

# Tree Technical Note

**Client:** Mr Hagerty

**Site Address:** 36 The Nurseries, Langstone, Newport, NP18 2NT

**Note by:** James Pinder Tech Cert (Arbor A)

**Date:** 21.03.2025

## Findings

I have been asked to comment on planning application 24/0939 for a side extension at No36. I visited the site on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 to check the site and its proximity to trees. My opinion following site assessment is that the proposed is very low risk to trees.

There is a field boundary tree line to the east of the site that is in close proximity to the proposed build area. The tree line features various species containing hazel, willow, oak and alder species. The tree line is located on top of a bund with tree friendly soils to the east. The garden side of the bund is separated by a low retaining wall that has been in place for a significant time with no decline in trees. The existing house has also been in place for a significant time period without any obvious decline within the tree's health. Any main changes within the site boundaries are historical.

The owner of No36 carries out periodic pruning to maintain foliage overhanging the boundary. All previous pruning work has been non-damaging to trees and is within species pruning tolerance.

During my site visit I noted the following points:

- The proposed area where the side extension is due to be located is already covered by paving meaning historical changes to the area proposed for the extension without decline in adjacent trees.
- On the tree side of the fence, the soils are more suited to tree growth and development so further rooting area soils are present which explains the lack of decline in trees.
- The low garden retaining wall within the garden of No36 serves as a tree root protection barrier.
- The low retaining wall sits approximately 1m + into the site away from the tree stems, it appears that the wall is located where the original bund met the previous use land. Roots are expected to be in the bank and not at the lower-level ground within the garden of No36.
- Historical trenching to install the wall foundations do not appear to have severed any significant roots, this could be down to previous site use or features that previously were hostile to tree roots such as pervious hard surfacing, compacted ground or ploughing if a field.

In order to build the proposed, the trenches for the foundations would need to be excavated within the curtilage of No36. This would be under the existing patio surface area alongside the existing house. This ground has been excavated before to lay the existing patio surface sub base and also build the existing house. On this basis I have no concerns over tree roots being within this area and I can see no reason why a standard strip foundation can't be used.

Just to be sure that trees can't be harmed during construction, the following points should be followed.

1. No removal of the boundary fence or garden retaining wall within the curtilage of No36 as this serves as tree protection measures on site.
2. Careful excavation of trenches to the required depth. This should be overseen by an arboriculturist and a photographic record be made available to NCC to demonstrate careful working.
3. If found, no roots are to be cut if in excess of 10mm diameter. The site arboriculturist should be informed and work halted until the significance of roots be discussed and a resolution found.

Site photographs overleaf.

Site Photographs



Above images shows the east side of the fence.



Above image shows the trees proximity to the existing.



Above image shows the existing low garden retaining wall.

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The above images show the wall, fence and lower level patio area where foundations can be placed without risk to tree roots in the bank.