

**17 Spath Road, Didsbury,
M20 2QT**

SRP1351-ROS-XX-XX-T-S-0001

Arboriculture Impact
Assessment & Method
Statement

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Prepared By	Jack Calvert MEng (Hons) CEng MStructE MICE		
Signature			
Checked By	Jack Calvert MEng (Hons) CEng MStructE MICE		
Signature			
Authorised By	Mark Brady BEng CEng MICE		
Signature			
Project Ref	25408		

1. Introduction

This Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has been prepared to evaluate the potential effects of a proposed domestic garage extension at 17 Spath Road, Manchester, on nearby trees. The assessment focuses specifically on a mature Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* f. *purpurea*) located approximately 5 metres from the proposed development footprint.



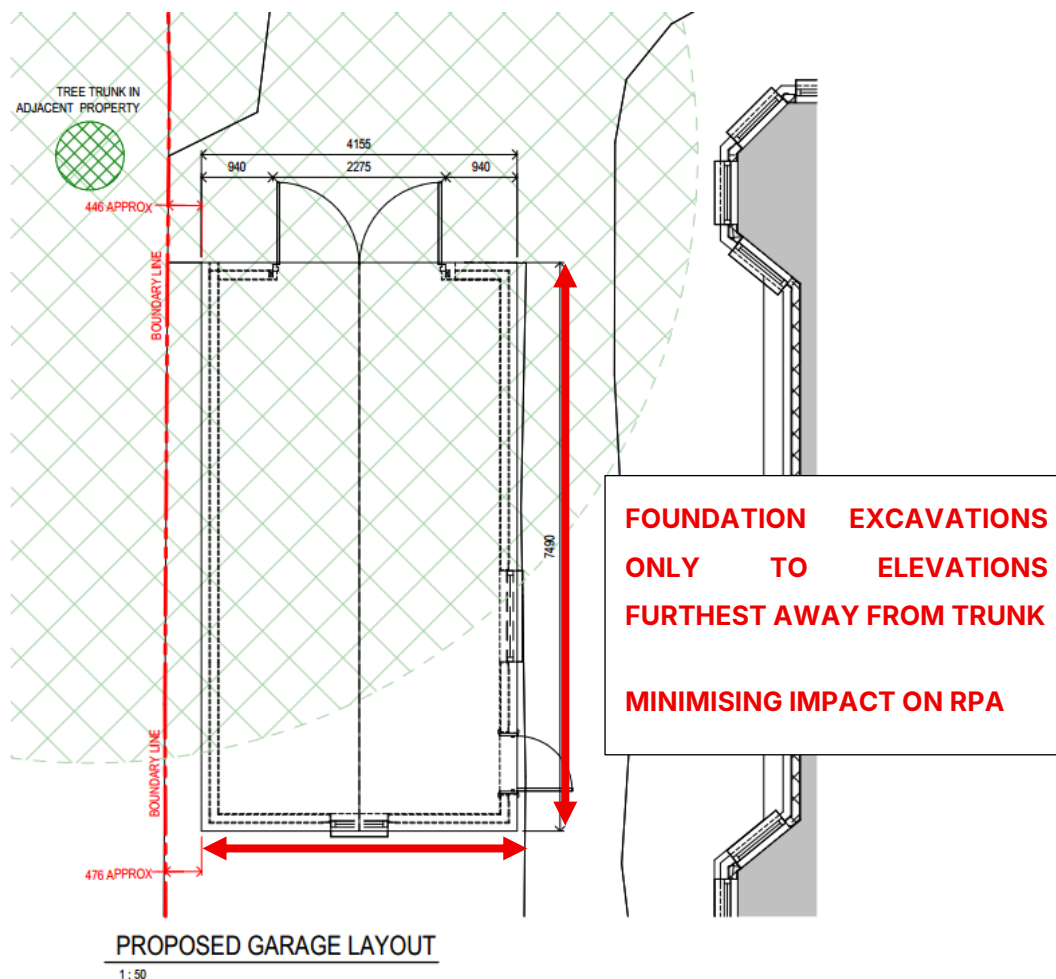
2. Scope of Assessment

The purpose of this report is to:

- Identify existing tree constraints
- Assess potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed development
- Provide recommendations to ensure tree protection and compliance with best practice guidance, including BS 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*

3. Tree Description

- Species: Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* f. *purpurea*)
- Approximate Distance from Development: 5 metres
- Maturity: Mature
- Condition: Good (assumed, unless otherwise surveyed)
- Amenity Value: High, due to size, form, and visual contribution



The tree appears to be a prominent landscape feature with a well-established canopy and root system typical of the species.

4. Root Protection Area (RPA)

In accordance with BS 5837:2012, the Root Protection Area (RPA) is typically calculated as a radius of 12 times the stem diameter (DBH). While exact measurements are not provided, a mature Copper Beech would be expected to have a substantial RPA likely extending beyond 5 metres.

However, based on the proposed design information:

- The extension is positioned to avoid significant encroachment into the critical rooting area
- No major excavation is proposed within the immediate root buttress zone, any shallow excavations to form new foundations are at least 6m away from the trunk.
- Construction methods can be adapted to minimize disturbance
- Given the existing garage has been in place for at least 40 years it is likely the root ball has already accommodated the structure within its growth pattern. The garage is to be extended to the sides furthest away from the tree minimising any potential impact.

5. Impact Assessment

5.1 Canopy Impact

The proposed garage extension will not require pruning, removal, or alteration of the tree canopy. There will be:

- No loss of crown spread
- No change to light availability or tree structure

Conclusion: Negligible impact on canopy.

5.2 Root System Impact

The development is located approximately 5 metres from the tree stem. Based on the information provided:

- No significant excavation within the primary root zone is anticipated
- The root ball will remain undisturbed as any excavations are on the remote edges of the garage.

- Any minor incursions into peripheral rooting areas are unlikely to affect tree stability or health

Where construction occurs near the RPA, appropriate safeguards (see Section 6) will ensure protection.

Conclusion: No significant impact on root system, provided mitigation measures are implemented.

5.3 Indirect Impacts

Potential indirect impacts during construction may include:

- Soil compaction
- Mechanical damage to roots or stem
- Changes in soil moisture or drainage

These risks are considered low and manageable with standard arboricultural controls.

6. Tree Protection Measures

To ensure the ongoing health and stability of the Copper Beech, the following measures are recommended:

- Designation of the RPA within 5m of the trunk to be no dig zones.
- Avoidance of material storage, vehicle movement, or excavation within the protected area. As the tree is on the adjacent property this is not considered an issue.
- Supervision by a qualified arboriculturist if works are undertaken close to the RPA

7. Conclusion

The proposed domestic garage extension at 17 Spath Road, Manchester, is unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on the nearby mature Copper Beech tree.

This conclusion is based on:

- The absence of canopy interference
- Minimal to no impact on the principal root ball given the historical presence of the garage and the likely shallow foundation excavations being further away from the tree.
- The implementation of appropriate tree protection measures

Provided that all recommended safeguards are followed, the development can proceed in accordance with arboricultural best practice and without detriment to the long-term health, stability, or amenity value of the tree.

8. Arboricultural Method Statement

2. Objectives

- To ensure the protection and retention of the Copper Beech tree throughout the development
 - To prevent damage to the tree's root system, stem, and canopy
 - To outline a sequence of works that minimises arboricultural impact
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3. Tree Protection Strategy

3.1 Root Protection Area (RPA)

The principal Root Protection Area will be established based on BS 5837:2012 guidelines. No construction activity, storage, or ground disturbance will occur within this area unless specified and controlled.

4. Site Preparation and Ground Protection

4.1 Ground Protection Measures

If access is required within the outer extent of the RPA:

- Ground protection will be installed using load-spreading materials (e.g., timber boards, cellular confinement systems)
- No excavation within the principal RPA will take place without arboricultural supervision

4.2 Materials Storage

- All materials, plant, and machinery will be stored outside the RPA
 - No mixing of cement, fuel storage, or waste disposal will occur within the protected area
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5. Construction Methodology

5.1 Foundations

- Foundations for the garage extension will be designed to avoid significant root disturbance
- Where roots are encountered:
 - Excavation will be carried out by hand
 - Roots over 25mm diameter will be retained where possible
 - Any unavoidable root pruning will be undertaken cleanly with sharp tools under arboricultural supervision

5.2 Excavation

- No mechanical excavation will take place within the RPA without prior approval
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6. Supervision and Monitoring

- A qualified arboriculturist will be appointed to oversee works where they occur near the RPA
- Site visits will be carried out at key stages:
 - Installation of protective fencing
 - Any excavation within proximity to the RPA
 - Foundation works near the tree

A brief report may be issued following inspections to confirm compliance.

7. Services Installation

- Service runs will be routed outside the RPA wherever possible
- If unavoidable, installation will be carried out using trenchless techniques (e.g., thrust boring) or hand digging under supervision

8. Prohibited Activities within the RPA

The following activities are strictly prohibited within the protected area:

- Excavation or trenching (unless approved and supervised)
 - Storage of materials or equipment
 - Vehicle access without ground protection
 - Soil level changes
 - Disposal of chemicals, fuels, or cement washout
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9. Contingency Measures

If unexpected roots are encountered or damage occurs:

- Works will cease immediately in the affected area
 - The project arboriculturist will be contacted for advice
 - Remedial measures will be implemented before works resume
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10. Post-Construction Care

- The tree will be inspected following completion of works
 - Any signs of stress or decline will be monitored
 - Recommendations for aftercare (e.g., mulching, irrigation if necessary) will be provided
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11. Conclusion

By implementing the measures outlined in this Arboricultural Method Statement, the proposed garage extension at 17 Spath Road can be constructed without causing significant harm to the adjacent Copper Beech tree.

Strict adherence to this document will ensure compliance with best practice standards and safeguard the long-term health and stability of the retained tree.

Leeds Office

Tailors Corner

1 Thirsk Row

Leeds

Manchester Office

Bond Building

38-42 Mosley St

Manchester