



Alchemy Tree Surgery

47 Prospect Avenue, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 6DQ.

Telephone: 01933 319269

E-mail: georgearb@hotmail.co.uk

Website: alchemytreesurgery.weebly.com

Arboricultural impact assessment of the use of Prospect Avenue, Rushden, as the access route for extra wide HGV vehicles in the construction of modular homes at the land to the south of Prospect Avenue.

Planning reference: NE/21/00498/FUL.

I understand the width of the HGV vehicles will be ranging from 4 to 5.5 metres wide. Prospect Avenue is a tree lined avenue with approximately 18 highway trees. These trees are predominantly mature *prunus pissardii nigra* (purple leaved plum). These mature trees are around 6 to 7 metres tall on average and they generally form a low habit which inevitably overhangs the road. The trees are growing in the pavement very close to the edge of the road. If they were to be cut back hard to increase the access for extra wide HGV vehicles then it would be at the detriment of the trees. The trees would look unbalanced etc. Prunus trees are also well known in the arboricultural industry for not being able to cope with heavy pruning. If the trees are heavily pruned or branches are damaged by vehicles then the useful life expectancy of the trees may well be reduced and this in turn would negatively affect the character of the avenue. The current gap between the overhanging canopies of the trees is barely 2 metres in places. This can be seen in the image below (reference image one) where the spread of the canopy is marked in a red outline. In numerous places along Prospect Avenue there are street trees that overhang the road by approximately 40 to 50% and in places it is much more than 50%. More examples of this overhang can be seen below in image two. I understand the vehicles will be 13m long, so could not avoid trees by switching from one side of the road to the other.

Taking this all into account it is my opinion that Prospect Avenue would be inappropriate access for HGV vehicles any wider than 2.3 metres.



Image one.



Image two.

We hold one million pounds professional indemnity.

Report carried out by George Dowsett.

Work can be carried out to British Standard 3998.

Alchemy's Head Tree Surgeon is fully qualified with a National Certificate in Arboriculture and we have 5 Million pounds Public and 10 Million pounds Employers Liability Insurance.