Tree Report/Arboricultural Survey

17a Church Road, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. PE28 4AL



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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

L Bevens Associates Architects carried out a tree survey in accordance with 'BS5837: 2012 – Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction: Recommendations' at 17A Church Road, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. PE28 4AL, hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.2. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the report is to:

- Assess the quality of the trees on and immediately adjacent to the site, in accordance with BS5837: 2012[1].
- Identify trees suitable for retention and for removal due to the proposed development.
- Prescribe tree protection measures to ensure that retained trees survive the proposed development and thrive after its completion.
- Prescribe arboricultural recommendations for the long-term management of trees on the site.
- If necessary, to assess the site for its suitability for mitigation planting, and to specify planting requirements.

1.3. Site Details

The site consists of a residential semi-detached property and good-sized front and rear gardens with mixed vegetation and gated driveway. The site is accessed from the north – Church Road and is bordered by residential properties to the east, west and south with further properties to the north.

1.4. Development Proposals

The development proposals are to refurbish and alter the existing bungalow and erect a new garage out-building in the front garden. New areas of hardstanding will be created as part of the proposal.

1.5. Legal Protection of Trees

A search on the website of Huntingdonshire District Council (2026) did not identify any trees afforded protection by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on the site and confirmed that the site is not within a Conservation Area.

2. Survey Methods

2.1. Survey Details

The site survey was carried out by Lee Bevens in suitable weather conditions on 5th October 2026.

2.2. Survey Methods

The tree was inspected from ground level, using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method. Any notable defects of trees were recorded, although the site survey did not constitute a full tree risk assessment.

Tree height, crown clearances and crown spreads of trees were measured to the nearest 1 m. The diameter at breast height (DBH) of trees was measured to the nearest 1 cm and was used to calculate the root protection areas (RPA) of trees using methods prescribed in BS5837: 2012. When appropriate, dimensions of trees were estimated.

2.3. Tree Categorisation

In accordance with BS5837: 2012, trees were classified as either A, B, C or U, using the criteria shown in Table 2.1. Trees were subcategorised with the suffix 1, 2 and/or 3, to denote amenity, landscape or cultural qualities. As specified in BS5837: 2012, the additional subcategorisation does not affect the retention value of a tree (e.g., a Category A2 tree is not necessarily of greater or less value than a Category A1 tree).

Table 2.1 BS5837 Cascade Chart (Adapted from British Standards, 2012)

Category	Definition	Retention
Category A	Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years; trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual.	Highly desirable
Category B	Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years; trees lacking the special quality to merit category A designation.	Desirable
Category C	Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining contribution of at least 10 years, or trees with a stem diameter below 15 cm; unremarkable trees of very limited merit or of such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories.	Feasible, but should be removed if posing a constraint to development

Category U	Trees that have serious, irremediable, structural and/or physiological defects, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees.	Unfeasible

3. Results and Assessment

3.1. Tree Population Assessment

The site survey identified a single tree on the neighbouring property site.

There were no Category A trees of high quality or Category U trees unsuitable for retention on the site.

Table 3.1 shows a summary of the categorisation of trees on the site. Tree data can be viewed in *Appendix 1: Tree Survey Schedule*. Locations of trees can be viewed in *Appendix 2: Tree Constraints Plan***.** Table 3.1 Summary of Tree Categories

Category	Description	Tree/group numbers	Totals
A	Trees of high quality which should where be possible be retained throughout any proposed development	-	-
B	Trees of moderate quality which should where be possible be retained throughout any proposed development	T1	1 Tree
C	Trees of low quality which should not be considered a constraint to development	-	-
U	Trees which should be removed for sound management reasons, regardless of proposals	-	-
		Total:	**1 Tree**

Tree species included Oak (*Quercus robur*).

The development proposals will not require the removal of T1.

T1 is a Category B tree, and is not directly impacted by the development proposals

3.2. Protection of Retained Trees

Retention of the existing tree on the site is considered feasible provided that works follow an Arboricultural Method Statement, which is detailed in Section 4. This includes recommendations regarding the installation of signage and the adoption of precautionary working practices during development works.

4. Arboricultural Method Statement

4.1. Timing of Works

The phasing of works must be carried out in accordance with Table 4.1, below:

Table 4.1 Timing of Works

Stage	Works
1	Site induction
2	Erect laminated signage
3	Carry out construction works
4	Complete works and remove signage

4.2. Site Induction

Prior to works commencing, all contractors will attend a site induction. Contractors must be briefed on arboricultural concerns arising from the development proposals, including tree root protection areas (RPAs). This method statement must be made available to all contractors working on the site.

4.3. Tree Works

Any tree work should be carried out by a suitably qualified and fully insured arboricultural contractor who is able to comply with British Standards (2010)[1]. This is not expected to be required for this project.

At the time of writing trees adjacent to the site are not afforded protection by TPOs and are not within a Conservation Area. This may be subject to change, therefore legal designations afforded trees must be verified with the local authority prior to works commencing. Killing or damaging a protected tree is a criminal offence, subject to an unlimited fine.

[1] British Standards (2010). *BS3998: 2010 – Tree Works: Recommendations.* British Standards Institute, London

4.4. Tree Protection

Prior to machinery entering the site, it will be necessary to ensure that the existing Oak tree is adequately protected. Given that the proposed works do not impact the Oak tree and the RPA is outside any built form and within existing access points it is proposed to ensure all contractors are aware of the root protection zone.

To ensure that RPAs is adequately protected, the tree protection fencing would normally be sited by measurement from the existing trees. For example, T1 has an RPA of 91.6 m^2, resulting in a circle with a radius of 2.7 m; therefore, the tree protection fencing must be situated a minimum of 2.7 m from the stem of this tree.

This is not practical given that both the driveway serving this property and the neighbouring property where the tree is located both run through the root protection zone

Laminated waterproof A3 signs will be fixed at the site entrance noting the root protection area. The sign should clearly read: 'Protected Tree Zone, no storage or operations within the entrance area.'

4.5. General Precautionary Measures

Prior to the commencement of development works, a site storage area must be designated. This must be outside the RPAs of trees.

No materials hazardous to tree health, such as oil, bitumen or cement should be stored within the RPAs of the Oak tree.

No fires may be lit within the site.

Where there is a risk of polluted water runoff into RPAs, heavy duty plastic sheeting and sandbags must be used to contain any spillages and prevent contamination.

If any breach in the tree protection measures occurs, it is the site manager's responsibility to report this to L Bevens Associates Architects Ltd so that appropriate measures may be taken.

Appendix 1: Tree Survey Schedule

Key			
Species	Common name and scientific name	**Age**	Y – Young sapling/newly planted tree
Height	To nearest 1 m		SM – Semi-mature; tree 1/3 of mature size
CC	Height of crown clearance, to nearest 1 m		EM – Early mature; tree 2/3 of mature size
Stems	Number of stems bifurcating below 1.5 m		M – Mature; tree 3/3 of mature size
DBH	Diameter at breast height (1.5 m), in cm		V – Veteran tree
Crown spread	To nearest 1 m	**SULE**	Safe useful life expectancy, in years
Category	See BS5837 cascade chart (Table 2.1)	**RPA**	Root Protection Areas, in m^2
SULE	Safe useful life expectancy, in years	**RPR**	Root Protection Radius (as a circle, measured from stem) in m Note average values given for groups of trees

Individual Trees

Tree No.	Species	Height	CC	Stems	DBH	Crown Spread				Age	Comments	SULE	RPA	RPR	Category
						N	E	S	W						
T1	Oak	12	2	1	45	6.5	5.5	6.2	5	M	No visible defects seen.	20-30	91.6	2.7	B


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