



ARBORICULTURAL HAZARD EVALUATION SURVEY

Hassocks Parish Council

**Adastra Park
Parklands Copse
Talbot Fields**

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This report has been prepared by
PJC Consultancy Ltd
on behalf of
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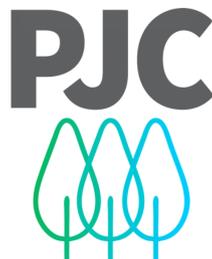
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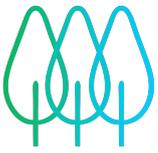
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

1.1.1 PJC Consultancy has been instructed by Hassock Parish Council to provide an arboricultural hazard evaluation of Parklands Copse, Aداstra Park and Talbot Fields.

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 estate plans.

1.3 Purpose of report

1.3.1 This hazard evaluation survey has been commissioned as part of the landowner's 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:

- Site Plans



2 SITE VISIT AND OBSERVATIONS

2.1 Site visit

2.1.1 The site visit was undertaken during 4th July 2025. All trees were surveyed that fell within the supplied site plans and agreed parameters of the survey.

2.2 Identification and location of trees

2.2.1 Trees have been tagged with metal tree tags, and the positions annotated on 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.

4.1.2 The sites are not in a Conservation Area.

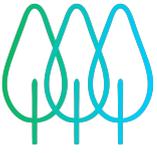
4.2 Ecology considerations

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.

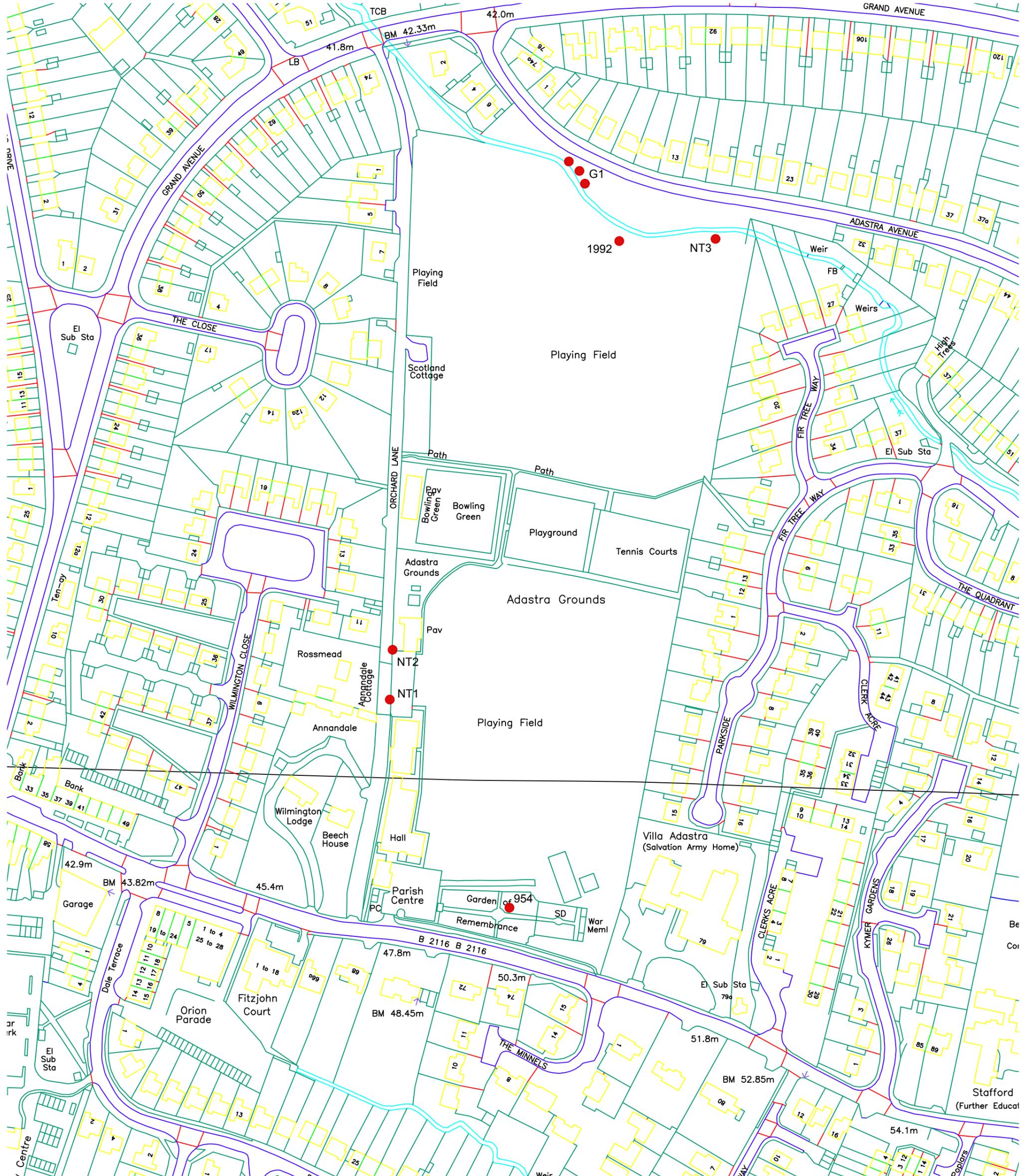
4.3 Limitations of report

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:
 0001 - Tree requiring works

Tree survey schedule contained within the arboricultural report ref. PJC/6709/25-01 contains further information for each tree.

Drawing no: PJC/6709/25/A Rev: - Sheet number: 1 of 1

Client and site:
 Hassocks Parish Council
 Adastra Park

Drawing title: Tree Location Plan

Date drawn: 15/07/2025

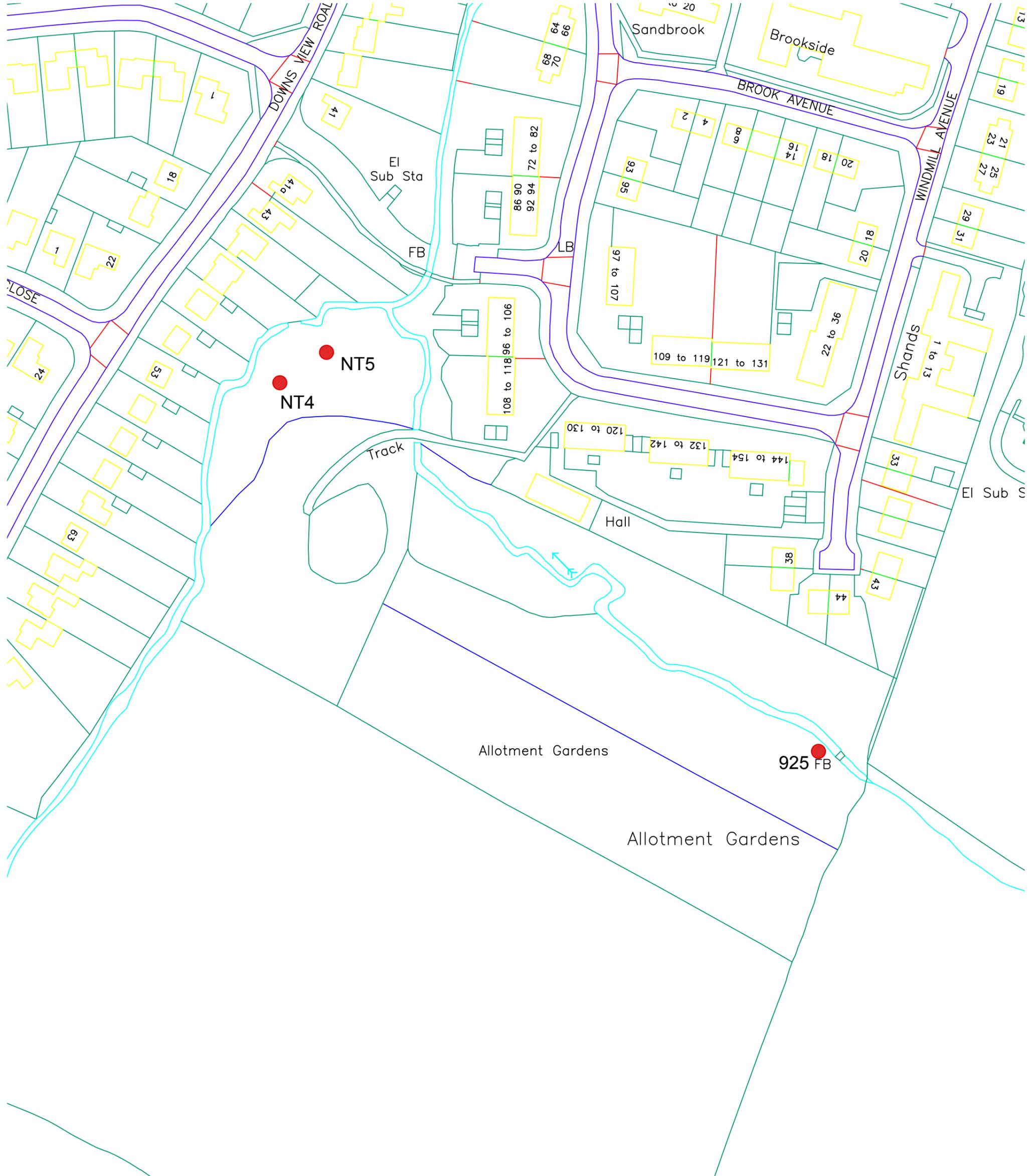
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Drawn by: NB

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Client and site:
 Hassocks Parish Council
 Parklands Copse

Drawing title: Tree Location Plan

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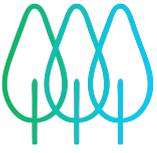
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Appendix 2: Tree Survey Schedule

Hassocks Parish Council
Hazard Abatement Tree Survey 2025

Tree Number	Species	Height	Age Class	Physical condition	Structural condition	Defect Notes	Action Required	Location notes	Frequency of Use	Works Priority	Date of Inspection
954	Silver birch, (Betula pendula)	16	Mature	Poor	Poor	Standing dead tree	Fell	Adastra Park	High	Amber	4th July 2025
NT1	Lime, (Tilia spp.)	18	Mature	Fair	Fair	Dead wood in crown	Remove dead wood	Adastra Park	High	Green	4th July 2025
NT2	Scots pine, (Pinus sylvestris)	20	Mature	Fair	Poor	Basal decay	Fell	Adastra Park	High	Amber	4th July 2025
G1	Ash, Fraxinus excelsior)	18 - 22	Mature	Poor	Poor	Ash dieback affecting group of trees	Fell all ash with more than 20% crown dieback	Adastra Park	High	Green	4th July 2025
1992	Weeping willow, (Salix babylonica)	15	Mature	Poor	Poor	Standing dead tree	Fell	Adastra Park	High	Amber	4th July 2025
NT3	Ash, Fraxinus excelsior)	14	Semi mature	Poor	Poor	Standing dead tree	Fell	Adastra Park	High	Amber	4th July 2025
NT4	Ash, Fraxinus excelsior)	18	Mature	Poor	Poor	Dying tree	Fell	Parklands Copse	Moderate	Green	4th July 2025
NT5	Unidentified	17	Mature	Poor	Poor	Standing dead tree	Fell	Parklands Copse	Moderate	Amber	4th July 2025
955	Hawthorn, (Crataegus monogyna)	6	Mature	Fair	Poor	Stem decay	Fell	Parklands Copse	Moderate	Amber	4th July 2025

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