cheshire woodlands
arboricultural consultancy

REPORT OF CHESHIRE WOODLANDS LIMITED

ON THE

RISK ASSESSMENT OF TREES

AT

DENE COURT, HEATON NORRIS, STOCKPORT, SK4 2HZ

ON BEHALF OF

REALTY MANAGEMENT LIMITED
GROUND FLOOR
DISCOVERY HOUSE
CROSSLEY ROAD
STOCKPORT, SK4 5BH

Author: Tom Baron
Our Ref: CW/9659-R-19
Date: 2 August 2019

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APPENDICES

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 A general view was taken of trees on and immediately adjacent to the site, grouping them by their characteristics, distribution and relationship with adjacent land-use. Trees were assessed individually only where they were located singularly or identified as requiring management.

1.2 The health and structural condition of many trees on the site has been jeopardised by the topping them, which is not in accordance with the current best practice as set out in BS3998:2010. This is likely to result in a need for elevated vigilance with regard to the health and structural integrity of the trees.

1.3 No significantly elevated risks were identified from falling trees and branches, and all of the assessed trees were found to be within what would ordinarily be described as acceptable limits.

1.4 Ongoing pruning works are required to maintain clearances over footpaths and recreational areas, and the proposed works are listed in the appended Risk Assessment Schedule.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1 Instruction

2.1.1 Cheshire Woodlands is instructed by Realty Management Limited to:

- Carry out a walkover assessment of the site
- At the discretion of our surveyor, carry out an individual tree survey of those trees considered to require individual assessment and recording
- At the discretion of the surveyor, carry out an individual tree inspection of those trees considered to require detailed inspection and recording
- Produce tabulated schedules of trees setting out our survey data
- Produce a report outlining our findings and proposing future management of the surveyed trees

2.2 Limitations

2.3 The assessment of trees was carried out from ground level without invasive investigation and I believe that a reasonable and sufficient view was taken of the trees.

2.3.1 We have not considered the influence of trees on buildings or other structures resulting from the drying of shrinkable load-bearing soils, otherwise known as 'subsidence risk'.

2.3.2 This report and associated documents remain the copyright of Cheshire Woodlands and there shall be no transfer of rights to any third party without our express written consent.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 Technical terms used in this statement are included in the Glossary of Terms. Shaded sections highlight issues that are specific to the project.

3.2 I am Tom Baron, arboricultural surveyor with Cheshire Woodlands Limited and my area of expertise is arboriculture. I assessed and recorded the trees on 19 July.

3.3 The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) method has been applied in consideration of the risks associated with the trees. The Practice Note at Appendix 3 provides guidance on the method, its application, and the use of results to inform management decisions. Table 1 below at 5.9 outlines how the risk values are usually used to apply the prioritised management recommendations set out in the Schedule.

3.4 The purpose of the risk assessment is to guide, but not dictate, the tree manager's allocation of resources. In this regard, judgments on the acceptability and tolerability of risk and the recommendations set out in the Schedule are formulated on the presumption that the principles set out in the Practice Note are acceptable to you.

3.5 The assessment takes account of obvious damage, or significant potential for damage, to infrastructure through direct contact by trees. Management recommendations are prioritised on the basis of likely timescales and severity of damage.

3.6 While not the primary objective, the assessment considers the general condition, species and age diversity, wildlife conservation and landscape values and gives some consideration to the wider management of the tree population.

4. STATUTORY CONTROLS

4.1 An online search of Stockport Council's interactive mapping facility[1] confirmed that:

- Trees on and adjacent to the site are not protected by a tree preservation order (TPO)
- The site is not in a conservation area

4.2 Trees on the site are may be subject to the provisions of The Forestry Act[2]

4.3 See Appendix 4 for further guidance on the statutory protection of trees, hedgerows and wildlife.

5. METHOD

5.1 The trees were assessed and recorded in thirteen groups and six individual trees were plotted and recorded. References for groups of trees are prefixed G and the individual tree records are prefixed T or with the reference for the group within which they stand (e.g. G1/4).

5.2 The trees were assessed from ground level, using binoculars where appropriate. They were assessed in relation to the adjacent land-uses and in sufficient detail to inform the risk assessment. The heights and stem diameters of trees were both measured and estimated.

5.3 A visual assessment of health and structural condition was carried out. This assessment is informed by visual observations of growth

[1] https://maps.stockport.gov.uk/myhouse.aspx
[2] The Forestry Act 1967 (as amended)

characteristics, decay and defects, which may be investigated further if this is considered appropriate by the surveyor.

5.4 Trees often contain dead branches, cavities or structural defects but these are only recorded in the schedule where they could significantly affect the outcome of the risk assessment, or where there are other management reasons to do so.

5.5 Where elevated risks were identified, a quantified risk assessment was carried out and where appropriate. The risks from trees are colour-coded in the Schedule and Drawing. In some cases, it is apparent that a calculation of risk would produce a very low value, and for these it is recorded that the annualised risk of harm is green and less than 1 in 1,000,000 and that a calculation was unnecessary. Where a calculation was carried out, the risk was always recorded irrespective of whether it was higher or lower than this threshold. As set out in table 1 below at 5.9, the risk values are used to inform management decisions based on the use of thresholds of 'acceptability' and 'tolerability' of risk. In the context of a residential site, the risk being managed is always an imposed risk (imposed on residents, visitors, neighbours, and the public), and therefore the amber region is used in the same way as the red region, although risk controls for amber would usually have a lower priority than for red.

5.6 Costs and Benefits of Risk Control

5.7 Risk control measures bring benefits in terms of reducing or eliminating a risk, but those benefits come at a cost that should, in broad terms, be balanced against the benefits of risk control. For guidance on considering costs and benefits, please refer to the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment Practice Note, which is appended to this report.

5.8 Based on the tree owner/manager accepting the principles set out in the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment Practice Note and or any other specific instructions, the risk assessor will take account of the cost/benefit balance when providing management recommendations.

5.9 Table 1. QTRA Advisory Risk Thresholds

Thresholds	Description	Action
1/1 000	Unacceptable Risks will not ordinarily be tolerated	Control the risk
	Unacceptable (where imposed on others) Risks will not ordinarily be tolerated	Control the risk Review the risk
1/10 000	Tolerable (by agreement) Risks may be tolerated if those exposed to the risk accept it, or the tree has exceptional value	Control the risk unless there is broad stakeholder agreement to tolerate it, or the tree has exceptional value Review the risk
	Tolerable (where imposed on others) Risks are tolerable if ALARP	Assess costs and benefits of risk control Control the risk only where a significant benefit might be achieved at a reasonable cost Review the risk
1/1 000 000	Broadly Acceptable Risk is already ALARP	No action currently required Review the risk

5.10 In the Schedule, each recommendation is categorised according to the reason for the proposed work and to enable the prioritisation of management. In Table 2 below, the work categories are allocated priorities, which provide a suggested hierarchy for management decisions, although the tree owner's own priorities may dictate another approach.

5.11 Table 2. Management Priorities

No.	Category	Description	Order of Priority
1	Safety – High	To control a risk that is unacceptable	1
2	Safety – Medium	To control a risk that is towards the upper end of the tolerable region	2
3	Safety – Low	To control a risk that is towards the lower end of tolerable region	9
4	Safety – Long-term	To prevent or limit the potential for high risks to develop in the long-term	8
5	Damage to structures - High	To prevent or limit the extent of high-cost or potentially dangerous damage to a structure	3
6	Damage to structures - Medium	To prevent or limit the extent of medium-cost, or medium-term damage to a structure	6
7	Damage to structures - Low	To prevent or limit ongoing minor damage to a structure, or to limit or prevent long-term damage	10
8	General management – High	Good tree husbandry of high importance	4
9	General management – Medium	Good tree husbandry of medium importance	7
10	General management - Low	Good tree husbandry of low importance	11
11	Ongoing management	Works that are most effectively carried out on a regular basis, perhaps by suitably trained site staff or grounds maintenance contractors	5
12	Immediately prior to next assessment	Work required to facilitate the next tree risk assessment, such as removal of vegetation	N/A
13	No priority	Does not fit into 1 – 12 above	N/A

6. SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

6.1 For all of the assessed trees, the risks from falling trees and branches were found to be within what would ordinarily be described as broadly acceptable limits (green).

6.2 Many trees had large amounts of small diameter dead branches, but these were not identified as presenting significantly elevated risks and therefore no safety management is proposed.

6.3 On all but a few trees, the main leader has been removed in a pruning method known as 'topping', which is generally regarded as a poor arboricultural practice. Topping can result in significant physiological stress in trees and cause future problems for the structural condition of trees. It was noted that many trees are beginning to exhibit reduced vitality and dieback in their upper crowns, which is most likely associated to the topping. I advise that all future tree works be carried out in accordance with current best practice as set out in BS3998:2010.

6.4 Minor pruning of groups G4, G5, G12 and G13 is proposed to maintain clearances over footpaths and recreational areas. Branches from tree T6 are obstructing the lighting column and pruning is advised.

6.5 Tree stakes and ties remain from the planting of trees in group G9 and have potential to damage the affected trees if not adjusted.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The risks from trees on the site are generally low and no management is required for reasons of safety.

7.2 The effects of low-quality pruning can create a need for ongoing maintenance and may even compromise the structural integrity of trees. Some of the works recently implemented pruning is of low quality and trees are likely to be lost as a result.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 There would be some merit in implementing all of the works listed in the Schedule, but they could be selectively applied in accordance with your own priorities, and in this regard are prioritised at Table 2.

8.2 The trees should be reviewed periodically, and given the nature of the site and recent management of the tree population, a two to three yearly review would be appropriate. Between formal assessments, your site staff should carry out a quick visual check for obvious changes in the health or structural condition of the trees following storms. Things to look for should include broken or damaged branches, cracking in the soil around the tree, or a tree rocking in the ground, and splitting in stems or branches. Where there are concerns about a tree's structural condition, we can often provide some initial advice based on a note of your observations and one or two good quality photographs. If significant tree-related concerns arise, we can usually attend site at short notice.

8.3 Minor operations up to a height of 3 metres that could be implemented by competent grounds staff or gardeners are listed separately to those works that might fall within the scope Work at Heights Regulations (2005).

8.4 BS3998 2010 *Tree work - Recommendations* should be used as a reference point for standards of tree work. Cheshire Woodlands can provide on-site tree pruning and maintenance guidance for grounds staff if required.

8.5 Statutory protection of wildlife should be taken into account in the planning and execution of tree pruning and removal. See Appendix 5 for further guidance.

9. REFERENCES.

BS3998: 2010. Tree work - Recommendations. British Standards Institute, London. 68 pp.

APPENDIX 1

TREE RISK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

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CLIENT:	Realty Management LTD
PROJECT:	Dene Court Stockport
BRIEF:	Walkover Tree Risk Assessment
SURVEYOR:	Tom Baron
DATE:	19-Jul-19
PROJECT REFERENCE:	CW/9659-RAS-19

HEADINGS & ABBREVIATIONS

GRP REF/TREE REF:	GROUP OR TREE REFERENCE
TAG NO:	TAG NUMBER WHERE A TAG HAS BEEN AFFIXED TO TREE
AGE:	Y = YOUNG, SM = SEMI MATURE, EM = EARLY MATURE, M = MATURE, PM = POST MATURE, V = VETERAN
HT:	HEIGHT (IN METRES) OF TREE OR MAXIMUM HEIGHT FOR THE GROUP, APPROXIMATELY 1 IN 10 TREES ARE MEASURED AND THE REMAINDER ESTIMATED AGAINST THE MEASURED TREES
DBH:	STEM DIAMETER (IN MM) FOR THE TREE OR MAXIMUM DIAMETER FOR THE GROUP - MEASURED OR ESTIMATED AT A HEIGHT OF APPROXIMATELY 1.5 METRES
VITALITY:	A MEASURE OF PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDITION. N = WITHIN NORMAL RANGE FOR SPECIES AND AGE, R = REDUCED FROM THE NORMAL RANGE FOR SPECIES AND AGE, P = POOR, MD = MORIBUND, D = DEAD
TARGET TYPE:	V = VEHICLE ON HIGHWAY; H = HUMAN; P = PROPERTY (SEE QTRA PRACTICE NOTE)
Mx TARGETS:	WHERE TARGET HAS A VALUE GREATER THAN CONSTANT OCCUPATION BY ONE PERSON, OR A LIKELY REPAIR/REPLACEMENT VALUE GREATER THAN THE VALUE OF STATISTICAL LIFE (SEE QTRA PRACTICE NOTE)
TARGET:	LIKELIHOOD OF A TARGET BEING OCCUPIED OR THE REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT VALUE OF PROPERTY EXPRESSED AS A FRACTION OF 'THE VALUE OF STATISTICAL LIFE' (SEE QTRA PRACTICE NOTE)
SIZE:	QTRA SIZE RANGE (IF THE VALUE 'P' IS USED IN THE 'TARGET TYPE' COLUMN, THE RISK IS ASSESSED AGAINST THE COST OF REPAIRING OR REPLACING PROPERTY THE SIZE COLUMN WILL BE BLANK - SEE QTRA PRACTICE NOTE)
POF:	QTRA PROBABILITY OF FAILURE RANGE (SEE QTRA PRACTICE NOTE)
MASS %:	WHERE THE MASS OF A BRANCH IS REDUCED BY DEGRADATION, A FRACTION OF 1/2 OR 1/4 MAY BE INTRODUCED TO REFLECT THE PROPORTION OF THAT REDUCTION (SEE QTRA PRACTICE NOTE)
ROH:	ANNUALISED RISK OF HARM (SEE QTRA PRACTICE NOTE)

MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

1) SAFETY - HIGH
2) SAFETY - MEDIUM
3) SAFETY - LOW
4) SAFETY - LONG TERM
5) DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES - HIGH
6) DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES - MEDIUM
7) DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES - LOW
8) GENERAL MANAGEMENT - HIGH
9) GENERAL MANAGEMENT - MEDIUM
10) GENERAL MANAGEMENT - LOW
11) ONGOING MANAGEMENT
12) IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO NEXT ASSESSMENT
13) NO PRIORITY

GRP REF	TREE REF	TAG NO	SPECIES	AGE	HT	DBH	VITALITY	REVIEW COMMENTS	MANAGEMENT & CATEGORY	RISK ASSESSMENT OF	TARGET TYPE	Mx TARGETS	TARGET	SIZE	POF	MASS %	ROH
G1			Mixed broadleaved species [Holly, Rowan, Apple, Pear]	Y/SM/EM	10	300	N	2019 July: - Bark wounds to stem/s		risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G2			Mixed broadleaved species [Silver birch, Laburnum]	SM/EM	7	300	N/R	2019 July: - Tree/s recently topped		risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G3			Mixed species [Silver birch, Western hemlock]	SM/EM	12	500	N	2019 July: - Tree/s topped in the past		risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G4			Mixed broadleaved species [Silver birch, Prunus sp. - Plum]	EM	9	300	N/R	2019 July: - Branch/es encroaching into footway - Tree/s recently topped	11: Prune to provide 3m clearance over footway	risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G5			Mixed broadleaved species [Silver birch, Gean cherry, White stem birch]	SM	5	200	N	2019 July: - Root movement is causing cracking of the paving - Branch/es encroaching into footway - Tree/s recently topped	11: Prune to provide 3m clearance over footway	risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G6			Mixed species [Silver birch, Leyland cypress, Stump]	EM	10	200	N/R	2019 July: - Group contains stump of failed birch tree		risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G7			Mixed species [Silver birch, Beech, Holly, Scots pine, Japanese cherry, Prunus sp. - Plum, Japanese maple, Red oak]	Y/SM/EM	14	400	N/R/P/MD	2019 July: - Pine tree tag no. 1838 and the silver birch to the southwest exhibit poor vitality, most likely as a result of overpruning		dead branch failure onto recreational area	H	1	4	4	2	100%	<1/1M
	G7/5		Scots pine	EM	15	500	N	2019 July: - Girdling roots - Branch/es obstructing lighting column		risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M

TREE RISK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

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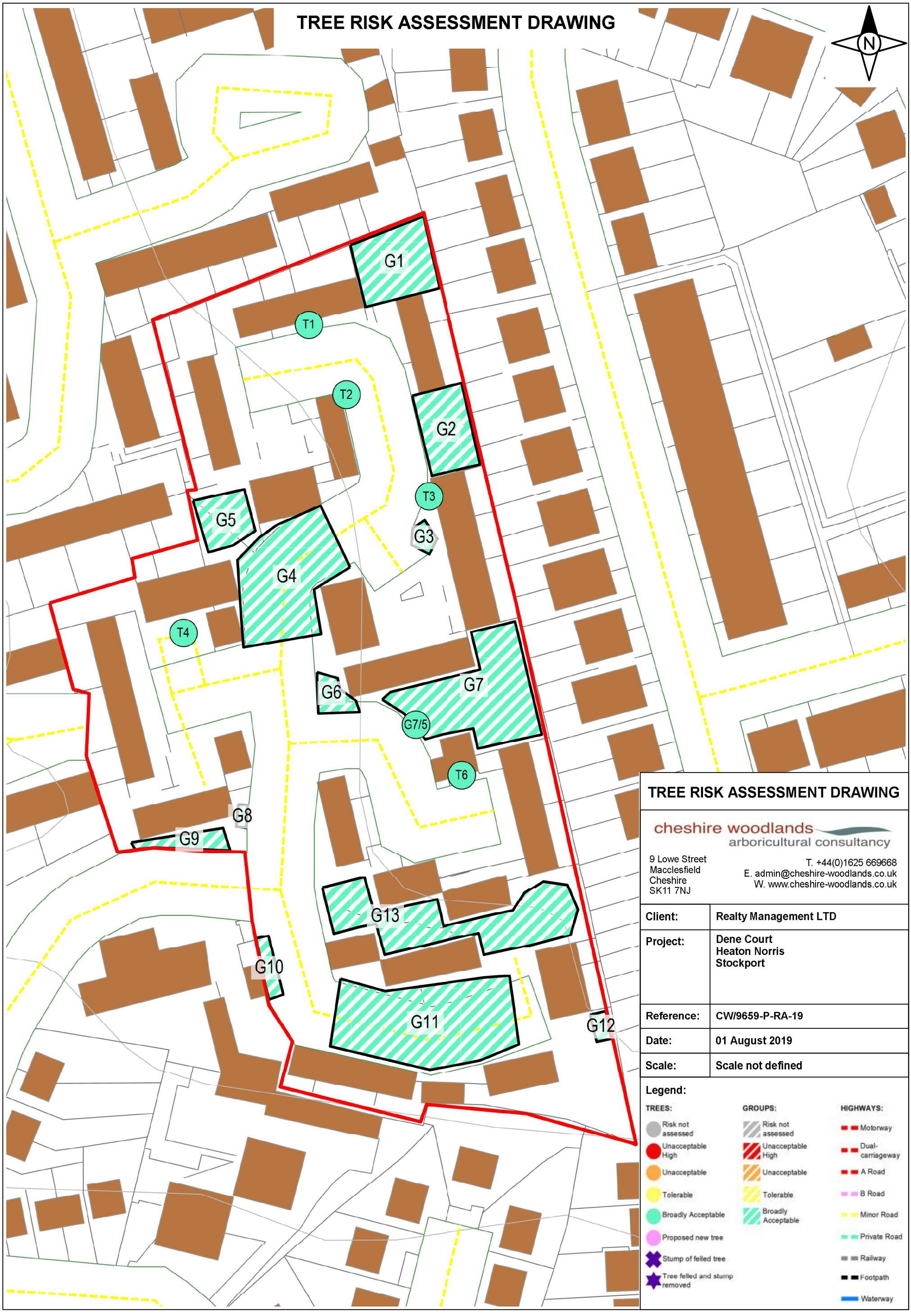
GRP REF	TREE REF	TAG NO	SPECIES	AGE	HT	DBH	VITALITY	REVIEW COMMENTS	MANAGEMENT & CATEGORY	RISK ASSESSMENT OF	TARGET TYPE	Mx TARGETS	TARGET	SIZE	POF	MASS %	ROH
G8			Mixed broadleaved species [Silver birch, Weeping willow]	SM/M	9	700	N/R	2019 July: - Tree/s displacing kerb/s - Tree/s displacing structure/s - Tree/s recently topped		risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G9			Mixed ornamental trees [Gean cherry, Rowan]	Y	3	50	N	2019 July: - Stakes and ties require adjusting	10: Adjust stakes and ties	risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G10			Alder	EM	13	400	N	2019 July: - Ownership unclear - Displacing footway and kurb edgings - Epicormic shoots to base		risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G11			Mixed ornamental trees [Silver birch, Gean cherry, White stem birch]	SM/EM	14	300	N/R	2019 July: - Tree/s displacing surface/s - Visual and audible signs of decay to the lower stem/s and exhibiting adaptive growth - Tree/s recently topped		risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G12			Beech	EM	14	300	N	2019 July: - Branch/es encroaching into recreational area	10: Lift crown/s to provide a minimum 3m ground clearance	risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
G13			Mixed species [Silver birch, Hawthorn, Leyland cypress, Scots pine]	Y/SM/EM	14	650	N/R/P	2019 July: - Sparse crowns and many small diameter dead branches in some trees - Branches to the south of the group are in contact with the adjacent building - Branch/es encroaching into recreational area - Leaning stem/s - Tree/s recently topped	11: Lift crown/s to provide a minimum 3m ground clearance	risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
	T1		Laburnum	SM	6	350	N	2019 July: - Incremental growth of the tree will most likely displace the fence over time		risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
	T2		Prunus sp. - Plum	EM	4	200	N			risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
	T3		Prunus sp. - Plum	EM	5	200	R			risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
	T4		Silver birch	EM	10	300	R	2019 July: - Exhibits a decline in the crown with small dia. dead branches - Bark wounds to the stem/s - Recently topped		risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M
	T6		Purple leaved plum	SM	7	150	R	2019 July: - Branch/es obstructing lighting column	11: Prune to provide clearance from light/s	risk less than 1 in 1M - calculation unnecessary	-						<1/1M

APPENDIX 2

TREE RISK ASSESSMENT DRAWING



TREE RISK ASSESSMENT DRAWING

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Client:	**Realty Management LTD**
Project:	**Dene Court Heaton Norris Stockport**
Reference:	**CW/9659-P-RA-19**
Date:	**01 August 2019**
Scale:	**Scale not defined**

Legend:

TREES:
- Risk not assessed
- Unacceptable High
- Unacceptable
- Tolerable
- Broadly Acceptable
- Proposed new tree
- Stump of felled tree
- Tree felled and stump removed

GROUPS:
- Risk not assessed
- Unacceptable High
- Unacceptable
- Tolerable
- Broadly Acceptable

HIGHWAYS:
- Motorway
- Dual-carriageway
- A Road
- B Road
- Minor Road
- Private Road
- Railway
- Footpath
- Waterway

APPENDIX 3

QTRA Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

Simply Balancing Risks With Benefits

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

PRACTICE NOTE

VERSION 5

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment Practice Note

"***When you can measure what you are speaking about, and express it in numbers, you know something about it; but when you cannot measure it, when you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind"***

William Thomson, Lord Kelvin, Popular Lectures and Addresses [1891-1894]

1. INTRODUCTION

Every day we encounter risks in all of our activities, and the way we manage those risks is to make choices. We weigh up the costs and benefits of the risk to determine whether it is acceptable, unacceptable, or tolerable. For example, if you want to travel by car you must accept that even with all the extensive risk control measures, such as seat-belts, speed limits, airbags, and crash barriers, there is still a significant risk of death. This is an everyday risk that is taken for granted and tolerated by millions of people in return for the benefits of convenient travel. Managing trees should take a similarly balanced approach.

A risk from falling trees exists only if there is both potential for tree failure and potential for harm to result. The job of the risk assessor is to consider the likelihood and consequences of tree failure. The outcome of this assessment can then inform consideration of the risk by the tree manager, who may also be the owner.

Using a comprehensive range of values[1], Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) enables the tree assessor to identify and analyse the risk from tree failure in three key stages. 1) to consider land-use in terms of vulnerability to impact and likelihood of occupation, 2) to consider the consequences of an impact, taking account of the size of the tree or branch concerned, and 3) to estimate the probability that the tree or branch will fail onto the land-use in question. Estimating the values of these components, the assessor can use the QTRA manual calculator or software application to calculate an annual Risk of Harm from a particular tree. To inform management decisions, the risks from different hazards can then be both ranked and compared, and considered against broadly acceptable and tolerable levels of risk.

A Proportionate Approach to Risks from Trees

The risks from falling trees are usually very low and high risks will usually be encountered only in areas with either high levels of human occupation or with valuable property. Where levels of human occupation and value of property are sufficiently low, the assessment of trees for structural weakness will not usually be necessary. Even when land-use indicates that the assessment of trees is appropriate, it is seldom proportionate to assess and evaluate the risk for each individual tree in a population. Often, all that is required is a brief consideration of the trees to identify gross signs of structural weakness or declining health. Doing all that is reasonably practicable does not mean that all trees have to be individually examined on a regular basis (HSE 2013).

The QTRA method enables a range of approaches from the broad assessment of large collections of trees to, where necessary, the detailed assessment of an individual tree.

Risk of Harm

The QTRA output is termed the Risk of Harm and is a combined measure of the likelihood and consequences of tree failure, considered against the baseline of a lost human life within the coming year.

ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable)

Determining that risks have been reduced to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (HSE 2001) involves an evaluation of both the risk and the sacrifice or cost involved in reducing that risk. If it can be demonstrated that there is gross disproportion between them, the risk being insignificant in relation to the sacrifice or cost, then to reduce the risk further is not 'reasonably practicable'.

Costs and Benefits of Risk Control

Trees confer many benefits to people and the wider environment. When managing any risk, it is essential to maintain a balance between the costs and benefits of risk reduction, which should be considered in the determination of ALARP. It is not only the financial cost of controlling the risk that should be considered, but also the loss of tree-related benefits, and the risk to workers and the public from the risk control measure itself.

[1] See Tables 1, 2 & 3.

When considering risks from falling trees, the cost of risk control will usually be too high when it is clearly 'disproportionate' to the reduction in risk. In the context of QTRA, the issue of 'gross disproportion'[2], where decisions are heavily biased in favour of safety, is only likely to be considered where there are risks of 1/10 000 or greater.

Acceptable and Tolerable Risks

The Tolerability of Risk framework (ToR) (HSE 2001) is a widely accepted approach to reaching decisions on whether risks are broadly acceptable, unacceptable, or tolerable. Graphically represented in Figure 1, ToR can be summarised as having a Broadly Acceptable Region where the upper limit is an annual risk of death 1/1 000 000, an Unacceptable Region for which the lower limit is 1/1 000, and between these a Tolerable Region within which the tolerability of a risk will be dependent upon the costs and benefits of risk reduction. In the Tolerable Region, we must ask whether the benefits of risk control are sufficient to justify their cost.

In respect of trees, some risks cross the Broadly Acceptable 1/1 000 000 boundary, but remain tolerable. This is because any further reduction would involve a disproportionate cost in terms of the lost environmental, visual, and other benefits, in addition to the financial cost of controlling the risk.

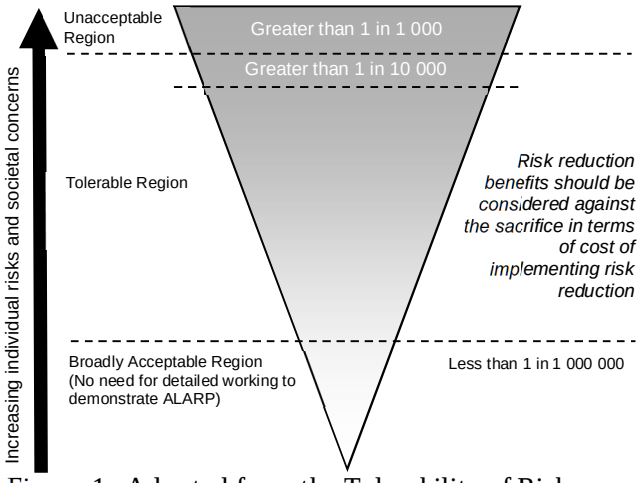

Figure 1. Adapted from the Tolerability of Risk framework (HSE 2001).

Value of Statistical Life

The Value of Statistical Life (VOSL), is a widely applied risk management device, which uses the value of a hypothetical life to guide the proportionate allocation of resources to risk reduction. In the UK, this value is currently in the region of £2 000 000, and this is the value adopted in the QTRA method.

In QTRA, placing a statistical value on a human life has two particular uses. Firstly, QTRA uses VOSL to enable damage to property to be compared with the loss of life, allowing the comparison of risks to people and property. Secondly, the proportionate allocation of financial resources to risk reduction can be informed by VOSL. "***A value of statistical life of £1 000 000 is just another way of saying that a reduction in risk of death of 1/100 000 per year has a value of £10 per year***" (HSE 1996).

Internationally, there is variation in VOSL, but to provide consistency in QTRA outputs, it is suggested that VOSL of £2 000 000 should be applied internationally. This is ultimately a decision for the tree manager.

2. OWNERSHIP OF RISK

Where many people are exposed to a risk, it is shared between them. Where only one person is exposed, that individual is the recipient of all of the risk and if they have control over it, they are also the owner of the risk. An individual may choose to accept or reject any particular risk to themselves, when that risk is under their control. When risks that are imposed upon others become elevated, societal concern will usually require risk controls, which ultimately are imposed by the courts or government regulators.

Although QTRA outputs might occasionally relate to an individual recipient, this is seldom the case. More often, calculation of the Risk of Harm is based on a cumulative occupation – i.e. the number of people per hour or vehicles per day, without attempting to identify the individuals who share the risk.

Where the risk of harm relates to a specific individual or a known group of people, the risk manager might consider the views of those who are exposed to the risk when making management decisions. Where a risk is imposed on the wider community, the principles set out in the ToR framework can be used as a reasonable approach to determine whether the risk is ALARP.

3. THE QTRA METHOD - VERSION 5

The input values for the three components of the QTRA calculation are set out in broad ranges[3] of Target, Size, and Probability of Failure. The assessor

[2] Discussed further on page 5.

[3] See Tables 1, 2 & 3.

estimates values for these three components and inputs them on either the manual calculator or software application to calculate the Risk of Harm.

Assessing Land-use (Targets)

The nature of the land-use beneath or adjacent to a tree will usually inform the level and extent of risk assessment to be carried out. In the assessment of Targets, six ranges of value are available. Table 2 sets out these ranges for vehicular frequency, human occupation and the monetary value of damage to property.

Human Occupation

The probability of pedestrian occupation at a particular location is calculated on the basis that an average pedestrian will spend five seconds walking beneath an average tree. For example, an average occupation of ten pedestrians per day, each occupying the Target for five seconds is a daily occupation of fifty seconds, giving a likelihood of occupation 1/1,728. Where a longer occupation is likely, as with a habitable building, outdoor café, or park bench, the period of occupation can be measured, or estimated as a proportion of a given unit of time, e.g. six hours per day (1/4). The Target is recorded as a range (Table 2).

Weather Affected Targets

Often the nature of a structural weakness in a tree is such that the probability of failure is greatest during windy weather, while the probability of the site being occupied by people during such weather is often low. This applies particularly to outdoor recreational areas. When estimating human Targets, the risk assessor must answer the question 'in the weather conditions that I expect the likelihood of failure of the tree to be initiated, what is my estimate of human occupation?' Taking this approach, rather than using the average occupation, ensures that the assessor considers the relationship between weather, people, and trees, along with the nature of the average person with their ability to recognise and avoid unnecessary risks.

Vehicles on the Highway

In the case of vehicles, likelihood of occupation may relate to either the falling tree or branch striking the vehicle or the vehicle striking the fallen tree. Both types of impact are influenced by vehicle speed; the faster the vehicle travels the less likely it is to be struck by the falling tree, but the more likely it is to strike a fallen tree. The probability of a vehicle occupying any particular point in the road is the ratio of the time it is occupied - including a safe stopping distance - to the total time. The average vehicle on a UK road is occupied by 1.6 people (DfT 2010). To account for the substantial protection that the average vehicle provides against most tree impacts and in particular, frontal collisions, QTRA values the substantially protected 1.6 occupants in addition to the value of the vehicle as equivalent to one exposed human life.

Property

Property can be anything that could be damaged by a falling tree, from a dwelling, to livestock, parked car, or fence. When evaluating the exposure of property to tree failure, the QTRA assessment considers the cost of repair or replacement that might result from failure of the tree. Ranges of value are presented in Table 2 and the assessor's estimate need only be sufficient to determine which of the six ranges the cost to select.

In Table 2, the ranges of property value are based on a VOSL of £2 000 000, e.g. where a building with a replacement cost of £20 000 would be valued at 0.01 (1/100) of a life (Target Range 2).

When assessing risks in relation to buildings, the Target to be considered might be the building, the occupants, or both. Occupants of a building could be protected from harm by the structure or substantially exposed to the impact from a falling tree if the structure is not sufficiently robust, and this will determine how the assessor categorises the Target.

Multiple Targets

A Target might be constantly occupied by more than one person and QTRA can account for this. For example, if it is projected that the average occupation will be constant by 10 people, the Risk of Harm is calculated in relation to one person constantly occupying the Target before going on to identify that the average occupation is 10 people. This is expressed as Target 1(10T)/1, where 10T represents the Multiple Targets. In respect of property, a Risk of Harm 1(10T)/1 would be equivalent to a risk of losing £20 000 000 as opposed to £2 000 000.

Tree or Branch Size

A small dead branch of less than 25mm diameter is not likely to cause significant harm even in the case of direct contact with a Target, while a falling branch with a diameter greater than 450mm is likely to cause some harm in the event of contact with all but the most robust Target. The QTRA method categorises

Size by the diameter of tree stems and branches (measured beyond any basal taper). An equation derived from weight measurements of trees of different stem diameters is used to produce a data set of comparative weights of trees and branches ranging from 25mm to 600mm diameter, from which Table 1 is compiled. The size of dead branches might be discounted where they have undergone a significant reduction in weight because of degradation and shedding of subordinate branches. This discounting, referred to as 'Reduced Mass', reflects an estimated reduction in the mass of a dead branch.

Table 1. Size

Size Range	Size of tree or branch	Range of Probability
1	> 450mm (>18") dia.	1/1 - >1/2
2	260mm (10½") dia. - 450mm (18") dia.	1/2 - >1/8.6
3	110mm (4½") dia. - 250mm (10") dia.	1/8.6 - >1/82
4	25mm (1") dia. - 100mm (4") dia.	1/82 - 1/2 500

* Range 1 is based on a diameter of 600mm.

Table 2. Targets

Target Range	Property (repair or replacement cost)	Human (not in vehicles)		Vehicle Traffic (number per day)	Ranges of Value (probability of occupation or fraction of £2 000 000)
1	£2 000 000 – >£200 000	Occupation:	Constant – 2.5 hours/day	26 000 – 2 700 @ 110kph (68mph) 32 000 – 3 300 @ 80kph (50mph) 47 000 – 4 800 @ 50kph (32mph)	1/1 – >1/10
		Pedestrians & cyclists:	720/hour – 73/hour		
2	£200 000 – >£20 000	Occupation:	2.4 hours/day – 15 min/day	2 600 – 270 @ 110kph (68mph) 3 200 – 330 @ 80kph (50mph) 4 700 – 480 @ 50kph (32mph)	1/10 – >1/100
		Pedestrians & cyclists:	72/hour – 8/hour		
3	£20 000 – >£2 000	Occupation:	14 min/day – 2 min/day	260 – 27 @ 110kph (68mph) 320 – 33 @ 80kph (50mph) 470 – 48 @ 50kph (32mph)	1/100 – >1/1 000
		Pedestrians & cyclists:	7/hour – 2/hour		
4	£2 000 – >£200	Occupation:	1 min/day – 2 min/week	26 – 4 @ 110kph (68mph) 32 – 4 @ 80kph (50mph) 47 – 6 @ 50kph (32mph)	1/1 000 – >1/10 000
		Pedestrians & cyclists:	1/hour – 3/day		
5	£200 – >£20	Occupation:	1 min/week – 1 min/month	3 – 1 @ 110kph (68mph) 3 – 1 @ 80kph (50mph) 5 – 1 @ 50kph (32mph)	1/10 000 – >1/100 000
		Pedestrians & cyclists:	2/day – 2/week		
6	£20 – £2	Occupation:	<1 min/month – 0.5 min/year	None	1/100 000 – 1/1 000 000
		Pedestrians & cyclists:	1/week – 6/year		

Vehicle, pedestrian and property Targets are categorised by their frequency of use or their monetary value. The probability of a vehicle or pedestrian occupying a Target area in Target Range 4 is between the upper and lower limits of 1/1 000 and >1/10 000 (column 5). Using the VOSL £2 000 000, the property repair or replacement value for Target Range 4 is £2 000 - >200.

Probability of Failure

In the QTRA assessment, the probability of tree or branch failure within the coming year is estimated and recorded as a range of value (Ranges 1 – 7, Table 3).

Selecting a Probability of Failure (PoF) Range requires the assessor to compare their assessment of the tree or branch against a benchmark of either a non-compromised tree at Probability of Failure Range 7, or a tree or branch that we expect to fail within the year, which can be described as having a 1/1 probability of failure.

During QTRA training, Registered Users go through a number of field exercises in order to calibrate their estimates of Probability of Failure.

Table 3. Probability of Failure

Probability of Failure Range	Probability
1	1/1 - >1/10
2	1/10 - >1/100
3	1/100 - >1/1 000
4	1/1 000 - >1/10 000
5	1/10 000 – >1/100 000
6	1/100 000 – >1/1 000 000
7	1/1 000 000 – 1/10 000 000

The probability that the tree or branch will fail within the coming year.

The QTRA Calculation

The assessor selects a Range of values for each of the three input components of Target, Size and Probability of Failure. The Ranges are entered on either the manual calculator or software application to calculate a Risk of Harm.

The Risk of Harm is expressed as a probability and is rounded, to one significant figure. Any Risk of Harm that is lower than 1/1 000 000 is represented as <1/1 000 000. As a visual aid, the Risk of Harm is colour coded using the traffic light system illustrated in Table 4 (page 7).

> Risk of Harm - Monte Carlo Simulations
>
> The Risk of Harm for all combinations of Target, Size and Probability of Failure Ranges has been calculated using Monte Carlo simulations[4]. The QTRA Risk of Harm is the mean value from each set of Monte Carlo results.
>
> In QTRA Version 5, the Risk of Harm should not be calculated without the manual calculator or software application.

Assessing Groups and Populations of Trees

When assessing populations or groups of trees, the highest risk in the group is quantified and if that risk is tolerable, it follows that risks from the remaining trees will also be tolerable, and further calculations are unnecessary. Where the risk is intolerable, the next highest risk will be quantified, and so on until a tolerable risk is established. This process requires prior knowledge of the tree manager's risk tolerance.

Accuracy of Outputs

The purpose of QTRA is not necessarily to provide high degrees of accuracy, but to provide for the quantification of risks from falling trees in a way that risks are categorised within broad ranges (Table 4).

4. INFORMING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Balancing Costs and Benefits of Risk Control

When controlling risks from falling trees, the benefit of reduced risk is obvious, but the costs of risk control are all too often neglected. For every risk reduced there will be costs, and the most obvious of these is the financial cost of implementing the control measure. Frequently overlooked is the transfer of risks to workers and the public who might be directly affected by the removal or pruning of trees. Perhaps more importantly, most trees confer benefits, the loss of which should be considered as a cost when balancing the costs and benefits of risk control.

When balancing risk management decisions using QTRA, consideration of the benefits from trees will usually be of a very general nature and not require detailed consideration. The tree manager can consider, in simple terms, whether the overall cost of risk control is a proportionate one. Where risks are approaching 1/10 000, this may be a straightforward balancing of cost and benefits. Where risks are 1/10 000 or greater, it will usually be appropriate to implement risk controls unless the costs are grossly disproportionate to the benefits rather than simply disproportionate. In other words, the balance being weighted more on the side of risk control with higher associated costs.

Considering the Value of Trees

It is necessary to consider the benefits provided by trees, but they cannot easily be monetised and it is often difficult to place a value on those attributes such as habitat, shading and visual amenity that might be lost to risk control.

A simple approach to considering the value of a tree asset is suggested here, using the concept of 'average benefits'. When considered against other similar trees, a tree providing 'average benefits' will usually present a range of benefits that are typical for the species, age and situation. Viewed in this way, a tree providing 'average benefits' might appear to be low when compared with particularly important trees – such as in Figure 2, but should nonetheless be sufficient to offset a Risk of Harm of less than 1/10 000. Without having to consider the benefits of risk controls, we might reasonably assume that below 1/10 000, the risk from a tree that provides 'average benefits' is ALARP.

In contrast, if it can be said that the tree provides lower than average benefits because, for example, it is declining and in poor physiological condition, it may be necessary to consider two further elements. Firstly, is the Risk of Harm in the upper part of the Tolerable Region, and secondly, is the Risk of Harm likely to increase before the next review because of an increased Probability of Failure. If both these conditions apply then it might be appropriate to consider the balance of costs and benefits of risk reduction in order to determine whether the risk is ALARP. This balance requires the tree manager to take a view of both the reduction in risk and the costs of that reduction.

[4] For further information on the Monte Carlo simulation method, refer to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monte_Carlo_method


Fig. 2

Lower Than Average Benefits from Trees

Usually, the benefits provided by a tree will only be significantly reduced below the 'average benefits' that are typical for the species, age and situation, if the life of the benefits is likely to be shortened, perhaps because the tree is declining or dead. That is not to say that a disbenefit, such as undesirable shading, lifting of a footpath, or restricting the growth of other trees, should not also be considered in the balance of costs and benefits.

The horse chestnut tree in Figure 3 has recently died, and over the next few years, may provide valuable habitats. However, for this tree species and the relatively fast rate at which its wood decays, the lifetime of these benefits is likely to be limited to only a few years. This tree has an already reduced value that will continue to reduce rapidly over the coming five to ten years at the same time as the Risk of Harm is expected to increase. There will be changes in the benefits provided by the tree as it degrades. Visual qualities are likely to reduce while the decaying wood provides habitats for a range of species, for a short while at least. There are no hard and fast measures of these benefits and it is for the tree manager to decide what is locally important and how it might be balanced with the risks.

Where a risk is within the Tolerable Region and the tree confers lower than average benefits, it might be appropriate to consider implementing risk control while taking account of the financial cost. Here, VOSL can be used to inform a decision on whether the cost of risk control is proportionate. Example 3 below puts this evaluation into a tree management context.

There will be occasions when a tree is of such minimal value and the monetary cost of risk reduction so low that it might be reasonable to further reduce an already relatively low risk. Conversely, a tree might be of such considerable value that an annual risk of death greater than 1/10 000 would be deemed tolerable.

Occasionally, decisions will be made to retain elevated risks because the benefits from the tree are particularly high or important to stakeholders, and in these situations, it might be appropriate to assess and document the benefits in some detail. If detailed assessment of benefits is required, there are several methodologies and sources of information (Forest Research 2010).


Fig. 3

Delegating Risk Management Decisions

Understanding of the costs with which risk reduction is balanced can be informed by the risk assessor's knowledge, experience and on-site observations, but the risk management decisions should be made by the tree manager. That is not to say that the tree manager should review and agree every risk control measure, but when delegating decisions to surveyors and other staff or advisors, tree managers should set out in a policy, statement or contract, the principles and perhaps thresholds to which trees and their associated risks will ordinarily be managed.

Based on the tree manager accepting the principles set out in the QTRA Practice Note and or any other specific instructions, the risk assessor can take account of the cost/benefit balance and for most

situations will be able to determine whether the risk is ALARP when providing management recommendations.

Table 4. QTRA Advisory Risk Thresholds

Thresholds	Description	Action
	Unacceptable Risks will not ordinarily be tolerated	• Control the risk
1/1,000		
	Unacceptable (where imposed on others) Risks will not ordinarily be tolerated	• Control the risk • Review the risk
	Tolerable (by agreement) Risks may be tolerated if those exposed to the risk accept it, or the tree has exceptional value	• Control the risk unless there is broad stakeholder agreement to tolerate it, or the tree has exceptional value • Review the risk
1/10 000		
	Tolerable (where imposed on others) Risks are tolerable if ALARP	• Assess costs and benefits of risk control • Control the risk only where a significant benefit might be achieved at reasonable cost • Review the risk
1/1 000 000		
	Broadly Acceptable Risk is already ALARP	• No action currently required • Review the risk

QTRA Informative Risk Thresholds

The QTRA advisory thresholds in Table 4 are proposed as a reasonable approach to balancing safety from falling trees with the costs of risk reduction. This approach takes account of the widely applied principles of ALARP and ToR, but does not dictate how these principles should be applied. While the thresholds can be the foundation of a robust policy for tree risk management, tree managers should make decisions based on their own situation, values and resources. Importantly, to enable tree assessors to provide appropriate management guidance, it is helpful for them to have some understanding of the tree owner's management preferences prior to assessing the trees.

A Risk of Harm that is less than 1/1 000 000 is Broadly Acceptable and is already ALARP. A Risk of Harm 1/1 000 or greater is unacceptable and will not ordinarily be tolerated. Between these two values, the Risk of Harm is in the Tolerable Region of ToR and will be tolerable if it is ALARP. In the Tolerable Region, management decisions are informed by consideration of the costs and benefits of risk control, including the nature and extent of those benefits provided by trees, which would be lost to risk control measures.

For the purpose of managing risks from falling trees, the Tolerable Region can be further broken down into two sections. From 1/1 000 000 to less than 1/10 000, the Risk of Harm will usually be tolerable providing that the tree confers 'average benefits' as discussed above. As the Risk of Harm approaches 1/10 000 it will be necessary for the tree manager to consider in more detail the benefits provided by the tree and the overall cost of mitigating the risk.

A Risk of Harm in the Tolerable Region but 1/10 000 or greater will not usually be tolerable where it is imposed on others, such as the public, and if retained, will require a more detailed consideration of ALARP. In exceptional circumstances a tree owner might choose to retain a Risk of Harm that is 1/10 000 or greater. Such a decision might be based on the agreement of those who are exposed to the risk, or perhaps that the tree is of great importance. In these circumstances, the prudent tree manager will consult with the appropriate stakeholders whenever possible.

5. EXAMPLE QTRA CALCULATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Below are three examples of QTRA calculations and application of the QTRA Advisory Thresholds.

Example 1.

	Target		Size		Probability of Failure		Risk of Harm
Range	6	x	1	x	3	=	<1/1 000 000

Example 1 is the assessment of a large (Size 1), unstable tree with a probability of failure of between 1/100 and >1/1 000 (PoF 3). The Target is a footpath with less than one pedestrian passing the tree each week (Target 6). The Risk of Harm is calculated as less than 1/1 000 000 (green). This is an example of where the Target is so low consideration of the structural condition of even a large tree would not usually be necessary.

Example 2.

	Target		Size		Probability of Failure		Risk of Harm
Range	1	x	4	x	3	=	1(2T)/50 000

In Example 2, a recently dead branch (Size 4) overhangs a busy urban high street that is on average occupied constantly by two people, and here Multiple Target occupation is considered.

Having an average occupancy of two people, the Risk of Harm 1(2T)/50 000 (yellow) represents a twofold increase in the magnitude of the consequence and is therefore equivalent to a Risk of Harm 1/20 000 (yellow). This risk does not exceed 1/10 000, but being a dead branch at the upper end of the Tolerable Region it is appropriate to consider the balance of costs and benefits of risk control. Dead branches can be expected to degrade over time with the probability of failure increasing as a result. Because it is dead, some of the usual benefits from the branch have been lost and it will be appropriate to consider whether the financial cost of risk control would be proportionate.

Example 3.

	Target		Size		Probability of Failure		Risk of Harm
Range	3	x	3	x	3	=	1/500 000

In Example 3, a 200mm diameter defective branch overhangs a country road along which travel between 470 and 48 vehicles each day at an average speed of 50kph (32mph) (Target Range 3). The branch is split and is assessed as having a probability of failure for the coming year of between 1/100 and 1/1 000 (PoF Range 3). The Risk of Harm is calculated as 1/500 000 (yellow) and it needs to be considered whether the risk is ALARP. The cost of removing the branch and reducing the risk to Broadly Acceptable (1/1 000 000) is estimated at £350. To establish whether this is a proportionate cost of risk control, the following equation is applied. £2 000 000 (VOSL) x 1/500 000 = £4 indicating that the projected cost of £350 would be disproportionate to the benefit. Taking account of the financial cost, risk transfer to arborists and passers-by, the cost could be described as being grossly disproportionate, even if accrued benefits over say ten years were taken into account.

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APPENDIX 4

cheshire woodlands
arboricultural consultancy

Guidance note- Statutory Controls

Trees and Hedges

Subject to specified exceptions, an application must be made to the local planning authority [LPA] to carry out work on or remove trees that are protected by a tree preservation order [TPO][1]

Six weeks' notice must be given to the LPA of intention to carry out work on or remove trees within a conservation area and not protected by a TPO[1]

LPA consent may be required to carry out work on or remove trees, shrubs and hedges that are affected by planning conditions

LPA consent may be required for the removal of hedgerows[2]

Your Council's planning department will advise whether or not any of the above controls apply to your trees, shrubs and hedges

Subject to specified exemptions, a licence may be required for the felling of growing trees[3]

Your nearest Forestry Commission or Natural Resources Wales office will advise whether you require a felling licence

[1] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas
[2] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/countryside-hedgerows-regulation-and-management
[3] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-felling-licence-when-you-need-to-apply

Wildlife

Nesting birds and all species of bat are afforded statutory protection.[4] It is an offence to:

- disturb a nesting bird
- disturb a roosting bat or damage, destroy or block access to a bat roost
- intentionally kill, injure or take a bat
- sell, hire, barter or exchange a bat, dead or alive
- be in possession or control of a bat or anything derived from a bat

Your local Wildlife Trust or your Council's Ecologist will provide guidance on statutory controls relating to wildlife.

[4] https://www.gov.uk/topic/planning-development/protected-sites-species

APPENDIX 5

GLOSSARY OF ARBORICULTURAL TERMS

Abscission. The shedding of a leaf or other short-lived part of a woody plant, involving the formation of a corky layer across its base; in some tree species twigs can be shed in this way

Abiotic. Pertaining to non-living agents; e.g. environmental factors

Absorptive roots. Non-woody, short-lived roots, generally having a diameter of less than one millimetre, the primary function of which is uptake of water and nutrients

Access facilitation pruning. One off tree pruning operation, the nature and effects of which are without significant adverse impact on tree physiology or amenity value, which is directly necessary to provide access for operations on site

Adaptive growth. In tree biomechanics, the process whereby the rate of wood formation in the cambial zone, as well as wood quality, responds to gravity and other forces acting on the cambium. This helps to maintain a uniform distribution of mechanical stress

Adaptive roots. The adaptive growth of existing roots; or the production of new roots in response to damage, decay or altered mechanical loading

Adventitious shoots. Shoots that develop other than from apical, axillary or dormant buds; see also 'epicormic'

Anchorage. The system whereby a tree is fixed within the soil, involving cohesion between roots and soil and the development of a branched system of roots which withstands wind and gravitational forces transmitted from the aerial parts of the tree

Ancient tree. A tree that has passed beyond maturity and is old, or aged, in comparison with other trees of the same species. An ancient tree is one that has all or most of the following characteristics: a) biological, aesthetic or cultural interest, because of its great age; b) a growth stage that is described as ancient or post-mature; c) a chronological age that is old relative to others of the same species

Arboricultural Method Statement. Methodology for the implementation of any aspect of development that is within the root protection area, or has the potential to result in loss of or damage to a tree to be retained

Arboriculturist. Person who has, through relevant education, training and experience, gained expertise in the field of trees in relation to construction

Architecture. In a tree, a term describing the pattern of branching of the crown or root system

Axil. The place where a bud is borne between a leaf and its parent shoot

Bacteria. Microscopic single-celled organisms, many species of which break down dead organic matter, and some of which cause diseases in other organisms

Bark. A term usually applied to all the tissues of a woody plant lying outside the vascular cambium, thus including the phloem, cortex and periderm; occasionally applied only to the periderm or the phellem

Basidiomycotina (Basidiomycetes). One of the major taxonomic groups of fungi; their spores are borne on microscopic peg-like structures (basidia), which in many types are in turn borne on or within conspicuous fruit bodies, such as brackets or toadstools. Most of the principal decay fungi in standing trees are basidiomycetes

Bolling. A term sometimes used to describe pollard heads

Bottle-butt. A broadening of the stem base and buttresses of a tree, in excess of normal and sometimes denoting a growth response to weakening in that region, especially due to decay involving selective delignification

Bracing. The use of rods or cables to restrain the movement between parts of a tree

Branch:

- Primary. A first order branch arising from a stem
- Lateral. A second order branch, subordinate to a primary branch or stem and bearing sub-lateral branches
- Sub-lateral. A third order branch, subordinate to a lateral or primary branch, or stem and usually bearing only twigs

Branch bark ridge. The raised arc of bark tissues that forms within the acute angle between a branch and its parent stem

Branch-collar. A visible swelling formed at the base of a branch whose diameter growth has been disproportionately slow compared to that of the parent stem; a term sometimes applied also to the pattern of growth of the cells of the parent stem around the branch base

Brown-rot. A type of wood decay in which cellulose is degraded, while lignin is only modified

Buckling. An irreversible deformation of a structure subjected to a bending load

Buttress zone. The region at the base of a tree where the major lateral roots join the stem, with buttress-like formations on the upper side of the junctions

Canker. A persistent lesion formed by the death of bark and cambium due to colonisation by fungi or bacteria

Canopy species. Tree species that mature to form a closed woodland canopy

Compartmentalisation. The confinement of disease, decay or other dysfunction within an anatomically discrete region of plant tissue, due to passive and/or active defences operating at the boundaries of the affected region

Competent person. A person who has training and experience relevant to the matter being addressed and an understanding of the requirements of the particular task being approached.

Compression fork. An acute angled fork that is mechanically optimised for the growth pressure that two or more adjacent stems exert on each other

Compression strength. The ability of a material or structure to resist failure when subjected to compressive loading; measurable in trees with special drilling devices

Compressive loading. Mechanical loading which exerts a positive pressure; the opposite to tensile loading

Condition. An indication of the physiological condition of the tree. Where the term 'condition' is used in a report, it should not be taken as an indication of the stability of the tree

Construction. Site based operations with the potential to affect existing trees

Construction exclusion zone. Area based on the Root Protection Area from which access is prohibited for the duration of the project

Crown/Canopy. The main foliage bearing section of the tree

Crown lifting. The removal of limbs and small branches to a specified height above ground level

Crown thinning. The removal of a proportion of secondary branch growth throughout the crown to produce an even density of foliage around a well-balanced branch structure

Crown reduction/shaping. A specified reduction in crown size whilst preserving, as far as possible, the natural tree shape

Crown reduction/thinning. Reduction of the canopy volume by thinning to remove dominant branches whilst preserving, as far as possible the natural tree shape

Deadwood. Dead branch wood

Decurrent. In trees, a system of branching in which the crown is borne on a number of major widely-spreading limbs of similar size (cf. excurrent). In fungi with toadstools as fruit bodies, the description of gills which run some distance down the stem, rather than terminating abruptly

Defect. In relation to tree hazards, any feature of a tree which detracts from the uniform distribution of mechanical stress, or which makes the tree mechanically unsuited to its environment

Delamination. The separation of wood layers along their length, visible as longitudinal splitting

Dieback. The death of parts of a woody plant, starting at shoot-tips or root-tips

Disease. A malfunction in or destruction of tissues within a living organism, usually excluding mechanical damage; in trees, usually caused by pathogenic micro-organisms

Distal. In the direction away from the main body of a tree or subject organism (cf. proximal)

Incorporating extracts from Lonsdale, D. 1999. Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment. Her Majesty's Stationary Office, London

Dominance. In trees, the tendency for a leading shoot to grow faster or more vigorously than the lateral shoots; also the tendency of a tree to maintain a taller crown than its neighbours

Dormant bud. An axial bud which does not develop into a shoot until after the formation of two or more annual wood increments; many such buds persist through the life of a tree and develop only if stimulated to do so

Dysfunction. In woody tissues, the loss of physiological function, especially water conduction, in sapwood

DBH (Diameter at Breast Height). Stem diameter measured at a height of 1.5 metres (UK) or the nearest measurable point. Where measurement at a height of 1.5 metres is not possible, another height may be specified

Deadwood. Branch or stem wood bearing no live tissues. Retention of deadwood provides valuable habitat for a wide range of species and seldom represents a threat to the health of the tree. Removal of deadwood can result in the ingress of decay to otherwise sound tissues and climbing operations to access deadwood can cause significant damage to a tree. Removal of deadwood is generally recommended only where it represents an unacceptable level of hazard

Endophytes. Micro-organisms that live inside plant tissues without causing overt disease, but in some cases capable of causing disease if the tissues become physiologically stressed, for example by lack of moisture

Engineer-designed hard surfacing. Hard surfacing constructed within the 'Root protection area' of a tree, which will be designed by a structural or geotechnical; engineer in collaboration with an arboriculturist as set out in clause 7.4 of British Standard BS5837:2012. The purpose being to minimise the effects of the construction on the health of the tree.

Epicormic shoot. A shoot having developed from a dormant or adventitious bud and not having developed from a first year shoot

Excrescence. Any abnormal outgrowth on the surface of tree or other organism

Excurrent. In trees, a system of branching in which there is a well-defined central main stem, bearing branches which are limited in their length, diameter and secondary branching (cf. decurrent)

Fastigiate. Having upright, often clustered branches

Felling licence. In the UK, a permit to fell trees in excess of a stipulated number of stems or volume of timber

Field layer. Herbs, ferns, grasses and sedges

Flush-cut. A pruning cut which removes part of the branch bark ridge and or branch-collar

Girdling root. A root which circles and constricts the stem or roots possibly causing death of phloem and/or cambial tissue

Ground layer. Mosses, ivy, lichens and fungi

Guying. A form of artificial support with cables for trees with a temporarily inadequate anchorage

Habit. The overall growth characteristics, shape of the tree and branch structure

Haloing. Removing or pruning trees from around the crown of another (usually mature or post-mature) tree to prevent it becoming supressed

Hazard beam. An upwardly curved part of a tree in which strong internal stresses may occur without being reduced by adaptive growth; prone to longitudinal splitting

Heartwood/false-heartwood. The dead central wood that has become dysfunctional as part of the aging processes and being distinct from the sapwood

Heave. A term mainly applicable to a shrinkable clay soil which expands due to re-wetting after the felling of a tree which was previously extracting moisture from the deeper layers; also the lifting of pavements and other structures by root diameter expansion; also the lifting of one side of a wind-rocked root-plate

High canopy tree species. Tree species having potential to contribute to the closed canopy of a mature woodland or forest

Incipient failure. In wood tissues, a mechanical failure which results only in deformation or cracking, and not in the fall or detachment of the affected part

Included bark (ingrown bark). Bark of adjacent parts of a tree (usually forks, acutely joined branches or basal flutes) which is in face-to-face contact

Increment borer. A hollow auger, which can be used for the extraction of wood cores for counting or measuring wood increments or for inspecting the condition of the wood

Infection. The establishment of a parasitic micro-organism in the tissues of a tree or other organism

Internode. The part of a stem between two nodes; not to be confused with a length of stem which bear nodes but no branches

Lever arm. A mechanical term denoting the length of the lever represented by a structure that is free to move at one end, such as a tree or an individual branch

Lignin. The hard, cement-like constituent of wood cells; deposition of lignin within the matrix of cellulose microfibrils in the cell wall is termed Lignification

Lions tailing. A term applied to a branch of a tree that has few if any side-branches except at its end, and is thus liable to snap due to end-loading

Loading. A mechanical term describing the force acting on a structure from a particular source; e.g. the weight of the structure itself or wind pressure

Longitudinal. Along the length (of a stem, root or branch)

Lopping. A term often used to describe the removal of large branches from a tree, but also used to describe other forms of cutting

Marginal browning of leaves. Death of a tissues to the margin or edge of the leaf

Mature Heights (approximate):

- Low maturing – less than 8 metres high
- Moderately high maturing – 8 – 12 metres high
- High maturing – greater than 12 metres high

Microdrill. An electronic rotating steel probe, which when inserted into woody tissue provides a measure of tissue density

Minor deadwood. Deadwood of a diameter less than 25mm and or unlikely to cause significant harm or damage upon impact with a target beneath the tree

Mulch. Material laid down over the rooting area of a tree or other plant to help conserve moisture; a mulch may consist of organic matter or a sheet of plastic or other artificial material

Mycelium. The body of a fungus, consisting of branched filaments (hyphae)

Occluding tissues. A general term for the roll of wood, cambium and bark that forms around a wound on a woody plant (cf. woundwood)

Occlusion. The process whereby a wound is progressively closed by the formation of new wood and bark around it

Pathogen. A micro-organism which causes disease in another organism

Photosynthesis. The process whereby plants use light energy to split hydrogen from water molecules, and combine it with carbon dioxide to form carbohydrates that are be basic building block for plant growth. Photosynthetic capacity is the plants ability to produce carbohydrates

Phytotoxic. Toxic to plants

Pollarding. The removal of the tree canopy, back to the stem or primary branches, usually to a point just outside that of the previous cutting. Pollarding may involve the removal of the entire canopy in one operation, or may be phased over several years. The period of safe retention of trees having been pollarded varies with species and individuals. It is usually necessary to re-pollard on a regular basis, annually in the case of some species

Primary branch. A major branch, generally having a basal diameter greater than 0.25 x stem diameter

Primary root zone. The soil volume most likely to contain roots that are critical to the health and stability of the tree and normally defined by reference BS5837 (2012) Trees in Relation to design, demolition and construction

Priority. Works may be prioritised, 1. = high, 5. = low

Probability. A statistical measure of the likelihood that a particular event might occur

Proximal. In the direction towards from the main body of a tree or other living organism (cf. distal)

Incorporating extracts from Lonsdale, D. 1999. Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment. Her Majesty's Stationary Office, London

Pruning. The removal or cutting back of twigs or branches, sometimes applied to twigs or small branches only, but often used to describe most activities involving the cutting of trees or shrubs

Radial. In the plane or direction of the radius of a circular object such as a tree stem

Rams-horn. In connection with wounds on trees, a roll of occluding tissues which has a spiral structure as seen in cross-section

Rays. Strips of radially elongated parenchyma cells within wood and bark. The functions of rays include food storage, radial translocation and contributing to the strength of wood

Reactive Growth/Reaction Wood. Production of woody tissue in response to altered mechanical loading; often in response to internal defect or decay and associated strength loss (cf. adaptive growth)

Removal of deadwood. Unless otherwise specified, this refers to the removal of all accessible dead, dying and diseased branchwood and broken snags

Removal of major deadwood. The removal of, dead, dying and diseased branchwood above a specified size

Respacing. Selective removal of trees from a group or woodland to provide space and resources for the development of retained trees

Residual wall. The wall of non-decayed wood remaining following decay of internal stem, branch or root tissues

Rib. A ridge of wood that has usually developed because of locally increased mechanical loading. Often associated with internal cracking in the wood of the stem, branch or root.

Ring-barking (girdling). The removal of a ring of bark and phloem around the circumference of a stem or branch, normally resulting in an inability to transport photosynthetic assimilates below the area of damage. Almost inevitably results in the eventual death of the affected stem or branch above the damage

Ripewood. The older central wood of those tree species in which sapwood gradually ages without being converted to heartwood

Root-collar. The transitional area between the stem/s and roots

Root-collar examination. Excavation of surfacing and soils around the root-collar to assess the structural integrity of roots and/or stem

Root protection area (RPA). Layout design tool indicating a national 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

Root zone. Area of soils containing absorptive roots of the tree/s described. The Primary root zone is that which we consider of primary importance to the physiological well-being of the tree

Sapwood. Living xylem tissues

Safety factor. The ratio of the maximum stress that a structural part of a tree can withstand to the maximum stress experienced under normal conditions

Screef. To clear surface vegetation from an area of ground, exposing the mineral beneath

Secondary branch. A branch, generally having a basal diameter of less than 0.25 x stem diameter

Selective delignification. A kind of wood decay (white-rot) in which lignin is degraded faster than cellulose

Service. Any above- or below-ground structure or apparatus required for utility provision e.g. drainage, gas supplies, ground source heat pumps, CCTV and satellite communications

Shedding. In woody plants, the normal abscission, rotting off or sloughing of leaves, floral parts, twigs, fine roots and bark scales

Shrub species. Woody perennial species forming the lowest level of woody plants in a woodland and not normally considered to be trees

Silviculture. The practice of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests to meet diverse needs and values

Silvicultural thinning. Removal of selected trees to favour the development of retained specimens to achieve a management objective

Single-up. Removal of stems from a multi-stemmed tree with the aim of developing a tree with a single stem.

Simultaneous white-rot. A kind of wood decay in which lignin and cellulose are degraded at about the same rate

Snag. In woody plants, a portion of a cut or broken stem, branch or root which extends beyond any growing-point or dormant bud; a snag usually tends to die back to the nearest growing point

Soft-rot. A kind of wood decay in which a fungus degrades cellulose within the cell walls, without any general degradation of the wall as a whole

Soil horizons. A layer parallel to the soil surface, whose physical characteristics differ from the layers above and beneath:

- O) Organic matter - Litter layer of plant residues
- A) Surface soil - Layer of mineral soil with accumulation of organic matter
- B) Subsoil - This layer accumulates mineral and organic compounds.
- C) Parent rock - Layer of large unbroken rocks
- R) Bedrock - Partially weathered bedrock at the base of the soil profile

Spores. Propagules of fungi and many other life-forms; most spores are microscopic and dispersed in air or water

Sporophore. The spore bearing structure of fungi

Sprouts. Adventitious shoot growth erupting from beneath the bark

Squirrel damage. Stripping of the bark from stems or branches by squirrels. This can result in the death of branches or even entire trees

Stem/s. Principle above-ground structural component(s) of a tree that supports its branches

Stress. In plant physiology, a condition under which one or more physiological functions are not operating within their optimum range, for example due to lack of water, inadequate nutrition or extremes of temperature

Stress. In mechanics, the application of a force to an object

Strain. In mechanics, the distortion of an object caused by a stress

Stringy white-rot. The kind of wood decay produced by selective delignification

Storm. A layer of tissue which supports the fruit bodies of some types of fungi, mainly ascomycetes

Structural roots. Roots, generally having a diameter greater than ten millimetres, and contributing significantly to the structural support and stability of the tree

Structure. Manufactured object, such as a building, carriageway, path, wall, service run, and built or excavated earthwork

Subsidence. In relation to soil or structures resting in or on soil, a sinking due to shrinkage when certain types of clay soil dry out, sometimes due to extraction of moisture by tree roots

Subsidence. In relation to branches of trees, a term that can be used to describe a progressive downward bending due to increasing weight

Taper. In stems and branches, the degree of change in girth along a given length

Target canker. A kind of perennial canker, containing concentric rings of dead occluding tissues

Targets. In tree risk assessment (with slight misuse of normal meaning) persons or property or other things of value which might be harmed by mechanical failure of the tree or by objects falling from it

Topping. In arboriculture, the removal of the crown of a tree, or of a major proportion of it

Torsional stress. Mechanical stress applied by a twisting force

Translocation. In plant physiology, the movement of water and dissolved materials through the body of the plant

Transpiration. The evaporation of moisture from the surface of a plant, especially via the stomata of leaves; it exerts a suction which draws water up from the roots and through the intervening xylem cells

Incorporating extracts from Lonsdale, D. 1999. Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment. Her Majesty's Stationary Office, London

Tree Protection Plan. Scale drawing, informed by descriptive text where necessary, based upon the finalised proposals, showing trees for retention and illustrating the tree and landscape protection measures

Tree Risk Assessment. An assessment and description of the risks and where appropriate the values associated with a tree or trees. The primary risk being considered is that from falling trees. Other risks, such as damage to infrastructure, interruption of service and building subsidence may also be considered

- Walkover – A general view of the tree population considered in the context of the adjacent land-use to identify trees that present significantly elevated risks
- Drive-by - A general view of the tree population from a moving vehicle and considered in the context of the adjacent land-use to identify trees that present significantly elevated risks
- Individual – the assessment of risks from a single tree considered in the context of the adjacent land-use to identify trees that present significantly elevated risks

Understorey. This layer consists of younger individuals of the dominant trees, together with smaller trees and shrubs which are adapted to grow under lower light conditions

Understorey tree species. Tree species not having potential to attain a size at which they can contribute to the closed high canopy of a woodland

Vascular cambium. Sometimes described simply as 'cambium'. Layer of dividing cells producing xylem (woody) tissue internally and phloem (bark) tissue externally

Vascular wilt. A type of plant disease in which water-conducting cells become dysfunctional

Vessels. Water-conducting cells in plants, usually wide and long for hydraulic efficiency; generally not present in coniferous trees

Veteran tree. A tree that has the physical characteristics of an ancient tree but is not ancient in years, compared with others of the same species

Vigour. The expression of carbohydrate expenditure to growth (in trees)

Vitality. A measure of physiological condition. N = within normal range for species and age, R = reduced from the normal range for the species and age, P = poor

Volunteer trees. Trees arising from natural colonisation rather than having been planted

White-rot. A range of kinds of wood decay in which lignin, usually together with cellulose and other wood constituents, is degraded

Wind exposure. The degree to which a tree or other object is exposed to wind, both in terms of duration and velocity

Wind pressure. The force exerted by a wind on a particular object

Windthrow. The blowing over of a tree at its roots

Wound dressing. A general term for sealants and other materials used to cover wounds in the hope of protecting them against desiccation and infection; only of proven value against fresh wound parasites

Woundwood. Wood with atypical anatomical features, formed in the vicinity of a wound