Good morning Alice,

My feedback was advice on the information submitted and how that tallies (or in this case does not tally) with what the current site condition is. It is too late for the garage application to effectively protect the subject trees from harm. The ground around them has been used as part of the site compound for works on the house itself.

The works currently occurring on site are not directly linked to the application for the garage. However, as the tree felling and groundworks are entirely contrary to what is included in the arboricultural information submitted, it makes the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) for the garage application very misleading.

The AIA submission purports that in accordance with recommended design of new development near trees all the mature A and B grade trees worthy of retention at the site have been retained and the garage positioning, access engineering and services connections would all be taking place outside of their minimum recommended root protection areas.

One tree has been felled and the recent groundworks have taken no account of the identified need to protect the key soft ground soil rooting area surrounding the trees. Hence my advice that the applicant who has spent significant monies employing an arboriculturst to enable siting and design of the garage to not foreseeably impact on the trees re-engages him to assess what can be done post ground compaction and services excavations, to aid future tree health going forwards.

The trees are not subject of any statutory controls as the area is rural in nature where threats from development were historically very limited. The mature trees are visible from the main road to the North across the intervening field and positively add to the character of the area. However, they are not of high public amenity value due to their limited public visibility.

Please give me a call if you wish to discuss.

Regards

Andy

Andrew Clout
Assistant Arboricultural Officer (Tues and Weds only)