

Report to: Head of Highways, East Sussex County Council

By: Major Projects & Growth Team

Title: East Sussex BSIP - A259 Seaford Road and Denton Roundabout, Newhaven. Tree Felling Consultation Outcome Report

Purpose: This report presents the outcome of the statutory consultation, considers all representations received, and provides the basis upon which the Head of Highways can make an informed and transparent decision regarding the proposed removal of the highway trees on A259 Seaford Road and Denton Roundabout, Newhaven.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) To agree on the felling of trees and the partial removal and vegetation clearance of three groups of trees, 14 trees in total.**

1 Background Information

1.1 The East Sussex Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) A259 Seaford Road and Denton Roundabout, Newhaven scheme aims to improve bus journey time reliability, allow a wider range of services (including express routes) to serve the area, and enhance the overall operation of the bus network.

1.2 A new bus interchange is planned to the north-east of Denton Roundabout, connecting directly with Mount Road and the A259 Seaford Road. To accommodate this, changes to the existing highway layout are required within vegetated areas around Mount Road.

1.3 The bus priority scheme is integral to delivering the objectives of the East Sussex Local Transport Plan 4; enabling residents to enjoy higher quality bus services with improved journey times and reduced delays, that provide a frequent, integrated and comprehensive choice and an alternative to the car. The proposals also aim to improve safety and accessibility for all road users within the area.

1.4 The scheme is being funded by East Sussex Bus Service Improvement Plan capital funding, which the County Council has received from the Government's Department for Transport for the purpose of delivering bus priority infrastructure within the county.

1.5 To achieve the necessary changes to the existing highway layout, three groups of trees (14 in total) have been identified for removal. Species include sycamore, strawberry tree, common hawthorn, common ash, holm oak and elder. The groups of trees are all located in Mount Road.

1.6 The tree groups have been assessed through arboricultural survey as Category C2, indicating trees of low arboricultural quality and limited individual or group amenity value. Whilst the trees are of early-mature or semi-mature age classes, are generally in fair or good physiological and structural condition and are anticipated to make a contribution of at least 40 years, they are not considered sufficiently significant in arboricultural or amenity terms to warrant a higher category grading. The trees are not protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and are not located within a designated Conservation Area.

1.7 Images 1,2,3 & 4 show the tree locations and groups of trees proposed to be felled:-

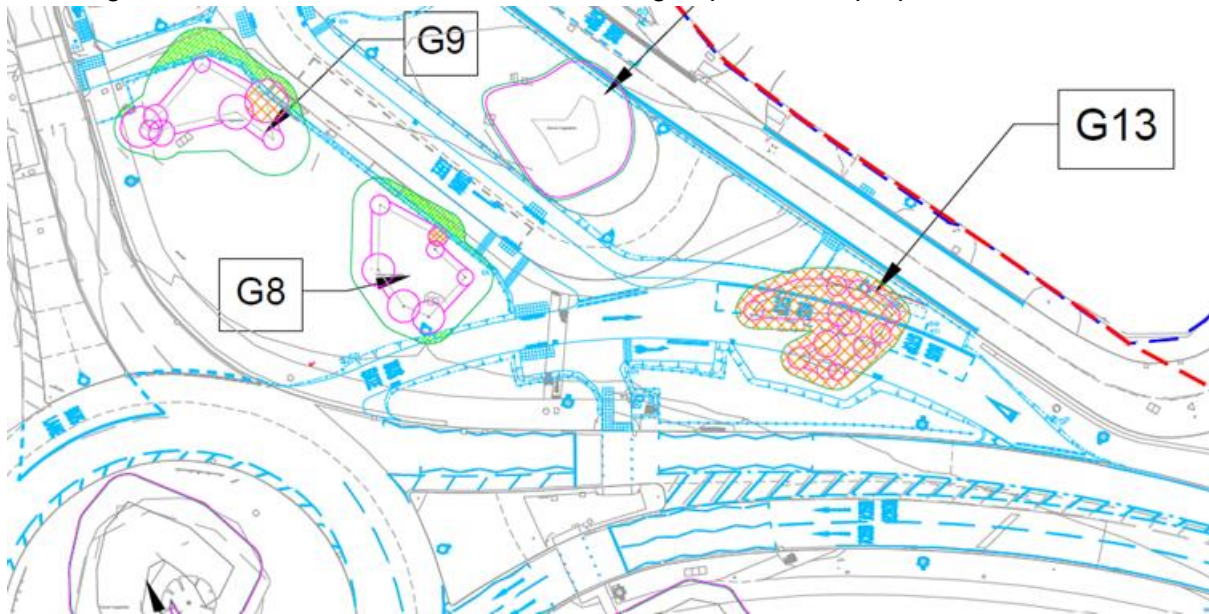


Image 1:- Shows the area of the trees



Image 2 :- Group 13, 12 trees proposed for removal (including sycamore, strawberry tree, common hawthorn, common ash, holm oak and elder)



Image 3:- Group 8, 1 tree proposed for removal (elder)



Image 4:- Group 9 1 Tree Proposed for removal (elder)

2 Supporting Information

2.1 The A259 Seaford Road and Denton Roundabout, Newhaven scheme has been developed to improve bus journey time reliability, accessibility and the overall operation of the transport network. Throughout the design process, the layout of the bus interchange has been developed and refined to minimise impacts on existing trees where possible. Detailed design has also seen detailed traffic modelling, technical assessments, and independent road safety audits to ensure that the proposals are both appropriate and proportionate.

The removal of trees is required to accommodate key elements of the design, including:

- Bus-only access lanes into the interchange
- Bus stop infrastructure
- Space for buses to enter, stop and exit safely
- Provision for pedestrian and cycle movement within the interchange

2.2 Creating the new bus interchange to the north-east of Denton Roundabout, will require the removal of 14 trees. The majority of the trees are identified as being young and located within dense, unmanaged vegetation, rather than being individually prominent or well-established features. As such, they are noted to make a relatively limited contribution both individually and as part of the wider group.

2.3 Site visits have been undertaken to consider all possible engineering solutions to reduce the impact on the area. The proposed tree removals have been reduced as far as possible through the design process and are limited to trees of low arboricultural quality and limited individual or group amenity value. No higher quality trees are affected. The removal of 14 individual trees within groups is considered necessary to deliver the scheme, particularly the new bus interchange and associated walking and cycling improvements. These trees are not prominent or well-established features, and their removal is therefore not expected to significantly affect the appearance of the area.

2.4 If the trees and vegetation are not removed the scheme objectives could not be achieved and the scheme could not be delivered in a manner that meets its safety, operational and design requirements.

2.5 As mitigation for the removal of the trees and vegetation, new planting and landscaping proposals have been developed and will help to replace and enhance the green space over time.

2.6 A public consultation on the felling of 14 trees and partial removal of vegetation took place between 29 May 2026 – 26 June 2026. [The consultation webpage includes Landscape plans](#)

2.7 Notices were placed in three areas in Mount Road with a QR code which directed people to the consultation web page. A contact email address was also provided on the notice.

2.8 There were a total of five responses received to the consultation, three in support of the tree felling and two objecting to the tree felling. One response was not considered as the support for the tree felling came from a duplicate email address and correspondent details.

2.9 Objections were raised regarding the adequacy of the proposed replacement planting, environmental and ecological benefits. The Council recognises that newly planted trees cannot immediately provide the same environmental, ecological and amenity benefits as an established mature specimen. Nevertheless, replacement planting remains an important mitigation measure and contributes towards maintaining and enhancing the wider urban tree resource over the longer term.

2.10 Objections were raised regarding the bus lane scheme itself. Feedback included suggestions that the proposed highway improvements were unnecessary and being carried out in the wrong area. Comments relating to the principle and merits of the wider bus priority scheme have been noted. However, the principle of the scheme has been considered through previous consultation and approval processes. This consultation relates specifically to the proposed removal of the tree required to facilitate delivery of the approved scheme. No mitigation is proposed as these comments relate to the wider scheme rather than the proposed tree removal.

2.11 Responses were received in support of the proposed tree removal, with some respondents suggesting that additional hardy fruiting trees should be incorporated into the newly landscaped areas. These comments have been noted and taken into account as part of the overall consideration of the proposal. No further mitigation is required in relation to these representations.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The proposed removal of 14 trees and areas of associated vegetation has been carefully considered throughout the development of the A259 Seaford Road and Denton Roundabout, Newhaven scheme. The removal is only proposed where it has been demonstrated that no

reasonable alternative exists that would allow the scheme objectives to be achieved whilst retaining the affected trees.

3.2 The scheme has been developed to improve bus journey time reliability, accessibility and the overall operation of the transport network within the Denton Roundabout area.

Throughout the design process, significant effort has been made to refine the layout of the proposed bus interchange to minimise impacts on existing trees and vegetation wherever possible. Detailed traffic modelling, technical assessments and independent road safety audits have also been undertaken to ensure that the proposals are proportionate, appropriate and capable of delivering the intended transport benefits.

3.3 The removal of trees is required to facilitate essential elements of the scheme, including the construction of dedicated bus-only access lanes, new bus stop infrastructure, safe bus manoeuvring space, and improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists within the interchange. These components form the core of the scheme and are fundamental to achieving the transport, accessibility and operational improvements sought through the project.

3.4 East Sussex County Council recognises the importance of maintaining and enhancing green infrastructure wherever possible. To mitigate the impact of the proposed removals, a comprehensive landscaping and planting strategy has been developed. The landscaping strategy includes replacement tree planting and habitat enhancement measures within and around the interchange area, which will, over time, provide a net improvement in visual amenity and biodiversity compared to the existing unmanaged vegetation

3.5 Having considered the purpose of the scheme, the design constraints, the quality and condition of the affected trees, the need to deliver a safe and effective transport interchange, and the proposed mitigation measures, it is concluded that the removal of the 14 trees and associated vegetation is justified and necessary to facilitate the delivery of the A259 Seaford Road and Denton Roundabout, Newhaven scheme.

This report has been approved and signed off by:

ANDREW TURNER CEng MICE
Head of Highways

East Sussex County Council, Communities, Economy and Transport

DATE: 3 July 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AST', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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