

Pre-development Arboricultural Report for Trees in close proximity to proposed new extension to the rear of

19 Lower Rd, Bratton, Westbury, BA13 4RG

Compiled on 20/10/2023

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Remit –** Following instructions from Jonny Marrion ARB RIBA from Chalk Architects, we were instructed to provide an Arboricultural Method Statement and Impact Assessment for the proposed rear extension to 19 Lower Rd , Bratton Westbury.

1.2 **Experience:** I have based this report on my site observations and the provided information, and I have come to conclusions in the light of my qualifications and my 26 years working and advising in the arboricultural industry.

1.3 **Qualifications:** City and Guild's Tree Surgery, Technicians Certificate in Arboriculture (Arboricultural Association) and Professional Diploma in Arboriculture (Royal Forestry Society). Professional Tree inspector's qualification (LANTRA)

1.4 **Documents and Information Provided:**

- Tree Survey
- Tree site plan
- Proposed plans from Chalk Architects

1.5 **Site Information:** To the rear of 19 Lower Rd, Bratton , Westbury , BA13 4RG

1.6 **Site Visit:** To gather the information for this report a further site visit was undertaken by inspector Stevyn Sargent from Conservation Contractors Ltd and should be read in conjunction with this document.

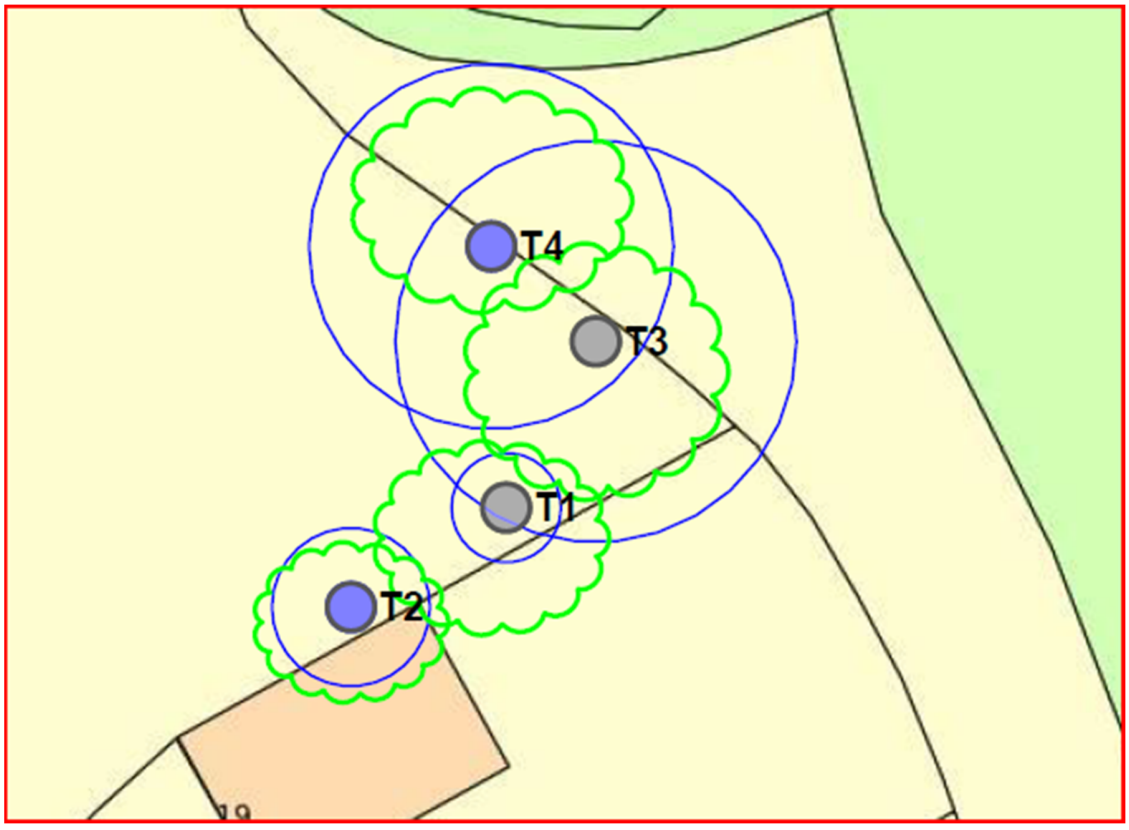
1.7 **Scope of this statement:** This statement is only concerned with a tree assessment based on the criteria in the British Standard 5837 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction 2012. It includes a preliminary assessment based on a site visit.

SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

1.8 **Site Description-** 19 Lower Rd , Bratton is a detached property set back from Lower Rd standing within the local Conservation Area

1.9 **Identification and Location of the Trees:** Four trees were surveyed all standing within the neighbouring garden to the north of the site
T1 on the plan is in close proximity to the site boundary
T2 – is a small young tree
T3 & T4 -are far enough away to be unaffected by these works

1.10 **Tree Observations:** See attached report dated 20/10/2023 by Conservation Contractors Ltd



2 ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2.1 **Tree Removal:** No trees will be removed as part of this extension, however a cavity was found in the base of T3 which will require removing or a reduction to the tree crown in the near future in line with best practice. This has no impact on the development.

2.2 **Retained Trees:** All trees will be retained.

2.3 **Trees T1 and T2** overhang the boundary fence into the proposed site, it is suggested a light reduction of the crowns on both T1 & T2 is undertaken prior to building works to protect the canopy from damage and coming into contact with the development on completion. The whole crown is to be reduced to leave an even and balanced outcome allowing for several years growth before a revisit. Reduction to be in line with BS 3998-2010 standard. The crowns of both T1 & T2 are currently weighted towards the south/south west as would be expected so a reduction of 1.5 – 2m back to suitable growth points and a rebalance would be beneficial along with reducing the risk of damage.



2.4 **Neighbouring Trees standing within neighbours garden**

T1 – Acer this tree will not be impacted by the proposed development, other than items in 2.3 no major roots were found in close proximity to the area to be excavated for proposed footings at the time of the survey , however care must be taken when excavation of trenches is undertaken, any exposed roots should not be allowed to dry out and must be kept covered, should any roots greater than 25mm in diameter be found then work should stop for advice, exposed roots should not be allowed to dry out. Some hand digging may be required around larger roots present.

T2 – Liquidambar – This tree is small in size and the RPA is shown as just outside the proposed development area, however the same precautions should be taken as for T1 when excavation of trenches is undertaken a crown reduction as per 2.3

2.5 **Access:** The current access will be used and this will not impact on any tree

3 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 **Tree Protection Plan:** This is designed to minimise the effects of the development and ensure that the trees within the neighbouring garden to be retained will have an adequate volume of soil for future survival and growth. Where the tree canopy extends outside the calculated RPA on the tree survey report, extra care must be taken to avoid damage to the canopy by machinery, scaffolding and building works. Trees T1 and T2 will be reduced to prevent this and rebalance both trees.
The default position must be that all development, including any associated services will occur outside the Root Protection Areas of trees. The blue line on the tree report shows the RPA of the trees T1 encroaches just into the proposed extension, footprint.
Where this is unavoidable it will be appropriate to –

- Remove any existing structure with care and examine for roots prior to any further works in the area, if major roots are in place within or close to the proposed work area then seek advice prior to proceeding
- Excavate any trenches required with care, removing spoil in small increments, by hand if deemed necessary or roots larger than 25mm present.
- Any roots over 25mm in diameter should not be severed. Should these be encountered within the proposed trenches works must cease.
- Where trenches are close to major roots then hand digging will be required to insure no damage by machine operations.
- No retained roots are allowed to dry out during excavations.
- Retain all soil and overburden undisturbed in place around roots to remain
- Machine to work from present hard standing.
- Where small roots have been severed these should be cut to a clean finish with as small as possible cut surface.

3.2 **Tree Protection Measures**: To be carried out in order listed below

- The existing garden fence will act as protection of the trees T1 & T2

5.2.1 **Tree Surgery:** Future crown reduction works will be required to maintain a clearance in the future as per 2.3.

5.2.2 **Fencing Specification and Location:** Existing garden boundary fence to be utilised.

5.2.3 **Ground Protection:** None of the below will be allowed within the RPA of retained trees.

- No storage of plant
- No storage of materials

- No handling of any chemical including cement washings.
- No vehicular access.
- No fire lighting.
- No refueling
- No storage of fuels

5.2.4 **Demolition:** All removal of existing building and hard standing will be accessed and take place from within the garden of 19 Lower Rd and from outside the RPAs , removal of any existing footings should be undertaken with great care , should any major roots be uncovered these are to be covered with soil and not allowed to dry out.
Should major roots be present in the existing foundations then works must stop and advice sort.

5.2.5 **Implementation of Tree Works:** We advise that future works or planting is carried out by an Arboricultural Approved Contractor which can be found by searching the https://www.trees.org.uk/ARB-Approved-Contractor-Directory

6 REFERENCES

British Standard 5837 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations 2012

Tree Roots in the Built Environment by John Roberts, Nick Jackson & Mark Smith

National House-Building Council - Chapter 4.2 Building near trees

Tree Roots & Buildings - D F Cutler & I B K Richardson

Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment by D Lonsdale 1999

Diagnosis of Ill-Health in Trees by R G Strouts & T G Winter 1994

British Standard BS 3998 – Recommendations for tree work

APPENDIX 1

- **Measurements/estimates:** All dimensions are measured unless otherwise indicated. Measurements are taken with a tape or digital clinometer.

- **Tree Number:** All surveyed trees are numbered and their locations are mapped on the Tree Report

- **Species:** The species identification is based on visual observations and the common English name of what the tree appeared to be is listed first, with the botanical name in italics.

- **Height:** Height is measured with a digital clinometer and rounded to the nearest meter.

- **Dia @ 1.5m:** Diameter at 1.2m above ground level and is recorded in millimeters. Diameter is measured with a diameter tape.

- **Crown Spread:** Crown spread is measured in meters and is a maximum radial measurement in the four points.

- **Crown Clearance**: The height in meters of crown clearance above adjacent ground level.

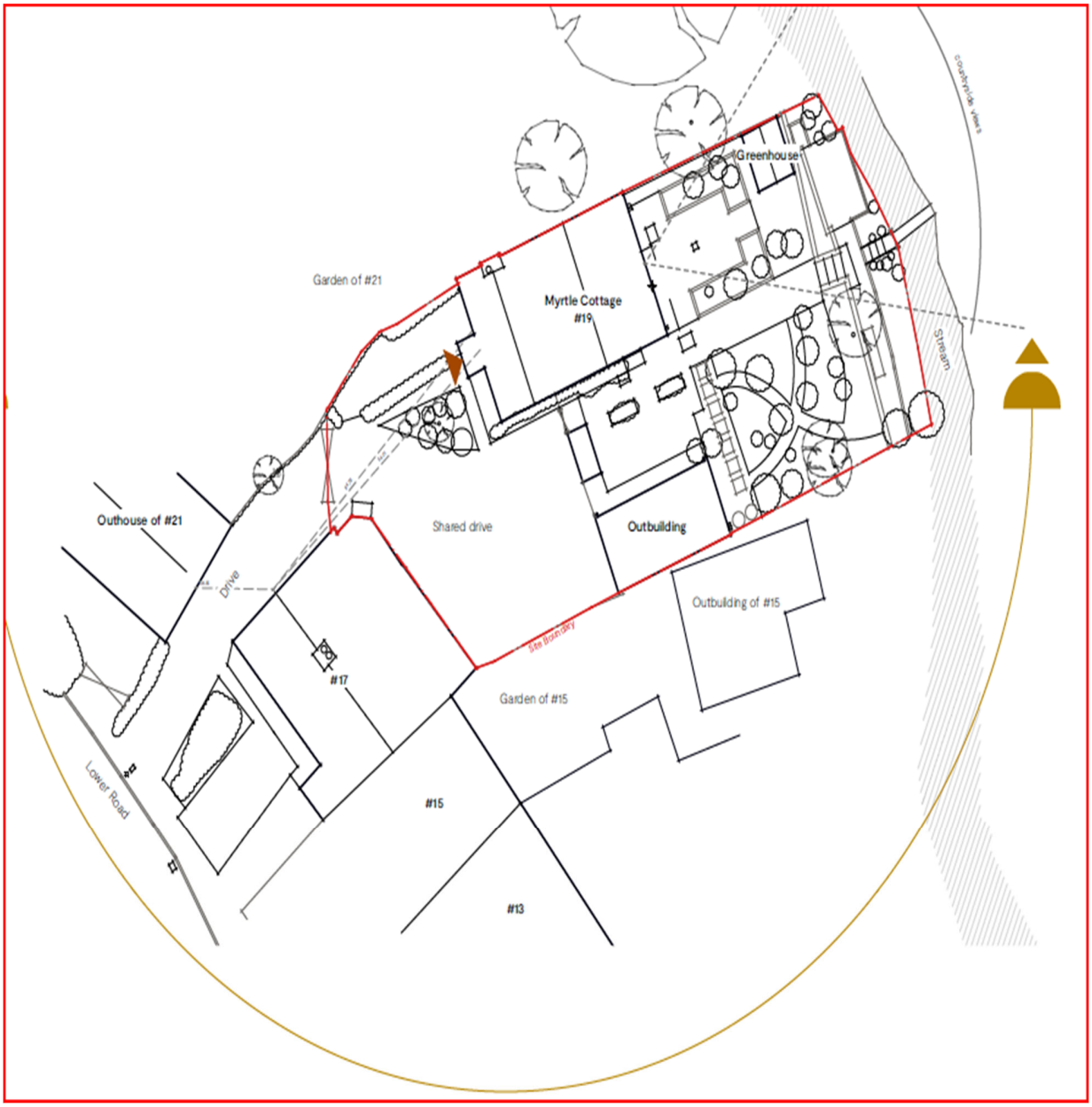
- **Maturity:**
  - Semi-mature = less than one third life expectancy
  - Early-mature = one third to two thirds life expectancy
  - Medium-mature = last one third of life expectancy
  - Over-mature = older than the average life expectancy for the species

- **Estimated Remaining Contribution:** The estimated number of years left that a tree can safely contribute to the amenity of the site.

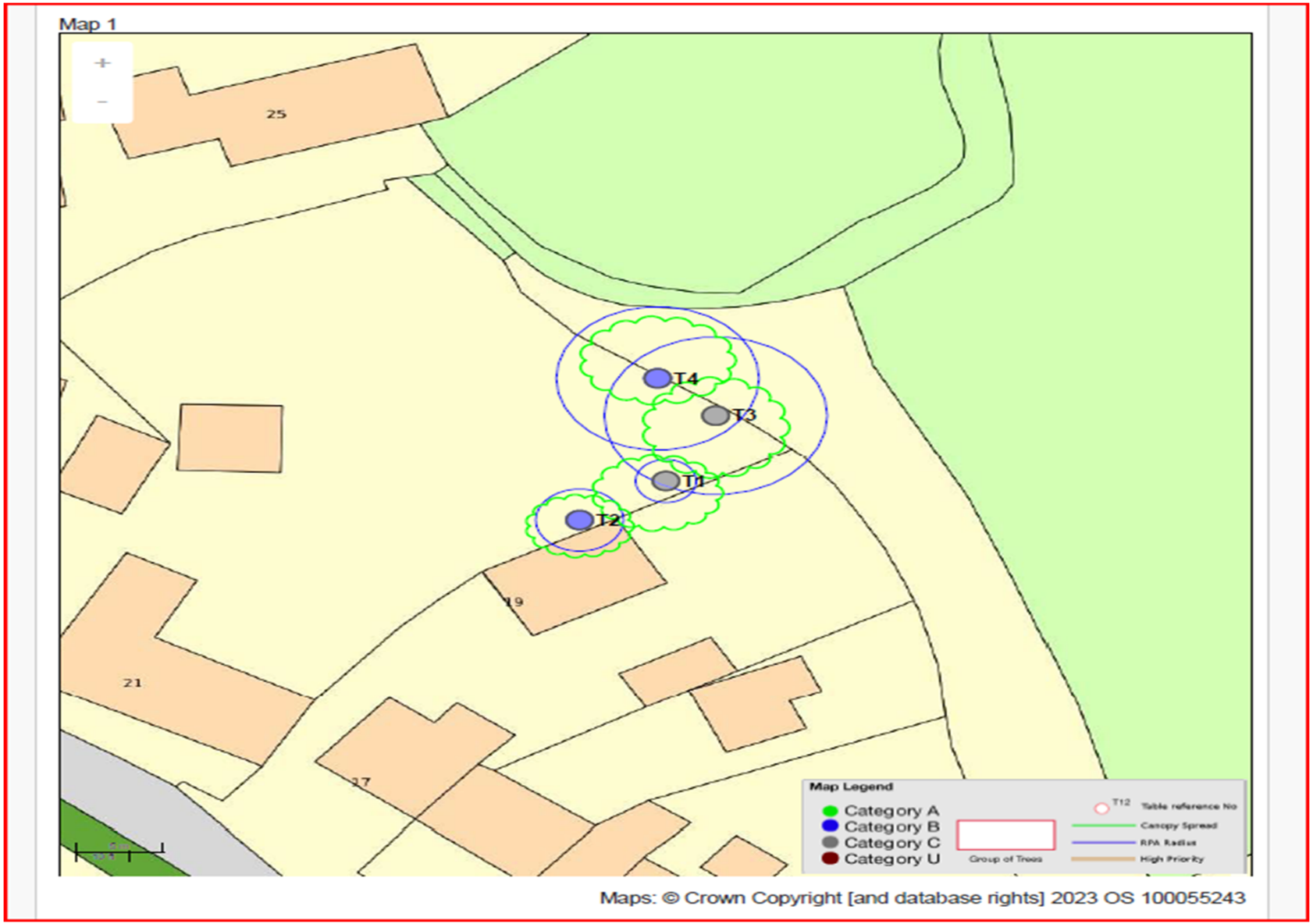
- **BS 5837 Category Grading:** The trees are categorised according to the cascade chart, Table 1 in the British Standard 5837 included as Appendix 2.

- **RPA Radius:** The radius in meters of the Root Protection Area as calculated by the table in Annex D of The British Standard 5837 2

APPENDIX 2
Current Site Plan



Exert From Tree Report showing RPA and Crown Spread



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