



ARBORICULTURAL HAZARD EVALUATION SURVEY

**Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council
Land Maintained by the Parish Council**

Document date: 29th April 2026

Document ref: PJC/7154/26-01 Rev -

Sussex Office
Rocks Yard, Victoria Road
Herstmonceux, East Sussex.
BN27 4TQ.

PJC Consultancy Ltd
www.pjcconsultancy.com
contact@pjcconsultancy.com
01233 225365 - 01323 832120

Kent Office
The Watermill, The Mill Business Park,
Maidstone Road, Ashford, Kent.
TN26 1AE.

This report has been prepared by
PJC Consultancy Ltd
on behalf of
Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council

Document author

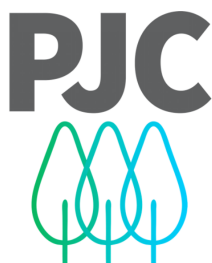
Nick Betts HND For M.Arbor.A

Nick has attained an HND in forestry management and is a professional member of both the Arboricultural Association and the Consulting Arborists Society. He has worked in the arboricultural and forestry industries for 26 years. He started his career as a forestry worker before qualifying as a tree surgeon, working in both the private and commercial sectors. He has been a practising consultant since 2004. He is a LANTRA accredited professional tree inspector.

Checked by

Luke White FdSc Arboriculture M.Arbor.A

Luke is an arboriculturist with over nine years' experience working within the arboricultural and forestry industry with the latter seven years working within consultancy. He gained a foundation degree in arboriculture with distinction from the University of Brighton in 2012 and is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association and an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.



arboriculture . ecology . landscape



CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1	Instruction	4
1.2	Scope of report	4
1.3	Purpose of report	4
1.4	Legal framework.....	4
1.5	Documents and information provided.....	4
2	SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS	5
2.1	Site visit.....	5
2.2	Identification and location of trees	5
2.3	Tree observations.....	5
2.4	Survey methodology	5
3	RECOMMENDATIONS	6
3.1	Management recommendations	6
3.2	Implementation of works.....	6
3.3	Reinspection frequency	6
4	OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	7
4.1	Statutory tree protection	7
4.2	Ecology considerations	7
4.3	Limitations of report	7
	Appendix 1: Tree Location Plan	8
	Appendix 2: Tree Survey Schedule	9



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

- 1.1.1 PJC Consultancy has been instructed by Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council to provide an arboricultural hazard evaluation of trees located on land maintained by the council.

1.2 Scope of report

- 1.2.1 This report is only concerned with the trees located at in the areas highlighted in the supplied boundary plans.

1.3 Purpose of report

- 1.3.1 This hazard evaluation survey has been commissioned as part of the landowners arboricultural management strategy. The purpose of this report is to visually inspect all trees located within impact distance of the supplied areas and record defects that may be/become hazardous to the general public within a period of two years.

1.4 Legal framework

- 1.4.1 Tree owners/managers owe a duty of care to those who, should have been reasonably contemplated, could be affected by a dangerous tree. Under the duty of care, the person or organisation responsible for the tree must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions, that could reasonably be foreseen, would be likely to cause harm to persons or property. Failure to meet this standard of care could mean the tree owner is found negligent in Common Law and may result in a claim for damages.
- 1.4.2 Under the Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984 there is a duty upon the occupier to take such care as is reasonable to ensure that visitors to their land shall be safe from harm. The duty extends also to unlawful trespassers, but only in so far as risks of which the occupier is aware.
- 1.4.3 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 also states “It shall be the duty of every employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment who may be affected thereby are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.”

1.5 Documents and information provided

- 1.5.1 The following documents were provided by the client to aid the preparation of this report:
- Boundary Plans



2 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

2.1 Site visit

- 2.1.1 The site visit was undertaken during 27th and 28th April 2026. All trees were surveyed that fell within the supplied site plans and agreed parameters of the survey.
- 2.1.2 Defective and potentially defective trees were identified at Court Bushes Community Hub, Millennium Garden/St. Georges Green, Reeds Lane Recreation Grounds and South Avenue Recreation Ground.
- 2.1.3 No defective trees were identified at Weald Close, the Allotments, War Memorial, South Avenue Cemetery, Lower Churchyard or the Village Garden.

2.2 Identification and location of trees

- 2.2.1 Trees have been tagged with metal tree tags, and the positions annotated on the tree location plan at Appendix 1.

2.3 Tree observations

- 2.3.1 The trees were visually inspected from within accessible areas. The survey methodology was restricted to a visual tree assessment from ground level. No tree climbing or ground investigation was carried out for this report. A sounding hammer was used to detect potential areas of decay or cavities. Binoculars were used to assess the crowns of trees.
- 2.3.2 Where existing site constraints are present such as ivy-covered trees, a very dense understorey, or where trees are located on third party land to which access was not granted, tree assessments and dimensions were estimated by eye as accurately as possible. No invasive decay detection or specialist decay detection methodologies were utilised as part of this survey.

2.4 Survey methodology

- 2.4.1 Tree inspection methodology is based on the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) practices as defined in the publication Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management by Dr David Lonsdale. This method has been applied to an area of land containing a significant population of trees and has been adopted accordingly.
- 2.4.2 The guidance as set out in the National Tree Safety Groups publication 'Common Sense Risk Management of Trees,' has been used to inform the risk management strategy behind the tree survey methodology. Frequency of use, size and location of tree or defective part of tree, and likely users within target area have been assessed and used to judge the priority of works.
- 2.4.3 Tree works are listed in the tree survey schedule at Appendix 2. Discussion of each tree's defect is not viable due to the number of trees identified as requiring works. Identified defects are listed in the defects column of the schedule. Where several defects are identified, the most severe defect is listed.
- 2.4.4 Where ash dieback has been identified it has been highlighted on the plans and survey sheets but not marked with marker paint. It is recommended that where ash dieback is present all trees with more than 20% dieback be felled. Trees have not been marked due the risk of causing public concern over large scale tree loss, and also any delay in undertaking the tree works will result in further trees than those marked requiring felling.
- 2.4.5 Statutory highway clearance is not considered in this report. This should be part of the overall estate tree management and maintenance strategy.



3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Management recommendations

3.1.1 The trees have been surveyed using a traffic light system for urgency of works. The classification for the coding is detailed below:

- Red – Works of high priority that should be carried out as soon as feasibly possible.
- Amber – Works to be carried out as part of scheduled maintenance or within 6 months, whichever is sooner.
- Green – Works to be undertaken within 21 months.

3.1.2 Only trees with significant defects that pose a hazard to the public have been recorded and included within the survey schedule in Appendix 2. Further information regarding tree defects and remedial tree works is included in the tree survey schedule at Appendix 2.

3.1.3 Where deadwood is recommended for removal, this only applies to deadwood that is judged to be able to cause harm or damage. Dead wood is ecologically valuable to a range of species.

3.2 Implementation of works

3.2.1 The contractors should carry out all tree works to BS 3998 *Recommendations for Tree Works* (2010) as modified by research that is more recent. They should also carry relevant, adequate, and up to date insurance.

3.2.2 It is also recommended that all tree works are carried out by an Arboricultural Association approved contractor. Approved contractors are expected to work to industry best standards, and the Arboricultural Association website contains contact details and information on engaging a suitable contractor.

3.3 Reinspection frequency

3.3.1 It is recommended that all trees within the survey area be resurveyed within two years of this report unless specified within the survey schedule in Appendix 1.



4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Statutory tree protection

- 4.1.1 Prior to commencement of works, Mid Sussex District Council Planning Department should be consulted to determine whether any tree preservation order (TPO) protects the trees requiring remedial works. Failure to adhere to the TPO legislation could lead to prosecution and if convicted a fine and criminal record. The crown of a tree and its roots are protected. The person carrying out the works, the person instructing the works and the Directors of that company are potentially liable. Failure to check whether tree/s are the subject of TPO/s could not be used as mitigation.

4.2 Ecology considerations

- 4.2.1 Trees should be checked for protected species before works are undertaken. It is against the law to disturb bats or their roosts under the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations. Nesting birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act. If protected species are discovered, a suitably qualified ecologist or Natural England should be contacted for advice.

4.3 Limitations of report

- 4.3.1 The trees were assessed for their condition and safety in relation to the average range of weather conditions that the region experiences. Any weather events that exceed the average norm cannot be predicted, and so their effects are not considered within this report.
- 4.3.2 The views and opinions contained within this report are entirely those of the author.



Appendix 1: Tree Location Plan



Key:

● Tree requiring works

Tree survey schedule contained within the arboricultural report ref. PJC/7154/26-01 contains further information for each tree.

Drawing no: PJC/7154/26/A Rev: - Sheet number: 1

Client and site:
Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council
Reeds Lane Recreation Grounds

Drawing title: Tree Location Plan

Date drawn: 29/04/2026

Scale: Not to scale

Drawn by: NB **Checked by:** LW



Key:

 Tree requiring works

Tree survey schedule contained within the arboricultural report ref. PJC/7154/26-01 contains further information for each tree.

Drawing no: PJC/7154/26/A Rev: - Sheet number: 1

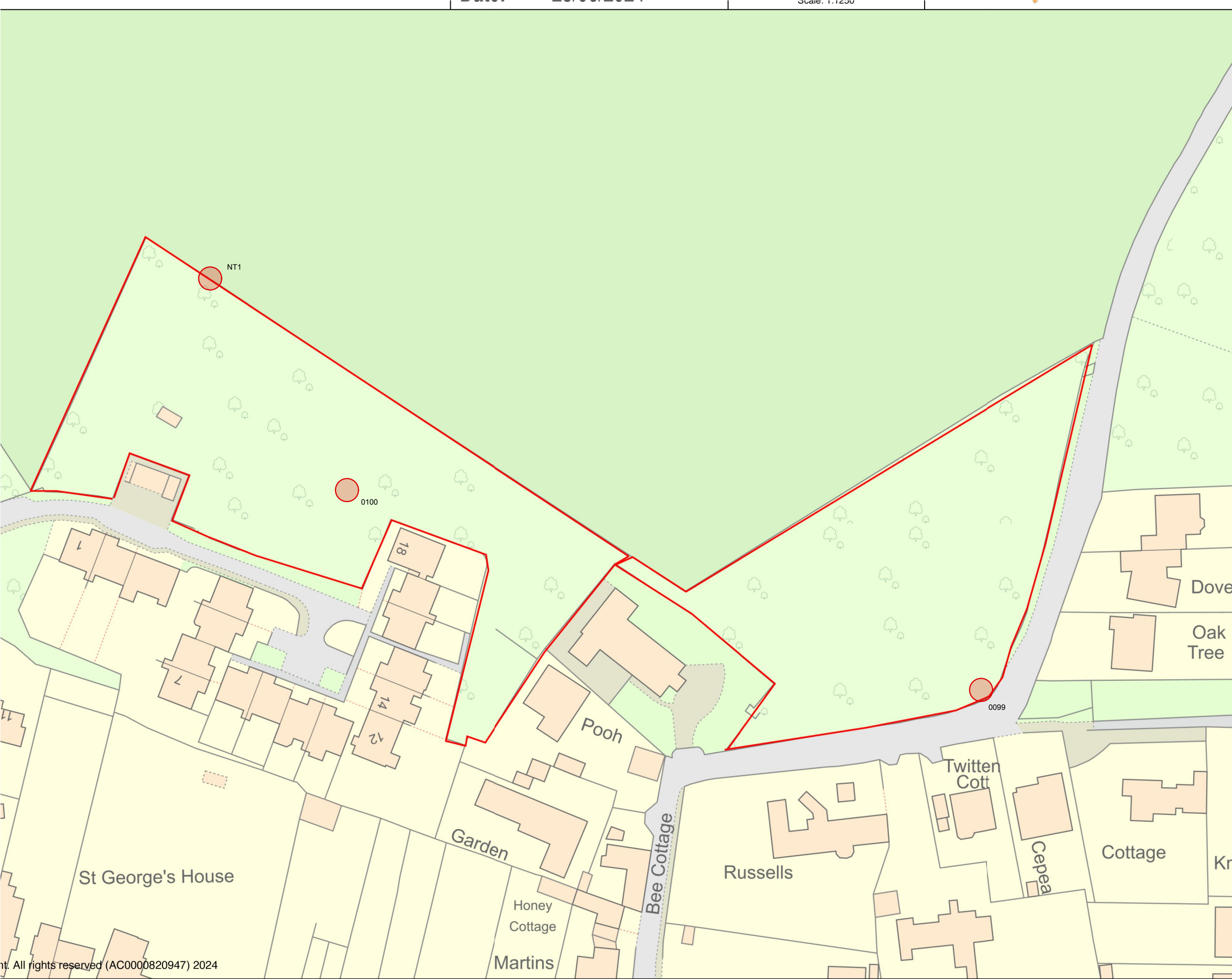
Client and site:
Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council
South Avenue Recreation Grounds

Drawing title: Tree Location Plan

Date drawn: 29/04/2026

Scale: Not to scale

Drawn by: NB **Checked by:** LW



Key:

Tree requiring works

Tree survey schedule contained within the arboricultural report ref. PJC/7154/26-01 contains further information for each tree.

Drawing no: PJC/7154/26/A	Rev: -	Sheet number: 3
Client and site: Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council Millennium Gardens/St. Georges Green		
Drawing title: Tree Location Plan		
Date drawn: 29/04/2026		
Scale: Not to scale		
Drawn by: NB	Checked by: LW	

nt. All rights reserved (AC0000820947) 2024





Appendix 2: Tree Survey Schedule

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council Tree Survey 2026

Location	Tree no.	Species	Height	Crown radius	Trunk diameter	Age	Condition	Defect	Action required	Priority	Date
South Avenue Recreation Ground	0163	Horse chestnut, (Aesculus hippocasteanum)	14	8	800	Mature	Fair	Previously pollarded to three main stems, northern stem has decay developing close to stem union	Remove stem back to stem union	Amber	27/04/2026
South Avenue Recreation Ground	1714	Pedunculate oak, (Quercus robur)	12	10	600	Mature	Good	Deadwood in crown	Remove deadwood in crown	Green	27/04/2026
Court Bushes Community Hub	NT1	Hawthorn, (Crataegus monogyna)	5	2	100	Semi mature	Poor	Standing dead tree	Fell	Green	27/04/2026
Millennium Garden	0099	Sycamore, (Acer psuedoplatanus)	10	1	100	Juvenile	Poor	Standing dead tree	Fell	Amber	27/04/2026
St Georges Green	0100	Goat willow, (Salix caprea)	10	6	300	Semi mature	Poor	Twin stemmed tree, one stem has failed, remaining stem has extensive decay	Fell	Amber	28/04/2026
St Georges Green	NT1	Sycamore, (Acer psuedoplatanus)	18	14	700	Mature	Fair	Ganoderma fungal bracket at base on northern aspect indicating internal decay	Reinspect in 12 months (unable to tag due to ivy growth, tree location is obvious)	Green	28/04/2026
Reeds Lane Recreation Grounds	0280	Pedunculate oak, (Quercus robur)	14	10	600	Mature	Good	Deadwood in crown	Remove deadwood in crown	Green	28/04/2026
Reeds Lane Recreation Grounds	G1	Horse chestnut, (Aesculus hippocasteanum)	12	6	300	Semi mature	Fair	Dieback in crowns	Reinspect in 12 months	Green	28/04/2026
Reeds Lane Recreation Grounds	NT2	Horse chestnut, (Aesculus hippocasteanum)	10	4	200	Semi mature	Fair	Dieback in crown	Reinspect in 12 months	Green	28/04/2026
Reeds Lane Recreation Grounds	6292	Pedunculate oak, (Quercus robur)	20	18	1000>	Mature	Poor	Tree in terminal decline	Remove crown and monolith to 8 metres in height	Amber	28/04/2026
Reeds Lane Recreation Grounds	G2	Ash, (Fraxinus excelsior)	16	4	300	Semi mature	Poor	Group of ash affected by ash dieback	Remove affected trees with more than 30% dieback	Amber	28/04/2026



CONTACT DETAILS

Sussex Office:

Rocks Yard
Victoria Road
Herstmonceux
Hailsham
East Sussex
BN27 4TQ

Tel: 01323 832120

Kent Office:

The Watermill
The Mill Business Park
Maidstone Road
Ashford
Kent
TN26 1AE

Tel: 01233 225365

Author: Nick Betts

Date: 29th April 2026

E-mail: nick@pjconsultancy.com