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Arboricultural Survey Report & Method Statement

at

2 St Alkmunds Way
Duffield

for and on behalf of

Diane White

2 September 2026

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SUMMARY

This report concerns a tree located to the side of 2 St Alkmunds Close, Duffield; it is concerned with a proposal to extend the dwelling.

The report and accompanying tree survey schedule is produced in accordance with the guiding principles of British Standard 5837:2012 '*Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations'.*

The notional Root Protection Area (RPA) of the tree surveyed is calculated and recorded in the Tree Survey Schedule where it is expressed both in linear and square metres; it is at this distance/around this area that tree protective barriers should usually be erected around any trees to be retained.

The findings of my survey are that the extension is to be sited above an existing patio, high above the base of the tree and that the foundations of the existing retaining wall will have impeded root development; I do not anticipate the proposal will result in any direct negative impact. Tree protection barriers are not required in this instance. To accommodate the extension minor pruning will be required.

It is vitally important that this report is read and understood by the project team (architects, engineers etc) and that its advice is observed where trees are proposed to be retained.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 ***Author's Qualifications and Experience*****:** I am a Chartered Environmentalist, a Fellow and Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association; I am also a past national chairman of the Arboricultural Association. I have many years' experience of arboriculture and amenity tree management and have written papers published in respected journals such as the International Journal of Urban Forestry and was a member of drafting group responsible for the writing of the National Tree Safety Groups publication '*Common sense management of trees*'. I am trained in the use of the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) methodology and am a Bond Solon/Cardiff University certificated Expert Witness.

This report is based on my site observations and the information provided.

For your assurance I carry £5,000,000.00 Professional Indemnity insurance.

This report is based on my site observations and any information provided.

1.2 ***Instructions and Brief***: Diane White (my client) sought advice regarding the condition of a tree which might be implicated in a proposal to extend a dwelling at 2 St Alkmunds Close, Duffield; (the site). Guidance was sought as to what arboricultural constraints might be associated with the proposal and how any such might be overcome/minimised. A Tree Survey Schedule compliant with the guiding principles of British Standard 5837:2012 '*Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations'* is contained in this report, and all survey data is recorded in this Schedule.

1.3 ***Documents & Information Provided***: A plan illustrating the proposed layout was provided; it has been annotated and supplements the accompanying Tree Survey Schedule.

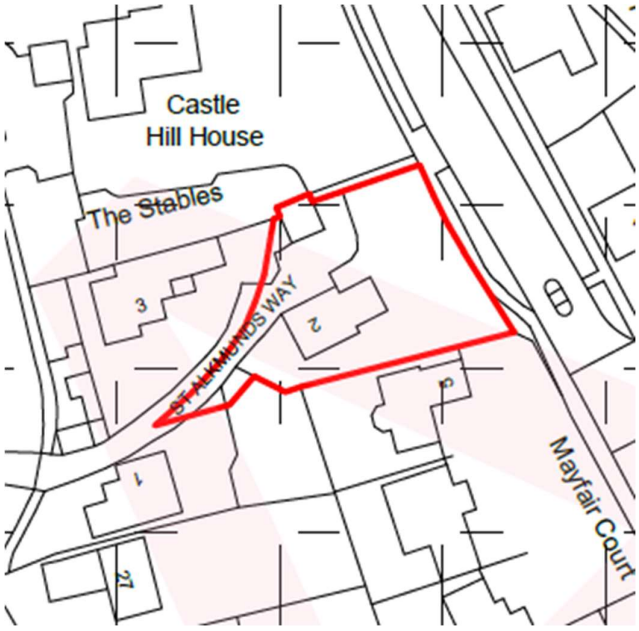


Fig 1 Location Plan

1.4 Scope:

1.4.1 This report has been prepared for the sole use of the client. Any third party referring to this report or relying on the information contained herein does so entirely at his or her own risk.

1.4.2 Whilst every effort has been made to detect defects within the subject tree, no guarantee can be given as to the absolute safety or otherwise of any individual tree. This report represents a survey and should not be construed to be a detailed tree inspection report. Any recommendations given are intended to reduce the likelihood of tree collapse and are intended to reduce the likelihood of tree collapse but absolute safety is not a realistic goal; even apparently sound trees can fail particularly during inclement weather eg Gale force winds of 8 (39 - 46 mph) may result in the shedding of small twigs and branches whereas Gale force 10 winds (55 – 63 mph) may result in trees being uprooted. All recommendations are given in the context of the site's current usage; any change will dictate a further survey.

1.4.3 The findings and recommendations contained within this report are, assuming its recommendations are observed, valid for a period of twelve months from the date of survey. Trees are living organisms subject to change – best practice dictates they are inspected on a regular basis for reasons of safety.

1.4.4 My expertise is ARBORICULTURE, any non-arboricultural references made within this report are made as a lay person.

2 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

2.1 ***Site Visit*****:** I undertook a site visit on 2 September 2026. The tree was surveyed visually from the ground. No drilling or excavation was carried out on this occasion. The weather at the time of the visit was dry and still, visibility was adequate for the purposes of the visit.

2.2 ***Tree Survey Methodology:*** The survey was undertaken in accordance with the guiding principles of British Standard 5837:2012 '*Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations'* (BS5837) and the trees were assessed objectively and without reference or influence being given to any proposed site layout. Using 'Visual Tree Assessment' (VTA) techniques the trees were surveyed from the ground. VTA is a methodology, employed by arboriculturists, to evaluate the structural integrity of a tree, relying on observation of a tree's biomechanical and physiological features; this is the method generally adopted and is appropriate in this instance. Any shrubs and insignificant trees were omitted from the survey.

Further explanatory details regarding the survey methodology can be found at Appendix 1.

3 TREE RETENTION – GENERAL

3.1 ***Below Ground Constraints:*** to achieve any development various construction activities are required and great care and consideration needs to be given as to how such activity can proceed whilst avoiding damage to retained trees.

3.1.2 Generally, and contrary to common belief, in the UK, the majority of a tree's roots can be found in the upper 600mm of a soil (See Figures 2 & 3). To avoid damage to these roots, trees should usually be protected using protective barriers as are detailed in BS5837 and as illustrated in Figure 4.

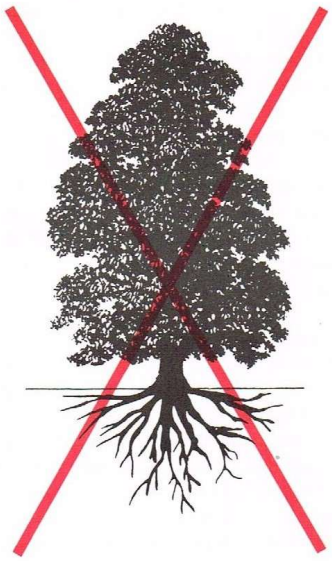


Figure 1. This is the commonly held idea of what a tree's root system is like. In fact it is quite wrong.

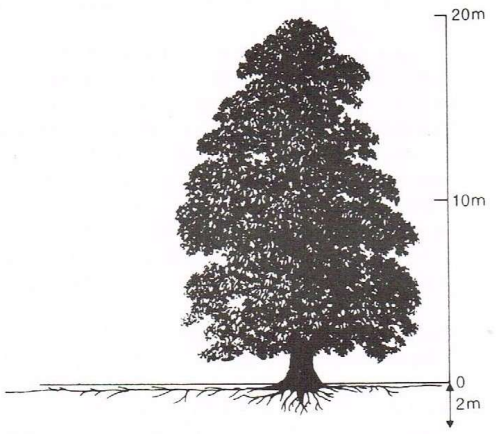


Figure 2. A tree's root system is typically fairly shallow (frequently no deeper than 2 m), but is widespreading, with the majority of roots found in the upper 60cm of soil.

Figures 2 & 3 AAIS (1995) '*Tree Root Systems*'.

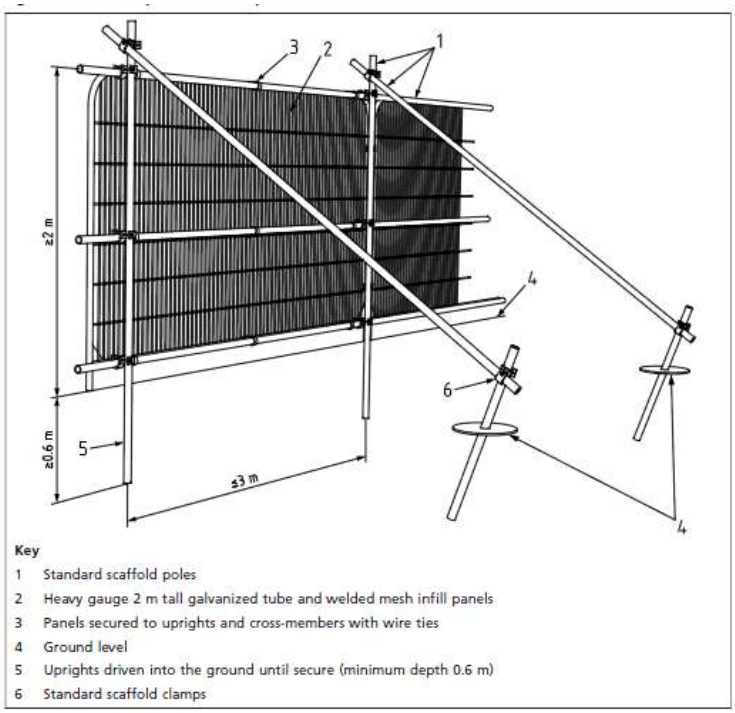


Figure 4 - Tree Protection Barrier
British Standard 5837, (2012), '*Trees in Relation to Construction: Recommendations'*, *Page 20.*

4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 ***Trees Subject to Statutory Controls:*** No attempt has been made to establish the existence of any statutory controls; the following is given as guidance.

4.1.1 Trees and hedgerows can be subject to statutory control, and severe penalties can result from unauthorised works or damage. It is recommended that prior to commencement of any tree works the Local Planning Authority (LPA) are contacted. When proposing to do works to trees within a Conservation Area, with some exceptions, eg the implementation of works directly necessary to implement a full planning permission, six weeks written notice must be given to the LPA, this notice need not take any form other than a written specification of what is proposed and a plan illustrating the position of the tree(s). This notice is often referred to as a Section 211 Notice. Many LPAs prefer that their standard

pro-forma is submitted to ensure the necessary detail is included in the notice; whilst such cannot be strictly required it can assist in a speedy outcome.

4.1.2 Having received the notice; the LPA has essentially only one of two options at its disposal ie:

- **Impose a TPO** in respect of those trees/some of those trees subject to the notice. This prevents any works being carried out without the express, written consent of the LPA,

Or

- **Do nothing** It is considered best practice for an LPA to acknowledge receipt of the notice but there is no obligation for it to do so. After six weeks of serving the notice the tree owner may proceed with the works detailed in the Section 211 Notice.

4.1.3 The LPA cannot, in response to a Section 211 Notice, issue a conditional consent.

4.1.4 TPO's are made in the interests of preserving amenity, usually taken to mean public visual amenity. Trees largely removed from public view, and which have little visual impact are not usually made the subject of a TPO. The written consent of the LPA must be obtained prior to undertaking works to trees subject to TPO unless, as with trees in Conservation Areas, certain exemptions apply.

4.1.5 Regarding trees subject to TPO's it is a requirement that a standardized application form is used; this form is available from the LPA.

4.2 ***Trees and Wildlife*****:** Trees play host to nesting birds all of which are protected by law. All British bat species are also protected and can be found in trees. Great care needs to be taken to avoid disturbance, and consideration should be given to the timing of tree works to avoid disturbance. Where the presence of protected species is suspected, Natural England should be contacted for advice.

4.3 ***Implementation of Tree Works*****:** Guidance on hiring an Arborist is available from the Arboricultural Association's Register of Contractors, which is available free from Ullenwood Court, Ullenwood, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 9QS (Telephone 01242 522152, www.trees.org.uk). Any appointed contractor should carry out all tree works to BS 3998 (2010) '*Recommendations for Tree Work*.'

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 This report provides guidance for the design team and sets out the constraints relating to the trees on site. Tree survey and RPA detail can be found in the Tree Survey Schedule.

5.2 The findings of my survey are that the extension is to be sited above an existing patio, high above the base of the tree and that the foundations of the existing retaining wall will have impeded root development; I do not anticipate the proposal will result in any direct negative impact. Tree protection barriers are not required in this instance. To accommodate the extension minor pruning will be required.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service (1995), Research Note 130/95/ARB, '*Tree Root Systems*'.
- British Standard 5837:2012 '*Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations'.* BSI.
- British Standard 3998:2010 '*Recommendations for Tree Work'*. BSI.
- Mattheck, C., (2007), '*Updated Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment'.*

7 Tree Survey Schedule (Explanatory Notes Found at Appendix 1)

Tree No	Species	Ht (m)	Stem Dia (mm)	Branch Spread (m)				Crown Ht. (m)	Age Class	Cond	Comments/ Preliminary Recs.	Life Exp (yrs)	Ret Cat	RPA* (Lin M)	RPA** (M^2)
				N	E	S	W								
1	Sycamore	19 (25)	710	8	8	8	8	6	Mid	A	No work required at this moment in time.	>40	B	8.5	228

* RPA =The minimum distance, measured from the tree's trunk, at which tree protective barriers should usually be erected.
** RPA =The minimum area in M^2 around which tree protective barriers should usually be erected.

Tree Survey Plan (Indicative)



Key to Retention Category's

Green Text – Ret Cat A
Blue Text – Ret Cat B
Grey Text – Ret Cat C
Red Text – Ret Cat U

8 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Tree Survey Methodology

The survey was undertaken in accordance with the guiding principles of BS5837. Information recorded in the survey includes:

Species – the species identification is based on visual observations and the common English name of what the tree appeared to be is listed.

Tree Heights – are estimated in metres. Estimated mature heights are given in brackets.

Crown Height – the height to the lowest branch is estimated in metres.

Trunk Diameters – measured at 1.5 metres above ground and recorded in millimetres to the nearest 10mm.

Crown Radius – was recorded in metres along each of the cardinal points.

Crown Height – height from ground level to lowest principal limb.

Age Class – recorded as follows:

Yng	-	Young tree; <1/3 of normal life expectancy
Mid	-	Middle aged tree; between 1/3 & 2/3 normal life expectancy
Mat	-	Mature tree; has attained optimum stature
OM	-	Over Mature tree; declining
Vet	-	Veteran tree; tree of great age which is of exceptional value culturally, in the landscape or for nature conservation.

The ***Condition*** of the trees is based upon a preliminary assessment categorised thus:

A - Good

B - Fair

C - Poor

D - Very Poor/Dead

Preliminary Recommendations – works required regardless of development proposals.

Life Expectancy – estimated; ie less than 10 years, 10-20 years, 20-40 years, more than 40 years.

A ***Retention Category*** is given as follows which corresponds with Table 1 of BS 5837' ie:

- **A** - Trees of a high quality and value, including public visual amenity value. It is usual for such trees to be retained unless the planning merits of a particular scheme or layout over-ride.

- **B** - Trees of moderate quality and value, including public visual amenity value. Such trees should be considered for retention.

- **C** - Trees with a stem diameter of less than 150mm or which are of low quality/value, including public visual amenity value and/or have and life expectancy of less than 10 years value. ***The retention of Category C trees should not be allowed to impose a constraint on development.*** Trees with a stem diameter of less than 150mm are classified as Retention Category C, they should be considered for transplanting.

- **U** - Trees in such a condition that they are unsuitable for retention. Where category U trees have identifiable conservation, heritage or landscape value, even though only for the short term (less than 10 years), they may be retained where they are (or can be) sited such that concerns over safety are at (or can be reduced to) acceptable levels.

It must be noted that Retention Categories are awarded purely on arboricultural/amenity grounds and that in some instances the planning merits of a particular scheme may well over-ride the retention of even those trees qualifying for Retention Category 'A'.

Root Protection Area (RPA) – In respect of all trees surveyed the notional RPA has been calculated and is given in the Tree Survey Schedule. The figures given represent both the radial distance, from the tree's trunk, at which the barriers should usually be erected and the

entire area which should be encompassed by the barriers. It must be **emphasized** that the RPA is notional and site conditions greatly influence tree root distribution.

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