



**Tree Hoppers Forest Kindergarten,
East Grinstead Sports Centre, East Grinstead**

Tree Hazard Assessment Survey Report

Revision A

February 2026



Client	Tree Hoppers FK
Job name	Tree Hoppers Forest Kindergarten, East Grinstead
Report title	Tree Hazard Assessment Survey Report
File reference	26-2093-Report-01-Rev-A

	Name	Position	Date
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1 Introduction

1.1 Aims of Study

Canopy Consultancy has been commissioned by Tree Hoppers FK to carry out a negative tree hazard assessment survey of the trees growing within the Tree Hoppers Forest Kindergarten site, including the access path that is within the woodland to the west of East Grinstead Sports Centre, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead.

The purpose of the report is to identify the works necessary to put the major trees into a safe and healthy condition and includes the following:

- Physiological and structural condition
- Risk assessment fields
- Prescription of works /Recommended works

1.2 Scope of Survey

The purpose of the survey is to record only the trees that require remedial works to put them in a safe condition for the users of the forest school and the access path.

The trees were inspected on the basis of the Visual Tree Assessment method expounded by Mattheck and Breloer¹ and principles outlined by David Lonsdale². The risk rating is deduced from an on-site assessment of the target, the failure potential of the tree or tree part and the size of the tree or part likely to fail. The application of these principles is considered to be current best practice within the industry. Samples were not taken for analysis, and the trees were not climbed but inspected from ground level.

This report constitutes a health and safety risk survey of the major trees on site considered to pose an element of risk to the users. The remaining trees are considered to be in a good condition and pose little or no risk to the users of the site and bounding highways, subject to the awareness of weather warnings issued by the Met Office.

¹ *The Body Language of Trees, DoE booklet Research for Amenity Trees No. 4, 1994*

² *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management*

2 Methodology

The trees were surveyed by Oliver Halladay (FdSc Arb, MArborA) on the 30th January 2026.

Data collected from the survey of trees is recorded within tree survey schedule; this information has been double checked by principal arboricultural consultant Neil Taylor and collated into this document.

Each recorded tree has been surveyed individually and logged accordingly within the schedule. The intention was not the inspection of each tree in detail but to take a general view of each tree and look for signs of substantial defects or debility that might present a significant risk of harm to the identified 'Targets'. All parts were viewed insofar as possible from the ground, using binoculars, a sounding mallet and probe where appropriate.

Each tree has been assigned a risk rating. The risk rating is calculated by the probability of harm to property and/or persons being caused by the tree. The risk ratings are described as follows:

Low – A tree or group of trees exhibiting little or no signs of structural or physiological irregularity, and the presence of no notable hazards. A low risk rating may also be assigned in response to location and context; even if the condition of the tree is poor or hazards are present, the risk rating is calculated by the probability of harm to property and/or persons. If a tree is in poor condition in an isolated or inaccessible location, the risk rating will be reduced due to the low probability of harm in the event of tree failure.

Medium - A tree or group of trees exhibiting notable structural or physiological irregularities, often requiring remedial works in the context of good arboricultural practice and hazard mitigation. A medium risk rating may also be assigned to trees with minor faults in high target areas.

High - A tree or group of trees in a high target area, exhibiting hazardous structural or physiological faults with a medium or high probability of failure. Trees with high risk ratings will often require urgent remedial work to mitigate hazards and prevent injury to persons or damage to property.

Only a snapshot of site usage is seen at the time of the survey and clients are advised to consider the risk rating against the knowledge of site managers or users. If the risk rating is deemed to be incorrect then the author of this report should be informed so it can be reassessed.

Signs of defect or decay identified as being potentially significant in relation to the target were recorded against the affected tree. Where the surveyor considered necessary the closer

inspection of trees to ascertain the extent and significance of defects or decay, they were recommended for further inspection as described or for a 'Climbing Inspection'.

All recorded trees were tagged at the time of the survey.

The trees have been located on the accompanying Tree Location Plan, reference number 26-2093-TLP.

3 Definitions

In the context of tree management services, the following meanings apply:

Survey

A general assessment of trees at the level specified by the instructing party and plotting of trees individually or in groups on a 'Tree Survey Plan' if necessary and recording of relevant observations on a tabulated schedule. Trees are surveyed and assessed only from land in the client's ownership or public land; access from neighbouring private land is not sought other than by special arrangement with the 'Instructing Party'.

Target

A target is anything of value (persons or property), which could be harmed in the event of tree failure.

Declining

A tree experiencing adverse stress, often exhibiting smaller than usual leaves in much lower density across the crown than a healthy specimen of the same species. Other symptoms include yellowing of leaves throughout crown and dead branch tips in the outer portion of the crown. Trees in old age will exhibit these symptoms as a part of natural retrenchment, a shrinking of the trees overall size in order to accommodate its aging vascular system. Younger trees in decline may be saved with regimented watering/mulch application.

Low bud/leaf density

A diminished distribution of healthy buds and leaves across the entire crown. Often indicative of stress and early stages of decline.

Exudation on stem / bleeding lesions / Bacterial bark exudate

Patches of black/red/white/orange exudate on the bark of the tree, often confined to the stem but sometimes extending into the scaffold branches in the crown. Indicative of vascular/root dysfunction or bacterial infection. Often associated with a slow decline, although some trees will recover.

Bark necrosis

Areas of tree bark which have died, often peeling off to reveal heartwood beneath. Often indicative of vascular/root dysfunction, although can also be associated with compaction, salt damage, poor pruning and mechanical damage.

Suppressed/stunted

A tree where the natural growth habit has been inhibited due to its surroundings. This can be caused by nutrient/light competition with neighbouring trees or a lack of natural light due to buildings or fences. Suppressed trees are often contorted and eccentrically shaped, often growing entirely towards the nearest patch of available sunlight, with unbalanced crown shapes and unusually extended branches. Some suppressed trees will maintain their natural form but die before maturity.

Fruiting body / fungal bracket

The spore spreading structure of a fungus, presenting in various locations, shapes and sizes.

Ash dieback

Hymenoscyphus fraxinaea, a vascular disease of Ash trees usually resulting in death.

Acute Oak Decline

A vascular disease of Oak trees, characterised by black bleeding spots on the stem of the tree and decline in crown vitality. Some trees may recover.

Bleeding Canker

Pseudomonas syringae pv *aesculi* - A bacterial disease affecting the vascular system of Horse Chestnut trees, inhibiting the distribution of water and nutrients. Often responsible for embrittling wood within the branching structure of the tree, particularly in heavy scaffold branches. Symptoms include red/brown bleeding on stem and branches, bark dysfunction and crown dieback. Causes a slow but notable decline in trees health and aesthetic value. Some trees may persist for many years, whereas others may succumb within a few years.

Gymnopus fusipes

A fungal pathogen affecting the roots of broadleaved trees, often found on Oak.

Ganoderma

A genus of wood decay fungus, varying in significance in regards to structural condition of the host tree. Characterised by large reddish/brown perennial brackets on tree stems and occasionally within the lower portion of scaffold branches.

Pleurotus

Pleurotus ostreatus. A mildly parasitic decay fungus, although often present as a saprobic fungus on dead wood. The presence of this fungus on living trees often indicates areas of dead and decayed wood and decline of the host tree. Fruiting bodies are annual, whitish silver in colour and are often seen in vertical strips ascending stems and scaffold branches.

Included bark present in fork

A union between branches, or the main stem and a branch, or multiple main stems at ground level which is structurally compromised. Included unions present as tight "V" shaped forks, with the bark of each component branch or stem being present within the union, inhibiting cohesion and increasing the risk of failure.

Deteriorating cavity

An open wound on a trees stem or scaffold branches, often visibly decayed, occasionally with fungal fruiting bodies present within. Commonly associated with historic pruning wounds.

Monitor

Assessing a trees condition over an extended period of time to allow for natural recovery without the need for remedial action.

Co-dominant leaders

A tree with two dominant upright central stems.

Scaffold

The oldest and largest primary branches of a tree, growing from the main stem or central leader.

Flush Cuts

The outdated practice of removing branches at the stem, as opposed to the branch collar. Flush cuts remove the branch collar and inhibit the trees ability to seal the pruning wound, often resulting in cavities and internal decay.

Hazard Beam

A branch with an adverse curve or elbow, or overextension, creating internal stress and often leading to longitudinal cracking or branch failure. Also common in cases of branches with excessive end weighting.

Finishing cuts

The final pruning cut carried out when removing a branch. A finishing cut should leave the branch collar completely intact in order to allow the bark to occlude around the wound.

Tap Test

Audible decay test performed with a sounding mallet, to indicate hollowing or decay within a trees stem.

Probe

A steel rod used to test the extent of cavities and areas of decay within a trees stem.

4 Recommendations

The recommendations have been assessed according to the requirements of each tree within its high amenity context.

The recommended time scales/priority for the works is as follows:

Urgent:	Immediate Action, within 30 days
High:	Within 6 months or as soon as practicably possible.
Low:	Within one year of survey

The re-inspection period is two years and/or after any unusual weather conditions, particularly storms and high winds.

Trees with a risk rating of High should be regularly monitored by the maintenance teams and any anomalies such as the occurrence of fungal fruiting bodies, lifting of root plates, dieback, cracking branches etc. should be referred to a qualified arboriculturist for further investigation. These trees especially must be checked after unusual weather conditions.

Where it is specifically recommended that the tree is monitored this should be carried out every 6 months.

Where a crown thin or crown reduction has been specified this requires the removal of the specified distance from the branch tips by thinning and/or reduction pruning as per BS3998 and current best practice.

It is understood that the woodland is protection by Tree Preservation Order. It is an offence to damage or fell any tree protected by a TPO, though exemptions may be granted for trees that are deemed dead, dying or dangerous. It is recommended that an application to carry out the prescribed tree works is submitted to Mid Sussex District Council prior to the start of the recommended works.

Prior to the commencement of any tree works, an ecological assessment of specific trees may be required to ascertain whether protected species (e.g. bats, badgers and invertebrates etc.) may be affected.

Inherent in tree inspection is assessment of the risk associated with trees close to people and their property. Most human activities involve a degree of risk; such risks being commonly accepted if the associated benefits are perceived to be commensurate. Risks associated with trees tend to increase with the age of the trees concerned, but so do many of the benefits. It

will be appreciated, and deemed to be accepted by the client, that the formulation of recommendations for all management of trees will be guided by a cost/benefit balance.

A risk index of 1/10,000 is generally considered as acceptable in most industries. Ultimately, the landowner / site manager will determine his own thresholds and exposure.

5 Tree Survey Schedule

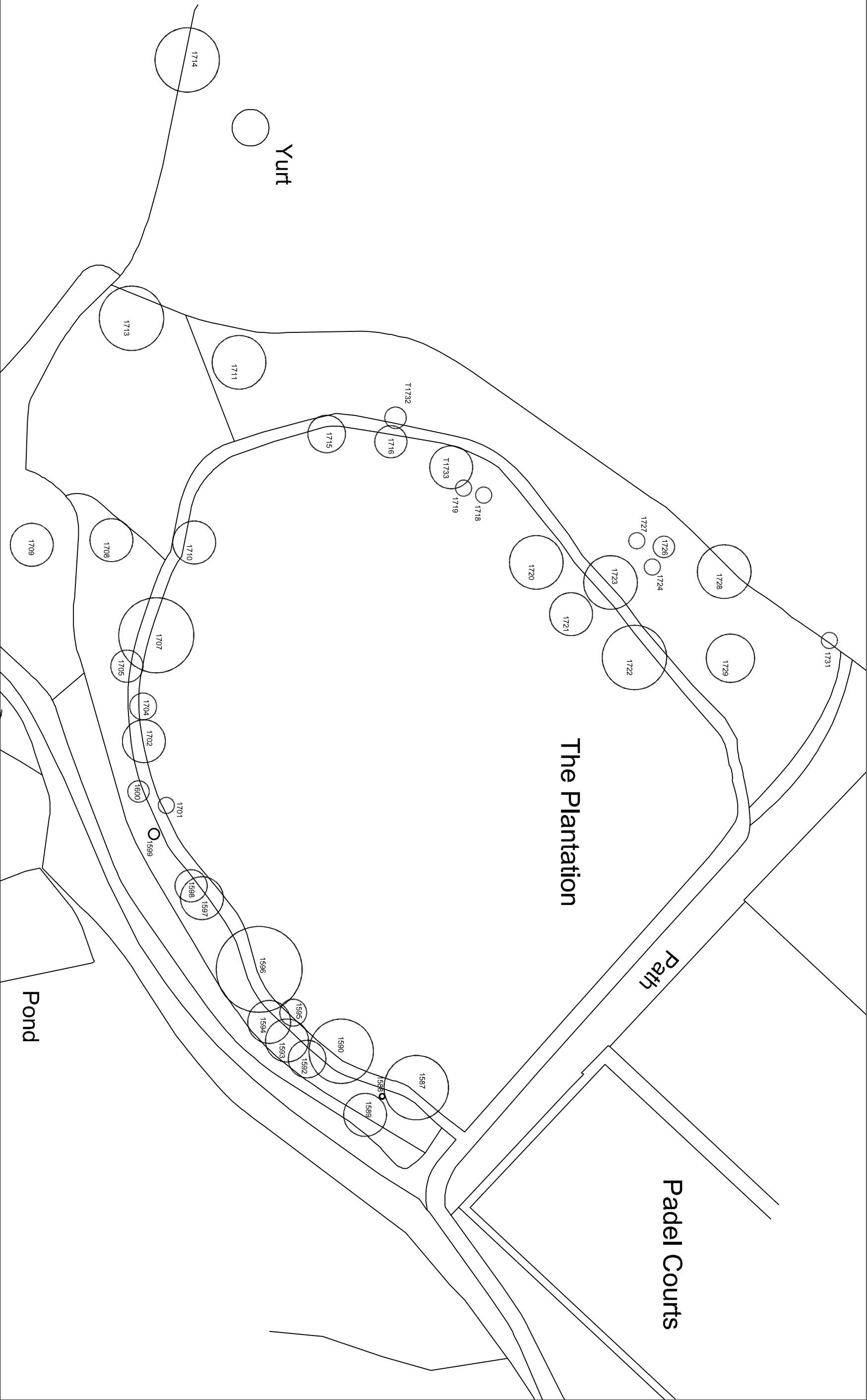
Project:	Tree Hoppers Forest Kindergarten		Tree Risk Assessment Survey		Surveyed by	OH			
Ref:	26-2093-TSS-01				Weather	Clear			
Date:	30.01.26				Tagged	Yes			
Client:	Tree Hoppers FK								
Tag No.	Species	Height (m)	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Risk Rating	Comments	Works Required	Priority	Location
1587	English oak (Quercus robur)	16	Fair	Good	Moderate	Major deadwood throughout crown.	Remove deadwood over path only.	High	Carpark access path northwest side
1588	Wild cherry (Prunus avium)	8	Dead	Fair	Low	Dead standing pole.	Fell alongside path, leave in situ. Leave stem at 1.5m.	Low	Carpark access path southeast side, opposite 1587 side
1589	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	17	Fair	Fair	Low	Twin stem Ash, heavily decayed base, intermediate Hymenoscyphus.	Monolith both stems at 5m, stack logwood on site.	Low	Carpark access path Southeast side, behind 1589
1590	English oak (Quercus robur)	16	Good	Good	Low	2x large dead branches over pathway, 5m south and 7m east.	Stabilise deadwood- Reduce both dead branches by half using natural fracture cuts.	Low	Carpark access path west side.
1592	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	14	Dead	Poor	High	Twin stem, dead. Armillaria and Hymenoscyphus.	Fell both stems to ground level.	High	Carpark access path southeast side
1593	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	14	Poor	Poor	High	7 Ash stems, late stage Hymenoscyphus.	Monolith all 7 stems to 4m.	High	Carpark access path southeast side. Behind 1592
1594	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	16	Fair	Fair	Low	Twin stem, intermediate Hymenoscyphus.	Monolith both stem at 4m.	Low	Carpark access path southeast.
1595	English oak (Quercus robur)	16	Fair	Fair	Low	Inactive Armillaria decay at base south, deadwood throughout crown.	Monitor	N/A	Carpark access path north west side
1596	English oak (Quercus robur)	17	Good	Good	Low	Deadwood throughout crown.	Remove deadwood over path only.	Low	Carpark access path north west side
1597	Beech (Fagus sylvatica)	17	good	Poor	Low	Extensive Kretzschmaria decay at base south, buttresses and lower stem north intact.	Fell to ground level.	Low	Carpark access path southeast side
1598	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	17	Poor	Poor	High	Twin stem, late stage Hymenoscyphus.	Fell both stem to ground level.	High	Carpark access path southeast side

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Client:	Tree Hoppers FK								
Tag No.	Species	Height (m)	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Risk Rating	Comments	Works Required	Priority	Location
1599	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	12	Poor	Poor	Low	Small semi mature moribund Ash, potential to fall across path.	Straight fell.	Low	Carpark access path south side, behind hazel.
1600	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	14	fair	Fair	Moderate	Ivy clad Ash, intermediate Hymenoscyphus.	Fell to ground level.	low	Carpark access path south side, 4m west of 1599
1701	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	9	Dead	Poor	Moderate	Twin stem, dead.	Straight fell.	High	Carpark access path north side, opposite 1600
1702	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	20	Fair	Fair	High	Intermediate Hymenoscyphus, major deadwood over path.	Monolith at 4m.	High	Carpark access path north side
1704	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	15	Poor	Fair	Moderate	Late stage Hymenoscyphus.	Straight fell into woodland to north.	Low	Carpark access path north side
1705	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	15	Poor	Poor	Moderate	Triple stem, decay at base, late stage Hymenoscyphus.	Fell all 3 stems to ground level.	high	Carpark access path south side
1707	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	24	Poor	Poor	High	Inonotus decay in upper stem and scaffolds, intermediate Hymenoscyphus , bacterial cankering and bark dysfunction. High footfall area.	Monolith at 4m.	High	North east of Oak camp gate.
1708	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	17	Poor	Poor	High	Late stage Hymenoscyphus, within 3m of forest school gate.	Monolith at 2m	High	3m east of oak camp gate.
1709	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	15	Poor	Fair	Low	Intermediate Hymenoscyphus, within falling distance of forest school	Monolith at 4m.	Low	10m SE of oak camp gate
1710	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	21	Fair	Fair	Moderate	Intermediate Hymenoscyphus.	Monolith at 4m.	Low	8m NE of oak camp gate.
1711	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	13	Fair	Fair	Moderate	Quad stem. Intermediate Hymenoscyphus	Monolith all stems at 3m	Low	Oak camp 5m NE of lunch tent
1713	Wild cherry (Prunus avium)	15	Good	Poor	High	Mature Cherry, crown biased to north, heavily decayed lower stem, buttresses intact. Decay inactive.	Reduce crown by up 1.5m in height and spread, focus on drop crotching. Remove major deadwood.	Urgent	Oak Camp 5m west of toilet block
1714	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	10	Poor	Poor	Moderate	Leaning towards yurt, intermediate/advanced Hymenoscyphus.	Fell.	High	12m Southwest of Yurt

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Tag No.	Species	Height (m)	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Risk Rating	Comments	Works Required	Priority	Location
1715	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	16	Poor	Poor	High	Twin stem, advanced Hymenoscyphus. Decay at base.	Monolith both stems at 4m	High	Lower carpark access path east side.
1716	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	16	Poor	Poor	High	Twin stem, advanced Hymenoscyphus. Decay at base. Legacy green marker paint on stem.	Monolith both stems at 4m	High	Lower carpark access path east side.
1718	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	12	Poor	Poor	Low	Twin stem, advanced Hymenoscyphus. Decay at base. Legacy orange marker paint on stem.	Fell both stems to ground level.	Low	Lower carpark access path east side.
1719	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	11	Poor	Poor	Low	Advanced Hymenoscyphus.	Fell to ground level.	Low	Lower carpark access path east side.
1720	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	17	Poor	Poor	High	Advanced Hymenoscyphus.	Monolith at 3m	Urgent	Lower carpark access path east side.
1721	Wild cherry (Prunus avium)	15	Poor	Fair	Low	Declining. Twin stem.	Monitor.	N/A	Lower carpark access path east side.
1723	Wild cherry (Prunus avium)	16	Fair	Fair	Low	Declining. Ivy clad. Deadwood over path.	Remove deadwood over path only.	Low	Lower carpark access path west side.
1722	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	18	Poor	Fair	Moderate	Advanced Hymenoscyphus. Weighted away from path.	Fell, leave stump at 1m.	Low	Lower carpark access path east side.
1724	Wild cherry (Prunus avium)	9	Poor	Fair	Moderate	Declining.	Monolith at 3m	Low	6m Northwest of 1723, inside forest school.
1726	Wild cherry (Prunus avium)	10	Poor	Fair	Moderate	Declining.	Monolith at 3m	Low	8.5m Northwest of 1723, inside forest school.
1727	Wild cherry (Prunus avium)	10	Poor	Fair	Moderate	Declining.	Monolith at 3m	Low	7m west of 1724, in-between forest school areas.

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Tag No.	Species	Height (m)	Physiological Condition	Structural Condition	Risk Rating	Comments	Works Required	Priority	Location
1728	English oak (Quercus robur)	10	Fair	Fair	Low	Low vitality. Decay column from base to 5m. Weighted away from targets.	Monitor.	N/A	Ditch boundary of Northern forest school area.
1729	Goat willow (Salix capraea)	11	Fair	Poor	Moderate	Extending limbs, brittle wood with high potential for branch failure. Overhanging temporary structure and meal area. Decay visible in scaffolds.	Reduce crown by up to 2m in height and 3m in and spread.	Urgent	Northern forest school area.
1731	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	8	Poor	Poor	Low	Hedgerow Ash, quad stem. Late stage Hymenoscyphus, weighted away from targets.	Fell all stems to height of boundary fence.	Low	North corner of northern forest school area.
1733	Goat willow (Salix capraea)	8	Poor	Poor	High	Heavily decayed stem	Fell retaining 1 metre stump	High	Lower carpark access path east side.

6 Tree Location Plan



Project	Tree Hoppers Forest Kindergarten
Drawing	Tree Location Plan
Date	27.02.26
Ref	26-2093-TLP
Drawn	NT
Checked	DR