

Arboricultural Report



For Old Tennis Courts – Ashwell, Hertfordshire

Prepared by Cristian Pinta,

MArborA, Bsc Forestry



on 3 January 2026



Trees, Woodlands and Landscape Specialist

Contact: info@avlandscape.co.uk

1. Introduction

I have been instructed to carry out an Arboricultural Report in respect of the proposed development at the Old Tennis Courts on Rollys Lane in Aswell, Hertfordshire, in light of the potential impact onto the trees and hedges located within its vicinity.

I am an Arboricultural consultant with over two decades of experience in the fields of Arboriculture and Forestry, a degree in Silviculture (Forestry) and a Professional Tree Inspection Certificate. I have been a professional member of the Arboricultural Association since 2008 and, have continuously been employed in Arboriculture since 2007.

During this time, I have had the opportunity to inspect, assess, survey, study and apply/decide necessary management, to tens of thousands of individual trees and hundreds of hectares of woodland.

I have also been involved in the development of Arboricultural Policies and Strategies, and had the opportunity to be part of the decision making process in numerous planning projects, ranging from large scale to small, residential applications.

As part of my continuous professional development, I regularly attend conferences, seminars and symposiums to enhance my knowledge and keep up to date with the latest developments and best practice in the industry.

This report includes:

1. Tree survey
2. Arboriculture Impact Assessment
3. Arboriculture Method Statement
4. Tree Protection Plan

This Arboricultural Report has been compiled in accordance to British Standards BS 5837 following the review of the existing plans and documents, the Visual Trees Assessment and the completion of relevant site measurements and studies.



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2. Summary

An Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been prepared in accordance with **BS5837:2012 – Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction**, to assess the effects of the proposed development on trees within and adjacent to the site, including their associated Root Protection Areas (RPAs), as identified on the submitted arboricultural drawings (Tree Protection Plan below).

The proposed layout has been informed by arboricultural constraints and demonstrates that retained trees can be successfully incorporated within the development. Where some incursions into RPAs are identified, these are limited in extent and are not considered to result in unacceptable harm to the health, stability or long-term retention of the trees.

The access to the site will be mostly overlapping the **existing hard-surfaced entrance serving the tennis courts**, thereby reducing the need for any new excavation or disturbance within previously undisturbed rooting areas. Where construction is required in proximity to retained trees, **specialist, root-friendly construction techniques** will be employed in accordance with BS5837 guidance. On this basis, the impact of the access arrangements and associated works on nearby trees is considered **low**.

Subject to the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, including tree protection fencing and ground protection, restrictions on storage and excavation within RPAs, and arboricultural supervision where necessary, the overall impact of the development on retained trees is assessed as **minimal**.

Provided that the submitted Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan are fully implemented and adhered to for the duration of the works, the proposed development is considered **acceptable from an arboricultural perspective**, and the retained trees will continue to contribute positively to the character and amenity of the site.



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3. Tree Survey

In order to enable easy identification of each tree included into this survey, they were all given an ID number which corresponds to their location on the Tree Protection Plan enclosed within this report.

Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
H001	Mixed species (Mixed species) Plum (<i>Prunus domestica</i>) English yew (<i>Taxus baccata</i>)	Hedge	Height (m): 8 Stem Diam(mm): 150 Spread (m): 1N, 3E, 1S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 2 Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Overgrown, overhanging into the site and affected by Russian Vine	B3	Radius: 1.8m. Area: 97 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Poor Public Amenity Value: Low Inspection Limitations: Access	Remove Russian Vine
T001	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 20 Stem Diam(mm): 280 Spread (m): 5N, 2E, 4S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Ivy clad trunk	B2	Radius: 3.4m. Area: 36 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Good Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy



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Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
T002	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Tree 3 stems	Height (m): 19 3 stems, avg.(mm): 230 Spread (m): 5N, 2E, 4S, 4W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Ivy clad trunk	B2	Radius: 3.9m. Area: 48 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Good Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy
T003	Common walnut (<i>Juglans regia</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 8 Stem Diam(mm): 180 Spread (m): 3N, 2E, 3S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Rem. Contrib.: 10+ years	Heavily clad with Ivy. Suppressed	C2,3	Radius: 2.2m. Area: 15 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy
T004	Goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>)	Tree 3 stems	Height (m): 8 3 stems, avg.(mm): 180 Spread (m): 2N, 4E, 4S, 4W Crown Clearance (m): 2 Rem. Contrib.: 10+ years	Self set on the fenceline. Included bark. Suppressed	C2	Radius: 3.7m. Area: 43 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Good Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations:	



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Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
T005	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 19 Stem Diam(mm): 410 Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 6 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Heavily clad with Ivy.	B2	Radius: 4.9m. Area: 75 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Good Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Vines	
T006	Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 19 Stem Diam(mm): 510 Spread (m): 4N, 4E, 4S, 4W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Ivy clad. Early leaf drop (4 sept)	B2,3	Radius: 6.1m. Area: 117 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy
T007	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 18 Stem Diam(mm): 270 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 7 Rem. Contrib.: 10+ years	Ivy clad. Ash dieback	C2	Radius: 3.2m. Area: 32 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Good Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy



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Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
T008	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 19 Stem Diam(mm): 280 Spread (m): 4N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Ivy clad.	B2	Radius: 3.4m. Area: 36 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Good Structural Condition: Good Public Amenity Value: Good Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy
T009	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 21 Stem Diam(mm): 280 Spread (m): 4N, 3E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 7 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Ivy clad. Dead wood	B1,2	Radius: 3.4m. Area: 36 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Good Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Good Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy. Clear dead wood
T010	Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 14 Stem Diam(mm): 250 Spread (m): 1N, 1E, 3S, 1W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Rem. Contrib.: 10+ years	Ivy clad. Suppressed	C2,3	Radius: 3.0m. Area: 28 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Low Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy



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Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
T011	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 19 Stem Diam(mm): 200 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 8 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Ivy clad.	B2	Radius: 2.4m. Area: 18 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy
T012	Norway maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 19 Stem Diam(mm): 470 Spread (m): 5N, 2E, 5S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Ivy clad. Dead wood	B1,2	Radius: 5.6m. Area: 99 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Good Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Good Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy. Clear dead wood
T013	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 19 Stem Diam(mm): 220 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 8 Rem. Contrib.: 10+ years	Ivy clad. Ash dieback. Suppressed	C2	Radius: 2.6m. Area: 21 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy



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Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
T014	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 20 Stem Diam(mm): 260 Spread (m): 4N, 2E, 2S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 8 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Ivy clad. Leaning over the road	B2	Radius: 3.1m. Area: 30 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Good Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy
T015	Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 14 Stem Diam(mm): 240 Spread (m): 4N, 2E, 3S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Ivy clad. Leaf miner. Suppressed	C2	Radius: 2.9m. Area: 26 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy
T016	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 19 Stem Diam(mm): 270 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 3S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 8 Rem. Contrib.: 10+ years	Ivy clad. Severe dieback. Suppressed	C2	Radius: 3.2m. Area: 32 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Poor Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy. Consider removal



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Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
T017	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 19 Stem Diam(mm): 270 Spread (m): 2N, 2E, 4S, 2W Crown Clearance (m): 7 Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Ivy clad. Suppressed	B2	Radius: 3.2m. Area: 32 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Vines	Sever Ivy and clear upper crown vines
T018	Purple maple (<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Atropurpureum')	Tree	Height (m): 15 Stem Diam(mm): 500 Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Rem. Contrib.: 30+ Years	Located in neighbouring garden. Suppressed by Goats Willow	B1,2	Radius: 6.0m. Area: 113 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Good Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Access	
T019	Goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>)	Tree 2 stems	Height (m): 19 2 stems, avg.(mm): 170 Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Self set on fence line in the neighbouring garden	C2	Radius: 2.9m. Area: 26 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Good Structural Condition: Poor Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Access	Consider removal



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Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Measurements2	Recommendations
T020	Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 16 Stem Diam(mm): 400 Spread (m): 3N, 2E, 4S, 5W Crown Clearance (m): 3 Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Located in neighbouring garden	B2	Radius: 4.8m. Area: 72 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Access	
T021	Small-leaved lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 17 Stem Diam(mm): 350 Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 5 Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Located in neighbouring garden. Suppressed by Russian Vine	B1,2	Radius: 4.2m. Area: 55 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Good Structural Condition: Good Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Access	Remove Russian Vine
T022	Wild cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 17 Stem Diam(mm): 350 Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 5 Life Stage: Semi Mature Rem. Contrib.: 20+ Years	Located in neighbouring garden. Suppressed by Russian Vine	B1,2	Radius: 4.2m. Area: 55 sq m.	Physiological Condition: Good Structural Condition: Good Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: Access	Remove Russian Vine

4. Tree Protection Plan



Legend

- Category A tree - ●
- Category B tree - ●
- Category C tree - ●
- Category U tree- ●



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5. Arboricultural Impact Assessment

In order to assess the impact of the proposed development onto the existing trees T001 to T022 and H001, located within the vicinity of this site, I carried out measurements with the help of a tape measure (on the ground) and a clinometer (for the aerial parts of the trees).

British Standards 5837:2012 recommends that the root protection area (RPA) for a single stem tree is calculated as an area equivalent to a circle with a radius of 12 times the stem diameter.

The proposed development poses two main concerns from a tree perspective; firstly the impact on roots due to any foundation *excavations and building activities* and secondly, the actual impact of the existing trees onto the proposed development.

In order to assess the impact of the proposed development onto the existing trees and their RPAs, I will discuss three concerns:

1. Impact from foundations excavations
 2. Impact from the installation of an access road
 3. Impact within the RPAs during the construction process
-
1. At a quick glance onto the Tree Protection Plan above, it is possible to establish that all RPA of trees surrounding this development will be **free from any disturbance** by the excavations for **foundations** of proposed dwellings.
 2. Another concern for intrusions within RPAs relates to the **access road** into the proposed development. In order to minimise the impact to the trees either side of the entrance, the new access road will mostly **overlap the existing hard surface**. This way, the majority of the excavations for the installation of the new surface will guarantee the absence of tree roots.

In order to protect further, any tree roots encountered during the excavations for the new access, the applicant is proposing:

- Arboricultural **supervision** on site,
- The use of the **air spade** and,
- **CellWeb**, “root friendly” road infrastructure.

The use of the **Air Spade** will enable the contractor to identify the locations with the most substantial roots and choose the “path of minimal resistance”, or, the option with the least root interference. This will be judged by both the size and the number of the

roots encountered in the potential fence post pit. Please see below in *figure A*, an image of the air spade system proposed to be used



Figure A – Air Spade application

The **CellWeb TRP Cellular Confinement System** (*Fig B below*) is an advanced solution for protecting tree roots in areas with vehicular and pedestrian traffic. It ensures tree safety and longevity while supporting sustainable landscaping practices.

- **Protects** tree roots from damage and compaction.
- **Promotes** healthy soil structure and water infiltration.
- **Suitable** for use in car parks, driveways, and footpaths.
- **Durable** construction with high load-bearing capacity.
- **Easy** to install with interlocking panels and geotextile layers.



Figure B – CellWeb TRP Cellular Confinement System

3. The Tree Protection Plan above shows that a small area (less than 5%) of the RPAs of T018 and T019 have a potential intrusion from general building activities, such as

foot/vehicle traffic or installation of scaffolding. In order to address this concern, however small, the applicant will be using **heavy duty ground protection mats**. Please see *Figure C* below:



Figure C – Ground protection mats

In terms of the impact of the retained trees onto the proposed development, this has also been assessed to be **minimal**. Almost all of the trees neighbouring this site, T001 to T020, are located onto the northern boundary, and rooted at over 15 metres distance from the proposed dwellings, therefore unlikely to affect the amount of natural light received by the new dwellings.

The only two trees likely to have an impact are Lime T021 and Cherry T022, located to the south west of the rear garden of the western property. Due to their location relative to the property, it is likely that these trees will obstruct some natural light during the later part of the day. However, this slight inconvenience could potentially be mitigated through pruning, if desired at the time. Furthermore, with Britain experiencing an increasing amount of heatwaves in recent summers, in line with the effects of climate change, some shade in the afternoons would be most likely welcomed by the new residents. This aspect could therefore be regarded as a positive effect onto the new development.

6. Arboriculture Method Statement

In order to minimise any adverse effect on trees during this project, the following measures will be applied:

1. All trees T001 to T022 and H001 to be adequately protected during construction and other operations in accordance with BS 5837 : 2012 “Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction.”
2. Protective fencing as per *Tree Protection Plan* shall be erected prior to any operations on site.
3. The fencing shall not be removed or breached during operations without prior consultation with an Arboricultural specialist and the approval of the Local Authority.
4. Herras Fencing will be securely installed with the help of non invasive supports, and with RPA warning signs attached. This fencing shall be erected in accordance with the drawings in *Tree Protection Plan and Figure A* below.
5. No materials will be stored within the fenced-off area nor within the RPAs of either of trees on this site or its vicinity.
6. Notices should be erected on the fencing with such words as “Protected Area – no operations or materials within the fenced area.”
7. Additional precautions outside the fenced areas should be taken to avoid damage to trees by materials such as cement, oils, bitumen or anything else likely to cause damage to tree roots.



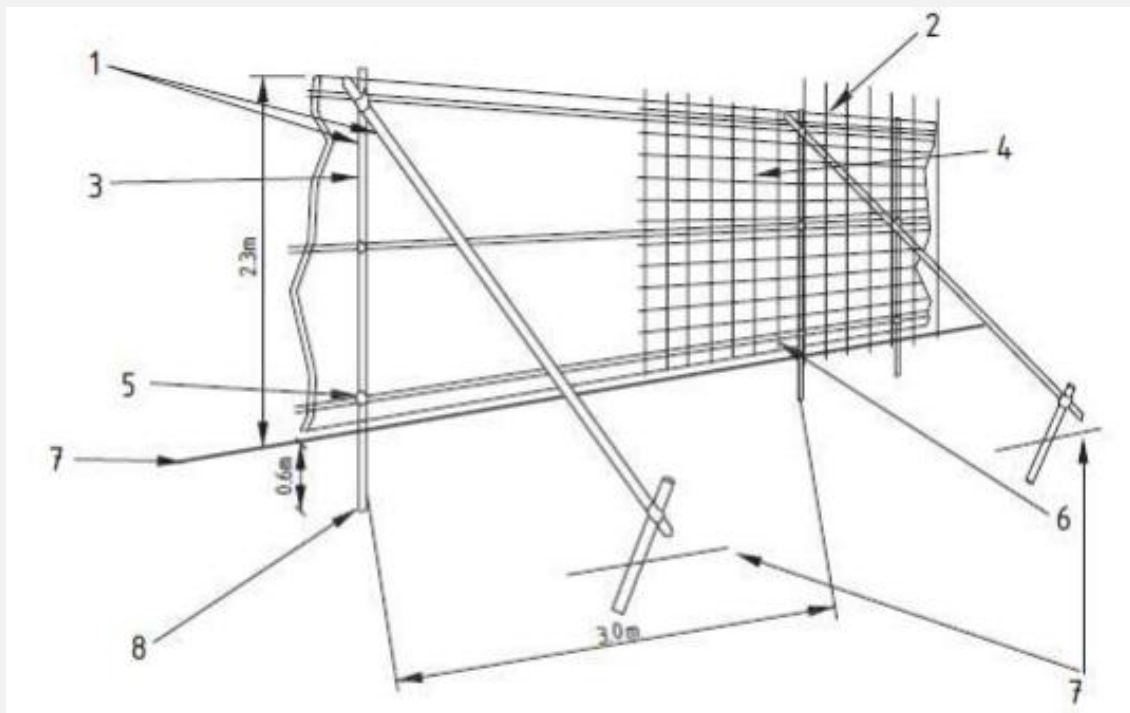


Figure D. Protective fencing. 1. Standard scaffold poles - 2. Uprights to be driven into the ground - 3. Panels secured to the uprights by wire ties or scaffold clamps - 4. Weldmesh wired to the uprights and the horizontals - 5. Standard Clamps - 6. Wire twisted and secured on the inside face of fencing to avoid easy dismantling - 7. Ground level - 8. Approx 0.6 m driven into the ground.



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7. Conclusion

The proposed development has been shown above, to be possible, with minimal impact onto existing/remaining trees T001 to T022 and H001, as long as the recommendations with this report are followed.

The proposed layout has been informed by arboricultural constraints and demonstrates that the majority of the retained trees can be **successfully incorporated within the development**. Where minor incursions into RPAs are identified, these are limited in extent and are not considered to result in unacceptable harm to the health, stability or long-term retention of the trees.

Access to the site will mostly utilise the existing hard-surfaced entrance to the old tennis courts, thereby avoiding disturbance to previously undisturbed ground and minimising potential impacts on nearby trees. Where works are required in proximity to retained trees, appropriate root-friendly construction techniques and tree protection measures will be employed in accordance with BS5837:2012.

Subject to the implementation of the recommended Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan, the proposals are considered acceptable in arboricultural terms and the retained trees will continue to make a positive contribution to the character and amenity of the site.