ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street

THE PARISH CENTRE STATION ROAD BRICKET WOOD
ST ALBANS HERTS AL2 3PJ
Tel: 01923 681443
Email: clerk@ststephen-pc.gov.uk
Web: www.ststephen-pc.gov.uk

To: Councillors:

Wendy Berriman	Aaron Jacob	Mark Skelton
David Brannen	Dorothy Kerry	Nicholas Tyndale
Richard Curthoys	Bill Pryce	Nuala Webb
Ajanta Hilton	Adrian Ruffhead	David Yates

You are summoned to attend the **Full Council Meeting**
To take place on **Thursday 17th July 2025** at **7.30pm**
Venue: **The Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood, St Albans, AL2 3PJ**

S Hake

Susan Hake, Clerk, 10th July 2025

The public are welcome to join this meeting, please email our clerk prior to the day of the meeting to advise of your attendance: clerk@ststephen-pc.gov.uk

Please be aware that Members of the public may record, film, photograph or broadcast this meeting from the designated area.

AGENDA

2526/034 Public Participation – to receive petitions, comments and questions
To welcome public participation in accordance with the Public Speaking Policy

2526/035 To receive reports from representatives of St Albans District Council and Hertfordshire County Council

2526/036 To receive and accept apologies for absence

2526/037 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2025

2526/038 To receive declarations of interest and dispensations
a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda
b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests
c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

2526/039 To consider and agree that the Parish Council issues a formal letter of intent expressing its intention to acquire the Donkey Field land from Burstons for community use, subject to the receipt of a dowry to:
- Cover any tree and ground works
- Unblocking of watercourses
- Confirmation of safe and sufficient access and egress to and from the land

2526/040 Chair's report

2526/041 Update on previous meeting actions not mentioned later in the agenda

2526/042 Reports: Finance, Policy and Resources
a) To note list of June payments including payments authorised by Finance Committee Members and signatories
b) To receive quarterly finance report
c) To consider and agree any grant/discretionary discount applications
PBFC grant application for £1000
KGC discretionary discount application for £1194
d) To agree additional fees for Place Services

e) To agree the adoption of the defibrillator installed in Chiswell Green
f) To adopt the Training and Development policy
g) To receive the Tree Survey report
h) To agree actions following the GWP rewilding report
i) To consider and suggest S106 project for the Green Infrastructure
j) To consider and agree artwork from the Tennis Club
k) To agree meadow management proposal for 2025. Report attached.
l) To consider a request for St Stephen Parish Council to take on the monitoring and maintenance of a new defibrillator to be installed at The Old Fox, Bricket Wood

2526/043 To note minutes and agree recommendations from the Council's Committees & Working Groups

To receive brief progress reports and recommendations from the:

a) Planning & Environment Committee
b) Finance Committee
c) Fixed Asset Committee
d) HR Committee
e) Community & Leisure Committee
f) Events Working Party

2526/044 Clerk's Report - Information updates

Agenda items for next meeting required by 8 September 2025

St Stephen PC payment list June 25

20Jun2025	B/P to: C Brewer & Sons Lt	SAB/346511		-73.03
20Jun2025	B/P to: Travis Perkins	INV. 1022237251		-40.1
20Jun2025	B/P to: npower	ACC. A0010557492		-253.31
20Jun2025	B/P to: Metropolitan Heat	INV-2628		-204
20Jun2025	B/P to: Trade UK	6331640007673478		-1349.08
20Jun2025	B/P to: Rentokil InitialUK	K77/70015953/1520		-46.5
20Jun2025	B/P to: Sport Safe	INV. 635065		-444.6
20Jun2025	B/P to: H.T.C. Fastenings	INV. 152158		-38.1
20Jun2025	B/P to: Castle Water Ltd	TEI0000011390		-270.57
20Jun2025	B/P to: IAC Audit & Consul	INV-2005		-474
20Jun2025	B/P to: DC Payroll Service	INV. 2030 & 2064		-100.5
20Jun2025	B/P to: VELOSOLUTIONS	INV-2756		-5120.18
20Jun2025	B/P to: Blains Trailers&T	SI-87060		-96
20Jun2025	B/P to: Broxap Ltd	ST STEPHEN PC		-1144.8
20Jun2025	B/P to: Scott & Sons Ltd	STEPHEN		-3827.62
20Jun2025	B/P to: Burston Garden Cen	101267 & 101266		-282.5
20Jun2025	B/P to: HCC Debtors	HFS CS059420		-278.72
20Jun2025	B/P to: A1 Security	ST STEPHEN PC		-1618.85
20Jun2025	B/P to: ESE Direct Ltd.	INV. ESI1194657		-100.56
20Jun2025	B/P to: F & R Cawley Ltd	INV. 33637195		-759.5
20Jun2025	B/P to: Ricoh UK Ltd	1E+11		-85.8
20Jun2025	B/P to: Ayen Consulting	INV-0141		-975
20Jun2025	B/P to: St Stephen PC L A	TRANS FROM UNITY		-18691.03
20Jun2025	B/P to: DAVID YATES	CLLR ALLOWANCE		-72
20Jun2025	B/P to: N W TYNDALEÂ	CLLR ALLOWANCE		-54
20Jun2025	B/P to: AC & JM Ruffhead	CLLR ALLOWANCE		-72
20Jun2025	B/P to: D KERRY	CLLR ALLOWANCE		-72
20Jun2025	B/P to: Mr Aaron S Jacob	CLLR ALLOWANCE		-54
20Jun2025	B/P to: Mrs Ajanta Hilton	CLLR ALLOWANCE		-72
20Jun2025	B/P to: Richard Curthoys	ST STEPHEN PC		-72
20Jun2025	B/P to: W E Berriman	0692/243908663		-90
20Jun2025	B/P to: HCC PENSIONS - LGP		85217	-6630.47
20Jun2025	B/P to: HMRC PAYE	951PB00104440		-7094.69
20Jun2025	B/P to: W PRYCE Â	CLLR ALLOWANCE		-72
25Jun2025	B/P to: Free Range Designs	INV. 12730 - 50%		-2997

St Stephen PC DD payment list June 25

02Jun2025	Direct Debit (MOTIA/FUELCARDSERV)	SHO331470		-140.05
02Jun2025	Direct Debit (SADC COUNCIL TAX)		7051089	-961
02Jun2025	Direct Debit (H3G)	985630447301200045		-49.14
05Jun2025	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	HERTSCOM-26T6A79MC		-26.51
11Jun2025	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	HERTSCOM-26T6A79MC		-33.53
16Jun2025	Direct Debit (CORONA ENERGY RETA)	D000091216C2506121		-826.82
16Jun2025	Direct Debit (GOCARDLESS)	HERTSCOM-26T6A79MC		-1324.94
16Jun2025	Direct Debit (MOTIA/FUELCARDSERV)	SHO331470		-132.42
16Jun2025	Direct Debit (SAGE SOFTWARE LTD)	ZJVE5KQ		-363.6
16Jun2025	Direct Debit (SADC COUNCIL TAX)		7021936	-404
16Jun2025	Direct Debit (LLOYDS CORP CARD)	800000297811II8408		-531.68
16Jun2025	Direct Debit (SADC COUNCIL TAX)		9135020	-152
18Jun2025	Direct Debit (EBAY COMMERCE UK L)	MRN37083747983		-0.01
23Jun2025	Direct Debit (SECOM PLC)		619077	-53.45
24Jun2025	Direct Debit (TOTALENERGIES G&P)		1174013	-300.95
30Jun2025	Direct Debit (MOTIA/FUELCARDSERV)	SHO331470		-195.2
30Jun2025	Manual Credit - Handling Charge			-0.6
30Jun2025	Service Charge			-21.3

St Stephen PC Card purchase payments June 25

Date	Account	Details	Ref.	Credit
05/06/2025	SQUAREUK	Purchase Payment	Square UK-card payment machine replc	178.80
03/06/2025	SADC01	Purchase Payment	SADC-Armed Forces TENS	21.00
17/06/2025	ROBERTDY	Purchase Payment	Robert Dyas Storage boxes	34.92
27/06/2025	DVSTOOLS	Purchase Payment	DVS power tools	0.01
27/06/2025	DVSTOOLS	Purchase Payment	DVS Power tools - PC tap	127.84
09/06/2025	DVLA	Purchase Payment	DVLA	347.50
25/06/2025	CHAIRHIR	Purchase Payment	Central Event Hire	1052.27
15/06/2025	AMAZON	Purchase Payment	Amazon Ethernet cable	10.25
23/06/2025	AMAZON	Purchase Payment	Amazon Welding Sleeves	19.95
23/06/2025	AMAZON	Purchase Payment	Amazon Wood glue	8.08
23/06/2025	AMAZON	Purchase Payment	Amazon Gorilla Epoxy Glue	5.29
22/06/2025	AMAZON	Purchase Payment	Amazon Gorilla Super Glue	5.29
15/06/2025	AMAZON	Purchase Payment	Amazon Blue rolls for PC	19.49
15/06/2025	AMAZON	Purchase Payment	Amazon Brass mini brushes	4.92
15/06/2025	AMAZON	Purchase Payment	Amazon Letter stickers GWP loc	7.99
11/06/2025	AMAZON	Purchase Payment	Amazon GlassWipesNoticeBoards	3.58
02/06/2025		Lloyds Corporate Card Monthly F	CC Monthly Fee AF	3.00
02/06/2025		Lloyds Corporate Card Monthly F	CC Monthly Fee	3.00

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL Summary Budget to Actuals 2025-26-as at 30 June 25

Name		Budget 2025/26	30-Jun-25	Budget-Actual
INCOME				
Precept		£781,938	£390,969.00	390,969
RENTS Total incl TC rchrg		£17,445.32	£5,818.16	£11,627.16
GREENWOOD SPORTS - FOOTBALL		£9,258.67	£0.00	£9,258.67
GREENWOOD SPORTS - CRICKET		£3,365.01	£4,377.00	-£1,011.99
PARK STREET SPORTS - FOOTBALL		£4,367.20	£0.00	£4,367.20
PARK STREET SPORTS - CRICKET		£4,997.43	£3,591.00	£1,406.43
PARISH CENTRE - FIELD		£750.00	£358.00	£392.00
GREENWOOD PARK - FIELD		£2,659.46	£1,228.00	£1,431.46
PARK ST PAVILION		£0.00	£835.83	-£835.83
PARK STREET REC - FIELD		£200.00	£47.92	£152.08
INTEREST RCD, GRANT inc, SUNDRY-Misc TOTAL inc café rchrgs		£36,000.00	£4,119.09	£31,880.91
PARISH CENTRE INCOME - HALL LETTINGS		£65,781.98	£17,084.75	£48,697.23
COMMUNITY CENTRE INCOME & Pavilion - LETTINGS		£119,948.65	£35,219.07	£84,729.58
EVENTS INCOME		£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
TOTAL INCOME (ex Precept)		**£265,773.72**	**£73,289.81**	**£193,094.90**
EXPENDITURE				
Total Salaries and contractors	0	£409,035.93	£96,565.35	£312,470.58
General Admin Total		£122,780.88	£21,893.88	£25,707.37
Grants/Donations/S137		£10,000.00	£880.00	£9,120.00
Vehicle Expenses		£14,050.00	£2,442.06	£11,607.94
Grounds machinery, repairs/maint/small tools		£22,500.00	£699.93	£21,800.07
WOODLANDS -Grounds Management		£40,000.00	£369.52	£39,630.48
Play Areas TOTAL		£71,988.00	£14,687.08	£63,480.92
Parish Centre		£73,918.47	£8,414.94	£55,286.06
Barn		£6,140.74	£1,305.65	£4,469.35
GWP Community Centre		£77,780.13	£16,709.48	£64,745.52
GP Pavilion		£4,927.20	£483.99	£4,536.34
Greenwood Park	0	£16,762.39	£954.52	£15,275.48
PSR Pavilion		£7,910.87	£1,329.37	£6,900.93
Park Street Rec		£12,078.55	£559.54	£9,342.46
All Allotments (incl water)		£1,200.00	£134.91	£1,065.09
Memorial, Furniture + noticeboards		£11,000.00	£5,587.54	£5,412.46
PARISH RE-DEVELOPMENTS		£90,000.00	£0.00	£90,000.00
DEVELOPMENT TASK AND FINISH GWP / PC	contractor co	£30,000.00	£0.00	£30,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**£973,361.27**	**£173,017.76**	**£800,343.51**
S106 PROJECT			**£2,497.50**	
TOTAL INCOME excl Precept		**£265,774.00**	**£73,289.81**	**£192,484.19**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**£1,047,712.00**	**£175,515.26**	**£872,196.74**
TRANSFER FROM / TO RESERVES contingency				
PRECEPT		£781,938.00	£390,969.00	**£390,969.00**

Tree Condition Survey & Management Report

Site:

Various Sites
St Albans
Hertfordshire

Prepared for:

St Stephen Parish Council
The Parish Centre
Station Road
Bricket Wood
St Albans
AL2 3PJ

Prepared by:

Mr G Davies *FdSc Arb MArborA*
Senior Arboricultural Consultant

Bartlett Project Reference:

GD.240755

Site Visit Date:

24th June 2025

Bartlett Tree Experts | Bartlett Consulting
Unit 22-25 Cross Lane Farm
Cross Lanes
Pill, Bristol
Somerset
BS20 0JJ

T: +44 (0)1275 371 000 Option 2
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W: www.bartlett.com

Submitted on 26th June 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of their ongoing tree risk management strategy, St Stephen's Parish Council has commissioned Bartlett Tree Experts to undertake a Level 1 negative survey of the tree stock currently under the Council's management and responsibility.

The survey encompasses 10 publicly accessible sites across the Parish, which include a variety of land uses such as playgrounds, sports fields, woodlands, open meadows, and memorial gardens. Several of these sites also contain multi-use buildings and associated structures.

During the course of the survey, a number of pests and diseases affecting the tree stock were identified. The most notable among these were:

- Ramorum disease (*Phytophthora ramorum*) associated with Sudden Oak Death (SOD)
- *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (the causal agent of Ash Dieback)
- Thaumetopoea processionea commonly known as Oak Processionary Moth, or OPM.

In total, 37 individual trees and 10 groups of trees across the surveyed sites were identified as requiring remedial action within a timeframe of either 6 months or 1 year. The recommended works vary in scope and include:

- Crown lifting
- Selective pruning
- Removal of large deadwood
- Felling of dead standing trees

Where appropriate, the report also provides recommendations to mitigate the risks associated with trees affected by pests and diseases, in order to maintain public safety and preserve the health of the Parish's tree stock.

1.0 SCOPE OF REPORT

1.1 Assignment

1.1.1 I have been instructed by Mr Matt Huddleston on 28th May 2025 to:

a) Perform a Level 1 *Basic Assessment* of the principal trees located within the grounds of 10 individual sites under management of the St Stephens Parish Council following the visual tree assessment (VTA) techniques developed by Mattheck & Breloer (1994).

Sites included within the survey are:

- *Greenwood Park inc St Julian's Wood -Tippendell Lane, Chiswell Green, AL2 3HW. Northern end AL2 3JX*
- *North Close Play Area - North Close, Chiswell Green access via Watford Road Allotments car park AL2 3JX*
- *Cherry Hill Play Area - Cherry Hill, Chiswell Green, AL2 3AT*
- *Mayflower Road Play Area - Mayflower Road, Park Street, AL2 2QN*
- *Park Street Rec - Park Street Lane, Park Street, AL2 2NE*
- *War memorial -Park Street, AL2 2EZ*
- *Park Street Lane Allotments - Park Street Lane, AL2 2AG*
- *Woodbury Field - West Riding, Bricket Wood AL2 3QQ*
- *Black Green Wood - Lye Lane, Bricket Wood AL2 3QT*
- *Parish Centre - Station Road, Bricket Wood AL2 3PJ*

b) Undertake a qualified tree risk assessment in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA's) Best Management Practices (BMP) *Tree Risk Assessment (Third Edition)* and *Tree Risk Assessment Manual (Second Edition)* of the trees detailed in element a) above.

After review and discussion with the client, the tree risk assessment will be conducted for the following target(s): *people* (employees, private residents and members of the public) *vehicles* (moving, parked, third-party) *structures* (buildings and fences play equipment and utilities)

c) Provide a written report summarising the tree stock subject to the survey; a schedule of trees and the level of associated tree risk based on the likelihood of failure and impact to the identified targets detailed above; and fully informed management recommendations in accordance with current Arboricultural practice and tree health care techniques so that the tree owner (risk manager) can determine their tolerability of risk and take reasonable and proportionate action.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Bartlett Consulting was approached by St. Stephens Parish Council in 2022 with regards to undertaking a tree survey, so they could gain an updated assessment of their tree stock. Following discussions with the Parish Council, it was agreed that a Level 1 *Limited Visual Assessment* would be undertaken to identify those trees that are the highest risk, and need priority management, so that the Parish Council can address their immediate duty of care. Three years have now past since my previous survey and as such, in line with the council's tree management plan I have been retained to carry out a re-survey of the sites.

1.0 SCOPE OF REPORT (continued…)

1.3 Report Author

1.3.1 The site visit, tree survey as well as report writing has been completed by me, Mr Gareth Davies – Senior Consultant for Bartlett Consulting / Bartlett Tree Experts.

1.3.2 I have obtained a Level 5 *FdSc* in Arboriculture, hold ISA - Tree Risk Assessment and LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector qualifications, and am a 'Professional Member' of the Arboricultural Association with over 11 years' experience within the industry.

1.4 Report Limitations & Methodologies

1.4.1 This report is restricted to the trees detailed in the Tree Survey & Management schedules found at the end of this report and referenced in the Assignment above.

1.4.2 My survey and qualified risk assessment of trees surveyed at the multiple sites (as detailed above) are based on consecutive visits on 13th, 16th & 17th. All photographs, samples, and readings, if applicable, were taken at the time the assessment was performed.

1.4.3 My visual tree inspection was in some instances limited by the following factor(s): Dense vegetation and ivy growing around and on the tree.

1.4.4 *Targets* and *Occupancy Rates* considered in my tree risk assessment were determined based on a conversation and agreement with Matt Huddleston as well as my site observations made during my time on site. Targets considered in this tree risk assessment have been detailed in section 1.1.1.

1.4.5 Based on the St Stephens Parish Council tree management strategy the *time frame* for my risk assessment is 3 years, however only essential works required within 1 year have been identified within my report.

1.4.6 This information is solely for the use of the tree owner and manager to assist in the decision-making process regarding the management of their tree or trees. Tree risk assessments are simply tools which should be used in conjunction with the owner or tree manager's knowledge, other information and observations related to the specific tree or trees discussed, and sound decision making.

1.4.7 The statements, findings and recommendations made within the report do not take into account any effects of extreme climate and weather incidences, vandalism, changes in the natural and/or built environment around the trees after the date of this report, nor any damage whether physical, chemical or otherwise.

1.4.8 Tree risk ratings are derived from a combination of three factors: the likelihood of failure, the likelihood of the failed tree part impacting a target, and the consequences of the target being struck. These factors are then used to categorize tree risk as extreme, high, moderate or low. The factors used to define your risk rating are identified in this report.

1.4.9 Tools used in the assessment included: a nylon hammer to 'sound' the tree and tree parts; a probe to measure the depth of cavities and open wounds, as well as explore soil conditions; and binoculars to observe upper portions of the tree. Tree dimensions were recorded using hand tools such as a laser range finder; diameter tape and measuring tape.

1.4.10 All tree information and data were captured using Pear Technology tree management software and a Trimble hand-held unit, with trees plotted by GPS on an Ordnance Survey base map. This combination of technology has resulted in the production of the Tree Location Plan found at the end of this report.

1.4.11 The tree dimensions are accurate as captured on the day.

2.0 TREE & WILDLIFE PROTECTION STATUS

2.1 Statutory Protection

2.1.1 The Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) provide legislative protection for trees within England.

2.1.2 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, provide statutory protection to birds, bats, insects and other species that inhabit trees, hedgerows, or other associated vegetation.

2.1.3 I conducted a tree protection status check through St Albans City & District Councils interactive mapping website available at:
https://gis.stalbans.gov.uk/WebMap9/Map.aspx?MapName=StAlbans

2.2 Tree Preservation Order (TPO) Status

2.2.1 Black Green Wood - Woodland TPO Ref W1,1665 Black Green Wood, south of M25, Bricket Wood, Confirmed with modification on 24th March 2017

2.3 Conservation Area (CA) Status

2.3.1 War Memorial Park - Park Street & Frogmore Conservation Area

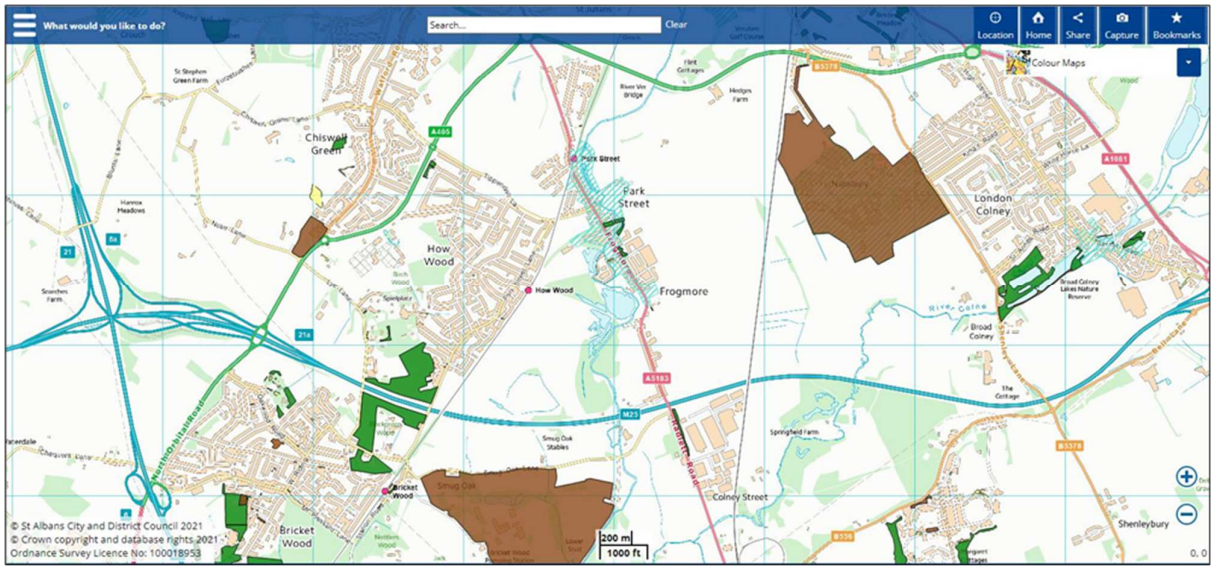


Figure 1: Snipped Image from St Albans City & District council's interactive map showing TPO's and Conservation Areas

2.4 Wildlife Protection Status

2.4.1 Following my tree survey, based on my visual observations of the various trees and tree features detailed I believe that there is a *MODERATE to HIGH* potential for wildlife and ecological associations for a number of the surveyed sites.

2.0 TREE & WILDLIFE PROTECTION STATUS (continued…)

2.5 Tree Management Implications

2.5.1 It has been established via an online search with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) that the trees located within Black Green Wood are currently protected by a woodland Tree Preservation Order (TPO) as referenced above.

2.5.2 Under the Town and Country Planning Act, you cannot carry out any works to a tree protected by a designated TPO before obtaining formal written permission as issued by the appropriate Local Planning Authority. This obligation requires the submission of a Tree Preservation Order planning application (TPO1APP) but cannot be acted upon until full Local Planning Authority permission is granted.

2.5.3 It has also been established via the same online search that the War Memorial Park stands within a designated Conservation Area (CA) as referenced above. This status affects all trees of a stem diameter greater than 75mm, when measured at 1.5m above ground level. Therefore, trees falling within this criterion will be protected by virtue of their location in the designated CA.

2.5.4 Prior to works on a tree within a conservation area a Section 211 Notice must be served upon the LPA, providing them with 6 weeks' notice of any intention to implement works to protected trees. The purpose of this notice is to provide the LPA an opportunity to consider whether a TPO should be made in respect of the trees.

2.5.5 Please note that the removal of dead trees and the pruning of dead wood from living trees are permitted and "excepted" works under the 2012 Regulation listed above. These works can be undertaken only after 5 working days' notice has been given to the local planning authority.

3.0 GENERAL TREE POPULATION OVERVIEW

3.1 General Discussion

3.1.1 I captured a total of 37 individual trees and 10 groups of trees over the 10 sites all of which have been highlighted as requiring action within a period of either 6 months or 1 year.

3.1.2 During my ground-based survey, I identified a number of dead standing trees within woodland sites and hedgerows. Dead standing trees provide good ecological benefits; however, they will inevitably fail. Where a target has been identified within falling distance of a standing dead tree such as footpaths, public highways or seating areas the risk posed is moderate. As such, I have recommended either removal or a reduction in height. This will avoid hitting a target area if failure were to occur.

3.1.3 Deadwood was identified within tree crowns throughout a number of the surveyed sites, however, it was more prolific within the woodland area as is to be expected. The presence of deadwood is a natural occurrence, especially within woodland, and its removal within such a setting would not be deemed reasonable or appropriate. The need to remove deadwood should be decided on a site by site basis. A risk rating can be derived through taking into account the suspected targets, their occupancy rates as well as the severity should a target be struck.

3.1.4 Within the report I have highlighted and recommended the removal of major deadwood only when overhanging or in striking distance of target areas such as formal footpaths, public highways or seating areas.

3.1.5 Other management recommended within this report predominantly focuses on low risk and remedial works such as crown lifting and selectively pruning to provide suitable clearance from structures, road and paths where contact is imminent or current.

3.1.6 Significant understory, Ivy and/or epicormic growth can prevent full assessment of the buttressing, lower stem, primary unions and primary branch structure. In general, all trees but especially large trees along boundaries or located in proximity to frequent or constant occupancy target areas, should have the understory around them routinely cleared and maintained clear to allow full inspection of these important tree features on a regular basis. Hidden defects such as extensive fungal decay at the base of a tree may present a risk to site users or property.

Figure 2: Image of the newly refurbished Woodbury Field play area surrounding by the mature woodland.

3.0 TREE POPULATION OVERVIEW (continued…)

3.2 SPECIFIC DISCUSSION TOPIC

3.2.1 Phytophthora ramorum the casual organism responsible for Sudden Oak Death (SOD) was identified to be causing significant damage to Oak trees within Green Black Woods.

3.2.2 In the UK, the first findings of SOD were in 2002 on container-grown viburnum plants. Findings on rhododendron and several other shrubs followed.

3.2.3 On trees, SOD can affect both bark and leaves and shoots. Bark infections appear most typically as large cankers that have brown to black discoloured outer bark on the lower trunk that seep dark-red sap (commonly called 'bleeding cankers). These cankers most typically occur on the lower portion of the trunk. When the outer bark is removed mottled areas of necrotic, dead and discoloured inner-bark tissue with black 'zone lines' around the edges may be seen. Diseased areas may become colonised by bark beetles. When cankers fully girdle the trunk, death of the tree occurs.

3.2.4 SOD is thought to be dispersed locally by rain splash, wind-driven rain or irrigation or ground water. Long distance spread may be by movement of contaminated plant material, growing media, and in soil carried on vehicles, machinery, footwear or animals.

3.2.5 For this reason I would recommend that all material either remains on site or alternatively is suitably disposed of.

Figure 3: Image of Oak within Green Black Woods exhibiting signs of decline attributed to SOD

Figure 4: Image of dead standing Oak within Green Black Woods

3.0 TREE POPULATION OVERVIEW (Continued…)

3.2 SPECIFIC DISCUSSION TOPIC (Continued...)

3.2.6 Ash dieback (ADB), caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (formerly *Chalara fraxinea*), has been identified throughout the Ash tree population present at numerous sites.

3.2.7 ADB is a devastating disease posing a significant threat to ash trees across the UK. First confirmed in the UK in 2012, this highly destructive fungus spreads rapidly through wind-borne spores. While young ash trees can succumb quickly, often within a couple of seasons, mature trees may decline over several years.

3.2.8 The current advice is not to pre-emptively fell ash trees unless they pose an imminent threat, and I have only made recommendations where I feel they are required for safety. I have classified ash trees using the tree council – Ash Health Assessment System.

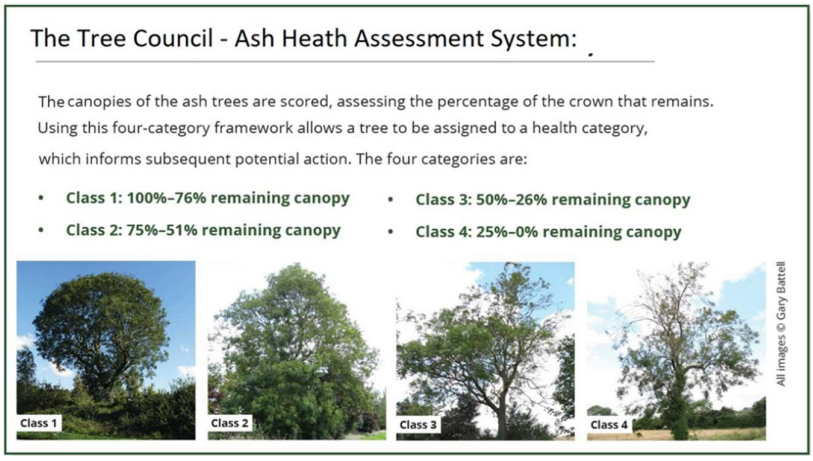


Figure 5. Tree Council – Ash Health Assessment System

3.0 TREE POPULATION OVERVIEW (Continued…)

3.2 SPECIFIC DISCUSSION TOPIC (Continued...)

3.2.9 Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) has been identified on oak trees across several sites within the Parish, with notable infestations observed in the woodland areas of Greenwood Park, the adjoining North Close Play Area, and Green Wood Park.

3.2.10 OPM is a defoliating pest primarily affecting oak species. First recorded in London in 2006, the larvae (caterpillars) feed on oak foliage and, when necessary, may also consume leaves from other broadleaf species such as hornbeam, hazel, beech, sweet chestnut, and birch.

3.2.11 In addition to its ecological impact, OPM poses a significant public health risk. The older larval stages (3rd to 6th instars) are covered in microscopic, barbed hairs containing a urticating toxin known as thaumetopoein. Contact with these hairs, or their inhalation, can cause dermatological and allergic reactions, including rashes, conjunctivitis, and respiratory irritation.

Figure 6: Image of Oak Processionary Moth caterpillars

Figure 7: Image of caterpillars on main stem

3.2.12 To accurately assess the extent of the infestation and determine the precise locations of affected Oak trees and OPM nests within the Parish, it is recommended that a comprehensive survey be conducted. This will support an informed risk assessment and enable the planning and implementation of appropriate management and control measures where necessary.

3.2.13 With the survey I have noted the presence of OPM upon trees highlighted for additional works. To prevent putting the climbing operative at unnecessary exposure the nest must be dealt with prior to these works being carried out. Please note only trained and certified professionals should undertake any control or removal measures.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Advanced (Level 3) Tree Assessments

4.1.1 During my visual tree assessments, I've identified trees where their structure and interaction with wood decay, the presence of fungal fruiting bodies and evident hollowing require a more comprehensive evaluation (Level 3 *Advanced Tree Assessment*) to thoroughly evaluate tree condition and risk of failure.

4.1.2 Level 3 *Advanced Tree Assessments* can be undertaken for tree root systems, the above ground tree structure, as well as physiological health of the tree and can include: climbing inspections; examination of the root system using a compressed-air tool (that avoids damage to roots and underground utilities); resistance micro-drilling or sonic tomography – both of which produce a visual representation of tree wood condition.

4.1.3 The goal is to use the appropriate method to understand tree health and / or condition and determine better informed likelihood of failure and overall tree risk. Once such assessments are completed, appropriate measures can be recommended such as remediation, maintenance or removal.

4.1.4 I recommend the following tree for advanced assessments:

Table 1: Advanced Tree Assessments

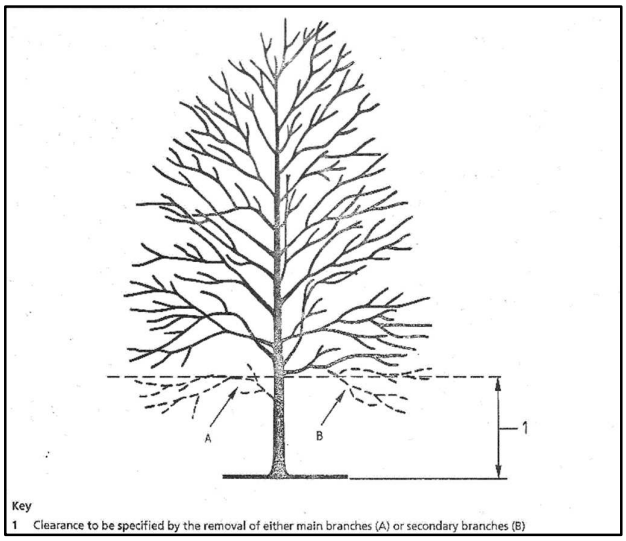
Tree Reference	Advanced Assessment	Observations	Timeframe
T936	• Re-assess level 3 sonic tomography and resi 1.8 and 2.5m	• Single stem specimen • Seam on main stem to western quadrant running from ground up to 2.5m with juvenile fungal fruiting bodies visible within seam • Poor resonance returned when sounded on seam most notable at 1.8m and 2.5m • Large pruning wounds at 2.5m to north-east and south-east • Within striking distance of children's playground • Major deadwood present within mid crown	6 months

4.2 Pruning Specifications

4.2.1 For reference and the benefit of the client, I provide further information and definitions for the recommended tree work operations so that there is a better understanding when it comes to quoting and writing a specification.

4.2.2 Crown Lift**:** Will be carried out in accordance with Section 7.6 of British Standard 3998:2010 so to achieve a final clearance in height above ground level, as detailed in the tables below. Branch removal will be in accordance with Figure 3 of the British Standard and carried out by removing primary branches in the first instance and the secondary branches second instance, unless otherwise specified.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS (continued…)



Crown Reduction: Will be carried out in accordance with Section 7.7 of BS3998:2010 by reducing the height and/or lateral branch spread, as detailed in the tables below. Pruning cuts will be made by using the selective pruning and 'drop-crotch' methodologies, as described in Section 7.7 and 7.8 of the British Standard and as per Figure 4 of the Standard.

Selective Pruning: Will be carried out in accordance with Section 7.7 and 7.8 of BS3998:2010 by shortening specified branching to achieve a desired distance of clearance or crown height and/or lateral spread, when undertaking the reduction works listed above. The amount of material to be removed and the diameters of the pruning cuts will be the minimum required for the purpose.

Pruning Cuts: All cuts will be made to significant lateral growth, and not back to a bud so that only a stubbed branch end remains – in accordance with Figure 02 of British Standard 3998:2010.

5.0 GREENWOOD PARK INCLUDING ST JULIAN'S WOOD

5.0.1 Greenwood Park encompasses approximately 22.5 hectares and is open to the public. The site features a diverse range of amenities and natural habitats, including sports pitches, allotments, small woodlands, wildflower meadows, hedgerows, a children's play area, a car park, roadside boundaries, and tennis courts. It also contains a variety of permanent and semi-permanent structures.

5.0.2 A notable feature of the park is St Julian's Wood, an ancient woodland that contributes significantly to the site's ecological value.

5.0.3 The park is bordered by major roads, with the North Orbital Highway to the east and the A414 to the north. Its southern and western boundaries adjoin residential properties and the Kilgrew Primary & Nursery School.

Figure 8 Showing Greenwood Park and its immediate surroundings, image courtesy of Google Earth.

5.0.4 The trees growing within the site are a variety of predominantly native broadleaf species, located to the site boundaries. St Julian's wood covers an approximate 2.5 hectares and is in a relatively central position within the site.

5.0.5 A total of 12 trees have been identified within the survey as requiring works within a 6 month period, with an additional 3 trees identified as requiring works within a timeframe of 1 year.

5.0.6 A detailed schedule including all observations and recommendations can be found in the table below.

5.1 Tree Survey & Condition and Management Schedule - Greenwood Park Inc St Julian's Wood			
Client: St Stephens Parish Council		***Report No:***	GD/240755
Completed by:	Mr G Davies		
Trees Tagged:	Yes	***Weather:***	Sunny
Site:	Greenwood Park/St Julian's Wood, Tippendell Lane, Chiswell Green, AL2 3HW. Northern end AL2 3JX	***Date of Survey:***	13th & 16th June 2025

`Timescale for Works

ASAP – 6 months	1 Year

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T902	Hybrid Black Poplar	460	23	6	SM	Fair	• Single stem specimen • Previous crown lift • Major deadwood within lower crown overhanging footpath and park bench	• Remove major deadwood throughout crown	6 months	Moderate	Three years
T906	Common Ash	800 at base	20	10	EM	Fair	• Third party tree • Multiple stem specimen • Ivy at base on main stem and throughout crown inhibiting inspection • Major deadwood throughout crown within striking distance of adjacent play area	• Severe ivy at base	1 year	Low	Three years
T917	Common Oak	720	17	11	EM	Good	• Single stem specimen • Asymmetrical crown bias to west • Major deadwood within lower crown overhanging junction of footpath	• Remove major deadwood within striking distance of footpath	1 year	Low	Three years

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T918	Common Oak	900	16	8	EM	Fair	• Single stem specimen • Sweep on main stem • Evidence of previous pruning • Major deadwood within lower mid north-west crown overhanging adjacent school field and in striking distance of benches • OPM nest visible within upper crown	• Remove major deadwood within striking distance of adjacent school field • Remove nests from within crown	6 months	Moderate	Three years
G608	Group of 2 Common Oak	600 & 500	16	7	EM	Good To Fair	• Single stem specimens • Ivy at base on main stems and throughout crowns inhibiting full inspection • Asymmetrical crowns bias to north-west overhanging adjacent school playing field • Major deadwood within striking distance of school playing field	• Severe ivy at base • Remove major deadwood within striking distance of school playing field	6 months	Moderate	Three years
T609	Wild Cherry	200-480	13	4	SM	Dead	• Dead standing tree *Ganoderma* at base • Within striking distance of adjacent highway	• Remove to ground level	6 months	Moderate	N/A
T612	Wild Cherry	210-200	8	1	SM	Dead	• Dead standing stem Partially failed at base Hung up within neighbouring tree	• Remove to ground level	1 year	Low	N/A
G613	English Elm	200	7	3	Y	Dead	• Group of 2 dead standing trees Within striking distance of path	• Remove to ground level	1 year	Low	N/A
T614	Common Oak	900-1000	15	9	EM	Good	• Bifurcation of main stem at base resulting in 2 co-dominant leaders • Further bifurcation and trifurcation at 2.0m • Major deadwood overhanging and in striking distance of footpath	• Remove major deadwood overhanging or in striking distance of footpath	6 months	Moderate	Three years
T615	Crab Apple	300	8	3	EM	Fair	• Compaction at base and visible damage to exposed roots • Ivy at base on main stem and throughout crown inhibiting full inspection • Hollowing tones when sounded on main stem • Lean to north-west within striking distance of path and school entrance	• Severe and remove ivy and carry out further inspection or • Alternatively remove to ground level	6 months	Moderate	6 months

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T616	Common Oak	400-300	7	5	SM	Fair	• Twin stem specimen • Previous pruning of lower crown to provide clearance over footpath • Major deadwood within crown overhanging footpath	• Remove major deadwood overhanging or within striking distance of footpath	6 months	Low	Three years
T617	Wild Cherry	260	8	3	SM	Declining	• Single stem specimen • Significant decline with major deadwood throughout crown in striking distance of footpath	• Remove to ground level	6 months	Low	Three years
G618	Field Maple	200avg	10	5	M	Fair	• Multiple stems establishing from old coppice • Previous pruning to provide clearance over footpath • Previous storm damage visible within crown • Major deadwood overhanging footpath	• Remove major deadwood overhanging footpath	6 months	Low	Three years
T619	Silver Birch	310	10	4	SM	Good	• Single stem specimen • Epicormic regrowth establishing at base • Crown overhanging carparking bays and road	• Remove epicormic regrowth at base • Crown lift to achieve suitable clearance over parking bays and road	6 months	Low	Three years
T620	Common Lime	720	13	10	EM	Good	• Single stem specimen • Multiple leaders forming at 2.0m • Crown overhanging carpark, road and in direct contact with street lighting	• Carry out crown lift and selective pruning to provide suitable clearance over parking bays, road and from streetlamp	6 months	Low	Three years

Tree Survey Schedule Key:

Tree No – tree reference on Tree Location Plan and/or tree tags where used. **Species** – tree species giving English common name. **DBH –** the individual stem diameters when typically measured at 1.5m above ground level unless otherwise stated. **Ht –** tree height recorded in metres. **Crown Spread** - crown spread in the four cardinal compass points, or as average using broadest radial spread. **Age Class –** recorded as **NP** (newly planted); **Y** (Y) up-to 1/5 of trees life-cycle; **SM** (semi-mature) up-to 2/5 of trees life-cycle; **EM** (early-mature) up-to 3/5 of trees life-cycle; **M** (mature) up-to 4/5 of trees life-cycle; **OM** (over-mature) up-to 5/5 of trees life-cycle; **Vet** (veteran) exceptional age for species with features such as cracks, cavities and decay which enhance biological associations and value of tree with senescence/retrenchment. **Vitality** – an assessment of the physiological condition of the tree expressed as **NORM** (normal) no dieback no decline or **LOW** (low) exhibiting signs of dieback and reduced growth/vitality. **Condition –** is reference to physical and structural observations of the tree as a whole and individual parts. **Time Scale –** recommended priority and timeframe in which recommended actions should be completed, including **N/A** (not applicable as no priority). **Risk Factor** – as per Section 7.0 of report. **Re-inspection Frequency** – as expressed in assessment table.

Note on Time Scale: Where a program of coppicing has been recommended, the time scale is the recommended time in which the program should commence.

6.0 NORTH CLOSE PLAY AREA

6.0.1 North Close Play Area is a publicly accessible site covering approximately 1.0 hectare, connected by a footpath to the larger Greenwood Park. The site comprises a designated children's play area and an open kickabout space, which are broadly divided by a public footpath that traverses the site. The footpath experiences heavy foot traffic at the beginning and end of each weekday due to the proximity of the local school.

6.0.2 The play area is bordered by Greenwood Park Allotments to the north, Kilgrew Primary & Nursery School to the east, and residential properties along its southern and western boundaries.

Figure 9 Showing North Close Play Area and its immediate surroundings, image courtesy of Google Earth.

6.0.3 The trees growing within the site are a variety of predominantly open grown, native broadleaf species located to the east.

6.0.4 The survey identified OPM caterpillars both at low level on the main stem and also higher up within the tree crown. Due to the high footfall within the area and proximity to the local playground I would strongly recommend that the OPM within this area is managed.

6.0.5 Two (2) trees within this site have been highlighted as requiring works within a 6 month period.

6.0.6 A detailed schedule including all observations and recommendations can be found in the table below.

6.1 Tree Survey & Condition and Management Schedule - North Close Play Area

Client: St Stephens Parish Council	***Report No:*** GD/240755
Completed by: Mr G Davies	
Trees Tagged: Yes	***Weather:*** Sunny
Site: *North Close Play Area - North Close, Chiswell Green access AL2 3JX*	***Date of Survey:*** 13th June 2025

`Timescale for Works

ASAP – 6 months	1 Year

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T610	Common Oak	850	17	9	EM	Good	• Single stem forming multiple co-dominant leaders beyond 2.0m • Located outside children's playground area • Major deadwood within lower and mid crown within striking distance of path • OPM visible on main stem and throughout tree	•Remove major deadwood •Remove OPM nests within the lower crown	6 months	Moderate	Three years
T611	Common Ash	660	15	8	EM	Fair	• Single stem specimen • Located within children's play area • Epicormic regrowth forming on lower scaffold branches • Major deadwood within lower crown	•Remove major deadwood throughout crown	6 months	Moderate	Three years

Tree Survey Schedule Key:

Tree No – tree reference on Tree Location Plan and/or tree tags where used. **Species** – tree species giving English common name. **DBH –** the individual stem diameters when typically measured at 1.5m above ground level unless otherwise stated. **Ht –** tree height recorded in metres. **Crown Spread** - crown spread in the four cardinal compass points, or as average using broadest radial spread. **Age Class –** recorded as **NP** (newly planted); **Y** (Y) up-to 1/5 of trees life-cycle; **SM** (semi-mature) up-to 2/5 of trees life-cycle; **EM** (early-mature) up-to 3/5 of trees life-cycle; **M** (mature) up-to 4/5 of trees life-cycle; **OM** (over-mature) up-to 5/5 of trees life-cycle; **Vet** (veteran) exceptional age for species with features such as cracks, cavities and decay which enhance biological associations and value of tree with senescence/retrenchment. **Vitality** – an assessment of the physiological condition of the tree expressed as **NORM** (normal) no dieback no decline or **LOW** (low) exhibiting signs of dieback and reduced growth/vitality. **Condition –** is reference to physical and structural observations of the tree as a whole and individual parts. **Time Scale –** recommended priority and timeframe in which recommended actions should be completed, including **N/A** (not applicable as no priority). **Risk Factor** – as per Section 7.0 of report. **Re-inspection Frequency** – as expressed in assessment table.

Note on Time Scale: Where a program of coppicing has been recommended, the time scale is the recommended time in which the program should commence.

7.0 CHERRY HILL PLAY AREA

7.0.1 Cherry Hill Play Area is a 0.75-hectare site that is open to the public and comprises a children's play area and an informal kickabout space. The surveyed area also includes the public footpath that runs along the southern edge of the site.

7.0.2 The eastern boundary adjoins several residential properties and the Cherry Hill public highway, while the northern boundary is enclosed by a small woodland area. To the west, the site is bordered by a horse paddock, contributing to the site's semi-rural character.

Figure 10 Showing Cherry Hill Play Area and its immediate surroundings, image courtesy of Google Earth.

7.0.3 Living up to its name, the trees growing within the site are predominantly of a *prunus* species located along the site boundaries. Trees growing along the public footpath are a mixture of predominantly broadleaf trees and shrubs, and include a number of young dead standing and dying Elm trees.

7.0.4 The trees within the site are all a similar age. As such, to ensure future tree cover on site, a degree of successive planting would be advised.

7.0.5 A total of 2 trees have been identified within the survey as requiring works within a 6 month period with an additional 1 tree requiring works within a period of 1 year. A detailed schedule including all observations and recommendations can be found in the table below.

7.1 Tree Survey & Condition and Management Schedule- Cherry Hill Play Centre

Client: St Stephens Parish Council		***Report No:***	GD/240755
Completed by:	Mr G Davies		
Trees Tagged:	Yes	***Weather:***	Sunny
Site:	Cherry Hill Play Area, Chiswell Green, AL2 3AT	***Date of Survey:***	16th June 2025

`Timescale for Works

ASAP – 6 months	1 Year

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T621	Common Hawthorn	400	6	3	EM	Good	• Single stem specimen bifurcating at 2.0m • Epicormic regrowth establishing at base • Lower crown overhanging road	• Remove epicormic regrowth at base and on main stem • Carry out crown lift and lateral reduction to maintain suitable clearance from road	1 year	Low	Three years
T622	English Elm	200	8	2	Y	Dead	• Dead standing • Within striking distance of park, footpath and adjacent residential gardens	• Remove to ground level	6 months	Moderate	N/A
G930	Group of 3 English Elm	200	8	2	Y	Dead	• Dead standing • Within striking distance of park, footpath and adjacent residential gardens	• Remove to ground level	6 months	Moderate	N/A

Tree Survey Schedule Key:

Tree No – tree reference on Tree Location Plan and/or tree tags where used. **Species** – tree species giving English common name. **DBH –** the individual stem diameters when typically measured at 1.5m above ground level unless otherwise stated. **Ht –** tree height recorded in metres. **Crown Spread** - crown spread in the four cardinal compass points, or as average using broadest radial spread. **Age Class –** recorded as **NP** (newly planted); **Y** (Y) up-to 1/5 of trees life-cycle; **SM** (semi-mature) up-to 2/5 of trees life-cycle; **EM** (early-mature) up-to 3/5 of trees life-cycle; **M** (mature) up-to 4/5 of trees life-cycle; **OM** (over-mature) up-to 5/5 of trees life-cycle; **Vet** (veteran) exceptional age for species with features such as cracks, cavities and decay which enhance biological associations and value of tree with senescence/retrenchment. **Vitality** – an assessment of the physiological condition of the tree expressed as **NORM** (normal) no dieback no decline or **LOW** (low) exhibiting signs of dieback and reduced growth/vitality. **Condition –** is reference to physical and structural observations of the tree as a whole and individual parts. **Time Scale –** recommended priority and timeframe in which recommended actions should be completed, including **N/A** (not applicable as no priority). **Risk Factor** – as per Section 7.0 of report. **Re-inspection Frequency** – as expressed in assessment table.

Note on Time Scale: Where a program of coppicing has been recommended, the time scale is the recommended time in which the program should commence.

8.0 MAYFLOWER ROAD PLAY AREA

8.0.1 Mayflower Road Play Area is a 0.9-hectare site open to the public, comprising a children's play area and an informal kickabout space. The site is bordered to the north by a meadow pasture, while residential properties enclose the eastern and southern boundaries.

8.0.2 To the west, the site adjoins the busy A405 public highway, where a dense linear belt of coniferous trees provides effective visual and acoustic screening. Vegetation within the site is limited, with most planting concentrated along the southern and western edges.

8.0.3 At present, development works are ongoing adjacent to the site, and the northern section has been temporarily fenced off to accommodate these activities.

Figure 11 Showing Mayflower Road Play Area and its immediate surroundings, image courtesy of Google Earth

8.0.4 Just a single group of trees has been identified within the survey as requiring works within a 6 month period.

8.0.5 Although providing a level of screening, consideration should be given regarding the suitability of Group G993 in the long term as there are limited arboricultural options available with regards to remedial works. Suitable replacement planting would go some way to mitigate the loss of this group.

8.0.6 A detailed schedule including all recommendations can be found in the table below.

8.1 Tree Survey & Condition and Management Schedule- Mayflower Road Play Area			
Client: St Stephens Parish Council		***Report No:***	GD/240755
Completed by:	Mr G Davies		
Trees Tagged:	Yes	***Weather:***	Sunny
Site:	Mayflower Road Play Area, Park Street, AL2 2QN	***Date of Survey:***	16th June 2025

`Timescale for Works

ASAP – 6 months	1 Year

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
G993	Group of Leyland Cypress	400 avg	12	5	SM	Fair; Declining	•Multiple stem specimens •Forming effective screening •Previous management of lower crown through trimming up to 3.0m •Die-back expressed throughout and broken branches Southern and eastern crown overhang road	•Top to suitable hight and remove dead and broken branches throughout •Alternatively remove and replant with more suitable specimens	1 year	Low	Three years

Tree Survey Schedule Key:

Tree No – tree reference on Tree Location Plan and/or tree tags where used. **Species** – tree species giving English common name. **DBH –** the individual stem diameters when typically measured at 1.5m above ground level unless otherwise stated. **Ht –** tree height recorded in metres. **Crown Spread** - crown spread in the four cardinal compass points, or as average using broadest radial spread. **Age Class –** recorded as **NP** (newly planted); **Y** (Y) up-to 1/5 of trees life-cycle; **SM** (semi-mature) up-to 2/5 of trees life-cycle; **EM** (early-mature) up-to 3/5 of trees life-cycle; **M** (mature) up-to 4/5 of trees life-cycle; **OM** (over-mature) up-to 5/5 of trees life-cycle; **Vet** (veteran) exceptional age for species with features such as cracks, cavities and decay which enhance biological associations and value of tree with senescence/retrenchment. **Vitality** – an assessment of the physiological condition of the tree expressed as **NORM** (normal) no dieback no decline or **LOW** (low) exhibiting signs of dieback and reduced growth/vitality. **Condition –** is reference to physical and structural observations of the tree as a whole and individual parts. **Time Scale –** recommended priority and timeframe in which recommended actions should be completed, including **N/A** (not applicable as no priority). **Risk Factor** – as per Section 7.0 of report. **Re-inspection Frequency** – as expressed in assessment table.

Note on Time Scale: Where a program of coppicing has been recommended, the time scale is the recommended time in which the program should commence.

9.0 PARK STREET RECREATION

9.0.1 Park Street Recreation Ground is a 5.0-hectare public open space that includes a children's play area, a cricket pitch, and an informal kickabout area.

9.0.2 The site also incorporates a disused railway embankment, which is occasionally accessed by members of the public although there are plans to regenerate this area.

9.0.3 The surrounding area comprises a mix of residential, commercial, and educational properties. Tree cover within the site is primarily concentrated along the boundaries, contributing to the site's green infrastructure. A small, wooded area is located in the south-western corner of the site, which has recently undergone a series of tree management works and planting.

Figure 11 showing Park Street Recreation and its immediate surroundings, image courtesy of Google Earth.

9.0.4 A total of **3** individual trees and 3 groups of trees have been identified within the survey as requiring works within a 6 month period. In addition, three (3) trees have been identified as requiring work within a period of 1 year.

9.0.5 A Level 3, advanced re-survey has also been recommended on 1 tree (refer to table 1). An inspection and assessment of this tree was last carried out in December 2022 in which the tree was deemed to be safe. However, the suspected presence of Ganoderma sp,. a known wood decay pathogen, is likely to have continued to degrade the remaining sound wood within the main stem and as such must be monitored.

9.0.6 A detailed schedule including all observations and recommendations can be found in the table below.

9.1 Tree Survey & Condition and Management Schedule - Park Street Recreation			
Client: St Stephens Parish Council		***Report No:***	GD/240755
Completed by:	Mr G Davies		
Trees Tagged:	Yes	***Weather:***	Sunny
Site:	Park Street Recreation Area, Park Street, AL2 2NE	***Date of Survey:***	13th June 2025

`Timescale for Works

ASAP – 6 months	1 Year

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T601	Pissards Plum	200	4.5	3	SM	Good	• Single stem specimen bifurcating at 1.5m • Epicormic regrowth establishing on lower stem • Previous pruning of western crown to maintain suitable clearance over footpath • Crown in direct contact with telegraph pole	•Remove epicormic regrowth from main stem •Crown lift to achieve suitable clearance •Carry out selective pruning to maintain suitable clearance from overhead telephone lines	1 year	Low	Three years
T602	Wild Cherry	170	4.5	3	SM	Good	• Single stem bifurcation at 1.5m • Excurrent form • Upper crown in proximity to overhead telephone lines	•Carry out selective pruning to maintain suitable clearance from overhead lines	1 year	Low	Three years
T603	Paper Birch	90	4.5	2	Y	Good	• Single stem specimen • Sweep on main stem • Small broken branch in mid crown • Upper crown in proximity to overhead telephone lines	•Remove broken branch •Carry out selective pruning to maintain suitable clearance from overhead telephone lines	1 year	Low	Three years

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T395	Norway Maple	170	5	3.5	SM	Good	• Single stem specimen • Previous crown lift • Mid crown in direct conflict with overhead telephone lines	•Carry out selective pruning to provide suitable clearance from telephone lines	1 year	Low	Three years
G936	Group of 2 English Elm	180 avg	5	3	Y	Dead	• Dead standing trees • Within striking distance of children's playground	•Remove to ground level	6 months	Moderate	N/A
T936	Common Beech	1140	25	9	EM	Good	• Single stem specimen • Seam on main stem to western quadrant running from ground up to 2.5m with juvenile fungal fruiting bodies visible within seam • Poor resonance returned when sounded on seam most notable at 1.8m and 2.5m • Large pruning wounds at 2.5m to north-east and south-east • Within striking distance of children's playground • Major deadwood present within mid crown	•Re-assess level 3 sonic tomography and resi 1.8 and 2.5m •Remove major deadwood throughout crown	6 months	Moderate	6 months
T604	Common Lime	1100	27	10	EM	Good	• Single stem specimen • Bifurcation at 2.0m • Asymmetrical crown bias • Major deadwood within lower and mid-eastern crown in proximity to children's playground area	•Remove major deadwood throughout crown	6 months	Moderate	Three years
T606	Common Oak	800	18	7	EM	Fair	• Single stem • Growing adjacent to railway line • Failure of co-dominant leader at 3.0m hanging within neighbouring tree, striking distance of path • Bleeding on main stem • Hollow tones on main stem when sounded • Heavy infestation of OPM within crown	•Remove to ground level or significantly reduce height to make safe	6 months	Moderate	N/A
G607	Mixed group	150 avg	6	3 avg	EM	Declining Poor Dead	• Dying, declining and dead standing hawthorn trees throughout group	•Remove dead specimens within striking distance of paths •Monitor for decline and remove as required	6 months	Moderate	Three years

Tree Survey Schedule Key:

Tree No – tree reference on Tree Location Plan and/or tree tags where used. **Species** – tree species giving English common name. **DBH –** the individual stem diameters when typically measured at 1.5m above ground level unless otherwise stated. **Ht –** tree height recorded in metres. **Crown Spread** - crown spread in the four cardinal compass points, or as average using broadest radial spread. **Age Class –** recorded as **NP** (newly planted); **Y** (Y) up-to 1/5 of trees life-cycle; **SM** (semi-mature) up-to 2/5 of trees life-cycle; **EM** (early-mature) up-to 3/5 of trees life-cycle; **M** (mature) up-to 4/5 of trees life-cycle; **OM** (over-mature) up-to 5/5 of trees life-cycle; **Vet** (veteran) exceptional age for species with features such as cracks, cavities and decay which enhance biological associations and value of tree with senescence/retrenchment. **Vitality** – an assessment of the physiological condition of the tree expressed as **NORM** (normal) no dieback no decline or **LOW** (low) exhibiting signs of dieback and reduced growth/vitality. **Condition –** is reference to physical and structural observations of the tree as a whole and individual parts. **Time Scale –** recommended priority and timeframe in which recommended actions should be completed, including **N/A** (not applicable as no priority). **Risk Factor** – as per Section 7.0 of report. **Re-inspection Frequency** – as expressed in assessment table.

Note on Time Scale: Where a program of coppicing has been recommended, the time scale is the recommended time in which the program should commence.

10.0 WAR MEMORIAL

10.0.1 The War Memorial is a publicly accessible site comprising a small, landscaped garden with amenity grass and a designated seating area. It is situated directly adjacent to the Park Street public highway, positioned between residential properties to the east and west. To the north, the site is bordered by a large car park, providing convenient access for visitors.

Figure 12 Showing the War Memorial and its immediate surroundings, image courtesy of Google Earth.

10.0.2 There are a small number of trees planted within the memorial garden and a number of third-party trees within proximity to the boundary.

10.0.3 Following my previous visit, the site appears to have somewhat been unmanaged and is currently overgrown. This has inhibited my ability to carry out a full visual inspection of the trees.

10.0.4 Only one (1) tree has been identified within the survey as requiring works within 12-month period. A detailed schedule including observations and recommendations can be found in the table below.

10.1 Tree Survey & Condition and Management Schedule - War Memorial			
Client: St Stephens Parish Council		***Report No:***	GD/240755
Completed by:	Mr G Davies		
Trees Tagged:	Yes	***Weather:***	Sunny
Site:	War Memorial, AL2 2EZ	***Date of Survey:***	16th June 2025

`Timescale for Works

ASAP – 6 months	1 Year

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T940	Common Alder	500&500	12	7	EM	Fair	• Unable to view at base, main stem or crown structure due to ivy	•Severe ivy and re-inspect	1 year	Low	Three years

Tree Survey Schedule Key:

Tree No – tree reference on Tree Location Plan and/or tree tags where used. **Species** – tree species giving English common name. **DBH –** the individual stem diameters when typically measured at 1.5m above ground level unless otherwise stated. **Ht –** tree height recorded in metres. **Crown Spread** - crown spread in the four cardinal compass points, or as average using broadest radial spread. **Age Class –** recorded as **NP** (newly planted); **Y** (Y) up-to 1/5 of trees life-cycle; **SM** (semi-mature) up-to 2/5 of trees life-cycle; **EM** (early-mature) up-to 3/5 of trees life-cycle; **M** (mature) up-to 4/5 of trees life-cycle; **OM** (over-mature) up-to 5/5 of trees life-cycle; **Vet** (veteran) exceptional age for species with features such as cracks, cavities and decay which enhance biological associations and value of tree with senescence/retrenchment. **Vitality** – an assessment of the physiological condition of the tree expressed as **NORM** (normal) no dieback no decline or **LOW** (low) exhibiting signs of dieback and reduced growth/vitality. **Condition –** is reference to physical and structural observations of the tree as a whole and individual parts. **Time Scale –** recommended priority and timeframe in which recommended actions should be completed, including **N/A** (not applicable as no priority). **Risk Factor** – as per Section 7.0 of report. **Re-inspection Frequency** – as expressed in assessment table.

Note on Time Scale: Where a program of coppicing has been recommended, the time scale is the recommended time in which the program should commence.

11.0 PARK STREET LANE ALLOTMENTS

11.0.1 Park Street Allotments comprise a number of individual allotment plots alongside an area of amenity grass. The site also includes a public footpath that runs parallel to the Park Street public highway, forming the site's western boundary.

11.0.2 While access to the allotment plots is restricted, the grass area remains open to the public. Tree cover within the site is limited; however, beyond the eastern boundary is densely planted with a mix of trees and shrubs, providing effective screening from the adjacent Network Rail train line.

Figure 13 Showing the Park Street Lane Allotments site within its immediate surroundings, image courtesy of Google Earth.

11.0.3 No trees or groups of trees within this site were identified as requiring works.

12.0 WOODBURY FIELD

12.0.1 Woodbury Field is a public open space encompassing approximately 1.5 hectares, located within Bricket Wood. The site offers a diverse range of recreational amenities, including multiple children's play areas, sports pitches, a hard-standing ball court, and recent additions such as an outdoor exercise equipment area and a children's pump track.

12.0.2 The site is bordered to the north-east, east, and south-east by Black Green Wood, providing a natural woodland backdrop. The remaining boundaries are enclosed by residential properties, contributing to the site's accessibility and community integration.

12.0.3 The tree cover within Woodbury Field is predominantly composed of native broadleaf species, which are concentrated around the perimeter. This vegetation forms a well-defined natural enclosure, enhancing the park's character and providing ecological and aesthetic value.

Figure 14 Showing the Woodbury Field and its immediate surroundings, image courtesy of Google Earth.

12.0.4 A total of one (1) individual tree and one (1) group of trees have been identified within the survey as requiring works within a 6 month period. An additional one (1) tree has been recommended works with a period of 1 year.

12.0.5 A detailed schedule including all observations and recommendations can be found in the table below.

12.1 Tree Survey & Condition and Management Schedule - Woodbury Field			
Client: St Stephens Parish Council		***Report No:***	GD/240755
Completed by:	Mr G Davies		
Trees Tagged:	Yes	***Weather:***	Sunny
Site:	Woodbury Field, West Riding, Bricket Wood AL2 3QQ	***Date of Survey:***	16th June 2025

`Timescale for Works

ASAP – 6 months	1 Year

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
G623	Group of 3 Common Oak	500&400&200	15	7	SM	Good	• Single stem specimens • Major deadwood within lower southern crowns overhanging footpath and in striking distance of road	• Remove major deadwood within striking distance of footpath and public highway	6 months	Moderate	Three years
T624	Common Oak	1100	12	7	EM	Declining	• Limited access to base • Good resonance returned when sounded where possible • Regrowth forming on main stem • Significant die-back expressed throughout crown • Previous heavy reduction of crown • Major deadwood throughout crown	• Reduce to approx. height of 6-8 m and retain as standing stem Or • Remove to ground level (If retained this will require ongoing inspection due to proximity to road)	1 year	Low	One year
T948	Common Oak	1200	18	12	EM	Fair	• Single stem specimen • Unable to access at base due to dense vegetation • Black staining on main stem possible *phytophora* • Die-back expressed throughout upper crown • Major deadwood throughout crown within striking distance of path, road bench and children's playground area • OPM visible within crown	• Remove major deadwood throughout crown • Remove any OPM nests visible within the lower crown	6 months	Moderate	Three years

Tree Survey Schedule Key:

Tree No – tree reference on Tree Location Plan and/or tree tags where used. **Species** – tree species giving English common name. **DBH –** the individual stem diameters when typically measured at 1.5m above ground level unless otherwise stated. **Ht –** tree height recorded in metres. **Crown Spread** - crown spread in the four cardinal compass points, or as average using broadest radial spread. **Age Class –** recorded as **NP** (newly planted); **Y** (Y) up-to 1/5 of trees life-cycle; **SM** (semi-mature) up-to 2/5 of trees life-cycle; **EM** (early-mature) up-to 3/5 of trees life-cycle; **M** (mature) up-to 4/5 of trees life-cycle; **OM** (over-mature) up-to 5/5 of trees life-cycle; **Vet** (veteran) exceptional age for species with features such as cracks, cavities and decay which enhance biological associations and value of tree with senescence/retrenchment. **Vitality** – an assessment of the physiological condition of the tree expressed as **NORM** (normal) no dieback no decline or **LOW** (low) exhibiting signs of dieback and reduced growth/vitality. **Condition –** is reference to physical and structural observations of the tree as a whole and individual parts. **Time Scale –** recommended priority and timeframe in which recommended actions should be completed, including **N/A** (not applicable as no priority). **Risk Factor** – as per Section 7.0 of report. **Re-inspection Frequency** – as expressed in assessment table.

Note on Time Scale: Where a program of coppicing has been recommended, the time scale is the recommended time in which the program should commence.

13.0 BLACK GREEN WOOD

13.0.1 Black Green Wood is an ancient semi-natural woodland spanning approximately 6.4 hectares. The site is publicly accessible and features a waymarked woodland path along with a network of leafy trails that provide opportunities for informal recreation and nature exploration.

13.0.2 The woodland is situated between Park Street Lane and Lye Lane, with its northern boundary adjoining the M25 motorway. The site's mature tree cover and natural features contribute significantly to the local green infrastructure and biodiversity.

13.0.3 The areas within the woodland have recently undergone a level of restoration works, removing understory in line with recommendations of a recent woodland management plan.

Figure 15 Showing Black Green Woods and its immediate surroundings, image courtesy of Google Earth.

13.0.4 A total of seven (7) trees and two (2) groups have been identified within the survey as requiring works within 6 months. An additional one (1) tree has been identified as requiring work within 12 months. A detailed schedule including all observations and recommendations can be found in the table below.

13.1 Tree Survey & Condition and Management Schedule - Black Green Wood			
Client: St Stephens Parish Council		***Report No:***	GD/240755
Completed by:	Mr G Davies		
Trees Tagged:	Yes	***Weather:***	Sunny
Site:	Black Green Wood, Lye Lane, Bricket Wood AL2 3TQ	***Date of Survey:***	16th June 2025

`Timescale for Works

ASAP – 6 months	1 Year

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T625	Common Oak	500	14	6	SM	Declining	• Single stem specimen • Growing on edge of ditch • Previous heavy pruning of branches towards road • Major deadwood overhanging and in striking distance of road	•Remove major deadwood overhanging road	6 months	Moderate	Three years
T626	Common Oak	300-450	14	9	SM	Fair	• Twin stem from base • Asymmetrical crown bias to south overhanging road • Major deadwood within lower crown overhanging and in striking distance of road	•Remove major deadwood overhanging road	6 months	Moderate	Three years
T627	Common Oak	550	17	7	SM	Dead	• Dead standing tree within striking distance of main path	•Remove to ground level or retain at safe height	6 months	Moderate	N/A
T957	Common Oak	700	17	6	SM	Dead	• Dead standing tree within striking distance of main path and adjacent road	•Remove to ground level or retain at safe height	6 months	Moderate	N/A
T628	Common Oak	700	17	6	SM	Dead	• Dead standing tree within striking distance of main path and adjacent road	•Remove to ground level or retain at safe height	6 months	Moderate	N/A

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T629	Wild Cherry	300	10	3	SM	Dead	• Partially failed dead tree • Hung up in neighbouring tree overhanging footpath	•Dismantle and make safe	1 year	Low	N/A
T630	Common Oak	600	17	7	SM	Dead	• Dead standing tree within striking distance of main path	•Remove to ground level or retain at safe height	6 months	Moderate	N/A
T631	Common Beech	250	8	5	OM	Dead Declining	• Large stump with 2 remaining stems • 1 dead and die-back of other • Within striking distance of road and entrance to the woods	•Remove both stems back to stump	6 months	Moderate	Three years
G632	Group of 3 Common Beech & 1 Common Oak	200 avg	10	3	SM	Dead Declining	• Possibly third-party ownership • Beech stems forming from coppiced stump suspected part of historical hedge • Dead beech stems within striking distance of road and adjacent property • Declining oak	•Remove to ground level	6 months	Moderate	N/A
G633	Group of 2 Common Oak	400 avg	14	2	SM	Dead	• Dead standing stems • Within striking distance of road • Building rubble and general green waste dump all around	•Remove to ground level or suitable hight to avoid targets if failure were to occur	6 months	Moderate	N/A

Tree Survey Schedule Key:

Tree No – tree reference on Tree Location Plan and/or tree tags where used. **Species** – tree species giving English common name. **DBH –** the individual stem diameters when typically measured at 1.5m above ground level unless otherwise stated. **Ht –** tree height recorded in metres. **Crown Spread** - crown spread in the four cardinal compass points, or as average using broadest radial spread. **Age Class –** recorded as **NP** (newly planted); **Y** (Y) up-to 1/5 of trees life-cycle; **SM** (semi-mature) up-to 2/5 of trees life-cycle; **EM** (early-mature) up-to 3/5 of trees life-cycle; **M** (mature) up-to 4/5 of trees life-cycle; **OM** (over-mature) up-to 5/5 of trees life-cycle; **Vet** (veteran) exceptional age for species with features such as cracks, cavities and decay which enhance biological associations and value of tree with senescence/retrenchment. **Vitality** – an assessment of the physiological condition of the tree expressed as **NORM** (normal) no dieback no decline or **LOW** (low) exhibiting signs of dieback and reduced growth/vitality. **Condition –** is reference to physical and structural observations of the tree as a whole and individual parts. **Time Scale –** recommended priority and timeframe in which recommended actions should be completed, including **N/A** (not applicable as no priority). **Risk Factor** – as per Section 7.0 of report. **Re-inspection Frequency** – as expressed in assessment table.

Note on Time Scale: Where a program of coppicing has been recommended, the time scale is the recommended time in which the program should commence.

14.0 PARISH CENTRE

14.0.1 The St Stephens Parish Centre occupies a site of approximately 1.0 hectare and comprises a hardstanding car park, maintenance yards, a playing field, and several buildings, including a nursery facility. The surrounding landscape is a mix of agricultural, commercial, and residential land uses, reflecting the site's position within a diverse and multifunctional setting.

Figure 16 Showing the Parish Centre and its immediate surroundings, image courtesy of Google Earth.

14.0.2 The trees on this site are growing mainly along the site boundaries with a number of prominent trees growing to the northern end of the site, adjacent to the buildings and to the public highway that surrounds it. Since 2022 the adjacent site to the west have been developed to provide residential dwellings of which are accessed form the main site entrance.

14.0.3 A total of two (2) trees have been identified within the survey as requiring works within a 6-month period with an additional one (1) tree requiring works within a 1 year period.. A detailed schedule including all observations and recommendations can be found in the table below.

14.1 Tree Survey & Condition and Management Schedule - Parish Centre

Client:	St Stephens Parish Council	***Report No:***	GD/240755
Completed by:	Mr G Davies		
Trees Tagged:	Yes	***Weather:***	Sunny
Site:	Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood AL2 3PJ	***Date of Survey:***	17th June 2025

Timescale for Works

ASAP – 6 months	1 Year

Tree No.	Species	DBH (mm)	Ht (m)	Crown. Spread (m)	Age	Vigour	Condition	Works Required	Time Scale	Risk Factor	Re-Survey
T985	English Elm	150	4	1.5	Y	Dead	• Dead standing covered in ivy • Growing through neighbouring tree • Within striking distance of playing field and road	• Remove to ground level	1 year	Low	N/A
T987	Common Ash	400	15	5	SM	Fair	• Single stem bifurcating at 3.0m • Ivy at base, on main stem and throughout crown inhibiting full inspection • Saplings established at base in proximity to building • Signs of ash die-back expressed throughout crown • Overhanging nursery play area • Some previous pruning of the lower south-east crown to provide clearance over nursery	• Remove to ground level (due to risk posed by branch failure) • Remove self-set specimens establishing near building	6 months	Moderate	Three years
T989	Common Ash	120	6	1.5	Y	Fair	• Single stem specimen • Lean to north partially overhanging road • Multiple mechanical woundings on main stem attributes to contact with vehicles	• Remove to provide suitable clearance from road	6 months	Low	N/A

Tree Survey Schedule Key:

Tree No – tree reference on Tree Location Plan and/or tree tags where used. **Species** – tree species giving English common name. **DBH –** the individual stem diameters when typically measured at 1.5m above ground level unless otherwise stated. **Ht –** tree height recorded in metres. **Crown Spread** - crown spread in the four cardinal compass points, or as average using broadest radial spread. **Age Class –** recorded as **NP** (newly planted); **Y** (Y) up-to 1/5 of trees life-cycle; **SM** (semi-mature) up-to 2/5 of trees life-cycle; **EM** (early-mature) up-to 3/5 of trees life-cycle; **M** (mature) up-to 4/5 of trees life-cycle; **OM** (over-mature) up-to 5/5 of trees life-cycle; **Vet** (veteran) exceptional age for species with features such as cracks, cavities and decay which enhance biological associations and value of tree with senescence/retrenchment. **Vitality** – an assessment of the physiological condition of the tree expressed as **NORM** (normal) no dieback no decline or **LOW** (low) exhibiting signs of dieback and reduced growth/vitality. **Condition –** is reference to physical and structural observations of the tree as a whole and individual parts. **Time Scale –** recommended priority and timeframe in which recommended actions should be completed, including **N/A** (not applicable as no priority). **Risk Factor** – as per Section 7.0 of report. **Re-inspection Frequency** – as expressed in assessment table.

Note on Time Scale: Where a program of coppicing has been recommended, the time scale is the recommended time in which the program should commence.

15.0 RISK ASSESSMENT & DUTY OF CARE

15.1 Limitations of Tree Risk Assessments

15.1.1 It is important for the tree owner or tree manager to know, and understand, that all trees pose some degree of risk from failure or other conditions, and as trees are living and dynamic organisms, it is not possible to maintain them free of risk. Some level of risk must be accepted to experience the full range of benefits that trees provide. As such, we reference the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) publication *Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (Second Edition)* (Crown Copyright 2024). This document provides guidance on trees and public safety in the UK for owners', managers, and advisors.

15.1.2 However, the overall tree risk rating; mitigation recommendations; or any other conclusions do not preclude the possibility of failure from undetected conditions, weather events, or other acts of humans or nature. Trees can unpredictably fail even if no defects or other conditions are present. Tree failure can cause adjacent trees to fail resulting in a "domino effect" that impacts targets outside the foreseeable target zone of this tree. It is the responsibility of the tree owner or manager to schedule repeat or advanced assessments, determine actions, and implement follow up recommendations, monitoring and/or mitigation.

15.1.3 Bartlett Consulting and Bartlett Tree Experts can make no warranty or guarantee whatsoever regarding the safety of any tree, trees, or parts of trees, regardless of the level of tree risk assessment provided, the risk rating, or the residual risk rating after mitigation. Bartlett Consulting and Bartlett Tree Experts cannot accept any liability in connection with these factors, nor where recommended tree management is not carried out in accordance with modern tree health care techniques, within the timelines proposed and specification provided.

15.1.4 The information in this report should not be considered as making safety; legal; architectural; engineering; landscape architectural; nor land surveying advice, nor any other professional advice.

15.1.5 This information is solely for the use of the tree owner or tree manager to assist in the decision-making process regarding their duty of care, tolerability of risk, and management of their tree or trees. Tree risk assessments are simply tools which should be used in conjunction with the owner or tree manager's knowledge, other information and observations related to the specific tree or trees discussed, and sound decision making.

15.2 Tree Owner's Duty of Care

15.2.1 A tree owner has a duty of care to ensure that all visitors, guests, employees, etc. to their land shall be safe from harm, and that there is no exposure to risks to that visitor's health and safety. This duty of care means that reasonable care must be taken to avoid acts or omissions that could be reasonably foreseen, leading to harm.

15.2.2 This duty must also be reasonable, proportionate, and reasonably practicable when managing tree risk. Therefore, the tree owner can take a balanced approach to manage the risk, retain the many benefits trees provide, and not waste resources on unnecessary tree management.

15.3 Tolerability of Risk

15.3.1 Some level of risk must be accepted to experience the full range of benefits that trees provide, and an evaluation of what is reasonable to balance the benefit of trees and the risk they pose should be undertaken by the tree owner.

15.3.2 Risks which are considered tolerable are risks which the tree owner, visitors, guests, employees, and the wider public are prepared to accept to secure the associated tree benefits. However, tolerable risks come with expectations, such as the trees being accurately assessed; control measures being in place; residual risk as low as reasonably practical; and the risk rating is periodically reviewed.

We trust that the contents and recommendations contained within this report were informative, easy to understand and helpful to you, with regards to managing your tree(s).

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

REPORT CLASSIFICATION: Tree Condition Survey & Management Report

REPORT STATUS: Final

REPORT COMPLETED BY: Mr G Davies *FdSc Arb MArborA*
Senior Arboricultural Consultant

SIGNATURE:

DATE: 20th June 2025

REPORT REVIEWED BY: Ruth Le Poidevin
Bartlett Tree Experts Administrator- Consultancy

SIGNATURE: R Le Poidevin

DATE: 24th June 2025

APPENDIX A – Tree Risk Assessment Glossary

A.1 Bartlett Consulting uses the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment methodology, referred to as TRAQ. This is a 'qualitative' system which uses a matrix-based combination of ratings, to reach a conclusion of associated risk. The standard Bartlett Consulting time-line within the TRAQ system is three (03) years, unless otherwise stated within the report.

A.2 Risk is the combination of the 'likelihood' of an event: in this case the failure of a tree or part of a tree, and the severity of the potential consequences. A hazard is the likely source of harm. The two tables below define both the likelihood and risk levels as per the TRAQ system.

A.3 Tree risk assessment has a unique set of terms with specific meanings. Definitions of all specific terms may be found in the International Society of Arboriculture's *Best Management Practice for Tree Risk Assessment (Third Edition)*. Definitions of some of these terms used in this report are as follows:

Classification	**Description of Likelihood of Failure** (As per Dunster, Smiley, Matheny, Lilly 2017)
Improbable	The tree or tree part is not likely to fail during normal weather conditions, and may not failure in extreme weather conditions, within the specified time frame.
Possible	Failure may be expected in extreme weather conditions, but it is unlikely during normal weather conditions, within the specified time frame.
Probable	Failure may be expected under normal weather conditions, within the specified time frame.
Imminent	Failure has started or is most likely to occur in the near future, even if there is no significant wind, weather, or increased load.

Targets are people, property, or activities that could be injured, damaged or disrupted by a tree failure.

Likelihood of Impact may be categorized as high meaning that a failed tree or tree part will most likely impact a target; medium meaning the failed tree or tree part is as likely to impact the target as not; low meaning that the failed tree or tree part is not likely to impact a target; and very low meaning that the likelihood of a failed tree or tree part impacting the specified target is remote.

Consequences of a known target being struck may be categorized as severe meaning that impact could involve serious personal injury or death, damage to high-value property, or disruption to important activities; significant meaning that the impact may involve property damage of moderate to high value, considerable disruption, or personal injury; minor meaning that impact could cause low to moderate property damage, small disruptions to traffic or a communication utility, or very minor injury; and negligible meaning that impact may involve low-value property damage or disruption that can be replaced or repaired, and do not involve personal injury.

Risk Level	**Description of Risk** (As per Dunster, Smiley, Matheny, Lilly 2017)
Extreme Risk	Failure is *imminent*, impact & failure is *very likely*, and the consequences of the failure are *severe*. Mitigation will be a high priority or targets must be temporarily controlled.
High Risk	Impact & Failure is *likely* to *very likely* with *significant* consequences; or consequences are *severe* and the Impact & Failure is *likely*. Mitigation measures should be taken.
Moderate Risk	Impact & Failure is *likely* to *very likely* with *minor* consequences; or consequences are *significant* to *severe* with a *somewhat likely* Impact & Failure. Mitigation will be determined by tolerance of risk.
Low Risk	Consequences are either negligible or minor, with corresponding Impact & Failure ratings of either unlikely or somewhat likely respectively. Mitigation may be desirable but not strictly necessary.

Overall Tree Risk is the highest individual risk identified for the tree.

Residual Risk is the level of risk the tree should pose after the recommended mitigation

APPENDIX B – Tree Survey & Assessment Glossary

B.1 The scientific study of tree hazard evaluation and assessment is not an exact science, and there is still much to learn with constantly developing technology, research and calculations. Most limitations of tree hazard evaluation arise from uncertainties with trees and the loads the trees are subjected to.

B.2 The three levels of tree evaluation and assessment employed by Bartlett Consulting are those defined in the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) *Best Management Practices for Tree Risk Assessment (Third Edition)* and *ANSI A300 Tree Risk Assessment Standard*. All three levels are described below, along with the basic limitations of each.

I. Level 1 Limited Visual Assessment

A *Level 1 Limited Visual Assessment* (also referred to as a Hazard Survey or Negative Tree Survey) is a visual assessment from a specific perspective of an individual tree or a population of trees near specified targets. These assessments are conducted to identify obvious defects or specified tree conditions (such as dead trees) as agreed with the client and tree owner / manager.

A *Level 1 Limited Visual Assessment* is typically performed from a pre-defined and specified perspective (i.e. from the pavement, street, car parking area(s), woodland edge, etc.), and typically of one side of the tree from that specified perspective. The specified tree or trees are visually assessed to identify tree features, defects, or specific conditions constituting a hazard which result in a likelihood of failure of probable or imminent and would impact the specified target(s).

Level 1 Limited Visual Assessments are typically performed to quickly assess large populations of trees to identify trees with the highest likelihood of failure ratings in the population, or trees that are recommended for higher level of assessment.

A *Level 1 Limited Visual Assessment* typically includes:

1. Identifying the location and/or selection criteria of trees to be assessed.
2. Determining and documenting the most efficient route to be taken.
3. Determining and documenting the method of visual assessment (e.g. walk-by, drive-by).
4. Recording the location of, and assessing the condition of, tree(s) of concern from the defined perspective meeting the predefined criteria (e.g. dead trees, broken branches).
5. Evaluating the risk (a risk rating is optional).
6. Identifying trees needing a higher level of assessment (*Level 2 Basic or Level 3 Advanced*) and/or priority corrective action.
7. Submitting risk mitigation recommendations and/or report.

Limitations of *Level 1 Limited Visual Assessments*

As the least thorough means of assessment, tree features and/or conditions may not be visible as the inspection is from a particular viewpoint; not all tree features and observations may be visible or apparent at different times of the year; climbers, undergrowth, basal growth, etc. will not be removed inhibiting the inspection; and the inspection may not be adequate enough to make a risk mitigation recommendation. Residual risk designations for trees are not included.

APPENDIX C – Tree Survey & Assessment Glossary (Continued…)

II. Level 2 Basic Visual Assessment

A *Level 2 Basic Visual Assessment* is a more detailed visual inspection of a tree and its surrounding site, and a synthesis of the information collected. It requires complete inspection around a tree including the site and ground conditions / growing environment; visible buttress roots; main stem(s); and branches (as defined in the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) *Best Management Practices for Tree Risk Assessment* and *ANSI A300 Tree Risk Assessment Standard*).

A *Level 2 Basic Visual Assessment* allows for all aspects of the tree(s) to be surveyed and removal of climbers, undergrowth and basal growth. The crown, branches, stem(s), and buttress roots of the specified tree(s) are all assessed to look for notable features including any defect, decay, dysfunction or other structural weakness, as well as assessing the overall health and vitality of the tree(s). A *Level 2 Basic Visual Assessment* will include the use of hand-tools such as a sounding hammer; depth probe; binoculars; and measuring tapes / laser range finders to record tree dimensions; and possibly a trowel to uncover buttresses. Recommendations for trees that need a higher level of assessment are typically included.

A *Level 2 Basic Visual Assessment* typically includes:

1. Locating and identifying the tree or trees to be assessed.
2. Determining the *targets* and *target zone* for the tree or branches of concern.
3. Reviewing the site history and conditions, and species failure profile.
4. Assessing the potential load on the tree and its parts.
5. Visually assessing general tree health based on observable features at the time.
6. Completing the tree inspection and assessment using tools listed above.
7. Recording all details and observations.
8. Analysing all captured field data to determine the *likelihood of failure* and *consequences of failure* in order to complete a tree risk assessment.
9. Developing mitigation options, recommending a further Level 3 Advanced Assessment, if deemed necessary, and estimating *residual risk* for each mitigation option.
10. Producing and submitting the report, including when appropriate, advice on re-inspection intervals.

Limitations of Level 2 Basic Visual Assessments

This visual assessment will only include details and information on tree features and conditions that can be detected from a ground-based inspection on the day of the assessment, using the tools listed in the introduction above. The extent of some internal decay, as well as the type of wood decay, and below ground or high canopy features or conditions may be difficult to observe, determine or assess.

APPENDIX C – Tree Survey & Assessment Glossary (Continued…)

III. Level 3 Advanced Assessment

A *Level 3 Advanced Assessment* is performed to provide detailed information about specific tree parts, conditions or features, targets, or site conditions. A *Level 3 Advanced Assessment* typically incorporates all aspects of a *Level 2 Basic Visual Assessment* and is usually conducted after a *Level 2 Basic Visual Assessment* with client approval.

Specialized equipment, data collection and analysis, and/or expertise are typically required for these advanced assessments to provide detailed and in-depth information about a specific tree parts, conditions or features, and the likelihood of failure, previously identified in a *Level 2 Basic Visual Assessment*.

A *Level 3 Advanced Assessment* typically includes:

1. Locating and identifying the tree or trees to be assessed.
2. Determining the *targets* and *target zone* for the tree part of concern.
3. Reviewing and updating the *Level 2 Basic Visual Assessment* data as necessary.
4. Completing the advanced assessment using methods and/or techniques as determined necessary and appropriate by the Arborist, and as defined in the Scope of Work.
5. Interpreting and analysing the advanced assessment data and information to update and revise the *likelihood of failure* and *consequences of failure* in order to complete a tree risk assessment.
6. Developing mitigation options and estimating *residual risk* for each mitigation option.
7. Producing and submitting the report, including when appropriate, advice on re-inspection intervals.

Limitations of Level 3 Advanced Assessments

Using technology, methodologies and equipment listed below always involves a degree of uncertainty as well as limitations in use. Furthermore, most data is not an accurate measure, but a qualified or quantified estimation.

Arborists employing advanced assessment equipment and technology must have an advanced knowledge of the application and use of the various equipment (e.g. when and where it is appropriate for use and which method); in-depth knowledge of decay fungi and host tree species relationships; training and experience in interpreting data; and likelihood of failure assessment.

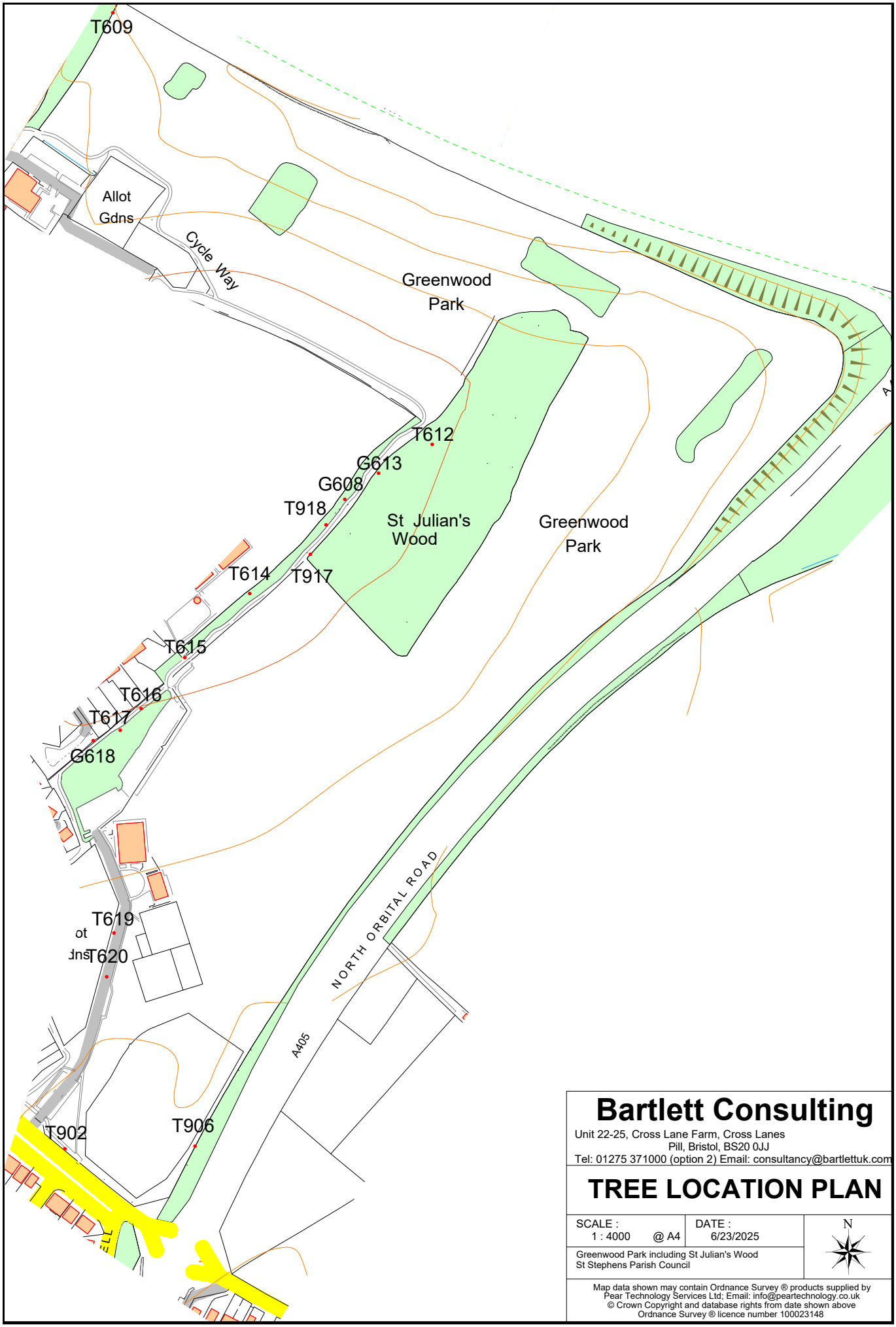
APPENDIX C – Tree Survey & Assessment Glossary (Continued…)

III. Level 3 Advanced Assessment (continued…)

Methods of Advanced Assessment

Procedure	Methodology
Aerial Tree Inspection (evaluation of tree structure within crown)	• visual inspection from within the tree crown or from a lift • unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) photographic inspection • decay testing of branches
Detailed Target Analysis	• property value • use and occupancy statistics • potential disruption of activities
Detailed Site Evaluation	• history evaluation • soil profile inspection to determine root depth • soil mineral and structural testing
Decay Testing	• increment boring • drilling with small-diameter bit • resistance-recording drilling • single path sonic (stress) wave • sonic / impulse tomography • electrical impedance tomography • radiation (radar, X-ray) • advanced analysis for pathogen identification
Tree Health Evaluation	• tree ring analysis (in temperate zone trees) • shoot length measurement • detailed health/vigour analysis • starch assessment
Root Inspection and Evaluation	• root and root collar excavation • root decay evaluation • ground-penetrating radar • sonic / impulse tomography
Storm / Wind Load Analysis	• detailed assessment of tree exposure and protection • computer-based estimations according to engineering models • wind reaction monitoring over a defined interval
Measuring & Assessing the Change in Tree Lean	• visual documentation • plumb line • digital spirit level
Load Testing	• hand pull • measured static pull • measured tree dynamics

Note: All levels of tree inspection, evaluation and assessment consider visible, and detectable, tree observation, conditions and features in proximity to the known and/or assigned targets of the tree or trees being assessed. Regardless of the level selected, any tree risk assessment will be limited to the tree or trees selected, and the detectable conditions at the time of the defined and assigned assessment. The client should also recognize that not all defects will be detectable, and not all failures can be predictable



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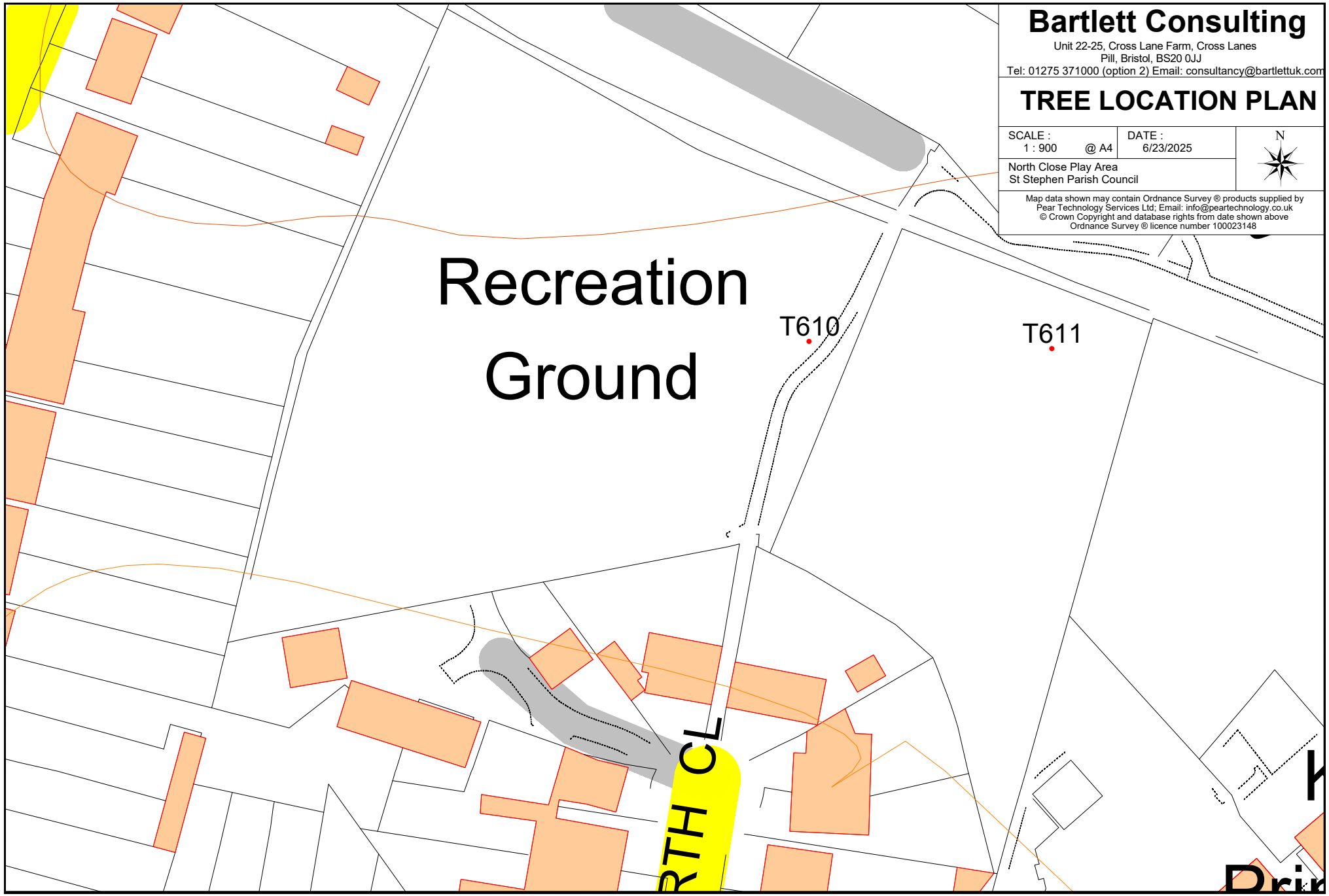
Pill, Bristol, BS20 0JJ
Tel: 01275 371000 (option 2) Email: consultancy@bartlettuk.com

TREE LOCATION PLAN

SCALE :	DATE :
1 : 4000 @ A4	6/23/2025

Greenwood Park including St Julian's Wood
St Stephens Parish Council

N



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TREE LOCATION PLAN

SCALE :	DATE :	N
1 : 900 @ A4	6/23/2025	

North Close Play Area
St Stephen Parish Council

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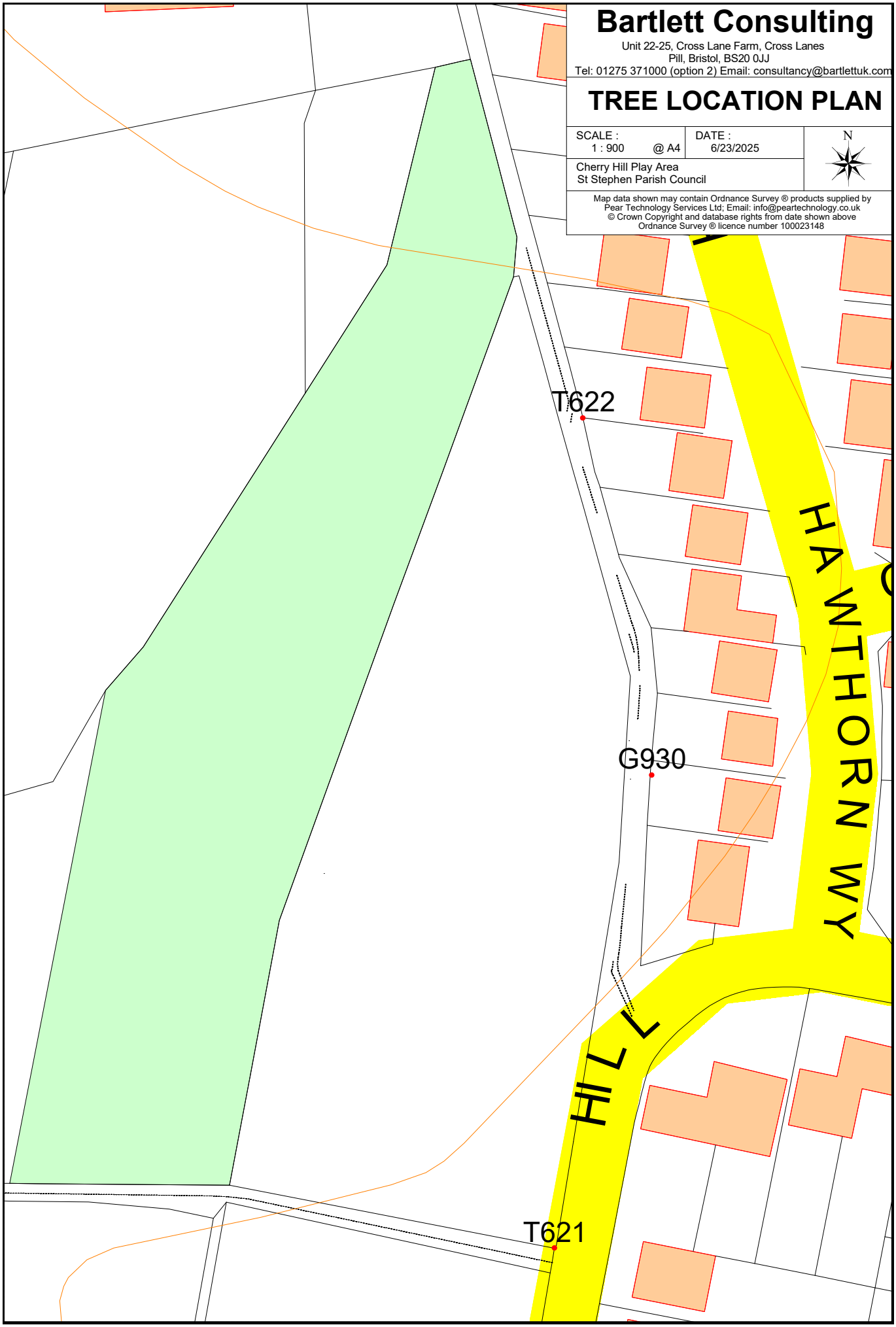
TREE LOCATION PLAN

SCALE :	DATE :	N
1 : 900 @ A4	6/23/2025	

Cherry Hill Play Area
St Stephen Parish Council



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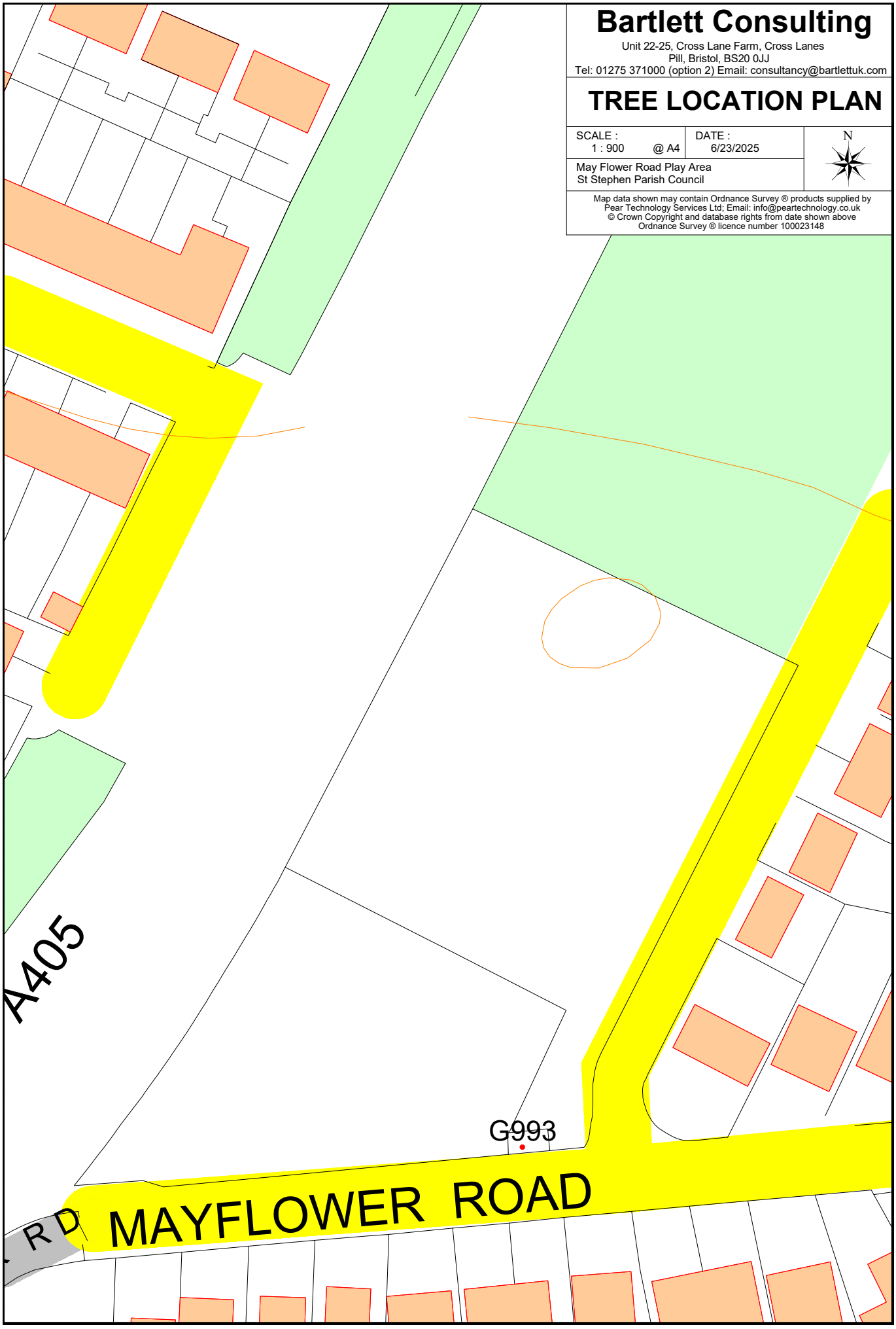
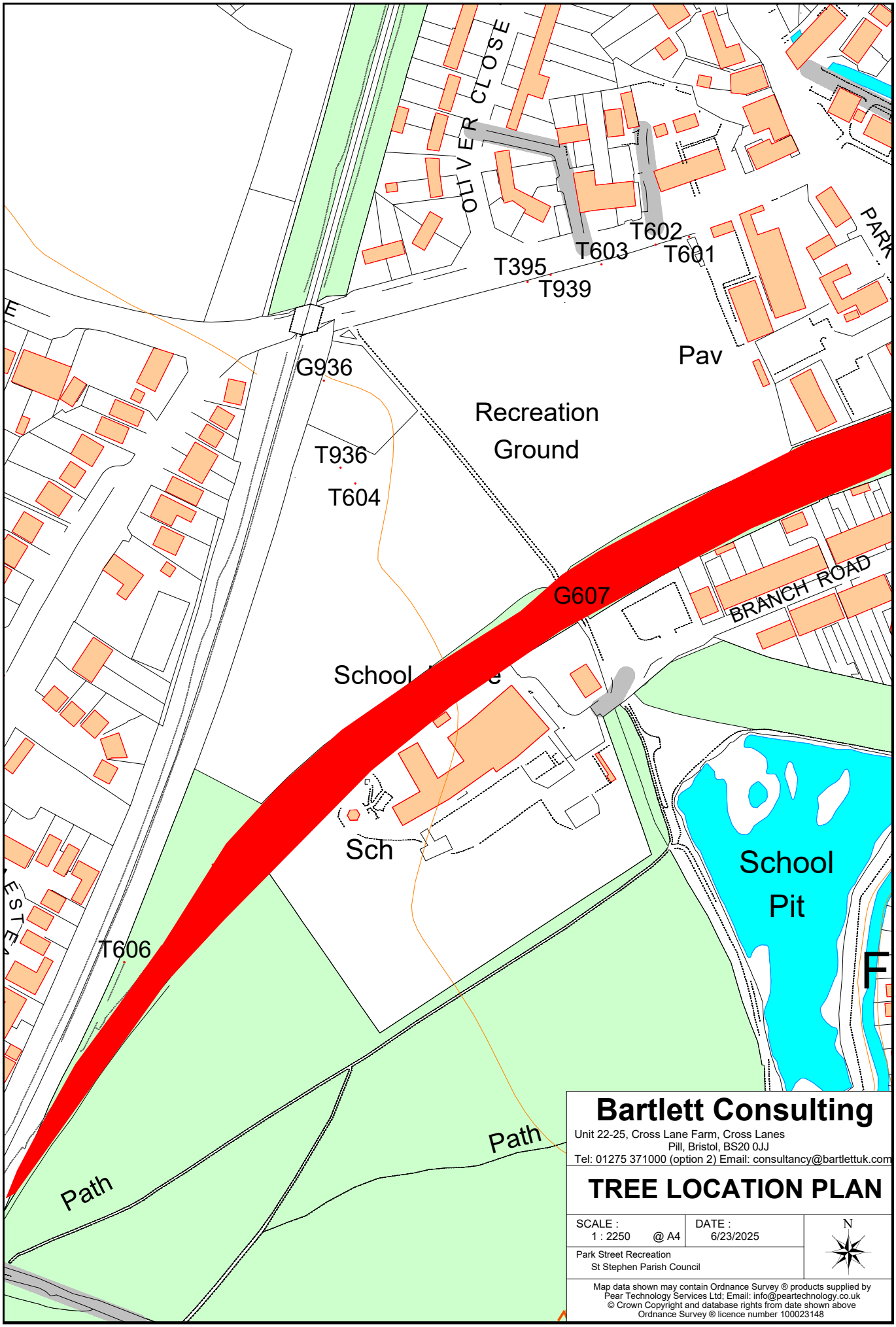
TREE LOCATION PLAN

SCALE :	DATE :	N
1 : 900 @ A4	6/23/2025	

May Flower Road Play Area
St Stephen Parish Council





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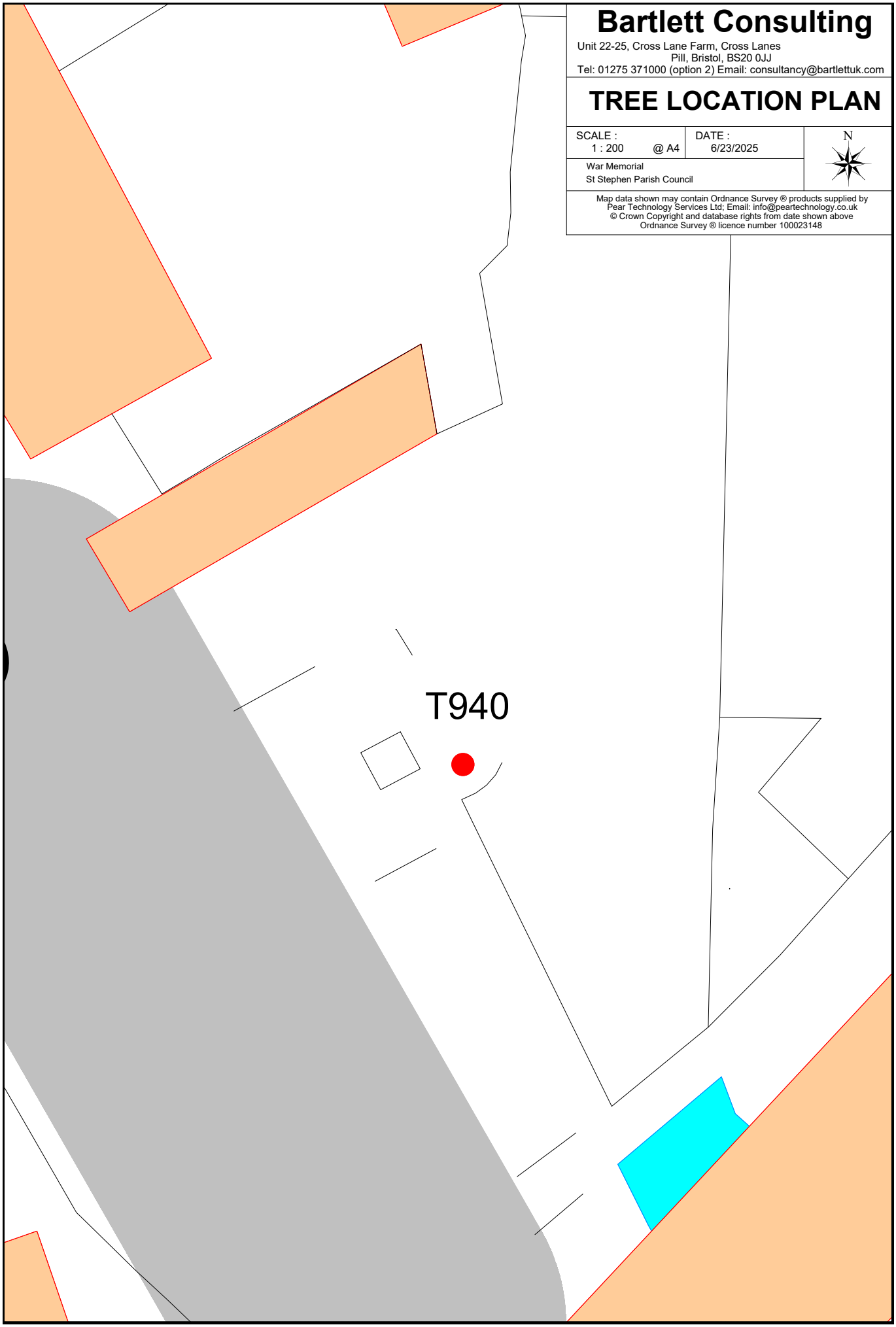
TREE LOCATION PLAN

SCALE :	DATE :	
1 : 2250 @ A4	6/23/2025	N

Park Street Recreation
St Stephen Parish Council



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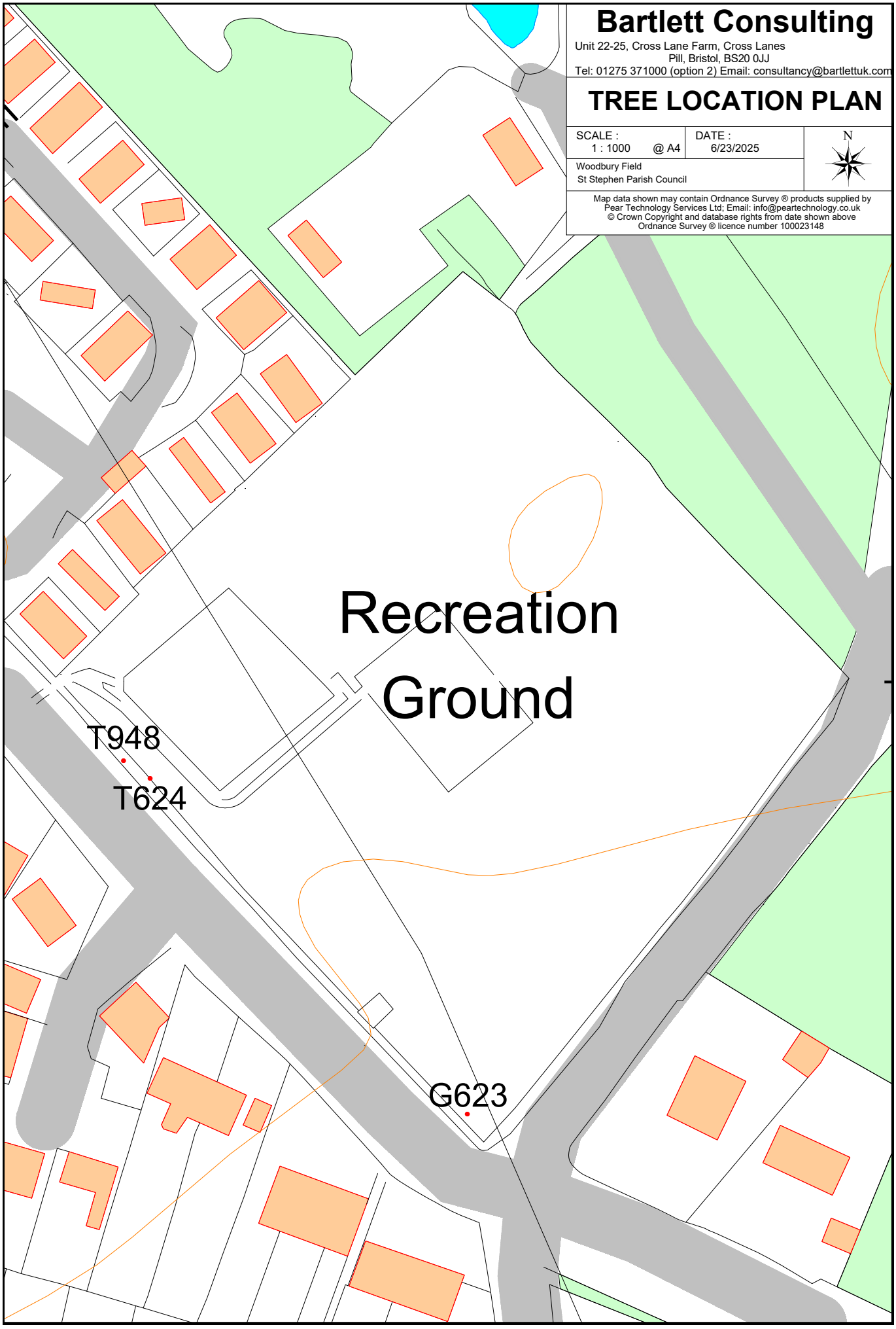
TREE LOCATION PLAN

SCALE :	DATE :	N
1 : 200 @ A4	6/23/2025	

War Memorial
St Stephen Parish Council



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TREE LOCATION PLAN

SCALE :	DATE :	N
1 : 1000 @ A4	6/23/2025	

Woodbury Field
St Stephen Parish Council

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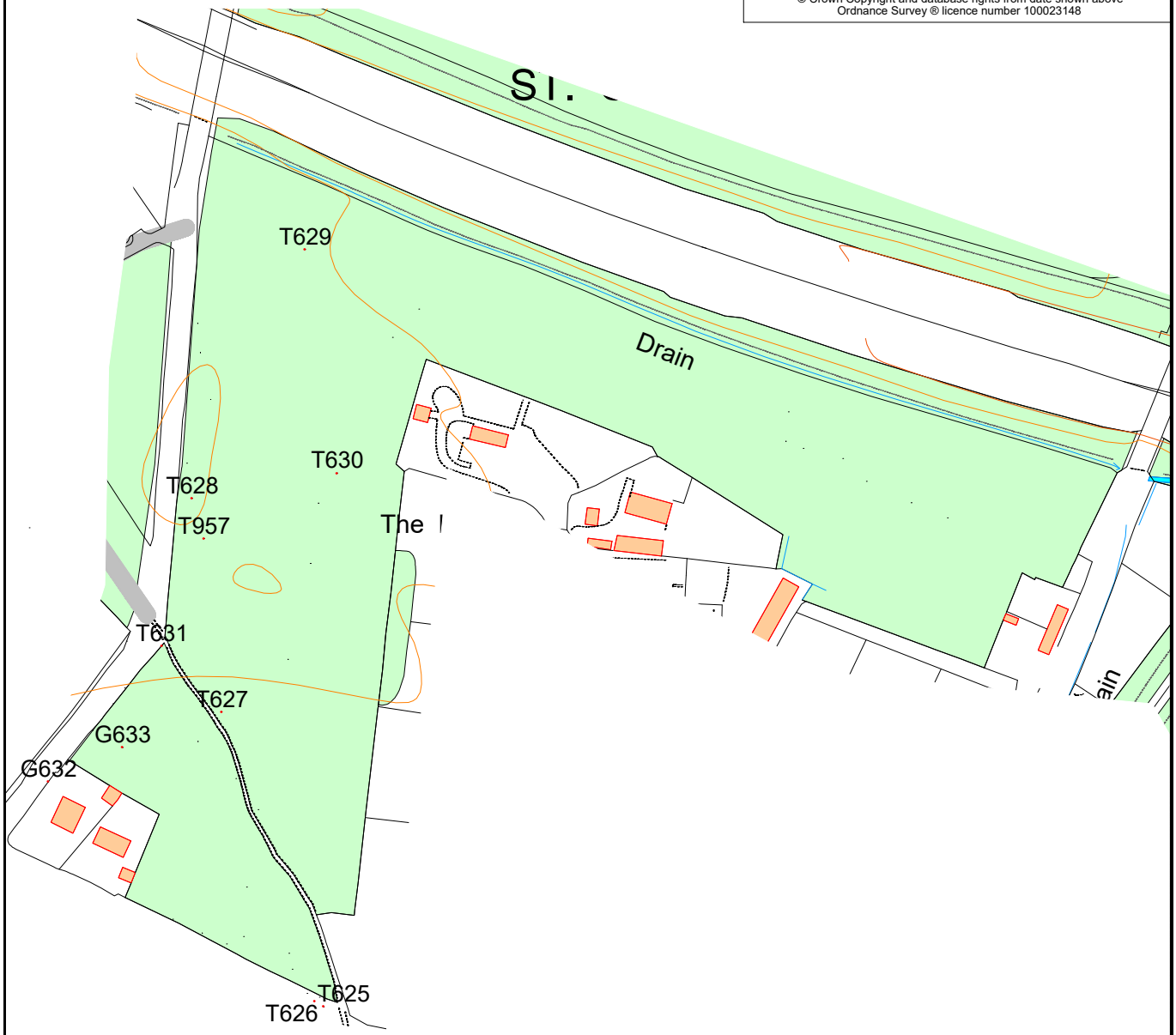
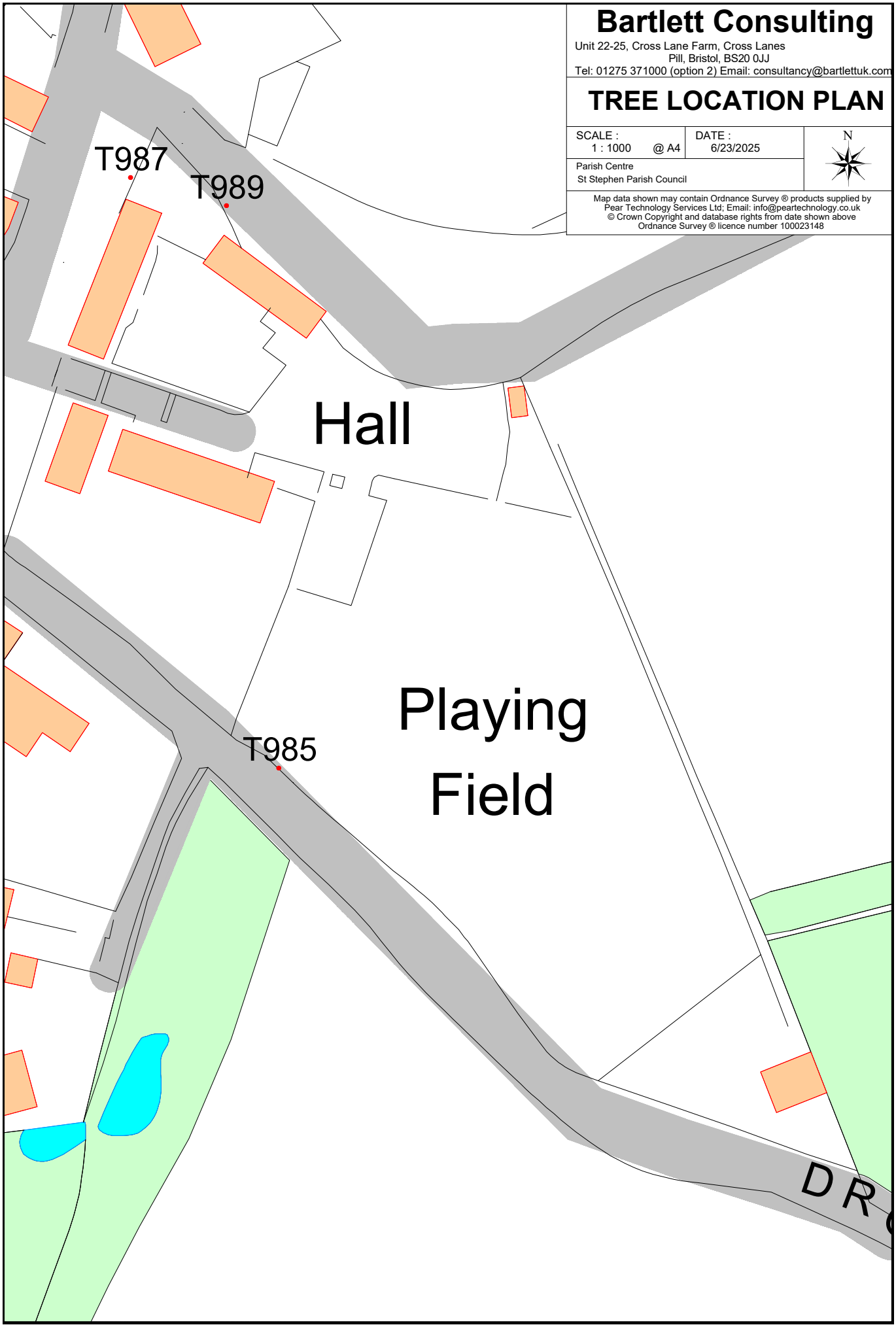
TREE LOCATION PLAN

SCALE :	DATE :	N
1 : 3000 @ A4	6/23/2025	

Black Green Wood
St Stephen Parish Council





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TREE LOCATION PLAN

SCALE :	DATE :
1 : 1000 @ A4	6/23/2025

Parish Centre
St Stephen Parish Council

N

Item for Submission to:
St Stephen Parish Council
Full Council
Date of Meeting: 17th July 2025

Agenda Item 2526/042h	To agree actions following the GWP rewilding report

1. Introduction

Full Council, February, agenda item 2425/102 iii, agreed to the establishment of a new ecological feature known as the New Wild Edge at Greenwood Park without the installation of a temporary, protective fence. This raised concerns around long-term establishment success without adequate initial protection.

This report assesses the best approach to protection of trees and shrubs during establishment, specifically comparing the use of temporary fencing versus individual shrub guards.

The New Wild Edge will create a 400m long 5m wide, approx. 2,000m^2 wide belt which will:

- Reduce sound pollution for residents.
- Enhance local biodiversity and wildlife foraging habitat.
- Improve habitat connectivity and the visual transition between parkland and tree line.

Following a site visit in February, project officers from Herts County Council (HCC) submitted a report outlining the feasibility and challenges of the proposed project, along with recommendations on suitable species and establishment methods.

2. Project Overview

The area is characterized by periodic waterlogging in winter and drought in summer, with free draining, slightly acidic soil. The site is popular with dog walkers and there is a history of vandalism (e.g., tree guards being removed), which informs the choice of protective methods.

3. Planting Design and Species Selection

A 2,000 m² scrub belt will be planted at a density of 1 whip per sqm, totaling 2,000 whips. These will be planted in a randomly spaced mix to replicate natural scrubland structure.

HCC recommended species mix includes:

- Common hawthorn
- Spindle
- Guelder rose
- Hazel
- Alder buckthorn
- Dog rose

All species were selected for their compatibility with site conditions and biodiversity benefits.

In addition, it is suggested to add 500 tree species creating different storeys:

- Carpinus Betulus – Hornbeam
- Fagus sylvatica - Green Beech
- Fagus sylvatica purpurea - Copper Beech
- Salix Caprea - Goat Willow
- Sorbus aucuparia – Rowan
- Quercus Robur - English Oak

All planting stock will consist of bare-root whips.

4. Protection During Establishment
Protection of young plants is essential to the success of the project, given the pressures from dogs, trampling and vandalism.

HCC recommends temporary fencing over individual shrub guards, noting that:

- Fencing is more cost-effective.
- It has a lower environmental impact compared to the use of shrub-guards.
- It offers better protection from vandalism, trampling, and deer.
- It can be removed after 3-5 years once the shrubs and trees are established.

If fencing is not used, larger 2-3-year whips and robust shrub guards with stakes are recommended. This option will incur higher material and maintenance costs and still may not fully deter vandalism.

5.Cost Comparison: Tree Guards vs Temporary Fencing
A detailed cost analysis has been undertaken to compare the two main protection options for the new wild edge planting: individual shrub/tree guards versus temporary fencing.

Option 1: Individual Tree Guards
Estimated Cost: £4,500 (excluding VAT)

This figure includes:

- 2,000 robust shrub guards with stakes.
- Additional cost for larger whips (2–3-year-old bare root stock).
- Labour for installation and routine maintenance

Considerations:

- Higher initial and long-term cost.
- Greater plastic use and higher carbon footprint.
- Guards are prone to removal or damage by members of the public and dogs.

- Protection is limited to individual plants, leaving space between whips vulnerable.
- Additional future cost to remove and dispose of the guards once the shrubs are established, increasing total project cost and environmental impact.

Option 2: Temporary Fencing
Estimated Cost: £4,000 (excluding VAT)

This figure includes:

- Materials for a 500m temporary fence.
- Support from Grounds Staff for installation, reducing contractor labour costs.

Considerations:

- Lower overall cost than tree guards.
- Encloses and protects the entire planting area.
- More effective deterrent to trampling, dog interference and deer.
- Reduced plastic use and carbon footprint.
- Fence can be reused or recycled after 3–5 years.
- Simplifies aftercare and reduces need for ongoing maintenance of individual guards

6. Project Next Steps

- Coordinate with HCC to submit an EIG funding application**.**
- Remove existing vegetation and prepare soil in autumn.
- Began planting and install agreed protection for late autumn or early winter 2025.

RECOMMENDED that the Council

Approve the establishment of the New Wild Edge at Greenwood Park using temporary fencing and biodegradable tree guards, identified as the most cost-effective option with the lowest environmental impact.

Report of	Matthew Huddleston and Assistant Clerk	07/07/25

Meadow Management Report: Flailing vs. Cut and Clear

Subject: Recommendation to Flail the Meadow Instead of Cut and Clear

1. Background

The meadow has traditionally been managed through a cut and clear process to maintain biodiversity, suppress scrub growth, and promote healthy regrowth in the following season. However, due to current environmental, I propose that this year we flail the meadow instead.

2. Reason for Recommendation

a. Poor Growing Conditions

This year has seen exceptionally poor growing conditions, with limited rainfall and prolonged dry periods significantly impacting the growth and density of vegetation in the meadow. As a result, the available biomass is very low. This undermines the effectiveness and justification for a full cut and clear, as there is simply not enough material to warrant the higher cost.

b. Cost Comparison

Cut and Clear Cost: £2,500

Flailing Cost: £1,000

Opting to flail the meadow instead of carrying out a full cut and clear would result in a cost saving of £1,500.

This represents a substantial and sensible budgetary saving without compromising the long-term management of the site.

c. Ecological Considerations

While cut and clear is preferred in years of normal or high growth to reduce nutrient levels and promote species diversity, in low-growth years flailing will not result in a significant ecological setback. The nutrient load added by the minimal mulched material will be negligible and will not encourage invasive grasses or weeds.

Additionally, flailing this year may help retain some ground cover to protect the soil structure and invertebrate habitat, which can be beneficial during dry spells and for overwintering species.

d. Opportunity for a Late Cut

An added benefit of flailing is that it allows flexibility for a late season cut, this late cut would benefit biodiversity by:

Allowing late-flowering species to set seed

Supporting pollinators and other invertebrates longer into the season

Creating a more varied sward structure going into autumn and winter

This approach helps practicality, and ecological value in a challenging year.

3. Conclusion

Given the minimal vegetation, the significant cost difference, and the low ecological impact, I recommend that the meadow be flail cut this year instead of undergoing a full cut and clear. This approach is both cost-effective and ecologically acceptable under the circumstances.


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