

ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY REPORT

TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE & TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN

Folkestone Methodist Church
Sandgate Road
Folkestone
Kent CT20 2BL

Client: South Kent Methodist Circuit Office

October 2025

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Ref: StA 5333 AS Folkestone Methodist Church Rev -



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1. Introduction

1.1. Scope of report

- 1.1.1 St Aubyn Tree Consultancy are instructed to carry out a survey of land at Folkestone Methodist Church, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2BL, to provide the baseline tree constraints information to inform a planning application.
- 1.1.2 This report provides information about the site and the trees growing within and immediately adjacent to it. It includes a tree survey schedule, a table of root protection areas (RPAs) and a tree constraints plan.
- 1.1.3 This report complies with the planning policies of Folkestone and Hythe District Council and with the recommendations of British Standard BS 5837: 2012, *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* (the British Standard).

1.2. Site description

- 1.2.1 Folkestone Methodist Church is on the south side of Sandgate Road. To the south it abuts a carpark. Most of the site comprises the building.
- 1.2.2 A check of an online soil information resource¹ revealed the soils to be freely draining, slightly acid, loamy soils.

1.3. Information provided

- 1.3.1 The following plan was used to aid the preparation of this report:
 - Topo ref: 250120 Folkestone Methodist Church

1.4. Statutory protection

- 1.4.1 No information is available on Folkestone and Hythe District Council's website regarding the presence of tree preservation orders.
- 1.4.2 The site is within the Folkestone Conservation Area.

1.5. Limitations

- 1.5.1 This arboricultural survey report has been prepared as a design tool for a proposed development and planning application. This survey does not constitute a condition and safety survey.
- 1.5.2 The locations of trees are based on the topographical plan provided. Additional trees omitted from the topographical survey have been plotted using measurements taken on site where necessary.
- 1.5.3 The condition of trees can change significantly within short periods of time due to natural events or people led activities. If there are no changes within the site, this report is valid for a period of 2 years.

¹CRANFIELD SOIL AND AGRIFOOD INSTITUTE. (2021) Soil descriptions. [Online] Available from: www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/ [Accessed: 20th October 2025]



2. Tree survey

2.1. Findings

- 2.1.1 The trees on the site were surveyed on 21st October 2025 by Abi St Aubyn. Information about the survey methodology and the tree data recorded can be found at **Appendix 1** .
- 2.1.2 The root protection areas (RPAs) table and the tree constraints plan can be found at **Appendix 2 & Appendix 3** .
- 2.1.3 A total of two individual trees, one group of trees and one hedge were surveyed. A summary of their British Standard categorisation is provided at **Table 1** below.

Tree category	Individual tree	Group	Hedge
A	-	-	-
B	-	-	-
C	2	1	1
U	-	-	-
Totals	2	1	1

Table 1: Tree categorisation summary

- 2.1.4 The following structures have been considered root barriers and the shapes of the root protection areas (RPAs) of the adjacent trees have been modified as shown on the tree constraints plan to reflect these:
- the retaining wall to the rear of the site
 - footprint of the existing building
- 2.1.5 In these cases, although the shape of the RPAs of T2 Kapuka and G3 Sycamore have been modified, their areas have been maintained.
- 2.1.6 All of the trees and single hedge present on the site are relatively small and primarily contribute to low-level screening. Their visual impact on the wider surrounding area is limited, as they do not form prominent features within the surrounding landscape.
- 2.1.7 Kapuka T2, growing to the rear of the site is visible from the adjacent car park and nearby properties. However, as a large shrub reaching approximately 7 metres in height, it is not considered a significant arboricultural feature within the context of the site or surrounding area.



3. Next Stages

3.1. Arboricultural impact assessment

- 3.1.1 This survey report provides the baseline arboricultural information to explain the arboricultural constraints at the site. The next stage is an iterative process - the emerging design is overlaid with the baseline arboricultural information. The direct and indirect arboricultural impacts of the evolving proposed design are assessed and where necessary mitigation measures are recommended. This is an informal impact assessment stage that informs the design process.
- 3.1.2 This impact assessment takes account of the effects of any tree loss required to implement the design, and any potentially damaging activities proposed in the vicinity of retained trees. Such activities might include the removal of existing structures and hard surfacing, the installation of new hard surfacing, the installation of services, and the location and dimensions of all proposed excavations or changes in ground level, including any that might arise from the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures. In addition to the impact of the permanent works, the buildability of the scheme in terms of access, adequate working space and space for storage of materials also needs to be considered.
- 3.1.3 Once the design has been finalised a formal impact assessment report, tree removals plan, arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan will be required to accompany the planning application.



Appendix 1 Tree survey methodology and schedule

Tree survey methodology

The site was surveyed on 21st October 2025 by Abi St Aubyn *MICFor MArborA DipArb L6 (ABC) MEng (Hons)*. Weather conditions were clear, dry & bright. Trees were in partial leaf.

The trees within and adjacent to the site were surveyed using Visual Tree Assessment² and following the recommendations of the British Standard³.

The survey information was recorded using *Axciscape* tree survey software. Heights and radial crown spreads were measured using a laser distometer or where inaccessible, these were estimated. Trunk diameters were measured using a diameter tape or where inaccessible, these were estimated.

Other tools used if needed were a nylon headed hammer to tap trunks to detect the difference in sound in degraded wood/cavities and a large screwdriver to determine the depth of cavities, within reach from ground level.

The assessment of the categories (A, B, C & U) for trees was carried out in accordance with the British Standard⁴.

²Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) is a tree survey methodology established by Mattheck & Breloer, outlined within the *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management* by Lonsdale, where external above ground visual signs of decay and of growth-related defects are recorded from ground level.

³BS 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* (the British Standard). The survey methodology follows the British Standard apart from sub-categories have not been included and the first significant branch and direction of growth have been omitted. These adjustments are because the British Standard is nearly 10 years old and overdue a review, and in practice the omitted information is very rarely used to inform the design process or tree protection measures. However, if in a particular case this information is relevant, it will be included in the comments. Also, an additional category of 'collection' is used for new tree planting of a similar age, to supplement the recommended individual, group, woodland and hedge categories.



Tree survey schedule key

No	Sequential reference number. Individual trees are recorded as T, groups as G and hedges as H.
Species	Common tree name.
Height	Measured/estimated in metres as access allows.
Trunk diameter	Measured/estimated in millimetres as access allows.
Crown clearance	Height between the existing ground level, estimated in metres.
Radial crown spread	Either an average or at four cardinal points. Measured/estimated as access allows.
Life stage	Young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature, over-mature and ancient.
Physiology	Good, average, below average, poor, dead.
Structure	Good, average, below average, hazardous, dead.
Landscape value	High, moderate, low.
Lifespan	<10 years, 10+ years, 20+ years, 40+ years
Comments	Presence of any decay and/or physical defects, and/or preliminary management recommendations. Whether a tree is considered to be a veteran tree ⁴ , irrespective of its age.
Category	A – trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years B – trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years C – trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young tree with a stem diameter below 150mm U – trees unsuitable for retention due to their condition

⁴ Whist veteran trees typically provide a range of niche habitats, they are especially valuable if ancient, due to their scarcity and high habitat value for associated species of fungi, lichens and saproxylic invertebrates, including some which are rare or endangered and occur only where such trees have been continuously present for centuries. These trees, where present, will be of high value, category 'A'.



TREE SURVEY SCHEDULE

No.	Species	Height (m)	Trunk Dia. (mm)	Crown Clearance (m)	Radial Crown Spread (m)				Life Stage	Physiology	Structure	Landscape Value	Life-span	Comments	Category
					NW	NE	SE	SW							
T1	Holly	3.5m	55mm	1m	1m	1m	1m	1m	Young	Average	Average	Low	40+	Small tree growing within low level retaining bed.	C
T2	Kapuka	7m	300mm, 250mm, 250mm, 150mm & 150mm	0.5m	2.5m	2.5m	2.5m	2.5m	Mature	Average	Average	Low	20+	Large shrub growing within low level retaining bed; multiple stems from 0.5m; dense bushy crown; historically topped at 2.5m.	C
G3	Sycamore	3.5m	50mm	0m	1m	1m	1m	1m	Young	Average	Below average	Low	10+	Self seeded young individual tree growing between 1.75m high brick wall and close board fence; recommend removal.	C
H4	Privet	1.5m	15mm x15	0.5m	0.5m	0.5m	0.5m	0.5m	Early-mature	Average	Average	Low	20+	No access; off-site low level hedge.	C



Appendix 2 Table of root protection areas

The root protection area (RPA) table

The root protection area (RPA) of a tree is a layout design tool which shows the minimum area around a tree deemed to contain sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability, and where the protection of the roots and soil structure is treated as a priority.

The British Standard provides calculations for both single and multi-stemmed trees, which are based on mathematical formulae using the trunk diameter of a tree.

For single stem trees, the RPA, is calculated as an area equivalent to a circle with a radius 12 times the stem diameter. This is capped at a circle of 15m diameter or 707m². For trees with 2-5 stems and 5+ stems more complex calculations are required in accordance with the methodology recommended within the British Standard.

The RPA radius and nominal RPA area for each tree are provided in the following table.

The root protection areas (RPA) for all trees are initially plotted on the tree constraints plan (Appendix 3) as a circle centred on the base of the stem/s. Where pre-existing site conditions (road, building foundations etc) or other factors (for example trenching) indicate that rooting has occurred asymmetrically, the standard circle has been modified to reflect the more likely root distribution. Although the shape of the RPA may have been modified, no change has been made to any of the overall areas of RPAs of on-site trees, up to a maximum distance of a 15m from the stem. Beyond this, marginal decreases in RPAs might result if there are no other areas suitable for rooting within the 15m radius.

The trees' RPAs are shown on the tree constraints plan in the colour of their corresponding categories.

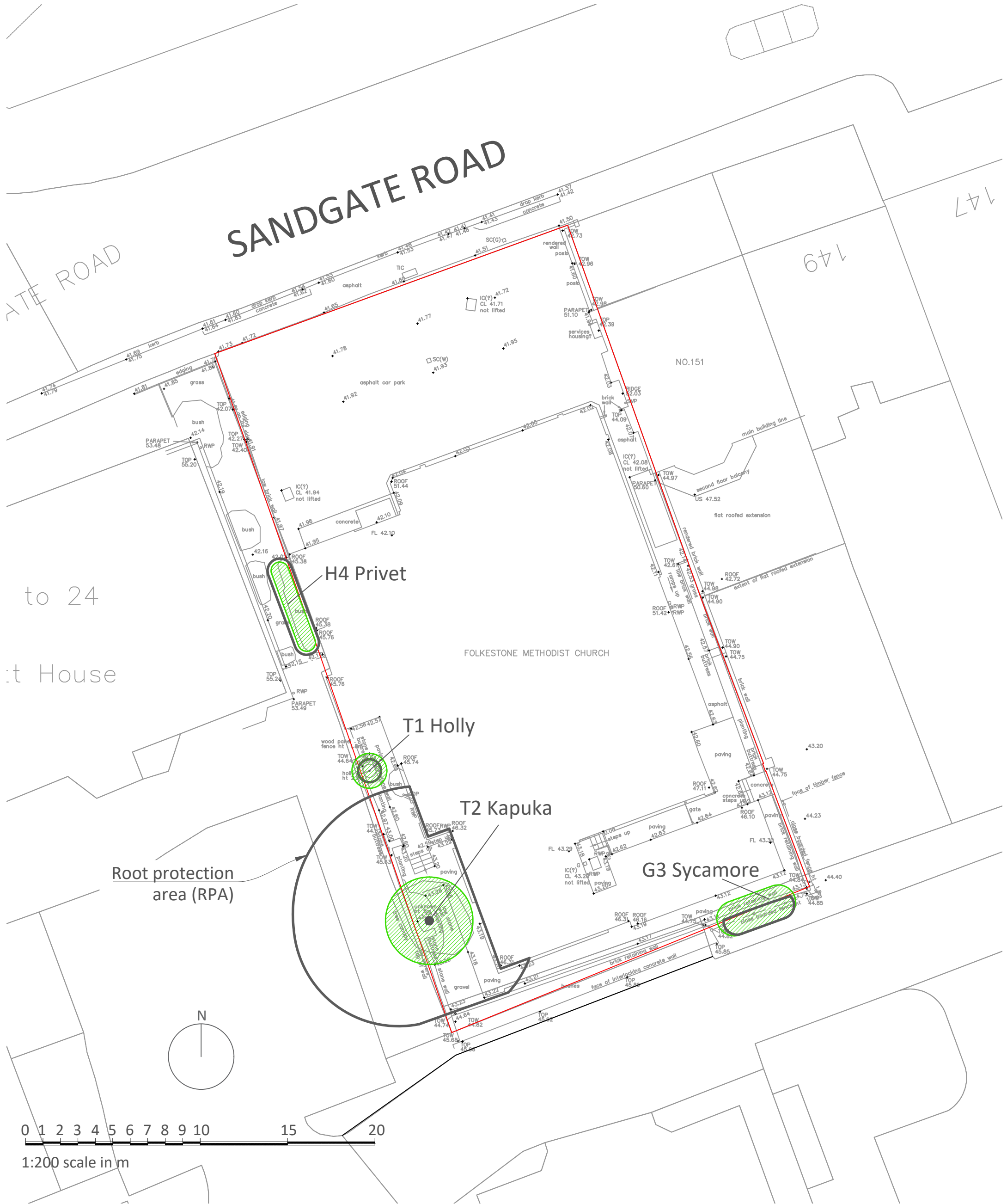


No.	Species	Cat-egory	RPA Radus (m)	RPA (m ²)
T1	Holly	C	0.66m	1.37m ²
T2	Kapuka	C	6.12m	117.68m ²
G3	Sycamore	C	0.6m	1.13m ²
H4	Privet	C	0.7m	1.54m ²



Appendix 3 Tree constraints plan





SANDGATE ROAD

ATE ROAD

to 24

it House

H4 Privet

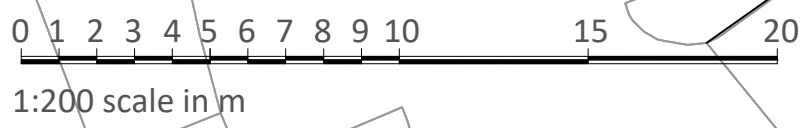
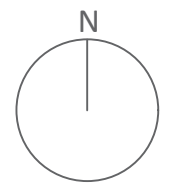
FOLKESTONE METHODIST CHURCH

T1 Holly

T2 Kapuka

G3 Sycamore

Root protection area (RPA)



- Key:**
- Tree canopy - all categories
 - RPA of a category 'A' tree - high quality
 - RPA of a category 'B' tree - moderate quality
 - RPA of a category 'C' tree - low quality
 - RPA of a category 'U' tree - tree that cannot realistically be retained due to its condition
 - T1 Tree (T), group (G) or hedge (H)

- Notes:**
1. This drawing is based on topographical survey ref: 250120 Folkestone Methodist Church. Some additional trees have been plotted by measurements taken on site.
 2. The site is within the Folkestone Conservation Area.
 3. The shape of root protection areas (RPAs) have been modified where pre-existing site conditions (road, building foundations etc) or other factors (trenching) indicate that rooting is likely to be asymmetrical. For on site trees, no change to the overall area of each RPA has been made up to a maximum distance of 15m from the trunk. Beyond this, marginal decreases in the areas of RPAs might result if there are no other areas suitable for rooting within the 15m radius.
 4. This drawing was originally produced in colour.
 5. OS data Crown© Copyright 2025 OS Licence AC0000855963.
 6. Copyright St Aubyn Tree Consultancy.
 7. Reg Office: 30-34 North Street, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 1DW Company Reg No: 11644503 (England & Wales).



Client
SOUTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT OFFICE
Project
LAND AT FOLKESTONE METHODIST CHURCH,
FOLKESTONE CT20 2BL
Title
TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN
Scale
1:200 @ A3
Date
OCT 2025
Drawing Number
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