

Tree risk management report

St Margaret's Church

Arundel Road Angmering

Littlehampton

BN16 4JS

Prepared for

Newtimber Land Management Limited



RUSKINS
TREE CONSULTANCY

A trading name of RG Consultancy Ltd

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Our Ref: 1021-9084-JGS

17th June 2026

Most recent
report with
actions
needed

Contents

- 1 Introduction**
- 2 Tree inspection**
- 3 Observations**
- 4 Limitations**

Appendix 1

**Tree schedule and management recommendations Tree
location plan**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1.1. Lewis Fraser of Ruskins Tree Consultancy (a trading name of RG Consultancy Limited) has been instructed by Mr Chris McCormick to carry out a quick visual check of all trees located at St Margaret's Church, Arundel Road, Angmering, Littlehampton BN16 4JS that could reasonably foreseeably cause harm, and to identify any necessary tree works, and the recommended period for re-inspection based on land use.
- 1.1.2. St Margaret's Church is located close to the centre of Angmering and occupies a site which slopes down gently from north to south. It is bordered by public open space to the north and residential properties to the east, south, and west (Figure 1).



Figure 1: This image is supplied courtesy of Google. The yellow line indicates the approximate area where the trees were checked and is illustrative only.

- 1.1.3. We visited the site on 29th June 2026. Weather conditions at the time were clear, dry, and sunny, with good visibility. All observations were from ground level and did not involve any detailed investigations, e.g., internal decay assessment. The individual trees requiring work were identified using numbered metal tags attached to each trunk.

1.2. The benefits of trees

- 1.2.1. Trees have many benefits contributing to the landscape and character of an area, creating a sense of place with mature trees providing a link to the past. They help reduce the impacts of extreme weather by providing shade and intercepting rainfall, help reduce air pollution by removing particulates, help absorb CO₂ whilst providing habitat for wildlife and associated bio-diversity benefits. Trees can also contribute to society by having a positive

Tree risk management for St Margaret's Church, Arundel Road, Angmering, Littlehampton BN16 4JS
impact on health, reducing anti-social behaviour and having a positive impact on the quality and value of the built environment.

- 1.2.2. Their importance is recognised in national and local government policies, and many non- governmental organisations have policies dedicated to conserving trees and their biodiversity.

1.3. The risks from trees

- 1.3.1. The risk, per tree, of causing fatality is around one in 150 million for all trees in Britain or one in 10 million for those trees in, or adjacent to areas of public use. This is clearly significantly less than the 1 in 1 million threshold that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) considers 'broadly acceptable', within the Tolerability of Risk Framework.
- 1.3.2. The HSE have developed the Tolerability of Risk Framework which has been incorporated into the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) guidance. Risks above 1/10,000 per annum are generally considered unacceptable when placed on the public. Risks between 1/10,000 and 1/1,000,000 per annum are tolerable, but consideration should be given to managing them 'as low as reasonably practicable' (ALARP), where it is cost effective to do so.
- 1.3.3. This risk associated with trees therefore represents an extremely small proportion of the background risk that we commonly accept in our everyday lives, and the ongoing removal and general management of trees is probably the most important factor in keeping this figure at such a low level. However, there can be pressure to remove trees because of a perception of risk, which may be much greater than any actual risk a tree poses.
- 1.3.4. Trees are growing dynamic structures. No tree is ever absolutely safe due to the unpredictable laws and forces of nature. As a result of this, natural failure of intact trees will occur; extreme climatic conditions can cause damage to even apparently healthy trees.
- 1.3.5. Inspecting and recording every tree in an effort to completely remove the risk from trees is in practice unachievable and would be disproportionate to the risk.

2.0 Tree inspection

- 2.1.1. To maintain trees in a reasonable condition and reduce the risk of harm to people and property to acceptable levels trees should be inspected by a suitably trained and competent person using recognised survey methodology, e.g., Visual Tree Assessment (VTA).
- 2.1.2. Where a VTA finds features that merit further inspection, the tree should be inspected using appropriate methodology. This may range from climbing inspections, root collar excavations, to the use of detailed internal decay assessment equipment such as a resistograph drill or sonic tomography to help determine the structural integrity of the tree.
- 2.1.3. **Statutory protection**
- 2.1.4. Our enquiries through the Arun District Council website on 2nd July 2026 confirmed that the site falls within the Angmering Conservation Area, and that two of the old/veteran yew trees are protected by a tree preservation order (LPA reference: TPO/A/1/10). However, as the site is within church grounds, it is likely that other

Tree risk management for St Margaret's Church, Arundel Road, Angmering, Littlehampton BN16 4JS
restrictions will apply, and apart from certain exceptions, any proposed work may also require consent from the
Consistory Court of the Diocese through a Faculty.

3.0 Observations

- 3.1.1. We identified two individual trees requiring management work to be undertaken within about 6 months' time, and further details of their condition can be found in the tree schedule at Appendix 1. All tree works should be carried out by qualified, suitably trained, and fully insured contractors in accordance with BS 3998 (2010) *Tree work – Recommendations*.
- 3.1.2. We noted an important veteran yew tree close to the church entrance that seems to have been heavily pruned in the past (Figure 2), and whilst no work has been recommend at the moment, it is likely that pruning will become necessary again in the future to ensure that it does not suffer from failures as the branches continue to grow and become heavier, and loading increases on the trunk. Given the trees' age and importance, we think that it would benefit from a bespoke veteran management plan to ensure that any work is carefully planned, allowing for the tree to continue contributing to the local environment for years to come.



Figure 2: Showing the veteran yew tree located close to the Church entrance. It seems to have been heavily pruned in the past, as it is likely that pruning will be necessary again in the future as the branches continue to grow, and loading increases on the trunk. This work must be managed carefully because the tree is so old and important, and we think it would be best to identify the requirements in a bespoke veteran management plan.

- 3.1.3. We recommend that all the trees should be re-inspected in about 2 years' time.

4.0 Limitations

- 4.1.1. Trees should be re-inspected as per the recommendations in this report and in about 2 years' time. The recommended re-inspections will seek to evaluate the effectiveness of management proposals and to reevaluate the condition of the tree stock to meet your duty of care to ensure, insofar as is reasonably practicable, that people and property are not exposed to unreasonable levels of risk.
- 4.1.2. Trees should be inspected by a suitably qualified arboriculturalist after severe weather, localised ground works, or other factors that may affect tree health and structural integrity, to assess their condition and evaluate the need for any remedial action. Any events that require a detailed inspection to assess tree condition should be carried out by a qualified arboriculturalist.
- 4.1.3. Recommendations for tree management have been based on current best arboricultural practice as set out by the arboricultural profession and all relevant publications.
- 4.1.4. A legal Duty of Care requires that all works specified in this report should be performed by qualified arboricultural contractors who have been competency tested to determine their suitability for such works in line with Health & Safety Executive Guidelines.

Appendix 1

Tree schedule and management recommendations

Tree location plan

Tree schedule

Tree No.	Tree Species	Hgt (m)	Maturity	Notes	Recommendations	Work Priority
T1	Holly	6	Early mature	Dying	Fell	Within 6 months
T2	Bay laurel	10	Early mature	Large <i>Ganoderma</i> sp. fungal fruiting body at base, adjacent stem recently failed, historically reduced	Reduce by 3–4 m to previous pruning points	Within 6 months

Key

Abbreviations: T=Tree

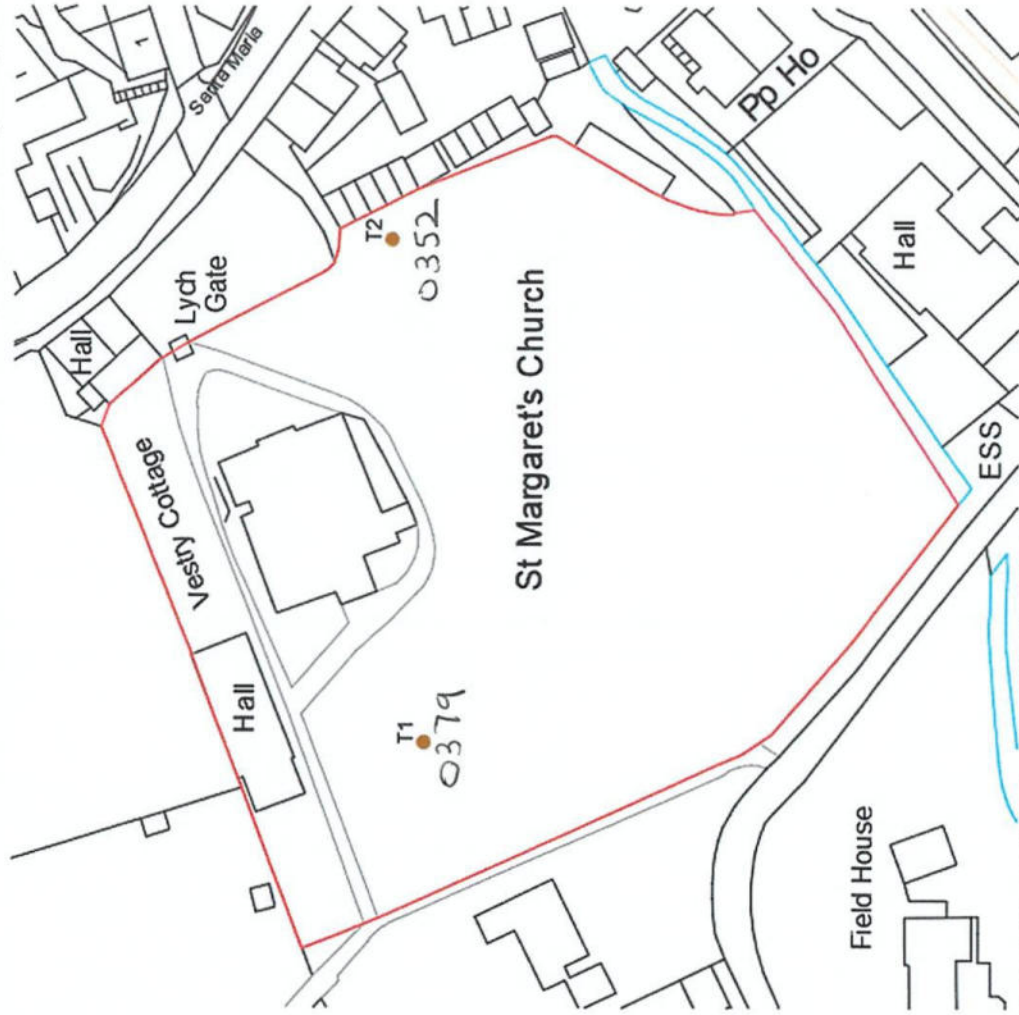
Tree No: Tree number as identified by a metal tag attached to each trunk and shown on the tree location plan

Species: Common name

Hgt: Approximate height of tree from ground level

Tree location plan

	Tree location plan
	Date: 01/07/2026
	Job Ref: 0626 20040
	KEY T = Tree TG = Tree groups H = Hedge W = Woodland North is at the top of the page This plan is not to scale
	Tree location plan for St Margaret's Church, Arundel Road, Angmering, West Sussex. BN16 4JS



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The red line denotes the area surveyed.

