

# Appendix 5 Subsidence Topic Paper: External Review Timeline and Summary of Changes

## UFS Topic Paper 4 Subsidence external legal review detail

### **October 2025**

The Council initiated external review of the Subsidence Topic Paper in October 2025 by seeking independent subsidence expertise input via TDAG to test evidential standards and proportionality, including foundation adequacy, climate change and heave considerations.

### **November 2025**

Specialist legal input was sought from Sarah Dodds, CEO at Tree Law, to review the interface between arboriculture, engineering, liability and insurance practice.

### **January 2026**

Tree Law provided detailed amendments to clarify the distinction between mitigation and legal claims, remove unworkable cost apportionment between trees, climate and foundations, strengthen consultation duties at mitigation stage, and correct the treatment of shallow foundations; these changes were incorporated into v4 of the Topic Paper, with v4.1 issued as the post-review version for consultation and reporting.