

Arboricultural Impact Assessment.
Land to the North of St Marys Church,
Marshfields, Newport.



Prepared on the instructions of
Mr J. Price

Based on inspections carried out on
2nd January 2026

By Alan Webster, MArborA
Our Ref: ARW 1201 AIA

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Drawings

1	Arboricultural Impact Assessment	ARW1201.01
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 **Instruction:** I am instructed by Mr Price to provide an arboricultural impact assessment, arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan in accordance with BS5837:2012 to support a planning application on land to the north of St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Marshfields, Newport.
- 1.2 **Qualifications and experience:** I have based this report on my site observations and the provided information. I have come to conclusions in the light of my qualifications and experience in arboriculture summarised in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 **Documents and information provided:** Hayston Developments and Planning Ltd provided me with copies of the following documents:
- Proposed layout in DWG ref: AVH_1251 03
- 1.4 **Scope of this report:** This report concerns the trees and their environment on and adjacent to the proposed development site, in accordance with British Standards Institute, BS 5837: British Standard for trees in relation to design, demolition and construction- Recommendations (2012).
- 1.5 **Report limitations:** This report is valid at the time of the inspection; deliberate or accidental harm, severe weather conditions, pests and diseases can all effect change in the condition of trees.
- 1.5.1 Where adjacent properties contain trees overhanging the site these have only been included in this survey if a safety or nuisance issue is clearly present or if development proposals have an impact upon them. These trees could not be inspected fully as they are within different ownership. Only defects obvious from a visual inspection from within the site are noted. Any works to such trees may require the consent of the owner.
- 1.5.2 The positions of the trees are plotted using basic triangulation and measurements taken on site as they were not included on the site plan provided.
- 1.6 **Copyright:** All rights in this report are reserved. Its content and format are for the exclusive use of Mr Price and his Agents for the purpose of developing the site. No part of it may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means without our written consent. ©ARW Tree Consultancy 2026.

2 Site visit

- 2.1 **Site visit:** I carried out my unaccompanied site visit on the 2nd of January 2026. All my observations were from ground level without detailed investigation and I estimated all dimensions unless otherwise indicated. The weather at the time of my inspection was dry and clear allowing good visibility.
- 2.2 **Site description:** St Marys Church is located to the south of the A48 between Cardiff and Newport. The Church is accessed by Church Lane off Marshfield Road.
- 2.2.1 The proposed land is set to the north of the Church, also accessed off Church Lane. The site is currently grazed by horses.
- 2.2.2 The western / southern border of the field has trees present with a hazel understorey.
- 2.3 **Identification and location of the trees:** The trees in question are shown on the arboricultural impact assessment included as Drawing ARW 1201:01. This plan is for illustrative purposes only and it should not be used for directly scaling measurements. All the relevant information on it is contained within this report and the provided documents.

3 Observations

- 3.1 **Development plan:** The proposal is to construct a stable building with associated hardstanding to the north of the field entrance.
- 3.2 **Trees:** The surveyed trees were assessed as individuals.
- 3.3 **Root morphology:** *Tree roots will exploit the most suitable conditions that they can find, migrating to ideal conditions i.e. nutrient levels and available water. Obstructions or poor conditions will force roots to grow alongside, around, under or over.*
- 3.3.1 The roots have unimpeded ground thus the circular depiction is considered suitable on this site.
- 3.4 **Branch spread:** The branches of the trees in places are influenced by more dominant neighbours, no significant observations.
- 3.5 **Wildlife:** I did not observe any suitable features that could be used as bat habitat during my survey.

4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

The following impact assessment is based on the anticipated work to complete the layout shown in AVH_1251 03

- 4.1 **Tree removal:** One tree should be removed for reasons of good arboricultural management.

Tree	Reason for removal
T4	Ash suffering from ash die back, category 3 (50 – 75% canopy affected)

- 4.1.1 No trees will need to be removed to facilitate the development.

- 4.2 **Effects of new development on amenity value on or near the site:** The removal of the tree listed above will have **an insignificant impact** on visual amenity as it is an insignificant part of the linear group.

- 4.3 **Direct impact to retained trees**

- 4.3.1 There are no anticipated above ground impacts to the retained trees.

Trees	Above ground Constraint	Impact
T2 T3	The lower branches overhanging the site are obstructing access and the construction of the building.	The required crown raise over the work area will need to be to an approximate height of 5 metres above ground level. The impact of this work to the local amenity and tree health will be minor , as it will be achievable following guidance in BS3998:2010.

- 4.3.2 The direct below ground impacts to the retained trees are summarised below.

Trees	Below ground Constraint	Impact
T3	The RPA of this tree prevents traditional foundation construction of the proposed stable.	Traditional construction can sever roots and cover the ground reducing water and nutrient uptake which in turn reduces photosynthesis and potential energy production. However, considering the small area affected, the available contiguous rooting environment adjacent to it and the species of the tree, the impact is considered to be minor , thus needing no mitigation.
T2 T3	The RPA of these trees prevents the proposed	Traditional construction can cover the ground reducing water

	construction of the hardstanding.	and nutrient uptake which in turn reduces photosynthesis and potential energy production. The impact using this technique would be moderate , however, using suitable no dig construction products would reduce the impact to minor .
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4.4 **Construction processes of the proposed development:** *Development processes that lead to soil compaction in tree rooting zones and physical damage to trees can adversely affect long-term tree health. This can lead to unnecessary tree loss if not controlled properly on site during the construction.*

4.4.1 Ground compaction caused by movements of construction traffic and indiscriminate storage of materials would usually have a **high impact** if not controlled. Uncontrolled vehicle and pedestrian movements in the root protection areas of the trees' will compact the pore space in the soil, reducing the trees ability to uptake water, nutrients and its ability for root growth, thus leading to their premature decline and eventual death if they are not protected during construction.

4.4.2 Compaction to the soil and direct damage to the trees can be prevented by erecting the proposed boundary fencing and installing the no-dig surfacing prior to construction.

4.5 **Modifications proposed to accommodate trees:** None recommended.

4.6 **Infrastructure requirements:** Not applicable.

4.7 **Proximity of trees to structures:** Leaf fall is an expected problem when building near trees, although its effects can be mitigated by the use of gutter guards.

4.8 **Services:** The service connections are not indicated; water and electricity connections should be run out side of the RPAs.

The potential impacts of the development on the retained trees and vice versa can be adequately controlled by a suitable arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan.

5 Contacts

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Written by:

Alan Webster, MArborA
for and on behalf of ARW Tree Consultancy

Date: 18/01/2026

Appendices

Appendix 1

Qualifications and experience of Alan Webster

1. Academic qualifications:

Level 3 **Technicians Certificate in Arboriculture**: ABC

Level 6 **Professional Diploma in Arboriculture**, units:

- Tree risk management
- Tree and hedge management
- Selection, planting and design with hardy nursery stock for amenity and landscape purposes
- Arboricultural plant health
- Planning and development in arboriculture
- Management of special trees
- Woodland management
- Independent research project

2. Practical experience:

2003 – 2005

Freelance Chainsaw Operator. Mainly working as a Groundsman for TreeWorks (West Wales) Ltd. Duties including woodland felling and ground based arboricultural operations, in the private and commercial sector.

2005 - 2009.

Groundsman progressing to Lead Climber and Arboricultural Contracts Manager in 2007. Employed by TreeWorks (West Wales) Ltd. Continue to lead arboricultural team and control all chainsaw related operations within countryside teams. Made responsible for management and implementation of company Health and Safety systems.

2009- 2014.

Consultant Arboriculturist and Technical Director. Employed by TreeWorks (West Wales) Ltd, undertaking Tree Surveys and Health & Safety Management.

2014 – Present

Independent Arboricultural Consultant. Trading as ARW Tree Consultancy. Providing advice on risk assessment, development site issues and boundary disputes.

2015 – 2016

Tree Officer for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Responsible for risk assessing Council trees, advising Development Control on trees in relation to planning, maintenance of TPO's and applications, managing project work where trees were identified as a problem.

2016 – Present

Tree Officer (Planning) City and County of Swansea Council. Advising Development Control on trees in planning context, representing the Council in planning appeals and hearings, TPO review, creation and determination.

3. **Professional qualifications and continuing professional development:**
 - 2007 **Certified Arborist**- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).
 - 2008 **Arboriculture and Bats**- LANTRA.
 - 2008 **Managing Safely**- Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH).
 - 2009 **Thorough Examination of Arboricultural Equipment** (LOLER '98 regs.)- NPTC.
 - 2010 **Level 2 Computer Aided Design**. – City and Guilds.
 - 2010 Recertification, **Certified Arborist**- (ISA).
 - 2010 **VTA Update Seminar** - Prof. Claus Mattheck/Symbiosis Consulting
 - 2010 **Quantified Tree Risk Assessment** – Mike Ellison
 - 2011 **Professional Tree Inspection** – Arboricultural Association/Lantra
 - 2011 **AA Getting to Grips with Subsidence** – Dr. P.G. Biddle and Dr. M. Dobson
 - 2012 **AA Arboricultural Consultancy** – Jim Quaife and Jeremy Barrell
 - 2012 **46th AA Amenity Conference** – Reading University
 - 2013 **AA Pests and Diseases Road Show** – Guy Watson and Ben Abbatt
 - 2013 **C.A.S. Experts Question Time- Tree Safety** – Jeremy Barrell and Dr. David Lonsdale.
 - 2013 Recertification, **Certified Arborist**- (ISA).
 - 2015 **PACE training** - PHF Training, Kevin Hall
 - 2015 **4th Big Barn Conference** – Barchams
 - 2015 **AA Valuing and Managing Veteran Trees** – Simon Cox
 - 2015 **Green Blue Urban Seminar**
 - 2015 **HTOF Subsidence Seminar** – Dr. P.G. Biddle
 - 2015 **Tree Preservation Orders, Effective Application** - CAS
 - 2016 **Trees in development** – AA –Barrell Tree Consultancy
 - 2016 **Role of the Tree Officer** – AA – Richard Nicholson
 - 2016 **Habitat Regulations in the Planning Process**
 - 2016 **Environment (Wales) Act 2016** – Natural Resources Wales
 - 2017 **Assessment of Tree Forks** – AA – Dr. Duncan Slater
 - 2018 **Aspiring Registered Consultants Day** – AA
 - 2018 **MTOA Tree Officer Conference** - Telford
 - 2018 **ICF Wales Conference** - Cardiff
 - 2019 **ICF Becoming Chartered Workshop** - Bristol
 - 2019 **Ash Die Back Toolkit launch** - Woodland Trust
 - 2019 **Tree Risk Seminar** – AA - Jeremy Barrell
 - 2019 **MTOA Tree Officer Conference** – Reading
 - 2024 **Professional Tree Inspection Refresher** – LANTRA
 - 2025 **MTOA Tree Officer Conference** – Reading
4. **Relevant experience:**

Since 2003 I have been pursuing my natural interest in trees, broadening my knowledge and the required skill range. These acquired skills and knowledge have been applied to projects for private customers, larger agencies and local authorities. I have inspected thousands of trees using accepted VTA methodology and have experience with the most up to date invasive decay detection devices. In the planning arena, I have experience of providing evidence for appeals and at planning hearings. I have recently authored Supplementary Planning Guidance and drafted tree policies for a local authority.
5. **Professional affiliations:**

Arboricultural Association (AA)- Professional Member

Tree Schedule

Explanatory notes:

- **Tree no:** Refers to the tree number shown on any included drawings.
- **Species:** The species identification based on visual observations and the common English name of what the tree appeared to be is listed first, with the botanical name after in brackets. In some instances, it may be difficult to quickly and accurately identify a particular tree without further detailed investigations. Where there is some doubt of the precise species of tree, it is indicated with a '?' after the name in order to avoid delay in the production of the report. The botanical name is followed by the abbreviation sp if only the genus is known. The species listed for groups and hedges represent the main component and there may be other minor species not listed.
- **Tree Height:** Height is an estimate to the nearest metre. Figures in brackets indicate lowest branch height.
- **Stem Diameter:** These figures relate to 1.5m above ground level and are recorded in millimetres. If appropriate, diameter is measured with a diameter tape.
- **Crown Spread:** The crown spread visually estimated to the nearest metre from the centre of the trunk to the tips of the live lateral branches, N= north, S= south, E= east and W=west.
- **Height & direction of 1st branch:** Height in meters of first significant branch and direction expressed as a cardinal point.
- **Min. Crown clearance:** Clear height in metres of ground clearance at the four cardinal points measured in metres
- **Life stage:** Age is an estimated range based on visual indicators and should only be taken as a provisional guide. Y=**Young**: obviously planted/self seeded within the last three years (unless as a heavy or extra-heavy standard). SM=**Semi-mature**: recently planted and yet to attain mature stature; up to 25% of attainable age. EM=**Early mature**: almost full height, crown still developing and seed bearing; up to 50% of attainable age. M=**Mature**: full height, crown spread, seed bearing; over 50% of attainable age. OM=**Over mature**: full size, die-back, small leaf size, poor growth extension.
- **Physiological condition:** Physiological health G=good; F= fair; P= poor; D= dead or moribund
- **General observations/management recommendations:** Information based on visual observations that may influence management proposals or BS 5837 categorisation, where appropriate recommendations are offered.
- **Remaining contribution:** Estimated remaining contribution in years
- **Retention category:** The category awarded in accordance with BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to construction- Recommendations, it is an indication of a trees condition and value.
- **RPA-R:** Radius of circle (measured from centre of trunk) required to achieve RPA-A, in metres
- **Text colour:** BS 5837 Category, Green=A, Blue=B, Grey=C, Red=U

Tree no	Species	Tree Height (m)	Stem Dia. (mm)	Crown spread (m)				Life Stage	General observations Management recommendation	Remaining Contribution	Retention Category	RPA R (m)
				N	E	S	W					
T1	Sessile Oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>)	12	350	6	5	5	5	M	Good condition.	40+	B2	4.2
T2	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	14	300 300 350	6	7	3	4	M	Ivy to 10m. Ash die back 2-3. Branches touching uninsulated electric cables.	<10	C1	6.6
T3	Sessile Oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>)	15	350	0	7	6	6	M	Electric cables passing through canopy	20+	C2	4.2
T4	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	14	200 220 220 180	6	6	4	4	M	Ivy covered to 6m; ash die back category 3. Epicormic growth; old coppice stool.	<10	U	4.9
H1	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	6		3	4	3	3	M	Multi-stemmed hazel coppice.	10+	-	-

Category and definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)		
Trees unsuitable for retention			
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context or the current land use for longer than 10 years	Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning) • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality Note: Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it may be desirable to preserve		
Trees to be considered for retention	1. Mainly arboricultural qualities	2. Mainly landscape qualities	3. Mainly cultural values, including conservation
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 40 years	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual: or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue)	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture)
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to a wider locality	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood - pasture)
Category C Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm	Unremarkable trees of a very limited merit or such an impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value