Tree Risk-Benefit Management Strategy

Jonathon George Asante

6 Broughton Gardens
London
N6 5RS

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Chris Poplett DipArbL4
MArborA

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VALID

Common Lime (T1) | Detailed Tree Risk-Benefit Assessment

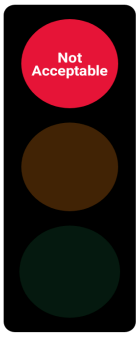
Common Lime (T1)



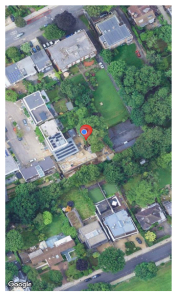
Summary

Highest Risk	**Not Acceptable**
Risk reduction	**Tree removal**
Tree Management	
Review Year	
Date Assessed	**2026-10-26 02:18 pm**
Assessed By	**Chris Poplett**
Phone Number	**07706350348**
Email	**Chrispoplett@arbtech.co.uk**

Risk



Tree Details and Location



Species	Height (m)	Stem Ø (cm)	Crown Ø (m)
Common Lime Tilia x europaea	12	45	10

Likelihood of Occupation



Risk Inputs



C



Consequences





C

1
Very High

Likelihood of Failure

VITALITY	V	crown density woundwood response growth	G
ANATOMY	A	wood properties architecture H/D ratio	G
LOAD	L	exposure changes to the tree changes around tree	R
IDENTITY	I	species profile age of wounds CODIT	G
DEFECT	D	soundwood decay - extend feature or fault	A

Normal crown density

Historically pruned to reduce height and crown spread

Recent exposure change post adjacent tree fail

F

3
Moderate

Historical occluded basal crack

Notes

The highest risk is: Complete tree fail.

Executive Summary

What you need to know

Our tree risk assessments are supported by the **VALID** Tree Risk-Benefit Management Strategy. The Strategy demonstrates how we have conducted our assessment and your duty of care to be reasonable, proportionate, and reasonably practicable about managing the risk to an Acceptable or Tolerable level.

We present four easy-to-understand traffic light-coloured risk ratings.

Red	**Not Acceptable** risks will be reduced to an **Acceptable** level
Amber	**Not Tolerable** risks will be reduced to an **Acceptable** level, but with a lower priority than red **Not Acceptable** risks
Amber	**Tolerable** risks will not be reduced but may require an increased frequency of assessment than green **Acceptable risks**
Green	**Acceptable** risks will not be reduced

The **Tree Location Plan** and **Detailed Assessments** above should contain all the information you need to locate specific trees and the work required to reduce the risk to an **Acceptable** level. The Detailed Assessments also demonstrate how we assessed the risk.

We may also recommend that certain trees be re-inspected within a certain timeframe to monitor their health and/or structural condition.

Where required, we will advise which trees need non-risk management work (e.g. crown lifting).

We'll let you know if there are any trees we need to examine closer but can't because of climbing plants, undergrowth, hedgerows, boundaries, or basal growth or because the ground is too difficult.

Unless a tree has a feature to trigger carrying out a Detailed Assessment, the risk is **Acceptable** at this Basic level of assessment. It will not be recorded within this report.

Your risk assessment was undertaken by Chris

Chris Poplett has accumulated experience within the arboricultural industry since 1996. Qualified to Level 4 Diploma and has Lantra professional tree inspector certification. Chris Poplett has been awarded professional membership of the Arboricultural association and is a certified soil food web laboratory technician.

Summary

As the tree is within striking distance of a high value target (Heat source pump). The risk in relation to target increases following on from our previous survey when we factor in the change in exposure.

The historical basal crack alone is not cause for concern; however, given the sudden change in exposure following the failure of an adjacent tree, I recommend the tree be removed.

I recommend complete removal rather than canopy pruning. Branch movement dissipates wind energy, and pruning may reduce this damping, increasing dynamic loading on the stem and root plate. Pruning would also not address the historical basal crack, and the increased exposure elevates its risk for failure.

If you need clarification about the assessment or the strategy, contact me at **chrispoplett@arbtech.co.uk.**

VALID
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1 Policy & Plan | Tree Risk-Benefit Management Strategy
v9.0

1 Establishing the context

The overall risk to us from trees and branches falling is extremely low

1 Compared to other everyday risks we readily accept, the overall risk to us from branches or trees falling is extremely low. Our annual risk of being killed or seriously injured is less than one in a million. That's so low, we're at greater risk driving on about a 400km/250mi round trip to visit friends for a weekend than from branches or trees falling over an entire year. Given the number of trees we live with, and how many millions of us pass them daily, being killed or injured by a tree is a rare event. A rare event that usually happens during severe weather.

We can't be an insurer of nature or eliminate the risk from trees

2 Of course, we can't be an insurer of nature. Trees are living structures that sometimes shed branches or fall during severe weather. Since we need the many benefits from trees, we must accept we can't remove all of the risk. Leaves, bark, cones, nuts, fruits, and small diameter deadwood regularly fall from trees. This natural debris is an Acceptable or Tolerable risk.

1.1 Duty of care

Reasonable
Proportionate
Reasonably practicable

3 We have a duty of care to manage the risk from our trees. The duty also says we should be reasonable, proportionate, and reasonably practicable when managing the risk. That means there's a balance we need to strike between the many benefits trees provide, the risk, and the costs of managing the risk. By taking a balanced approach, we don't waste resources by reducing risk - and losing benefits - when the risk is already Acceptable or Tolerable.

We all have a responsibility to make reasonable decisions

4 We're all expected to act reasonably and responsibly. We can manage our exposure to the higher risk from tree failure that happens during severe weather by not going outside. If we go out during severe weather, we're choosing to accept some of the risk.

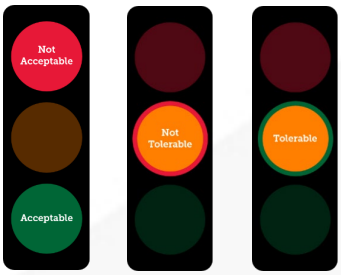
1.2 Risk tolerance

What's an Acceptable or Tolerable level of risk from our trees?

5 The Tolerability of Risk Framework (ToR) is an internationally recognised approach to making risk management decisions. It's used by duty holders where they manage a risk that's imposed on the public. ToR defines Broadly Acceptable and Unacceptable levels of risk. Between these levels is a region where the risk is Tolerable if it's 'as low as reasonably practicable' (ALARP). Put simply, ALARP means the risk is Tolerable if the costs of the risk reduction are much greater than the value of the risk reduction.

1.3 Risk ratings

Risk ratings are as easy to understand as traffic lights



6 Our risk assessment and strategy has been produced by **VALID**. VALID has applied 'ISO 31000 - Risk Management' and the 'Tolerability of Risk Framework' (ToR) to tree risk-benefit management and assessment, which we've adopted. In ISO risk terms, our 'objectives' are to grow, maintain, and conserve trees because of the many benefits they give us we need. And, to manage the risk from tree failure to an Acceptable or Tolerable level. We're going to manage the risk from our trees with **Passive Assessment** in all zones of use. And **Active Assessment** in zones of high confluence (high use + large trees). We have four easy to understand traffic light coloured risk ratings to show how we'll manage the risk.

Red	**Not Acceptable** risks will be reduced to an Acceptable level
Amber	**Not Tolerable** risks will be reduced to an Acceptable level, but with a lower priority than red Not Acceptable risks
Amber	**Tolerable** risks will not be reduced, but may require an increased frequency of assessment than green Acceptable risks
Green	**Acceptable** risks will not be reduced

2 When might a tree be dangerous?

Trees with the highest risk are the easiest to spot

Be watchful after storms

7 When a tree has a risk that might not be Acceptable or Tolerable, it'll usually have an obvious tree risk feature you can't help but notice. Passive Assessment is simply picking up on these features as you go about your day-to-day routine. If you see anything like these features, **click here to get in touch with us** or contact me at chrispoplett@arbtech.co.uk.

2.1 Root failure

Storms can break tree roots without blowing them over

Signs to look out for are

Change in angle of the trunk
Large cracks in the soil
Hump in the ground on one side

8




2.2 Hanging branches

Don't forget to look up

Branches can break during storms and still hang on

Sometimes they can get stuck up there for quite a while

9



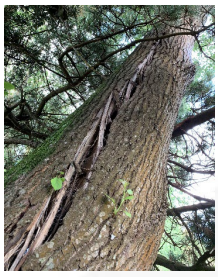
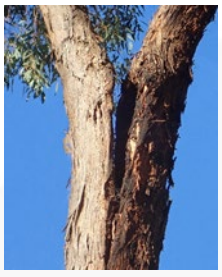


2.3 A crack or split into the wood, beyond the bark

When trees bend and twist in storms the wood can split and crack

Vertical cracks in the bark are just the tree growing well there's no need to worry

10


2.4 Decline & death

To stay healthy and strong trees need 'solar panel' leaves to make food

When trees suffer they often have much less leaf cover and many dead branches

Standing dead trees have great habitat benefits but need checking

11





2.5 Decay fungi fruiting bodies

To decay fungi these 'fruits' are like apples to an apple tree

Decay fungi and trees mostly live happily together creating essential habitat for wildlife

Fungi can sometimes 'eat' too much wood and weaken the tree

12





Photographs: Jake Miesbauer, Michael Richardson, Roy Finch, Mark Hartley, Rick Milson, Andrew Benson, David Abrahams Felicity Cloake & Wilf, David Humphries, Jack Prynn, Moreton Arboretum, Josh Behounek, Jan Allen

3 What is Active Assessment?

Trained assessors (Validators) looking for risks that are not Acceptable or Tolerable

13 Active Assessment is when we're looking for risks that might not be Acceptable or Tolerable. It's also triggered when Passive Assessment has picked up a tree that needs a closer look. Active Assessment has three levels to it that increase in depth of evaluation. The 3 levels are Basic > Detailed > Advanced.

Risk ratings are limited by the level of assessment

14 Risk ratings have limitations that depend on the level of assessment at which they're made. For instance, when we carry out Active Assessment at a Basic level. If there are no Obvious Tree Risk Features, the risk is Acceptable at that level of assessment. A Detailed or Advanced Assessment is a more thorough evaluation than a Basic Assessment. They might find features that weren't apparent at a Basic level, and the risk could be higher. However, carrying out a higher level of assessment, with the additional costs, when there's no obvious feature to trigger it isn't reasonable, proportionate, or reasonably practicable.

3.1 Basic Assessment

Finding the few trees where the risk might not be Acceptable or Tolerable

15 At a Basic level of assessment, we're looking for trees with obvious features where the risk might not be Acceptable or Tolerable. We're also keeping an eye out for features that might increase the likelihood of failure. We can evaluate the significance of these features with VALID's Tree Risk App and will carry out a Detailed Assessment when it's necessary. Rarely, we may come across emergency work, and we'll let you know about this as soon as we can.

Tree alerts you raise from Passive Assessment

16 Following our survey, if you raise an alert from Passive Assessment, we'll decide whether the tree needs a closer look at this Basic level of assessment. **Click here to get in touch with us** or contact me at chrispoplett@arbtech.co.uk.

We'll assess the trees from easily accessible ground

17 We'll assess trees from easily accessible ground.

If we can't get a close enough look at a tree that we need to we'll let you know

18 If there are any trees we need to examine closer but can't because of climbing plants, undergrowth, hedgerows, boundaries, or basal growth, or because the ground is too difficult, we'll let you know.

The trees or what they could fall on and the type of assessment will be recorded

19 We'll record trees or what they could fall on. We'll record that we've assessed individual or groups of trees.

No Obvious Tree Risk Features The risk is Acceptable

20 Unless a tree has a feature to trigger carrying out a Detailed Assessment, the risk is Acceptable at this Basic level of assessment.

3.2 Detailed Assessment

We do a Detailed Assessment when a tree needs a closer look

21 We'll carry out a Detailed Assessment out on trees that we've picked up during a Basic Assessment as needing a closer look. Or where we've been asked to carry out a Detailed Assessment on a tree.

22 The assessment is carried out from ground level with VALID's Tree Risk App.

You'll get an easy to understand one side PDF report

23 The App prints an easy to understand one side PDF report. The report includes the risk rating, risk review year, risk reduction work (if necessary), and any general management advice that will help you.

3.3 Advanced Assessment

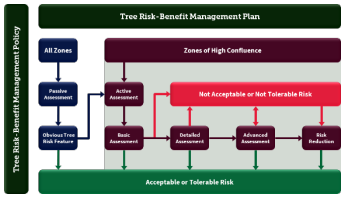
Large and important trees might be worthy of more effort and cost

24 If we need more information about the likelihood of failure, we can carry out an Advanced Assessment. Often, we'll want to do this because you have a valuable tree which has extensive decay. The tree may have significant strength loss, and we want to find out whether the tree is strong enough. Or an aerial inspection is necessary to look at the upper stem and branches. When a tree needs an Advanced Assessment, we'll let you know and go through the options with you.

25 If the costs are substantial, we can help you decide whether the tree has enough value and future benefits to justify the investment. We'll produce a report that'll include the risk rating, risk review year, any risk reduction work options, and management advice.

4 **Simpler ▪ Clearer ▪ Smarter**

The Strategy at a glance



Proportionate
Reasonably practicable

26 Whether you manage or assess tree risk, we're here to help make your life less complicated and more effective.

27 With the strategy and regular assessments, we've got all your bases covered with the first complete tree risk-benefit management system.

4.1 Tree risk-benefit management

28 Whether you're a Government Agency, Landowner, or Homeowner you have a duty of care to manage the risk from your trees falling or dropping branches. To fulfil your duty, you should be reasonable, proportionate, and reasonably practicable about managing the risk to an Acceptable or Tolerable level.

4.2 Tree risk-benefit assessment

VALID has been stress-tested to breaking point



29 Risk-benefit assessments are carried out under the protective umbrella of our Tree Risk-Benefit Management Strategy. The Strategy does more than 95% of your assessments for you.

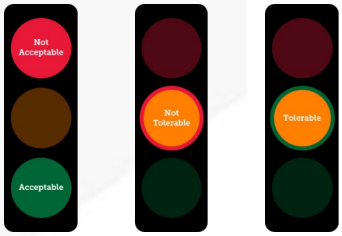
30 VALID has built the engine of the App with a Professor of Natural Hazards & Risk Science. The Professor's an internationally distinguished expert in this field. He's test-driven the model to breaking point:

"We have stress-tested VALID and didn't find any gross, critical sensitivities. In short, the mathematical basis of your approach is sufficiently robust and dependable for any practical purpose."

Willy Aspinall
Cabot Professor in Natural Hazards & Risk Science
University of Bristol

4.3 Tree risk ratings

Risk ratings are as easy to understand as traffic lights



31 We have four easy-to-understand traffic light coloured risk ratings.

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4.4 Tree risk-benefit management advice & training

Visit our website to get in touch for help

32 We can train you to undertake passive assessment yourselves. Passive Assessment is simply picking up obvious tree risk features as you go about your day-to-day routine. If you see something you're unsure on all you need to do is get in touch with us and we'll advise from there.

If you would like training, contact us through our **website**.