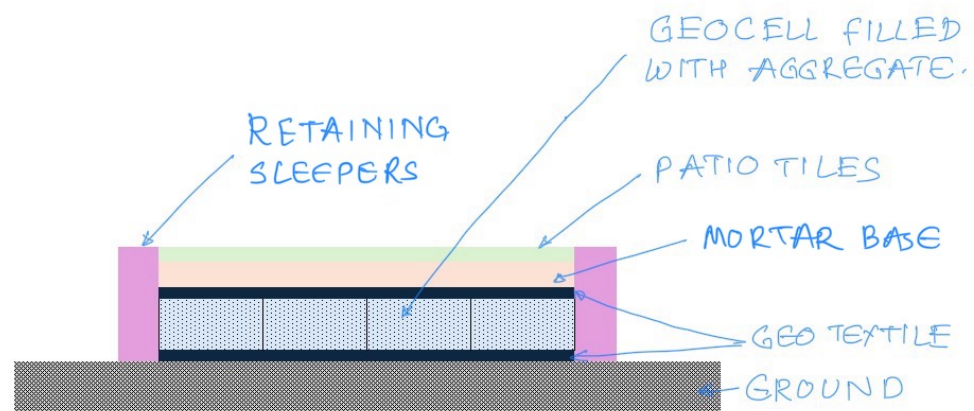
Figure 4 : Approximate proposed boundary



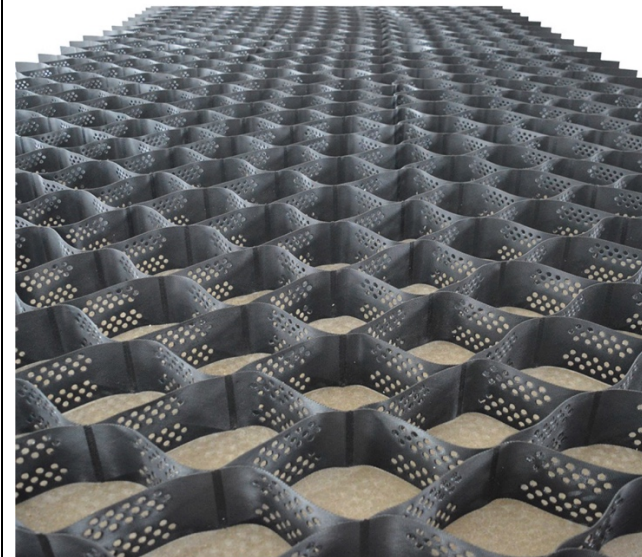
Figure 5 : Proposed Shelter – not exact, image provided for reference only



Figure 6 - Application of cellular confinement system



Representative cross-section of the cellular confinement system application above existing ground level and no digging



Representative cellular confinement system to be used (shown without infill for illustration purpose)