

15/0640/01  
15/0641/01



16<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Chris Liversidge  
Senior Estates Surveyor  
NPS Group  
Venture House  
1 Capital Court  
Exeter EX2 7FW

**advanced:**

**progressive** *adj.*  
forward-thinking  
forward-looking  
unconventional  
cutting edge  
innovative

**higher** *adj.*  
superior  
highly developed  
sophisticated  
complex

Dear Mr Liversidge,

*revised*

**Re: Former Aldens Farm, Alphington – British Standard 5837:2012 Arboricultural Report**

It has been brought to my attention that comments have been raised by local resident regarding the validity of Arboricultural Report (Advanced Arboriculture reference TH/X872/0213 of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013) which has been submitted to support the recent application for outline planning consent.

It is certainly true that the report does contain a caveat limiting its validity to two years from the date of the site inspection, in this case 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013, and while I would uphold this limit for a safety inspection for example, in the case of a report for a proposed development of agricultural land, there is some realistic and reasonable flexibility.

The primary purpose of our report was to identify arboricultural constraints on the site. In the case of the tree categorisation, a tree's British Standard 5837:2012 category would generally only remain constant or be downgraded; rarely would it be upgraded. It is therefore reasonable to conclude on this basis that there may actually be fewer individual tree constraints now than at the time of the site inspection if some trees have experienced significant storm damage or attack by pests or diseases.

In terms of arboricultural constraints associated with tree size, there will inevitably have been some growth but the overall impact of these relatively small increments on the Tree Constraints Plan will be very limited, certainly at the outline planning application phase where the principle of development is being established.

Once the project proceeds to the detailed design phase then there will be a need to revisit the site and reassess the condition of the trees. This will ensure that the tree constraints are appropriately updated, and ensure that any development remains sustainable from an arboricultural point of view.

To conclude, I am confident that my report of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013 remains absolutely fit for purpose as a supporting document for an outline planning application.

If you or the local planning authority's planning officers have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

*T H*

Tom Hurley, BSc(For)Hons, M Arbor A  
Senior Consultant

Venmore Barn • Woodbury • Exeter • Devon • EX5 1LD  
t: 01395 239002 e: info@advancedarb.com w: www.advancedarb.com  
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