

Arboricultural Advice: Initial Opinion (July 2026)

53 Longlands, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 9NW

The site is subject to three group Tree Preservation Orders. In its pre-application response of 17 June 2026 (PREAPP/0074/26), the Council asked that the effect of the proposals on the trees be addressed in any application.

Initial arboricultural advice was therefore obtained from D&T Tree Surgery, based on the proposed drawings and a site inspection carried out on 3 July 2026. The advice, dated 6 July 2026, is attached. It is an initial opinion based on a visual inspection, and it is not a formal assessment under BS 5837:2012.

In summary, the advice states that:

- the rear and south-west extensions do not give rise to any significant arboricultural constraint, as they lie outside, or do not conflict significantly with, the calculated Root Protection Areas of the nearest mature beech trees;
- the principal concern was the garage extension, which would have been within or very close to the Root Protection Area of the neighbouring mature beech (stem diameter of about 700 mm, giving a radius of about 8.4 m); and
- the outbuilding in the south-east corner of the garden may also have encroached on the Root Protection Areas of the adjacent trees.

In response, the design has been revised. The garage extension has been relocated away from the beech tree, and the outbuilding has been removed from the proposals. Both of the constraints identified in the advice therefore no longer apply.

D&T Tree Surgery will now be instructed to review the revised design and to prepare an Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement in accordance with BS 5837:2012. These documents will be submitted with the application as soon as they are available.

Mark Mason

From: D&T Tree Surgery <[REDACTED]> on behalf of D&T Tree Surgery
Sent: 06 July 2026 11:38
To: Mark Mason; Gabi
Subject: Re: Enquiry - 53 Longlands, Worthing

Hi Mark & Gabi,

Following my site inspection, I have now had the opportunity to assess the relationship between the proposed extensions and the surrounding trees.

Having reviewed the proposals alongside the site conditions, I do not foresee any significant arboricultural constraints affecting the proposed rear and south-west extensions. Based on the measurements taken during my inspection, these elements of the development appear to lie outside, or not give rise to any significant conflict with, the calculated Root Protection Areas (RPAs) of the nearest mature beech trees and, in my opinion, are unlikely to present any significant arboricultural concerns.

The principal area of concern is the proposed extension to the garage. During my inspection, I measured the neighbouring mature beech tree and recorded a stem diameter of approximately 700 mm, measured at 1.5 metres above ground level (Diameter at Breast Height).

In accordance with BS 5837:2012 – Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations, the Root Protection Area is calculated by multiplying the stem diameter by twelve. Based on a stem diameter of 700 mm, this results in a Root Protection Area radius of approximately 8.4 metres from the centre of the trunk.

From my site measurements, the proposed garage extension would be located within, or very close to, this Root Protection Area. Whilst BS 5837 does not prohibit development within an RPA, it identifies the area as the minimum rooting environment that should normally remain undisturbed in order to protect the long-term health and stability of the retained tree.

The proposed outbuilding within the south-east corner of the garden may also present an arboricultural constraint if the adjacent trees are protected, as its footprint also appears likely to encroach into the Root Protection Areas of those trees. This would require further assessment once the protection status of the trees has been confirmed and the relevant Root Protection Areas have been established.

In some circumstances, specialist engineering solutions, such as piled foundations with suspended floor construction, can be used to reduce the impact of development within a Root Protection Area. However, whether such an approach would ultimately be considered acceptable will depend upon the detailed design, foundation specification, the extent of any encroachment and the Local Planning Authority's assessment. At this stage, I am unable to confirm that either the proposed garage extension or the proposed outbuilding would be supported from an arboricultural perspective.

If the proximity of the proposed garage extension to the neighbouring beech tree, together with the potential impact of the proposed outbuilding on the adjacent trees, is likely to be a dealbreaker for the client, it may be worth reviewing these elements of the design before progressing further.

Should the project proceed, I would be pleased to prepare the necessary Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA), Tree Protection Plan (TPP) and Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) to support a planning application.

Please note that the above comments represent my initial professional opinion following a site inspection and review of the drawings provided. Any formal arboricultural report prepared in support of a planning application would be based on a more detailed assessment in accordance with BS 5837:2012, together with any additional information relating to the proposed construction and foundation design.

Whilst I can prepare the necessary arboricultural reports to support a planning application, the submission of these documents does not guarantee that planning permission will be granted. The final decision will remain with the Local Planning Authority, who will consider the proposal alongside all other material planning considerations.

Please let me know if you would like me to proceed with the next stage or if you have any questions regarding the above.

Kind regards

Jon Thwaites
D&T tree surgery
[REDACTED]

Disclaimer: This advice is based on a visual site inspection and the drawings supplied and represents an initial arboricultural opinion only. It should not be interpreted as confirmation that the proposed development will receive planning permission or that all elements of the scheme will be considered acceptable by the Local Planning Authority.

On 6 Jul 2026, at 09:10, Mark Mason <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi

Many thanks. If you can get this over today it would be much appreciated.

Thanks Mark

Mark Mason
For Grumitt Wade Mason



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