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Review of relevant documentation and to provide advice on tree related information in connection with RBKC draft core policy CL7

Executive Summary

- **British Standard BS5837**
- I was a technical editor for British Standard BS5837, which is referenced in Footnote 12 of Basements Publication Planning Policy. BS5837:2012 provides specific guidance and recommendations concerning subterranean construction.
- The very detailed drafting process of BS5837 accepted the principle of undermining, subject to specialist advice: for RBKC to resile from this would require evidence, which to date it has not produced.
- **Alan Baxter Residential Basement Study Report**
- This Report appears to have been prepared without any or any significant input from an arboriculturist.
- **RBKC supporting document Trees and Basements**
- My review of the *Trees and Basements* document, although it purports to set out an evidential case against those matters relating to basements with which RBKC takes issue, in fact it does no such thing. Instead, it is effectively an opinion piece which deserves to be afforded very little weight. In truth, the broad conclusions of sections 2, 3 and 4 effectively endorse case by case assessment as the correct approach, and on this principle I concur.
- **RBKC Draft Core Strategy Policy CL7**
- Draft Policy CL7 is supported by a *Reasoned Justification*. The text of this relies in part on the *Trees and Basements* document referred to already, which it cites as though it were some form of authority. Clearly, one internally produced document praying in aid a second such document (with in all probability common authorship), entirely lacks credibility.