Thompson CONSULTANCY

# Arboricultural Report:

## Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Client:** | Curzon Church of England Primary School |
| **Site:** | Quarndon |
| | Derbyshire |
| **Postcode:** | DE22 5JA |
| **Date:** | 10th November 2025 |
| **Prepared by:** | Mike Kiss BSc (Hons), Dip Arb L6, RCArborA, MArborA, VETcert |
| **Checked by:** | David Robinson FdSc (Arb), Tech Cert (ArborA), MArborA |

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Terms of Instruction

1.1.1 Thompson Tree Services (UK) Limited, trading as Thompson Consultancy, have been instructed by Vickie Ryde to carry out a walkover assessment of trees at The Curzon Church of England Primary School, Quarndon, with individual tree inspections as required; and to produce a report.

1.1.2 The principal objectives are to:

a) Undertake a walkover assessment of all trees on site and make individual tree inspections as required

b) Schedule site compartments and selected individual trees and tree groups, to include basic data, tree dimensions and locations

c) Provide an appraisal of Risk of Harm due to tree failure, utilising the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) method

d) Provide prioritised management recommendations

## 1.2 The Author

1.2.1 The author of this report is Mike Kiss BSc (Hons), Dip Arb L6 (ABC), RCArborA, MArborA, VETcert.

1.2.2 I am an arboricultural consultant at Thompson Consultancy. I have eighteen years' experience in arboriculture, fourteen of which have been in an advisory role, both as an arboricultural consultant and as a Local Authority Tree Officer.

1.2.3 I am a Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association. I hold the Level Six Diploma in Arboriculture, Professional Tree Inspection and Certified Veteran Tree Specialist qualifications, and I'm a Registered User of Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA). I am also a professional member of the Arboricultural Association and uphold the standards set out in their code of conduct and ethics.

## 1.3 Information Provided

1.3.1 Prior to my site visit I was provided with a plan of the site with the boundaries clearly marked.

## 1.4 Site Location

1.4.1 The Curzon Church of England Primary School is located off Church Road, Quarndon, Derbyshire, DE22 5JA as illustrated below (figures 1 & 2). A brief site description is provided in Observations (section 3).




**Figure 1:** Aerial photograph of the site. Map data ©2025 Google.




**Figure 2:** Aerial photograph of the site with indicative boundary marked. Map data ©2025 Microsoft Corporation.

# 2. DESK STUDY & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

## 2.1 Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas

2.1.1 Trees may be offered statutory protection under the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) (as amended) and Town and Country (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations (2012). Further information about Tree Preservation Orders and trees in Conservation Areas can be found on the UK Government website [1].

2.1.2 According to the interactive mapping systems provided by both Amber Valley Borough Council [2] and Derbyshire County Council [3] it appears that no trees on site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). However, a small part of the front of the site, nearest Church Road, lies within a Conservation Area (CA). As such a notification of intent of works must be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) a minimum of six weeks prior to undertaking tree works in this area. It should be noted that this service is not intended to be definitive, and the LPA should be contacted to confirm this status.

## 2.2 Felling Licence

2.2.1 The removal of trees is restricted under the Forestry Act (1967) such that a felling licence may be required to implement proposed tree works, with limited exceptions.

2.2.2 Exceptions to the requirement for a licence include the felling of upto 5 cubic metres ($m^3$) in any calendar quarter, as long as no more than $2m^3$ are sold. Further information can be found on the UK Government website [4].

## 2.3 Land Based Designations / Ancient Trees & Woodland

2.3.1 According to the UK Governments MAGIC Website [5] no part of the site is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The site does not contain Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ANSW) nor Planation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS).

2.3.2 The Ancient Tree Inventory [6] does not hold records of any notable, veteran or ancient trees on site. It should be noted that this inventory is reliant on volunteer submitted records and associated limitations should be recognised.

[1] Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[2] Geo Datasets (accessed 10.11.25)
[3] Derbyshire Mapping Portal (accessed 10.11.25)
[4] Tree felling licence: when you need to apply - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[5] Magic Map Application (defra.gov.uk)
[6] Tree Search - Ancient Tree Inventory (woodlandtrust.org.uk)

## 2.4 Duty of Care

2.4.1 A legal duty of care is owed through both statute and common law in regard to risk from tree failure. The principal statutory legislation is under the Occupiers Liability Act (1957), the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and the Highways Act (1980).

2.4.2 The duty is owed by the person who has control over a tree's management, this may be the owner, licensee or occupier of land on which the tree stands (the 'duty holder'). "It is the duty holder's fundamental responsibility as a reasonable and prudent landowner, to consider the risks posed by their trees." (NTSG 2024 [7] ).

## 2.5 Wildlife Legislation

2.5.1 Statutory protection of flora and fauna in England and Wales is provided by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) and the Conservation of Species and Habitat Regulations (2017) (as amended).

2.5.2 A wildlife and biosecurity assessment should be carried out and findings used to inform how and when any works are to be carried out. The responsibility for this lies with the tree work contractor and should be included on their pre-work site assessment.

[7] NTSG Publications | The National Tree Safety Group

# 3. OBSERVATIONS

## 3.1 Site Visit & Tree Survey

3.1.1 I made an unaccompanied visit of site on 10th November 2025 and undertook my tree survey and inspections on the same day.

3.1.2 Access throughout the curtilage of the site was unrestricted and my inspection was not impeded by the weather. The deciduous trees were at various stages of the annual process of leaf abscission.

3.1.3 I undertook my tree survey and inspections using the Visual Tree Assessment method (Mattheck & Breloer 2006) stage one and preliminary stage two.

3.1.4 The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) method has been applied in consideration of the risks associated with structural tree failure. The QTRA method applies established and accepted risk management principles to tree safety management. It is used to assess the annual Risk of Harm from tree failure which can then be considered against risks encountered elsewhere and set against the Tolerability of Risk framework (HSE 2001). Comparison with this framework allows risks from trees to be assigned as 'Broadly Acceptable', 'Tolerable' or 'Unacceptable'.

3.1.5 Further information on tree assessment is provided in 'Methodology' (section 9) and limitations associated with my inspection and the contents of this report are detailed in 'Report Limitations' (section 10).

## 3.2 Site Appraisal & General Arboricultural Observations

3.2.1 The site comprises school buildings, a car park, hard surfaced playground all-weather pitches and a school field totalling approximately 0.5 hectares.

3.2.2 The site is bordered by Church Road to the northwest, St Paul's Church to the northeast, residential properties to the southwest and open fields to the east and southeast. It lies at an altitude of approximately 125m above sea level and slopes down gradually to the south.

3.2.3 The topography of the local area and the surrounding features indicates that the site is moderately exposed, although is more sheltered from winds from the northeast.

3.2.4 The tree population of the site includes linear groups of mature trees around the perimeter of the school field and informal tree groups elsewhere. There are few semi-mature trees and no newly planted trees on site.

3.2.5 Species comprise lime *(Tilia x europaea),* maple *(Acer platanoides),* ash *(Fraxinus excelsior),* oak *(Quercus robur),* birch *(Betula pendula)* and cherry *(Prunus avium).*

3.2.6 In my opinion, the tree population makes a valuable contribution to the arboricultural amenity of the site and forms strong landscape features.

## 3.3 Summary of Risk Assessment

3.3.1 A summary of my findings and risk assessment of trees identified individually is outlined below. The complete data set and comments resulting from my survey (including individual QTRA Risk of Harm calculations), are presented in the Tree Schedule (appendix 1). Note that additional trees present on-site with a 'Broadly Acceptable' risk of harm have not been recorded individually, unless there is a particular reason to do so.

| Tree ID | Tree Species | Key Observations | QTRA Risk of Harm |
|---|---|---|---|
| T1 | Birch | Apparent history of branch failure / Partially failed secondary branch hung-up in crown | Tolerable if ALARP |
| G2 | Stump Group | Group of 3no. stumps / 1no. ash habitat stem and 2no. low stumps | Broadly Acceptable |
| G3 | Mixed Species Group | Group of 3no. trees adjacent playground / school field / Deadwood throughout crowns | Unacceptable (as imposed on others) |
| T4 | Birch | Wound and incipient decay of lower stem / Dieback of central leader | Tolerable if ALARP |
| T5 | Whitebeam | Historically partially windthrown / Acute lean to main stem | Tolerable if ALARP |
| T6 | Rowan | Incipient decay of lower stem / Moribund tree | Tolerable if ALARP |
| G7 | Ash Group | Not currently exhibiting symptoms of ash dieback / Deadwood throughout crowns | Tolerable if ALARP |
| T8 | Willow | Tight forks and included bark between codominant stems / Advanced decay of lower stem / Southern stems dead or moribund | Unacceptable (as imposed on others) |
| G9 | Lime Group | Linear group of mature lime trees / Basal epicormic growth / No apparent significant defects | Broadly Acceptable |

**Table 1:** Summary of Risk Assessment

# 4. DISCUSSION

## 4.1 Target Values & Target Management

4.1.1 Assessment of target value has been made from my observations on site. These should be reviewed by a member of staff who are familiar with the use of the site and any comments or discrepancies reported to Thompson Consultancy.

4.1.2 The nature of the site suggests that occupation and target values are likely to be consistently high throughout the site. A precautionary approach is taken to the assessment of occupation of school grounds. *"A child's perception of danger may be quite different to that expected of a mature adult and we should be mindful of this when assessing areas where children may play … children congregate in some areas almost irrespective of the weather albeit at reduced levels."* (QTRA 2018).

4.1.3 A key factor to consider is whether the occupation or target values are likely to vary with weather conditions likely to promote tree failure (i.e. high wind events).

4.1.4 In my assessment, the target values of the school entrance, car park and adjacent built structures and property are unlikely to change with weather conditions and cannot be controlled (not weather affected targets).

4.1.5 The hard surfaced playgrounds and all-weather pitches are generally likely to be used throughout the year, although there may be the opportunity for some control over their occupation (moderately weather affected targets).

4.1.6 However, it appears likely that the school field and unsurfaced play areas will be used less regularly through the winter, and that occupation will be heavily reduced during weather events likely to promote tree failure. Also, there is an opportunity to control occupation of the areas within the school grounds (highly weather affected target).

4.1.7 I suggest a proportionate approach would be to restrict access to certain areas during extreme weather events. See Recommendations (section 6).

## 4.2 Ash Trees *(Fraxinus excelsior)*

4.2.1 There are several ash trees throughout the site. None of the ash were in leaf at the time of inspection. It was therefore not possible to make a full assessment of the presence or extent of ash dieback. However, none are currently exhibiting symptoms of any more than minor infection.

4.2.2 Symptoms of ash dieback include leaf wilt, leaf loss, crown dieback and bark lesions. Epicormic shoots are often formed as a stress response on affected trees and result in a bushy appearance in the crown.

4.2.3 As yet, there has been limited research into the effect of ash dieback on the structural integrity of infected trees, although embrittlement of wood is widely reported. The rate of physiological decline has been observed to vary greatly between trees with different genetic makeup and tolerance to the disease.

4.2.4 Any reduction in tree vitality promotes conditions for secondary infection by pathogens such as honey fungus *(Armillaria mellea)* and wood decay fungi such as giant ash bracket *(Perenniporia fraxinea)* or shaggy bracket *(Inonotus hispidus).* This makes prognosis for infected ash trees less certain and increases the importance of undertaking regular formal inspections and informal checks.

4.2.5 Annual collection and removal of leaf litter (during winter) by burning, burying or deep composting is a potential control measure. As the fungus overwinters in the leaf litter this disrupts the reproductive stage of its life cycle, decreases sporulation and potentially minimises spread of the disease.

## 4.3 New Tree Planting Opportunities

4.3.1 There appears to be potential for additional planting to enhance the arboricultural amenity of the site. This would also serve to increase the species and age class diversity, promoting a resilient and sustainable tree population.

4.3.2 New tree planting and aftercare is particularly important in a school setting, where the planting and aftercare of young trees may be linked to the school curriculum and a connection with trees can be established at a young age.

4.3.3 Where large spaces are available; planting amenity trees of large mature dimensions and long-life expectancy should be encouraged due to the enhanced benefits they provide.

4.3.4 Where space is limited, smaller ornamental or fruit trees may be appropriate. The Tree Council administers the 'Orchards for Schools' scheme [8] which can provide grants for projects on school sites.

4.3.5 A readily accessible guide to the planting and establishment of young trees in the landscape is freely available from the Arboricultural Association [9].

[8] Orchards for Schools - The Tree Council
[9] Arboricultural Association - Guide to Young Tree Establishment (trees.org.uk)

# 5. CONCLUSIONS

## 5.1 General

5.1.1 Thompson Consultancy were instructed to undertake a walkover tree risk assessment of trees at Curzon Church of England Primary School with individual tree inspections as required.

5.1.2 My desk study indicates that no trees on site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order. However, part of the site does lie within a Conservation Area.

5.1.3 I undertook my tree survey and inspections using the Visual Tree Assessment and Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) methods.

5.1.4 The tree population of the site includes linear groups of mature trees around the perimeter of the school field and informal tree groups elsewhere.

5.1.5 In my opinion, the tree population makes a valuable contribution to the arboricultural amenity of the site and forms strong landscape features.

5.1.6 There appears to be opportunity for new tree planting throughout the site.

## 5.2 Risk of Harm and Risk Management

5.2.1 In my assessment, several trees currently pose an annual Risk of Harm of greater than 1/10K. These risks should not be considered Tolerable as they are imposed on others. I have made recommendations for pruning of these trees, as a high priority.

5.2.2 Several other trees or groups of trees have a Risk of Harm greater than 1/100K. Although such risk may be considered Tolerable if As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP), as the risks are at the upper end of the Tolerable region and likely to increase in the near future, I consider that these risks should be controlled. I have made recommendations for pruning of these trees, as a medium priority.

5.2.3 There is also an opportunity to control risk through restricting access to certain areas of the site during weather conditions which may promote likelihood of failure.

## 5.3 Good Arboricultural Management & Tree Related Nuisance

5.3.1 Further management recommendations are made for tree with Risk of Harm of less than 1/100K. These recommendations are made in the interest of good arboricultural management, due to foreseeable deterioration in condition or to abate a nuisance. These works are assigned a medium or low priority.

# 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

## 6.1 Summary of Recommendations

6.1.1 A summary of my recommendations is outlined below. My recommendations are presented in full in the Tree Schedule (appendix 1), corresponding to trees plotted on the Tree Location Plan (appendix 2).

## 6.2 High Priority Management Recommendations

6.2.1 I recommend that the following work is carried out as a high priority and within six months of the date of this report:

| Tree ID | Tree Species | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| G3 | Mixed Species Group | Remove deadwood |
| T8 | Willow | 'Pollard' at approximately 2m |

**Table 2:** High priority management recommendations

## 6.3 Medium Priority Management Recommendations

6.3.1 I recommend that the following work is carried out as a medium priority and within twelve months of the date of this report:

| Tree ID | Tree Species | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| T1 | Birch | Remove partially failed, hung-up branch<br>Reduce crown by approximately 1.5m - 2.5m in height and 0.5m - 1m laterally |
| G7 | Ash Group | Stabilise major deadwood |

**Table 3:** Medium priority management recommendations

## 6.4 Low Priority Management Recommendations

6.4.1 I recommend that the following work is carried out as a low priority in line with good arboricultural management, as and when resources allow:

| Tree ID | Tree Species | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| G2 | Stump Group | Remove and grind stumps<br>Reduce ash to low habitat stem at 1m - 1.5m and cut additional habitat features |
| G3 | Mixed Species Group | Remove section of flexible surfacing within 1m radius of stems and apply woodchip mulch |
| T4 | Birch | Remove and replace |
| T6 | Rowan | Remove |
| G9 | Lime Group | Remove epicormic growth to 4m to facilitate future inspection |

**Table 4:** Low priority management recommendations

## 6.5 Formal Reinspection & Informal Checks

6.5.1 I recommend that all retained trees are formally reinspected within two years of the date of this report.

6.5.2 Formal tree inspections should be undertaken by an arboriculturist who holds the Professional Tree Inspection (PTI) as a minimum; and ideally an Arboricultural Association Registered Consultant (AARC). A list of these is available from the Arboricultural Association [10].

6.5.3 In addition, I recommend that regular informal checks are made of retained trees for obvious changes in condition or presence of annual fungal fruiting bodies. Checks should also be carried out after high wind events. If any defects are noted or there is a significant change in condition from the benchmark set out in this report, then a suitably qualified arboriculturist should be consulted. Particular attention should be paid to the ash trees on site regarding ash dieback due to the potential for rapid deterioration in their condition.

6.5.4 I suggest that consideration should be given to members of the ground staff undertaking Basic Tree Inspection training (Lantra Awards) to aid in making informal checks of trees. Details are available from the Arboricultural Association [11].

[10] Arboricultural Association - Registered Consultant Directory (trees.org.uk)
[11] Arboricultural Association - Training & Events (trees.org.uk)

## 6.6 Tree Related Policy Documents

6.6.1 I recommend that access to the following areas should be restricted during periods of 'severe weather' likely to promote structural tree failure, as detailed in the Met Office Severe Weather Warning Service [12] :

- Met Office amber warning of severe weather: Restrict access to school field and forest school areas
- Met Office red warning of severe weather: Restricted access extended to include all outside areas within falling distance of trees, wherever practicable

## 6.7 General Recommendations

6.7.1 My assessment of target values as set out in this report should be reviewed by the site manager who is familiar with the use of the site and any comments or discrepancies reported to Thompson Consultancy.

6.7.2 All tree work should be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations' and all tree planting and aftercare should be carried out in accordance with British Standard 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations.'

6.7.3 I recommend that an Arboricultural Association Approved Contractor (AAAC) is used to carry out all tree work. A list of these is available from the Arboricultural Association [13].

6.7.4 As inspections have been carried out from ground level, it is recommended that the brief for the arboricultural contractors should include reporting of any additional defects that are evident from within the crown of any trees which are to be climbed. Similarly, if the removal of basal growth or ivy reveals hidden defects then these should be documented and an arboriculturist should be consulted.

6.7.5 Notification of intent of works must be submitted six weeks prior to undertaking any works to trees within a Conservation Area, with limited exceptions (see section 2.2).

6.7.6 Consideration should be given to development of a planting and aftercare scheme to further enhance the arboricultural value of the site and to help develop a resilient and sustainable tree population.

[12] Weather warnings guide - Met Office
[13] Arboricultural Association - ARB Approved Contractor Directory (trees.org.uk)

# 7. DISCLAIMER

7.1.1 Reports remain the copyright of Thompson Consultancy and any transfer to a third party must be with our express consent.



10th November 2025

**Mike Kiss** **DATE**

# 8. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

## 8.1 Qualifications

2023 Certified Veteran Tree Specialist - Consulting Level (VETCert)

2021 Level 6 Diploma in Arboriculture (ABC)

2018 Quantified Tree Risk Assessment: Registered User (QTRA)

2010 Professional Tree Inspection (Lantra)

2009 Technicians Certificate in Arboriculture (Arboricultural Association)

2001 BSc (Hons) Geography (The University of Sheffield)

## 8.2 Experience

8.2.1 I have eighteen years' experience in arboriculture, having started 'on the tools' as a climber, team leader and supervisor for several Arboricultural Association Approved Contractors. I have also spent fourteen years in an advisory role, both as an arboricultural consultant in the private sector and as a Local Authority Tree Officer (Bristol City Council 2011 – 2012).

8.2.2 My current role as an arboricultural consultant at Thompson Consultancy involves undertaking tree surveys and preparing reports relating to tree condition, tree risk assessment (QTRA), trees and development (BS5837), homebuyer / mortgage reports, management of veteran trees, and tree planting schemes.

## 8.3 Memberships & Accreditations

8.3.1 Arboricultural Association: Registered Consultant (RCArborA) (RC203)

8.3.2 Arboricultural Association: Professional Member (MArborA) (PR7385)

# 9. METHODOLOGY

## 9.1 Visual Tree Assessment

9.1.1 The tree inspection was carried out in accordance with the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method (Mattheck & Breloer 2006), which provides a systematic framework for formal tree inspection, as summarised:

i. VTA Stage 1 - Visual inspection for defect symptoms and vitality
ii. VTA Stage 2 - Confirmation of presence or absence of defect(s)
iii. VTA Stage 3 - Measurement & assessment of defect(s) and residual strength

9.1.2 This inspection was initially undertaken from ground level and in accordance with stage one VTA, involving the use of non-invasive methods to identify tree health issues and structural defects by visual observation. Where appropriate, use of a nylon sounding mallet and a probe has been made (preliminary stage two VTA).

9.1.3 Should a more detailed inspection be required then this will be highlighted in the recommendations. This may involve the use of decay detection tools or aerial inspection (advanced stage two VTA) and interpretation of findings to form a prognosis (stage three VTA).

## 9.2 Data Collection

9.2.1 Pear Technology 'PT Mapper Pro' is used in the collection and presentation of data. The locations of trees and arboricultural features have been plotted onto a geo-referenced aerial photograph purchased from Bluesky Mapping.

9.2.2 The following information was collected for each tree:

- Tree / Group ID: sequential reference number
- Species: common & botanical
- Dimensions: height, average crown spread radius & stem diameter
- Comments: potentially significant features & defects
- Physiological & Structural Condition: good / fair / poor
- Management Recommendations: prioritised

9.2.3 Dimensions have been estimated unless a greater level of accuracy is deemed necessary. Stem diameter has been measured at a height of 1.5m.

9.2.4 Selected photographs are presented in this report (and / or appendices) as documented evidence of the trees condition at the time of the survey. Additional photographs may be kept on record at the discretion of Thompson Consultancy.

## 9.3 Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

9.3.1 The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) method has been applied in consideration of risks associated with trees. The QTRA method applies established and accepted risk management principles to tree safety management.

9.3.2 A quantified assessment of the target value, size of part and likelihood of failure are made individually. These are then used as inputs to the QTRA model, which calculates an annual Risk of Harm from tree failure. This can then be considered against risks encountered elsewhere and set against the Tolerability of Risk framework (HSE 2001).

9.3.3 In applying the Tolerability of Risk to QTRA, there are three key threshold values;

i. Broadly Acceptable: Risk of Harm is less than 1/1M is and considered As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP).

ii. Unacceptable: Risk of Harm 1/1000 or greater will not ordinarily be tolerated.

iii. Tolerable: this region lies between these two thresholds. The Risk of Harm will be tolerable if it is As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP). Management decisions in this region are informed by consideration of the costs and benefits of risk control. NB: A Risk of Harm 1/10K or greater will not ordinarily be Tolerable where it is imposed on others.

9.3.4 Selected trees are recorded individually if assessment indicates that the Risk of Harm is outside the 'Broadly Acceptable' range. The remaining tree population may contain minor defects that are generally not recorded individually unless they are of sufficient concern to affect the risk assessment, or there is a particular reason to do so.

9.3.5 It is important to note that it is not the purpose of the survey to make a definitive statement on the safety of your tree or to provide predictions of what will or will not happen, as this would not be reasonably practicable.

9.3.6 Further guidance on the method, its application, and the use of results to inform management decisions is provided in the QTRA Practice Note [14]. Note that it is assumed that the tree owner / manager accepts the principles set out in the Practice Note unless Thompson Consultancy are otherwise notified.

[14] QUANTIFIED TREE RISK ASSESSMENT PRACTICE NOTE V5.3.6 (GB) 2022-01 English.docx (qtra.co.uk)

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

**Table 1:** QTRA Advisory Risk Thresholds

# 10. REPORT LIMITATIONS

## 10.1 Limitations: Generic

10.1.1 The information, opinions and recommendations contained within this report are based on my site observations and information provided, interpreted in the context of my arboricultural knowledge & experience (section 8).

10.1.2 This report details the trees condition as observed on the day of the survey and assessed within their current context and surrounding land use. Trees are living organic structures whose condition can change rapidly. Due to the unpredictable laws and forces of nature, and a natural failure rate of intact trees, no tree should ever be considered absolutely safe from failure.

10.1.3 Thompson Consultancy is insured to the sum of £5,000,000 Professional Indemnity for suitably qualified personnel to carry out tree inspections and reports.

## 10.2 Limitations: Site Specific

10.2.1 This report has been complied with the use of data collected from ground level inspection in accordance with the methodology described (section 9).

10.2.2 Inherent limitations associated with tree risk assessment and its component stages should be recognised (i.e. assessment of target value, likelihood of failure and the size of tree or part). The combination of VTA and QTRA provide a clear systematic process by which hazards are identified and risks are assessed. Both have been refined over many years of use throughout the arboricultural profession, are highly credible and have a history of application in court cases, where they have provided a robust and defensible system.

10.2.3 On the day of my site visit, access throughout the curtilage of the property was unlimited. However, due to difficulties associated with confines of the site regarding adjacent properties, nature of ground features, and proximity of adjacent trees I was not able to view all parts of the tree crowns from all angles. The inspection was restricted where basal growth or other vegetation obscured lower stems and root flare.

10.2.4 No below ground assessment or excavation has been attempted, nor has any effort been made to assess subsidence risk potential or direct damage caused by roots.

10.2.5 Ash dieback is a relatively recent pathogen to the UK and there has been limited research into the rate of deterioration in structural integrity of infected trees. There remains increased uncertainty in assessing the probability of tree failure and in forming a prognosis.

10.2.6 The content of this report is valid until the reinspection dates set out in Recommendations (section 6), or until any significant alteration to the site or surrounding area that may affect the trees or their targets; whichever is sooner.

# 11. REFERENCES


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Lonsdale, D (1999) *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management.* Research for Amenity Trees No. 7. DETR

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Slater, D (2016) *Assessment of Tree Forks: Assessment of Junctions for Risk Management.* Arboricultural Association

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Watson, G & Green, T (2011) *Fungi on Trees - An Arborists' Field Guide.* Arboricultural Association

# 12. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### Walk-over Tree Inspection

A 'walk-over' tree inspection is a subcategory of 'formal tree inspection' whereby a general overview of the trees within the site (or each compartment) is taken and signs or symptoms of defects which might be significant in relation to the targets, are identified. Trees with potentially significant defects are then risk assessed individually as described in 'Individual Tree Inspection'

### Individual Tree Inspection

An individual tree inspection is a subcategory of 'formal tree inspection' whereby trees with signs or symptoms of defects which might be significant in relation to the targets, as identified by the 'walk-over' tree inspection shall be assessed using the QTRA method.

Selected trees are recorded individually in the Tree Schedule and plotted on the Tree Location Plan if assessment indicates that the Risk of Harm is outside the 'Broadly Acceptable' range (>1/1M).

The remaining tree population may contain minor defects that are generally not recorded individually unless they are of sufficient concern to affect the risk assessment, or there is a particular reason to do so.

### Age Class

- Newly Planted: A tree which is not yet fully established in the landscape
- Young: A young tree which is established in the landscape
- Semi-mature: A tree in the first third of its typical life expectancy
- Early Mature: A tree in the second third of typical life expectancy
- Mature: A tree in the final third of its typical life expectancy
- Late Mature: A tree approaching or exceeding typical life expectancy

### Tree Dimensions

- Height: Estimated total height of the tree
- Spread: Estimated average crown spread radius
- Stem diameter: Estimated at a height of 1.5m

### **Condition:** Structural & Physiological

- Good: Containing no apparent significant defects or pathogens
- Fair: Containing defects or pathogens that have potential to have an impact on the function of the tree, or component of the tree
- Poor: Containing defects or pathogens that significantly compromise structural integrity or cause dysfunction to the tree, or component of the tree
- Moribund / Dead: Tree with no significant live growth

### Priority of Work

- Emergency Work: To be undertaken within timeframe as stated within report
- High Priority: To be undertaken within six months of the date of report
- Medium Priority: To be undertaken within twelve months of the date of report
- Low Priority: To be carried out in the interests of good arboricultural management as and when resources allow

# Appendix 1

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## Compartment 1: Entire Site

| Common Name | Botanical Name | Height (m) | Stem (mm) | Age Class |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ash | *Fraxinus excelsior* | 18 | 600 | Mature |
| Norway Maple | *Acer platanoides* | 16 | 600 | Mature |
| Lime | *Tilia x europaea* | 18 | 550 | Mature |
| Cherry | *Prunus sp.* | 15 | 450 | Mature |
| Goat Willow | *Salix caprea* | 14 | 450 | Mature |
| Silver Birch | *Betula pendula* | 16 | 350 | Early Mature |
| Pedunculate Oak | *Quercus robur* | 15 | 350 | Early Mature |
| Whitebeam | *Sorbus aria* | 5 | 250 | Semi-mature |
| Rowan | *Sorbus aucuparia* | 6 | 200 | Semi-mature |

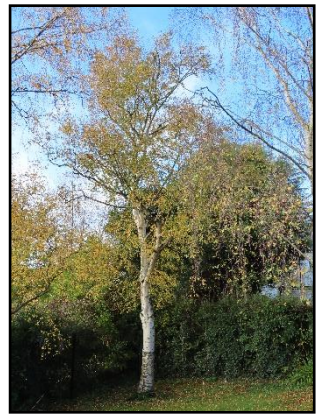


**Comments**

- Entire site considered as single compartment due to size and absence of obvious delineating features.
- The largest tree of each species within the compartment is recorded in the Compartment Schedule, presented above.
- Any individual trees and groups of trees with an associated annual risk of harm in excess of 1/1M are recorded in the Tree Schedule, presented below.
- Additional trees and groups of trees are included if there is a particular reason to do so.
- **See Individual Tree Schedule for T1 - G9**

## Tree 1 — Birch *(Betula pendula)*





| Tag | Height (m) | Spread (m) | Stem (mm) | Age Class | Physiological | Structural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | 16 | 5 | 350 | Early Mature | Good | Fair |

| QTRA Risk of Harm | Target Range | Size Range | Probability of Failure |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1/50K | 3 | 3 | 2 |

**Comments**

Tree located adjacent western boundary. Minor damage to butresses, possibly attributable to mower damage. Apparent history of branch failure and pruning wounds throughout crown, with various extent of decay and woundwood. Partially failed secondary branch hung-up in crown at time of inspection. QTRA: Failure of partially failed branch onto grass area / garden of adjacent property.

| Management Recommendations | Priority |
|---|---|
| Remove partially failed, hung-up branch<br>Reduce crown by approximately 1.5m - 2.5m in height and 0.5m - 1m laterally | Medium |

---

## Group 2 — Stump Group





| Tag | Height (m) | Spread (m) | Stem (mm) | Age Class | Physiological | Structural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | 5 | 1 | 500 | Early Mature | Poor | Fair |

| QTRA Risk of Harm | Target Range | Size Range | Probability of Failure |
|---|---|---|---|
| <1/1M | 2 | 1 | 5 |

**Comments**

Group of 3no. stumps located adjacent hard surfaced playground / school field. Group includes 1no. ash habitat stem at height of approximately 5m with dense regrowth. Sounding of lower stem with a nylon mallet indicates no significant decay at present, although foreseeable in the future. Also 2no. low stumps which are obvious trip hazards adjacent play equipment. Stump to the northwest is that of a previously windthrown tree. QTRA: Failure of ash stem in play area.

| Management Recommendations | Priority |
|---|---|
| Remove and grind stumps<br>Reduce ash to low habitat stem at 1m - 1.5m and cut additional habitat features | Low |

## Group 3 — Mixed Species Group





| Tag | Height (m) | Spread (m) | Stem (mm) | Age Class | Physiological | Structural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | 16 | 7 | 600 | Mature | Good | Fair |

| QTRA Risk of Harm | Target Range | Size Range | Probability of Failure |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1/10K | 2 | 4 | 1 |

**Comments**

Group of 3no. trees located adjacent hard surfaced playground / school field. Play equipment within crown extent of trees. Species comprise maple, cherry and oak. Flexible surface at base of trees, contacting butresses / lower stems. Recent (poor) pruning cuts and stubs on all trees. Exposed to increased and unaccustomed wind loading with past removal / failure of adjacent trees. Deadwood throughout crowns. QTRA: Failure of deadwood onto play equipment. Reduced mass x.05

| Management Recommendations | Priority |
|---|---|
| Remove deadwood | High |
| Remove section of flexible surfacing within 1m radius of stems and apply woodchip mulch | Low |

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## Tree 4 — Birch *(Betula pendula)*





| Tag | Height (m) | Spread (m) | Stem (mm) | Age Class | Physiological | Structural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | 5 | 2 | 150 | Young | Reduced | Poor |

| QTRA Risk of Harm | Target Range | Size Range | Probability of Failure |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1/50K | 2 | 3 | 3 |

**Comments**

Tree located adjacent western boundary / all-weather pitches. Past wound to lower stem with section of bark missing around entire circumference of stem. Incipient decay of lower stem. Dieback of central leader. QTRA: Failure of entire tree onto gardens / all-weather pitches

| Management Recommendations | Priority |
|---|---|
| Remove and replace | Low |

## Tree 5 — Whitebeam *(Sorbus aria)*





| Tag | Height (m) | Spread (m) | Stem (mm) | Age Class | Physiological | Structural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | 5 | 4 | 250 | Semi-mature | Good | Fair |

| QTRA Risk of Harm | Target Range | Size Range | Probability of Failure |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1/500K | 3 | 3 | 3 |

**Comments**

Tree located in southern corner of school field. Historically partially windthrown, with acute lean to main stem and asymetric crown. Lateral branches are now vertical and codominant. QTRA: Failure of entire tree onto grass.

| Management Recommendations | Priority |
|---|---|
| No work required | N/A |

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## Tree 6 — Rowan *(Sorbus aucuparia)*





| Tag | Height (m) | Spread (m) | Stem (mm) | Age Class | Physiological | Structural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | 6 | 2 | 200 | Semi-mature | Poor | Poor |

| QTRA Risk of Harm | Target Range | Size Range | Probability of Failure |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1/50K | 3 | 3 | 2 |

**Comments**

Tree located in southern corner of school field. Incipient decay of lower stem. Moribund. QTRA: Failure of entire tree onto grass.

| Management Recommendations | Priority |
|---|---|
| Remove | Low |

## Group 7 — Ash *(Fraxinus excelsior)*





| Tag | Height (m) | Spread (m) | Stem (mm) | Age Class | Physiological | Structural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | 18 | 8 | 600 | Mature | Fair | Fair |

| QTRA Risk of Harm | Target Range | Size Range | Probability of Failure |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1/100K | 3 | 4 | 1 |

**Comments**

Group of 3no. ash located adjacent eastern boundary / school field. Not currently exhibiting symptoms of ash dieback, although not in leaf at time of inspection. Deadwood throughout crowns. QTRA: Failure of deadwood onto school field. Reduced mass x0.5

| Management Recommendations | Priority |
|---|---|
| Stabilise major deadwood | Medium |

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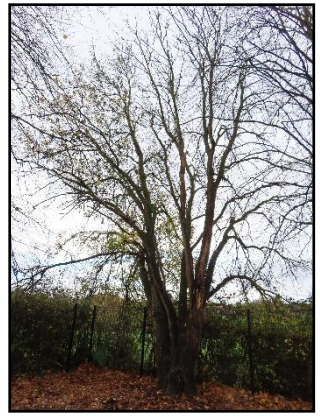
## Tree 8 — Goat Willow *(Salix caprea)*





| Tag | Height (m) | Spread (m) | Stem (mm) | Age Class | Physiological | Structural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | 14 | 5 | 450 | Mature | Reduced | Poor |

| QTRA Risk of Harm | Target Range | Size Range | Probability of Failure |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1/5K | 3 | 3 | 1 |

**Comments**

Tree located adjacent eastern boundary / corner of school field. Multi-stemmed tree with tight forks and included bark between codominant stems. Advanced decay of lower stem with several juvenile fungal fruiting bodies. Not identified. Southern stems dead or moribund. QTRA: Failure of subdominant stem or primary branch onto school field.

| Management Recommendations | Priority |
|---|---|
| 'Pollard' at approximately 2m | High |

## Group 9 — Lime *(Tilia x europaea)*

| Tag | Height (m) | Spread (m) | Stem (mm) | Age Class | Physiological | Structural |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | 18 | 6 | 550 | Mature | Good | Good |

| QTRA Risk of Harm | Target Range | Size Range | Probability of Failure |
|---|---|---|---|
| <1/1M | 3 | 3 | 6 |





**Comments**

Linear group of 6no. limes located northern boundary / school field. Basal epicormic growth prevents full inspection. No apparent significant defects. QTRA: Failure of secondary branch onto school field.

| Management Recommendations | Priority |
|---|---|
| Remove epicormic growth to 4m to facilitate future inspection | Low |

# Appendix 2

Thompson CONSULTANCY

Thompson Tree Services (UK) Ltd.
Ashleigh House, Wirksworth, DE4 4FR
www.thompson-treeservices.co.uk
info@thompson-treeservices.co.uk
01629 824079

**Site:** Curzon C of E Primary School
**Address:** Quarndon, DE22 5JA
**Plan:** QTRA Tree Location Plan

**SCALE :** 1 : 750 @ A4

**DATE :** 10/11/2025

Map data shown may contain Ordnance Survey ® products supplied by Pear Technology Services Ltd.
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Map data shown may contain aerial images and LiDAR data purchased from Bluesky Mapping

NOTES:

1. This drawing was originally produced in colour. A monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

2. Any discrepancies and / or omissions identified on this plan should be reported to Thompson Consultancy.

3. Tree location is based on aerial imagery and observations made on site and should be considered indicative.

**QTRA ADVISORY RISK THRESHOLDS**

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

Recreated from QTRA Practice note (2018).
Based upon Tolerability of Risk Framework (HSE 2001)

**Legend**

- Site Boundary (approx.)
- Additional Trees - Not Recorded Indiviually
- QTRA 'Broadly Acceptable'
- QTRA 'Tolerable if ALARP'
- QTRA 'Tolerable' to 'Unacceptable'
- QTRA 'Unacceptable'

