



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Report

Date 09 July 2026

Estate Management Committee Meeting- Appendix 26/008.4

Tree Condition Surveys – Fairground, Cemetery and Windmill Common

Purpose

To present the findings of the 2026 tree condition surveys undertaken by Sapling Arboriculture Ltd and seek approval for the recommended remedial tree works.

Background

Sapling Arboriculture Ltd carried out tree condition and hazard surveys at the Fairground, Cemetery and Windmill Common during May 2026 as part of the Council's ongoing duty of care under the Occupiers' Liability Acts.

The surveys identify trees requiring management and prioritise works according to risk.

The surveys conclude that:

- No High Priority works requiring completion within one month were identified.
- Moderate Priority works should be completed within three months.
- Low Priority works should be completed within twelve months.
- The next tree survey should be completed by 1 October 2029, assuming the recommended works are undertaken.

Summary of Findings

Fairground

The survey identified a number of declining and dead trees requiring management.

Moderate Priority (within 3 months)

- Remove Oak T2831 (poor condition with possible internal decay)
- Remove Oak T2845 (declining tree opposite the play area)
- Remove dead monolith Oak T2848 (adjacent to footpath)
- Remove dead monolith Oak T2849 (adjacent to footpath)
- Remove Oak T2851 (significant canopy decline)

Low Priority (within 12 months)

Works include:

- Removal of several dead Ash, Birch, Field Maple and Oak trees.
- Crown reduction of one Horse Chestnut (or removal and replacement if preferred).

- Crown reductions to several Oaks and Scots Pines.
- Deadwood removal.
- Clearance from buildings and fences.
- Ivy removal where necessary.

Cemetery

The Cemetery survey identified only three trees requiring assessment.

No Moderate or High Priority works were identified.

Recommended Low Priority works are:

- Crown lift Lime T2853 to 3 metres.
- Remove deadwood from Oak T2854.
- Annual clearance of vegetation and ivy around the Oak to facilitate future inspections.

The Sycamore requires no works at this time.

Windmill Common

Windmill Common contains the greatest number of recommended works, primarily involving declining Scots Pines and Oaks.

As the site is subject to a Tree Preservation Order, applications to West Berkshire Council will be required before non-exempt works are undertaken.

Moderate Priority (within 3 months)

Removal of:

- Oak T2855
- Scots Pine T2790
- Scots Pine T2791
- Scots Pine T2795

Low Priority (within 12 months)

Works include removal of:

- Additional declining Oaks.
- Several dead Scots Pines.
- Dead Birch trees.
- Monolith Scots Pines adjacent to footpaths.

No High Priority works were identified.

Site	Moderate Priority	Low Priority
Fairground	5 tree removals	Deadwood, reductions, 5 removals, building clearances
Cemetery	None	Crown lift, deadwood removal, ivy management
Windmill Common	4 tree removals	9 removals

Financial Implications

Quotations for the recommended works will need to be obtained prior to instructing a contractor.

As Windmill Common is protected by a Tree Preservation Order, the necessary applications to West Berkshire Council will need to be submitted before works commence, except where exemptions apply.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1 Notes the findings of the 2026 Tree Condition Surveys.
- 2 Approves the Moderate Priority works for completion as soon as practicable.
- 3 Approves the Low Priority works to be undertaken within the recommended timescales, subject to budget.
- 4 Authorises the Clerk to obtain quotations for the recommended works and, where required, submit Tree Preservation Order applications to West Berkshire Council.

Miss Danielle Davis

30/06/2026