

Arboricultural Report to BS5837

Site Address: Balcombe Cricket
Club

Date: 25th February 2026

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1. Introduction

This Arboricultural Report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set out in BS5837:2012 "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations". The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment of the trees on the site at Balcombe Cricket Club and to offer recommendations for their management in relation to the proposed development.

2. Site Description

Balcombe Cricket Club is a community sports club situated within the High Weald National Landscape. It is surrounded by a blend of open meadows and woodland areas. The sites perimeter supports a diverse range of tree species, hedging and scrub woodland. The woodland to the east of the cricket pitch, Braky Wood is a commercial conifer crop of predominantly Norway Spruce with a border of broadleaved trees.

The site is outside of the conservation area and there are no TPOs connected to the trees.

A tree survey of the proposed construction site was conducted, with the following key information being recorded for each tree likely to be impacted by the development:

Tree Number: Unique identifier for each tree.

Species: Botanical name and common name.

Height: Estimated height in metres.

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH): Measured at 1.5 metres above ground level.

Crown Spread: Estimated spread of the tree's canopy.

Age Class: Young, semi-mature, mature, over-mature.

Physiological Condition: Good, fair, poor, dead.

Structural Condition: Good, fair, poor, hazardous.

Preliminary Management Recommendations: Any immediate actions required.

Only trees within the immediate vicinity of the proposed site were surveyed.

3. Tree Species Present

The proposed construction site at Balcombe Cricket Club includes a variety of tree species. The following species were identified during the survey:

Quercus robur (Common Oak)

Picea abies (Norway spruce)

Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)

Fagus sylvatica (Beech)

Prunus avium (Wild Cherry)

Ilex aquafolium (Holly)

4. Tree Constraints Plan

A Tree Constraints Plan (TCP) has been prepared to illustrate the constraints imposed by the trees on the site. This includes the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) and the canopy spreads. The TCP is essential for informing the design process and ensuring that the proposed development respects the existing trees.

5. Arboricultural Impact Assessment

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) evaluates the potential impact of the proposed development on the trees. It considers factors such as:

Tree Retention: Identifying trees that can be retained and protected during construction.

Tree Removal: Identifying trees that need to be removed due to their condition or to facilitate the development.

Construction Activities: Assessing the impact of construction activities on the retained trees, including root damage and soil compaction.

Root Protection Areas (RPAs): Confirming that the proposed dwelling will not impact the RPAs of any of the trees.

6. Arboricultural Method Statement

The Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) outlines the measures to be taken to protect the retained trees during the construction process. The recommendations can be found in the attached Survey Data Sheets.

Protective Fencing: Erecting protective fencing around the RPAs of retained trees.

Ground Protection: Installing ground protection measures to prevent soil compaction.

Construction Exclusion Zones: Establishing zones where no construction activities are permitted.

Tree Protection Monitoring: Regular monitoring of tree protection measures by a qualified arboriculturist.

Conclusion

The trees situated within the proposed construction area at Balcombe Cricket Club represent a relatively minor component within the wider Balcombe treescape. To enable the proposed development, holly scrub group G001, ash tree T006, and cherry tree T007 will require removal.

The installation of the cricket net playing surface in the proposed area will encroach upon the Root Protection Area (RPA) of oak tree T008 on its western aspect. In order to mitigate potential harm to the root system of this mature specimen, any excavation within its RPA should be undertaken manually. The new playing surface is designed to be permeable; while it will modify the soil structure to a depth of approximately 150mm, it is anticipated that there will be no substantial restriction of gaseous exchange or water movement to the roots.

Relocating the nets 1m to the North West is recommended to facilitate safe construction, thereby avoiding further tree removals and preventing disturbance to the RPAs of all adjacent trees to be retained.

By adhering to the recommendations outlined in this report and complying with BS5837:2012 guidelines, the proposed development can proceed whilst ensuring the preservation and protection of existing trees.

For further information, please refer to the attached plan and Survey Data report.

BS5837 Report

Balcombe Cricket Club
bcc nets - location plan

PHOENIX FORESTRY

Retention Category	No. trees	Rem. Contrib.	No. trees
A	1	Dead	1
B	1	<10 years	1
C	20	10+ Years	2
U	5	30+ Years	1
		50+ Years	1
Total	27	Not Recorded	21

Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Comments	Measurements2	Recommendations	Photo
G001	Holly x20 (<i>Ilex sp.</i>)	Group 20 trees	Height (m): 10 20 stems, avg.(mm): 10000 Spread (m): 9N, 10E, 9S, 4W Crown Clearance (m): 1	Holly suckered with no intrinsic value to area	C2	Area: 77 sq m.		Other Reference: Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Distance1: Distance2: You customise: Public Amenity Value: Low Inspection Limitations: Bat Habitat: None	Remove scrub holly to facilitate construction.	
T001	Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 21 Stem Diam(mm): 40 Spread (m): 9N, 3E, 9S, 9W Crown Clearance (m): 6.5 Lowest Branch (m): 8.5(W) Life Stage: Early Mature Rem. Contrib.: <10 years	Poor overall Physiological and Structural condition. Dieback - poor foliage. Pests and Diseases: Ash Health Class 2 - 75%-50% remaining canopy	U	Radius: 0.5m. Area: 1 sq m.	This tree does merit retention due to presence of Ash dieback disease.	Other Reference: Physiological Condition: Diseased Structural Condition: Poor Distance1: Distance2: You customise: Public Amenity Value: Low Inspection Limitations: Access Bat Habitat: None obvious or apparent	Fell tree to ground level prior to construction.	
T002	Holly (<i>Ilex sp.</i>)	Multi-Stemmed 5 stems	Height (m): 16 5 stems (mm): 20, 30, 30, 10, 10 Spread (m): 4N, 4E, 4S, 4W Crown Clearance (m): 6 Rem. Contrib.: 30+ Years	Poor multi stem holly Fungus: None obvious or apparent Pests and Diseases: None obvious or apparent	U	Radius: 0.6m. Area: 1 sq m.		Other Reference: Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Distance1: Distance2: You customise: Public Amenity Value: Low Inspection Limitations: Access-thicket Bat Habitat: None obvious or apparent		
T003	Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 18 1 stems Spread (m): 3N, 3E, 3S, 3W Crown Clearance (m): 9 Lowest Branch (m): 9 Life Stage: Dead	Dead Pests and Diseases: Ash Health Class 4 - 25%-0% remaining canopy	U	No RPA.	Dead tree	Other Reference: Physiological Condition: Dead Structural Condition: Decaying Distance1: Distance2: You customise: Public Amenity Value: Low Inspection Limitations: Access-thicket Bat Habitat: None obvious or apparent	Fell to ground level prior to construction.	

Ref.	Species	Full Structure	Measurements	Survey Notes	Retention Category	RPA	Comments	Measurements2	Recommendations	Photo
T004	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	Coppiced 7 stems	Height (m): 9 7 stems, avg.(mm): 150 Spread (m): 6.5N, 6.5E, 6.5S, 6.5W Crown Clearance (m): 4 Lowest Branch (m): 4 Life Stage: Over Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Coppice stool needs re-coppicing Fungus: None obvious or apparent Pests and Diseases: None obvious or apparent	B2	Radius: 4.8m. Area: 72 sq m.		Other Reference: Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Distance1: Distance2: You customise: Public Amenity Value: Moderate Inspection Limitations: None Bat Habitat: None	Re- coppice post prior to construction. Erect protective fencing to prevent damage to coppice stool.	 Overstood coppice
T006	Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 20 Stem Diam(mm): 400 Spread (m): 5N, 5E, 5S, 5W Life Stage: Early Mature Rem. Contrib.: 10+ Years	Good/Fair/Poor overall Physiological and Structural condition. Pests and Diseases: Ash Health Class 1 - 100%-75% remaining canopy	U	Radius: 4.8m. Area: 72 sq m.		Other Reference: Physiological Condition: Structural Condition: Distance1: Distance2: You customise: Public Amenity Value: Inspection Limitations: Bat Habitat:	Fell to ground level	
T007	Cherry (<i>Prunus sp.</i> 'Cherry')	Tree	Height (m): 15 Stem Diam(mm): 340 Spread (m): 4N, 4E, 1.5S, 4W	Prolific ivy.	U	Radius: 4.1m. Area: 53 sq m.		Other Reference: Physiological Condition: Structural Condition: Distance1: Distance2: You customise: Public Amenity Value: Inspection Limitations: Bat Habitat:	Fell to ground level.	
T008	Oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>)	Tree	Height (m): 21 Stem Diam(mm): 800 Spread (m): 9N, 9E, 9S, 9W Rem. Contrib.: 50+ Years	Stem decayed, cracked. Bark necrosis. Dieback - poor foliage. Dead wood in crown 30%.	A2	Radius: 9.6m. Area: 290 sq m.	Lightening struck tree.	Other Reference: Physiological Condition: Fair Structural Condition: Fair Distance1: Distance2: You customise: Public Amenity Value: Good Inspection Limitations: Bat Habitat: None obvious	Fencing of RPA to inform area to be excavated by hand and protect tree.	

Balcombe
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bcc nets -
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