

Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

**The Barn, Pentre-Poeth Road,
Newport, NP10 8LL.**



**Prepared on the instructions of
Mr Russel Scaplehorn**

**Based on inspections carried out on
21st September 2025**

**By Alan Webster, MArborA
Our Ref: ARW 1195 AIA**

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 **Instruction:** I am instructed by Mr Russel Scaplehorn to survey trees and provide an arboricultural impact assessment in accordance with BS5837:2012 to support a planning application at The Barn, Pentre-Poeth Road, Newport, NP10 8LL
- 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:** Atrium Planning Consultants provided me with copies of the following documents:
- Proposed layout in DWG
 - Site Location Plan
 - Refusal Notice.
- 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.
- 1.6 **Copyright:** All rights in this report are reserved. Its content and format are for the exclusive use of Mr Scaplehorn 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 2025.

2 Site visit

- 2.1 **Site visit:** I carried out my unaccompanied site visit on the 21st of September 2025. 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:** The A468, Caerphilly Road, is the main road through Bassaleg to the north of Newport. Pentre-Poeth Road is to the south of the A468; the site is located approximately 74 metres to the south of the junction with the main road on the eastern side.
- 2.2.1 The proposed development site is set in a large front garden, with 'The Barn' set approximately 40 metres back from the road.
- 2.2.2 The site is dominated by one large beech tree; a birch and conifer hedge are also present in the area adjacent to the proposal.
- 2.3 **Identification and location of the trees:** The trees in question are shown on the tree location plan included as Drawing ARW 1195:01 AIA. 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.
- 2.4 The Local Authority has not been approached to check for statutory tree protection.
- 2.5 **Statutory tree protection:** A TPO makes it an offence to top, lop, uproot, take down, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree, trees or woodland such that its amenity value is diminished, unless it is by agreement with the Local Planning Authority (LPA). This is not a 'blanket ban' on all tree work. Tree work may proceed under the following circumstances:
- Normal arboricultural maintenance work to preserve, enhance or mitigate nuisance aspects of the tree's habit carried out to professional standards with LPA agreement.
 - Elimination of hazards presented by dead or damaged trees or limbs to the extent required to mitigate the risk where the tree is not immediately dangerous. Significant harm must be both foreseeable and be expected to arise within eight weeks. At least 5-days' written notice must be given to the LPA.
 - Elimination of immediately dangerous hazards presented by dead or damaged trees or limbs to the extent required to mitigate the risk.
 - Removal of dead branches.
 - A number of other specific circumstances that don't apply here but which include grant of full planning permission, compliance with Acts of Parliament, activities of Statutory Undertakers (for example, utility providers), horticultural maintenance of trees for fruit production and so on.

Any work not falling within any of these exemption categories requires a formal application to be made to the LPA using the standard 1App form for tree work. Similar restrictions apply to all trees over 75mm in diameter when measured at 1.5 metres from ground level if they are in a conservation area.

3 Observations

- 3.1 **Development plan:** Proposed development: The proposed development is for a garage and workshop with associated turning and access.
- 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 Considering the current site use and age of the trees the standard circular root protection area is appropriate for the trees.
- 3.4 **Branch spread:** 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 provided.

4.1 **Tree removal:** No trees will be removed for reasons of good arboricultural management i.e. are category U.

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 construction of the building will have a **No impact** on visual amenity with regard to arboriculture.

4.3 Direct impact to retained trees

4.3.1 There are no significant above ground impacts to the retained trees; however, there may be some requirement for some very minor pruning to the north-eastern part of the crown of T1 where it is close to the proposed building. This work is not anticipated to affect the tree's health or the amenity it provides.

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

Trees	Below ground Constraint	Impact
T1 Beech Cat B	The RPA of this tree would be affected by traditional driveway construction shown on the proposed layout (red hatch).	Traditional construction would sever roots and cover the ground reducing water and nutrient uptake which in turn reduces photosynthesis and potential energy production. The use of a no dig construction for the area of RPA impacted would reduce the impact from moderate to <u>minor</u> .
T1 Beech Cat B	The RPA of this tree would be affected by traditional foundation construction of the building shown on the proposed layout (blue hatch).	Traditional construction would sever roots and cover the ground reducing water and nutrient uptake which in turn reduces photosynthesis and potential energy production. The use of a piled or raft foundation for the area of RPA impacted would reduce the impact from moderate to <u>minor</u> . Although beech do not respond well to root disturbance at this distance from the main stem the roots are expected to be small in diameter and therefore their primary function will be for water and nutrient uptake rather than anchorage. Reduced

		severance of small diameter roots due to the mitigation suggested will also consequently result in small diameter wounds limiting decay and pathogen entry sites.
H1 Western Red Cedar Cat C	The RPA of these trees would be affected by traditional foundation construction of the building shown on the proposed layout (blue hatch).	Minor incursion into RPA of hedge trees will not adversely affect them as they are significantly reduced and are a species that have 'good' (Matheny and Clark) tolerance to root disturbance. Insignificant impact. No mitigation required.

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 using a combination of access from the new no-dig drive, protective fencing and ground protection.

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

4.6 **Infrastructure requirements:** Not applicable.

4.7 **Proximity of trees to structures:** Introducing people and property near trees needs careful consideration as there is the possibility of branch or whole tree failure even from healthy trees. Leaf fall is also an expected problem when building near trees, although its effects can be mitigated by the use of gutter guards.

4.7.1 The proposed building will not be inhabited and is mostly outside of the area covered by the crown spread.

4.8 **Services:** The service connections are not shown but must be run outside of RPAs, where this is not possible advice will be taken from the Project Arboriculturist and LPA Tree Officer.

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 if the application is approved by the LPA.

5 Bibliography

Matheny. M. and Clark. JR. (1998) *Trees and Development. A Technical Guide to Preservation of Trees During Land Development*. ISA. Champaign.

6 Contacts

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Written by:

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

Date: 11/10/2025

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
 - 2024 **Professional Tree Inspection Refresher** - LANTRA
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

Appendix 2

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. 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 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	Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)	16	550 550	6	6	6	7	M	Stem divides at ground level. Included bark present in main fork.	20+	B1	9.34
T2	Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)	10	450	4	4	4	4	M	Recently reduced.	10+	B1	5.4
H1	Western Red Cedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>)	4	280	3	2	3	2	EM	Pruned and topped hedge. Reduced size of RPA is appropriate.	20+	C1	3.4

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