

# SJM

## tree services

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# BURLESCOMBE

## ORL

### Tree Safety Survey

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Date: 06.01.2026

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## Information

Client:	Susan McGeever	Ref:	SJMTS03
Site Location:	Burlescombe ORL		
Date of Inspection:	06.01.2026		
Viewing Conditions:	Good, sunny day.		
Assessor:	Sam Manaton		
Report Author:	Sam Manaton		
Signature:		Report Date:	06.01.2026

## Instruction

I have been instructed by Susan McGeever (Agent) on behalf of Burlescombe Parish Council to carry out a Tree Safety Survey of a group of trees situated at Burlescombe ORL. The boundary of the site has been provided as a red line shown on an Ordnance Survey map reference STO716NW in Appendix 7.

The purpose of this survey is to carry out a visual tree inspection of the group of trees identified, to assess the target areas and carry out a Tree Risk Assessment based on these findings using the QTRA methodology.

Recommendations will then be given for the management of the trees to achieve an acceptable level of risk.

## Methodology and Limitations

The survey will take place using the principles of Visual Tree Assessment.

The survey will be conducted from ground level only, using binoculars as appropriate.

The assessor will inspect each tree present within the boundary of the Old Railway Line and record information in the Tree Survey Schedule.

The assessor will look for signs of substantial tree hazard features or decline that may pose a risk in relation to the identified targets.

If a hazard is found an assessment using the QTRA methodology will then be carried out. This methodology is described in Appendix 1.

Where a Risk of Harm is not within the prescribed tolerable limits, recommendations to reduce the Risk of Harm to an acceptable level will be made.

Management recommendations, not in relation to safety, but to either alleviate a nuisance or avoid a future safety issue, may be commented on. These can be actioned at the client's discretion and will be prescribed a priority code.

Trees and groups will be identified on a Tree Location Plan. Trees will be identified as individual trees, referenced T1 or as groups referenced G. Individual trees within a group will be referenced, for example, as G1.01.

Trees will not be routinely tagged. Where safety or management works are recommended trees may be marked with spray paint or numbered with a tree tag if difficult to identify.

This report will be valid for 12 months from the date of inspection and in usual weather conditions for the site.

Trees are living dynamic structures; condition of trees and site characteristics can change. Furthermore, healthy trees can fail in adverse or unusual weather conditions, therefore the owner of the report cannot be held liable for such failures.

Trees within the survey remit but not individually recorded are either considered a low enough risk to not require an individual safety assessment or otherwise do not require comment.

## Target Values and Tolerable Risk

Target values are based on persons or property or other things of value (i.e. parked cars) which might be harmed by mechanical failure of the tree or by objects falling from it.

Where specific traffic counts are not available, traffic flow figures are taken from the <https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/> website.

Risk that is generally considered to be tolerable to impose on the public or property is 1/10,000. Risk values less than this are generally considered to be intolerable. This report will be based on this principle. More details of the methodology can be found in Appendix 1. A table showing advisory risk thresholds is shown in Appendix 3.

Those responsible for the management of the risk on site should assess as to whether this generally acceptable level of risk is tolerable to them or whether they would like to set their own thresholds.

Target ranges used, reflect normal daily use of the site upon current assessment. The assessor must be made aware of significant changes to the site or layout to avoid invalidating the risk assessment. For example, the building of a new dwelling or a one-off public event or open day. A table showing target ranges is shown in Appendix 2.

## Site Description

The trees identified for assessment in this survey are located within the boundary of Burlescombe ORL, the boundary of which is denoted by a red line drawn on the Ordnance Survey map reference STO716NW provided. This is shown in Appendix 7.

Burlescombe ORL is a publicly accessible footpath running along an old railway line running East to West. There is a historic railway embankment to the North and South of the path. The mature trees present are predominantly historic lapsed coppiced Ash, Sycamore and Oak. There is an understory of hazel and thorn, some of the hazel has been coppiced more recently whilst some is mature.

The trees included in the survey are shown in the tree survey schedule with a description of targets.

## Assessment Findings

Safety works are required to a group of Ash referenced G5 to bring the risk to an acceptable level.

Management recommendations have been made for G8 and G9 with work priority 2. These works are considered medium priority and recommended to be carried out within 12 months of the survey

Minor management recommendations have been made for G1, T1, G3, G4 with work priority 3. These works are low priority to be carried out at the client's discretion.

It is recommended that the site should be resurveyed in 18 months time from the date of this survey. This is to enable the trees to be viewed in the opposing seasons, alternating the surveys between winter and summer. This is advisable on this site to enable the Ash trees to be viewed in summer to assess any signs of Ash Die Back.

## Appendix:

### 1. QTRA Methodology

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) is an internationally recognised tree risk management framework for the assessment of the three primary components of tree failure risk. The assessment involves the estimation based on broad ranges of potential target, the size of the part of a tree that may potentially fail and the likelihood of failure to calculate the Risk of Harm (RoH). The risk assessment methodology is based around an assessment of the risk that may or may not happen within the coming 12-month period (QTRA Ltd, 2015). It is not an assessment of the Risk of Harm over a longer time period (such as 5 or 10 years).

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment Ltd (2015) provides a non-technical summary of the system as:

*Tree safety management is a matter of limiting the risk harm from tree failure while maintaining the benefits conferred by trees. Although it may seem counter intuitive, the condition of trees should not be the first consideration. Instead, tree managers should first take account of the usage of the land on which the trees stand, which in turn will inform the process of assessing the trees.*

*The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) system applies established and accepted risk management principles to tree safety management. Firstly, the targets (people and property) upon which trees could fail are assessed and quantified, thus enabling tree managers to determine whether to assess trees and to what degree of rigour a survey or inspection of the trees is required. Where necessary, the tree is then considered in terms of both size (potential impact) and probability of tree or branch failure. Values derived from the assessment of these three components (target, size and probability of failure) are combined to calculate the probability of significant harm occurring.*

*The system moves the management of tree safety away from labelling trees as either 'safe' or 'unsafe' and requiring definitive statements of tree safety from either tree surveyors or tree managers. Instead, QTRA quantifies the risk of harm from tree failure in a way that enables tree managers to balance safety with tree value and operate to predetermined risk thresholds. (QTRA Ltd 2015)*

The primary components of the risk assessment are defined and quantified in Appendix 2.

## 2. QTRA Components

### Target Ranges

Target ranges	Property (repair or replacement cost)	Human (not in vehicle)	Vehicle Traffic (number per day)	Range of Value (probability of occupation or fraction of £2000 000)
1	£2 000 000 > £200 000	<b>Occupation:</b> Constant – 2.5 hours / day. <b>Pedestrians &amp; Cyclist:</b> 720/hours – 73/hour	26000 -2700 @ 110kph (68mph) 32000 – 3300 @ 80kph (50mph) 47000 – 4800 @ 50 kph (32mph)	1/1 -> 1/10
2	£2 000 00 > £200 00	<b>Occupation:</b> 2.4 hours / day – 15mins/day <b>Pedestrians &amp; Cyclist:</b> 72/hours – 8/hour	2600 -270 @ 110kph (68mph) 3200 – 330 @ 80kph (50mph) 4700 – 480 @ 50 kph (32mph)	1/10 - >1/100
3	£20 000 > £2000	<b>Occupation:</b> 14mins/day – 2 mins/day <b>Pedestrians &amp; Cyclist:</b> 7/hours – 2/hour	260 -27 @ 110kph (68mph) 320 – 33 @ 80kph (50mph) 470 – 48 @ 50 kph (32mph)	1/100 - >1/1000
4	£2000 > £200	<b>Occupation:</b> 1mins/day – 2 mins/week <b>Pedestrians &amp; Cyclist:</b> 1/hour – 3/day	26 -4 @ 110kph (68mph) 32 – 4 @ 80kph (50mph) 47 – 6 @ 50 kph (32mph)	1/1000 - >1/10 000
5	£200 > £20	<b>Occupation:</b> 1mins/week – 1 min / month <b>Pedestrians &amp; Cyclist:</b> 2/day – 2/week	3 -1 @ 110kph (68mph) 3 – 1 @ 80kph (50mph) 5 – 1 @ 50 kph (32mph)	1/10 000 -> 1/100 000
6	£20 - £2	<b>Occupation:</b> 1mins/month – 0.5 min/year <b>Pedestrians &amp; Cyclist:</b> 1/week – 6/year.	None	1/100 000 – 1/1 000 000

### Size

Size considers the potential failure of a tree or by objects failing from it. Size takes into account the tree or branch size as well as the distance and orientation of the fall which influences the force of impact. The size may be discounted where there has been a significant reduction in weight due to degradation, shedding or subordinate branches referred to as 'Reduced Mass'. There are four size ranges that are determined from the part of the tree that is most likely to fail based on arboricultural knowledge and experience.

## Probability of Failure

The probability of tree or branch failure within the coming year is estimated and recorded as a range of seven (7) values. It is a comparison of the assessment of a tree or branch against a benchmark of a non-compromised tree at Probability of Failure Range 7, or a tree or branch that is expected to fail within the year - Probability of Failure Range 1. The Probability of Failure Range is based upon the risk assessors' knowledge of tree biology and structure. (Document Ref: R5825 Bunbury Street Risk Assessment: Prepared: 25/04/2022)

### 3. QTRA Advisory Risk Thresholds

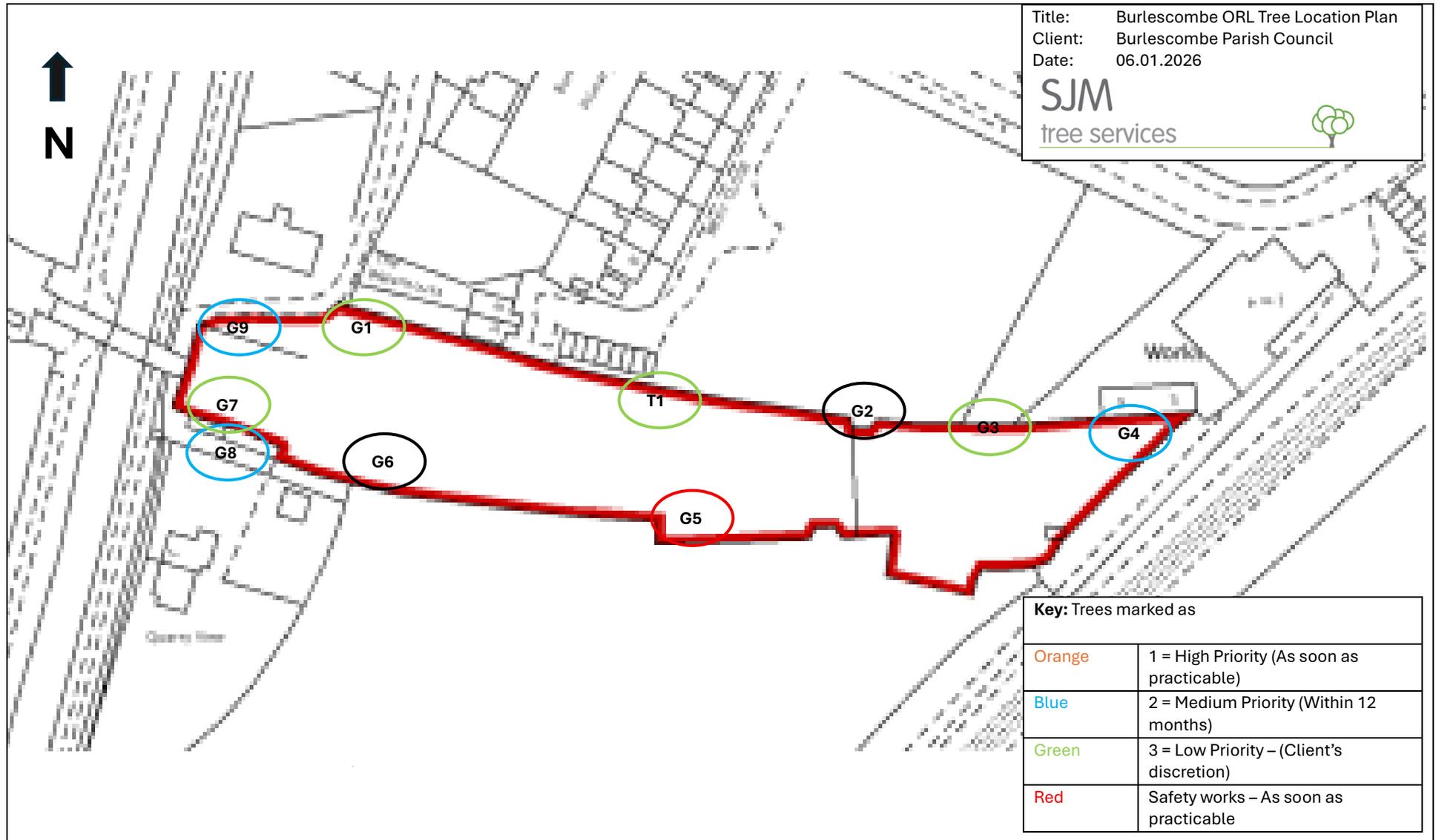
Thresholds	Description	Action
	Unacceptable Risks will not ordinarily be tolerated	Control the risk
1/1 000	Unacceptable (Where imposed on others)  Risks will not ordinarily be tolerated	Control the risk  Review the risk
	Tolerable (By agreement)  Risks may be tolerated if those exposed to the risk accept 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 a reasonable cost Reviews the risk
1/1 000 000	Broadly Acceptable Risk is already ALARP	No action currently required Review the risk

## 4. Statutory Obligations

Trees may be protected by a Tree Preservation Order, Conservation Area, Felling Licence requirements, or a Planning Condition. Before instructing any works, it is essential to ensure as to whether any of the above apply.

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Habitat Regulations (2010). Many other species of animal are also protected including badgers and common and widespread amphibian species. The protections and restrictions must be considered prior to works being carried out.

## 5. Tree Location Map



## 6. Tree Survey Data

Key	
Tree Number	Trees are not routinely tagged, approximate locations are plotted on tree survey map. Trees are referenced consecutively, either as individual trees <b>T1</b> , or groups <b>G1</b> . Individuals as part of a group and are referenced <b>G1.01</b> . Trees may be tagged or marked with spray if difficult to individually identify. Tag numbers will be added below tree number.
Location	Description of the location of the tree.
Species	Species common and/ or Latin
Age Range	<b>NP</b> = Newly planted. <b>Y</b> = first, 1/3 of life. <b>SM</b> = Semi mature , 2/3 of life. <b>M</b> = Mature 3/3 of life.
Height	Given in Meters or estimated as; <b>L</b> low (0-10m), <b>M</b> Medium (10-20m), <b>H</b> High (20 -30m +)
Vitality	General physiological condition of the tree/s recorded as Good = <b>G</b> , Moderate = <b>M</b> , Poor = <b>P</b> or Dead = <b>D</b>
Structural condition	Structural condition of tree identifying severity of any potential defects or features that may cause failure of parts or all of the tree/s. Good = <b>G</b> - Few or minor structural defects. Moderate = <b>M</b> – minor structural defects. Poor = <b>P</b> – many or major structural defects.
General observations	General observations of tree/s and location. With reference to features, defects, targets amenity and wildlife values.
Target value	Highest value target, that is most likely to be influenced by the most significant part of any tree failure. Range of 1 – 6 with 1 = High Occupancy/£ value, 6 = Low occupancy/£ value.
Size range	Size category of the most likely part of the tree to fail Scale of 1 - 6 with 1 = large, 6 = small.
Probability of failure	Probability of the identified part failing within the 12 months following assessment. Range of 1 – 6 with 1 = high & 6 = low.
QTRA Risk index	Risk of significant harm $\frac{1}{1,000}$ = risk index (e.g. risk index 20 = risk of significant harm 1 in 20,000)
Management recommendation	Management recommendations for works, not in relation to safety to either alleviate a nuisance or avoid a future safety issue
Management priority code	Importance of the management requirement. 1 = High Priority (As soon as practicable) – Marked as <b>Orange</b> 2 = Medium Priority (Within 12 months) - Marked as <b>Blue</b> 3 = Low Priority – (Clients discretion) – Marked as <b>Green</b>
Safety works	Work required to reduce risks to agreed acceptable level of risk. Trees identified marked in <b>Red</b> .
Re inspection period	Re inspection interval requirements in months from date of survey.

Tree No	Species	Age Class	HT	Vitality	Struc Con	General Observation	Target Value	Size range	POF	QTRA RI	Management Recs	Code	Safety Works	Re Inspect Period
G1	Ash	SM	M	M	M	Group of two Ash on Northern side of historic railway embankment. Historic lapsed coppice. Multi stemmed from base. Decayed wound noted on Southern side at 2m, good reaction wood.					Sever Ivy at base to 1.5m to aid future inspections.	3		18 months
T1	Ash	SM	M	M	M	Ash on Northern side of path, on edge of embankment. Major deadwood over path. Ivy covered main stem. Multi stemmed from base.	4	4	3	<1/1m	Maintaining deadwood habitat. Sever Ivy at base to 1.5m to aid future inspections.	3		18 months
G2	Ash x 3	SM	M	M	M	Group of 3 x Ash lapsed coppice stalls. Multi stemmed from base. Ivy covered main stems. Overhanging footpath entrance to railway line path to the West. Recreation grassed area to North and Seating area and footpath to the South. Major Deadwood noted throughout crowns of the group.	3	2	3	1/100k	Maintain deadwood			18 months

G3	Ash	SM	M	M	M	Group of 6 stems. Lapsed coppice. Multi stemmed from base. Northern most stem leaning over yard to the North. Ivy covered main stems					Sever ivy at base to 1.5m to aid future inspection	3		18 months
G4	Oak	SM	M	G	M	Group of 5 oak stems. Crowns asymmetric, missing centre and now bias North over buildings and extended East over fence to railway line and access track.					Pollard at 5 - 6m where crown divided to reduce nuisance to buildings to the North. Maintain internal growth where possible	3		18 months
G5	Ash	SM	M	M	P	Group of lapsed coppice Ash. Multi stemmed from base. Situated on bank to the Southern side of path. Overhanging path to the North and seating area to the West. Decayed main union at base of Western stem. Main union has failed and spilt; the stem is supported by adjacent stem to the east.	3	2	1	1/1k			Coppice stems marked with pink spot to 1m	18 months
G6	Ash	SM	H	M	M	Multi stemmed Ash. Lapsed coppice. Ivy covered base. Major	3	2	3	1/100k	Maintain deadwood			18 months

						deadwood noted over path to the North.								
G7	leylandii	SM	M	G	M	Group of leylandii. Situated on steep bank to South of railway path. Overhanging a shed to the South, the Canal footpath to the West and the railway path to the North. Multiple historic branch failures throughout. Wound noted on main stem of most Western stem, main union of stem failed at approx 7m. Low branches over shed to South. Overhead lines running through the Eastern end of the group.	3	2	3	1/100k	Consider removal of the entire group. Likely to be further branch failures as the canopies are exposed to the wind from historic failures. The trees are likely to cause an ongoing nuisance to the properties to the South. It is recommended that any works are treated to the cohesive group as a whole.	3		18 months
G8	Elder	SM	L	P	P	Elder at base of bank in contact with shed to south.					Coppice to prevent damage to shed.	2		18 months
G9	Hazel	Y	L	G	G	Low branches obstructing steps.					Prune to give 2.4m clearance over steps.	2		18 months

## 7. Site Boundary Plan

