

Glenn Lee
Asbri planning Ltd

Via email



4th June 2026

Dear Glenn

Assessment Trench, Cefn Lodge Nursing Home, 16 Cefn Parc, Skewen, Wales

Further to the Council's comments regarding the potential for roots associated with T28–T31 to be affected by the construction of the proposed building where it extends into the calculated Root Protection Areas (RPAs), my original Arboricultural Report identified that an assessment trench would be required to establish whether any significant roots were present within the proposed construction zone.

In response, an assessment trench was carefully excavated under direct arboricultural supervision in the location shown on the plan below. The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.6m and positioned immediately in front of the proposed foundation line for the care home building. Due to the presence of an existing section of hard surfacing, the trench was excavated in two sections, leaving the hard surface intact. The trench was orientated parallel to the former tennis court surface, which remains present beneath the existing vegetation and soil profile. This is shown in the photographs below.



☎ 0777 231 7770 💻 andy@andrewdayconsultancy.com

5 Brook Place, Halstead, Essex CO9 1DG



The investigation confirmed that no significant roots associated with T28–T31 were present within the proposed construction zone. Only two roots, each measuring no more than approximately 20mm in diameter, were encountered at shallow depth. Based on their size, location and characteristics, these roots are considered more likely to originate from adjacent self-seeded vegetation and shrubs rather than from the trees in question. Photographs of the excavation and roots encountered are provided below.



Root in trench toward eastern end
no larger than 2cm in diameter



Root in trench toward western end
no larger than 1cm in diameter

The findings of the assessment trench are consistent with the conclusions reached within my original Arboricultural Report. It is considered likely that the historic construction of the tennis court would have influenced rooting patterns in this area, with any roots extending beneath the former hard surface either having been severed during its construction or subsequently discouraged from colonising beneath it. As a result, root development appears to have occurred predominantly within the adjacent uncompromised soils where conditions for root growth are more favourable.

The assessment trench has therefore demonstrated that the proposed building can be constructed without direct impact upon significant roots associated with T28–T31, notwithstanding the fact that the foundation line extends into the calculated RPAs of these trees. The findings support the original assessment that the proposed development is unlikely to adversely affect the health, stability or long-term retention of these trees.

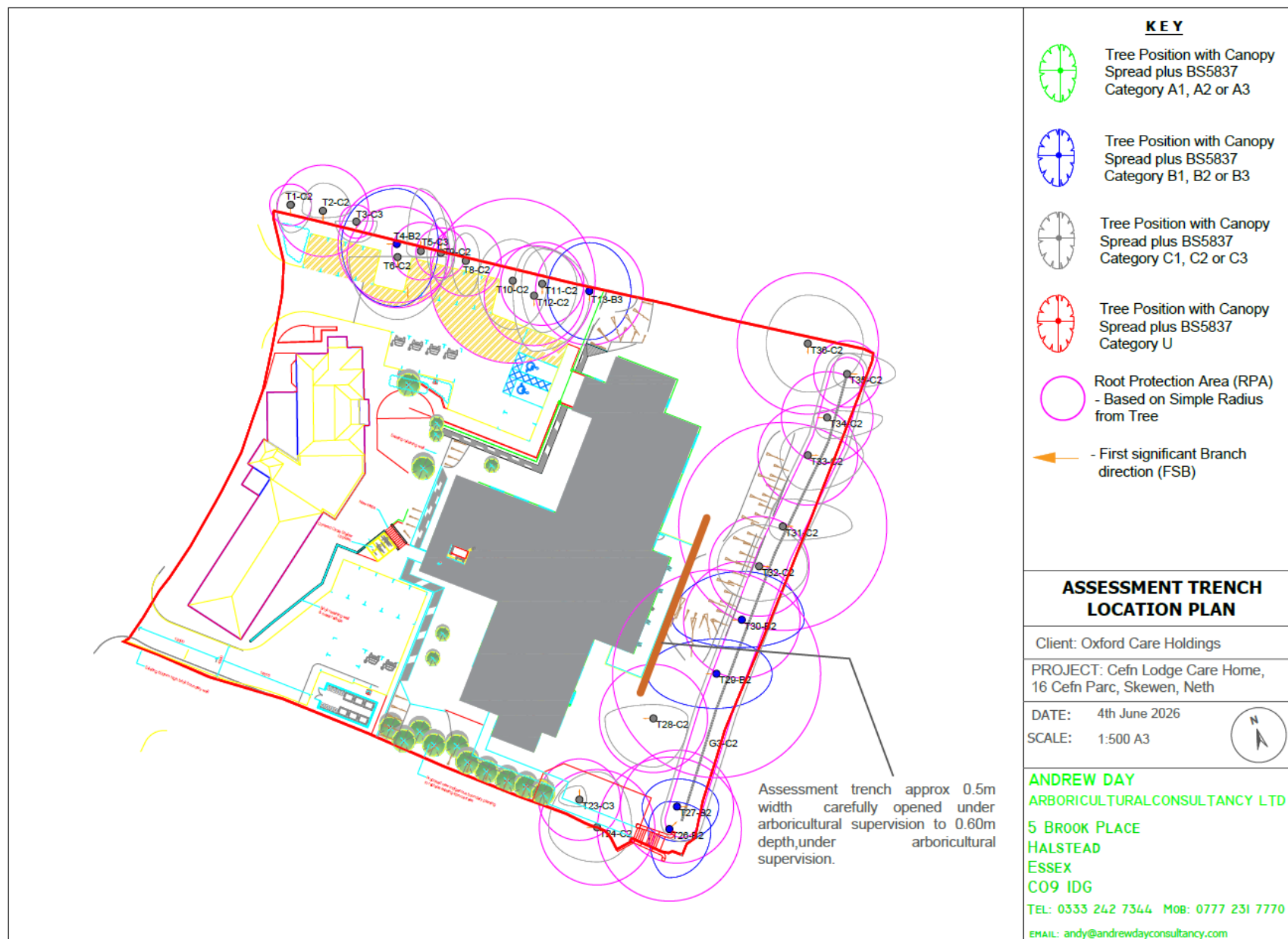
In summary, the assessment trench investigation has confirmed that no significant roots associated with T28–T31 are present within the proposed construction zone. The findings support the conclusions of the original Arboricultural Report that the proposed building can be constructed without causing direct harm to these trees, despite the calculated RPAs extending into the development area. Subject to the implementation of the tree protection measures, working methodologies and arboricultural supervision outlined within the original report, the proposal can be implemented without adverse effects on the health, stability or long-term retention of the retained trees.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Andrew Day

Director HND ARB, MarborA, CENV



☎ 0777 231 7770 📧 andy@andrewdayconsultancy.com

5 Brook Place, Halstead, Essex CO9 1DG