

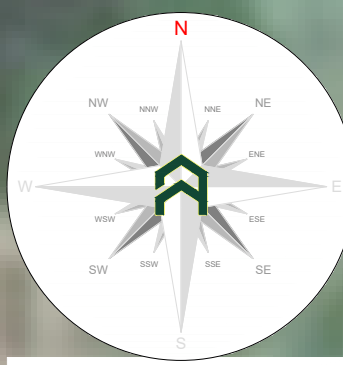


Tree Risk-Benefit Management Strategy

Tidenham Parish Council

1. Woodcroft Lane Play Area,
Woodcroft Lane, Woodcroft, NP16
7QA.
 2. St Luke's Church, Coleford Road,
Tutshill, NP16 7PT.
 3. St Mary & St Peter's Church,
Tidenham, NP16 7JQ.
 4. St John the Evangelist Church,
Beachley Road, Beachley, NP16 7HJ.
 5. Wyebank Road, NP16 7ER.
 6. Wyebank Road Play Area, NP16
7DS.
 7. Sedbury and Beachley Village Hall,
King Alfred's Road, NP16 7AG.
 8. Football Field, Buttington Road,
Sedbury, NP16 7AN.
- 09 July 2026
Jim Green MArborA

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Indicative only

Risk Objectives & Risk Ratings

VALID has applied ISO 31000 – Risk Management and the ‘Transferability of Risk Framework’ (TRF) to tree risk-benefit management and assessment, which we adapted in 22 risk terms, our ‘Objectives’ are to grow, maintain, and conserve trees because of the many benefits they give us we need, and, to manage the risk from tree failure to an Acceptable or Tolerable level. We have four easy-to-understand traffic light coloured risk ratings to show how we’ll manage the risk.

Red – **Not Acceptable** risks will be reduced to an Acceptable level.

Amber – **Not Tolerable** risks will be reduced to an Acceptable level, but with a lower priority than red Not Acceptable risks

Amber – Tolerable risks will not be reduced but may require an increased frequency of assessment than green Acceptable risks

Green – Acceptable risks will not be reduced

Please refer to Arbtch Consulting Ltd Tree Risk-Benefit Management Strategy for full details on how we have carried out the Positive and Detailed Assessments on all trees within the boundaries specified.

Assessment Method	
Active Assessment	When we’re looking for risks that might not be Acceptable or Tolerable.

Active Assessment has three levels to it that increase in depth of evaluation. The 3 levels are **Basic** > **Detailed** > **Advanced**.

Risk ratings have limitations that depend on the level of assessment at which they’re made. For instance, when we carry out **Active Assessment** or a **Basic** level, if there are no **Obvious Tree Risk Features** (Obvious Tree Risk-Benefit Management Strategy), the risk is Acceptable at that level of assessment.

A **Detailed or Advanced Assessment** is a more thorough evaluation than a **Basic Assessment**. They might find features that weren’t spotted at a **Basic** level, and the risk could be higher. However, carrying out a higher level of assessment, with the additional costs, when there’s no obvious feature to trigger it isn’t reasonable, proportionate, or reasonably practicable.

Basic Assessment

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

If there are any trees we need to get a closer look at. But can’t because of climbing plants, undergrowth, indigenous, boundaries, or basal growth, or because the ground is too difficult, we’ll let you know.

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

Detailed Assessment

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

The assessment is carried out from ground level with **VALID’s Tree Risk App**.

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

Advanced Assessment

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

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



Unit 3, Well House Barns, Chester, CH4 0DH
https://arbtch.co.uk, 01244 661170

Project:	Wyebank Road Play Area, Sedbury, Chepstow, NP16 7DS,
Client:	Tidenham Parish Council
Drawing:	Tree Location Plan
Based on:	Aerial image
Drawing No:	Arbtch TLP 01
Date:	July 2026
Scale:	Not to Scale
Rev:	--
Drawn:	JAG
Key:	
Tree Not:	1 Tree Not Acceptable

European Mountain Ash (1
(New Tag 481))

Tree Details and Location



Likelihood of Occupation



Consequences

No Image
Provided

Likelihood of Failure

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

Notes

Highest Risk

Not Acceptable

Risk reduction

Fell to ground level.

Tree Management

Review Year

2026

Date Assessed

2026-07-07 01:18 pm

Assessed By

Jim Green

Phone Number

07706323238

Email

jimgreen@arbtech.co.uk

Risk



Summary

Species	Height (m)	Stem Ø (cm)	Crown Ø (m)
European Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	8	19	4

Risk Inputs



People

Weather
Affected

Walking

O

2

High

C

2

High



Tree



Stem



Branch



Deadwood

F

1

Very High

Apparent terminal decline.

Relatively recent loss of companion tree to southwest.

Mechanical damage to base, partial occlusion. Apical crown sparse and standing-dead from 6m.

The highest risk is stem failure. (Old Tag 402.)

Executive Summary

What you need to know

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

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

Red **Not Acceptable** risks will be reduced to an **Acceptable** level

Amber **Not Tolerable** risks will be reduced to an **Acceptable** level, but with a lower priority than red **Not Acceptable** risks

Amber **Tolerable** risks will not be reduced but may require an increased frequency of assessment than green **Acceptable** risks

Green **Acceptable** risks will not be reduced

All trees within the survey scope were assessed in accordance with the VALID Basic Assessment methodology. Numerous sites contained no trees which exhibited features that elevated them above the Acceptable level of risk. Consequently, no remedial works are required at these sites on risk-management grounds.

Routine reinspection at appropriate intervals is still nonetheless advised to ensure that tree condition and associated risk levels remain stable over time.

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

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

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

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

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

Your risk assessment was undertaken by Jim Green

I have over thirty years of industry experience and hold the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection certificate. I am a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association and a certified Validator for VALID.

I have expertise in undertaking large to small-scale tree risk and condition surveys and collaborate with organisations, landowners and Local Authorities to ensure the application of common sense inspection and management principles to meet their duty of care efficiently and cost-effectively.

The advice below and appended is underwritten by our Professional Indemnity insurance for the business practice of Arboricultural Consultancy in the sum of one million pounds sterling in each and every claim.

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

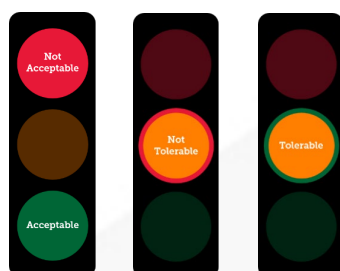
We can't be an insurer of nature or eliminate the risk from trees

Reasonable Proportionate Reasonably practicable

We all have a responsibility to make reasonable decisions

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

Risk ratings are as easy to understand as traffic lights



1 Establishing the context

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

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

1.1 Duty of care

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

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

1.2 Risk tolerance

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

1.3 Risk ratings

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

Red **Not Acceptable** risks will be reduced to an Acceptable level

Amber **Not Tolerable** risks will be reduced to an Acceptable level, but with a lower priority than red Not Acceptable risks

Amber **Tolerable** risks will not be reduced, but may require an increased frequency of assessment than green Acceptable risks

Green **Acceptable** risks will not be reduced

If you need clarification about the assessment or the strategy, contact me at jimgreen@arbtech.co.uk or on 07706 323238.

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2

When might a tree be dangerous?

Trees with the highest risk are the easiest to spot

Be watchful after storms

7 When a tree has a risk that might not be Acceptable or Tolerable, it'll usually have an obvious tree risk feature you can't help but notice. Passive Assessment is simply picking up on these features as you go about your day-to-day routine. If you see anything like these features, contact me at jimgreen@arbtech.co.uk or on 07706 323238.

2.1 Root failure

Storms can break tree roots without blowing them over

Signs to look out for are

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

8



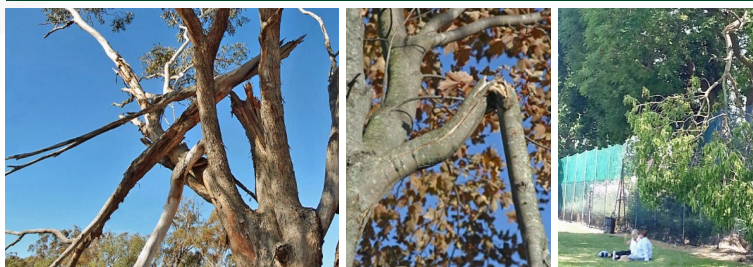
2.2 Hanging branches

Don't forget to look up

Branches can break during storms and still hang on

Sometimes they can get stuck up there for quite a while

9

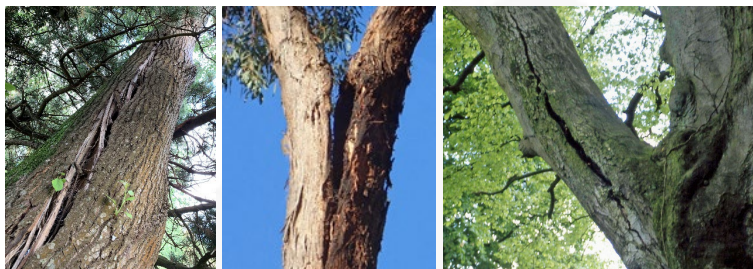


2.3 A crack or split into the wood, beyond the bark

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

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

10



2.4 Decline & death

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

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

Standing dead trees have great habitat benefits but need checking

11



2.5 Decay fungi fruiting bodies

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

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

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

12



Photographs: Jake Miesbauer, Michael Richardson, Roy Finch, Mark Hartley, Rick Milson, Andrew Benson, David Abrahams, Emily Cleverly, David Humphries, Jack Prynne, Moreton Arboretum, Josh Behounek, Jan Allen

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3

What is Active Assessment?

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

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

Risk ratings are limited by the level of assessment

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

3.1 Basic Assessment

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

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

Tree alerts you raise from Passive Assessment

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

We'll assess the trees from easily accessible ground

17 We'll assess trees from easily accessible ground.

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

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

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

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

**No Obvious Tree Risk Features
The risk is Acceptable**

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

3.2 Detailed Assessment

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

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

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

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

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

3.3 Advanced Assessment

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

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

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

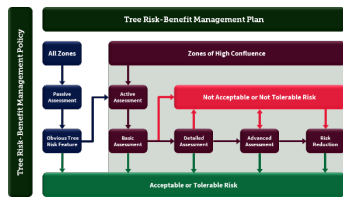
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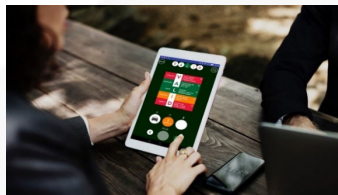
Simpler • Clearer • Smarter

The Strategy at a glance

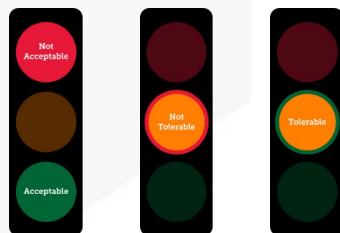


**Proportionate
Reasonably practicable**

**VALID has been stress-tested
to breaking point**



**Risk ratings are as easy to
understand as traffic lights**



**Visit our website
to get in touch for help**

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

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

4.1 Tree risk-benefit management

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

4.2 Tree risk-benefit assessment

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

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

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

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

4.3 Tree risk ratings

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

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

4.4 Tree risk-benefit management advice & training

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

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

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