# Trevor Heaps

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## Tree Risk Assessment Report

**For**

**Dene Road, Northwood**

**HA6 2DD**

Prepared for Dene Road Residents' Association

Prepared by Trevor Heaps BSc, MICFor, R. Arbor.A.

Date: 7th June 2024

Ref: TH 4639

AA Registered CONSULTANT trees.org.uk

Institute of Chartered Foresters
Registered Consultant

# Summary

This report demonstrates that the trees along Dene Road have been visually checked by a suitably-qualified tree expert.

Some tree defects were noted, and remedial work has been specified (and/or specific re-inspection timescales are specified). The remedial work should be implemented as soon as practically possible or at least within the recommended timescales.

Unless otherwise stated, recommendations are made on the basis that trees will be re-inspected within 3 years from the date of the last inspection. However, all trees should be inspected after extreme and severe weather events, and in the event of any nearby disturbance that could adversely affect tree stability, such as mechanical excavations close to tree stems, or loss of sheltering trees.

Note. Several residents noted the gradual loss of trees from within Dene Road. It is suggested that new trees are planted within the grass verges wherever trees are removed, or wherever large spaces exist.

# Contents

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 I am Trevor Heaps, Director of Trevor Heaps Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd. I hold a First-Class Honours Degree in Arboriculture; I am a Chartered Arboriculturist and a professional member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters; and I am also a Registered Consultant with the Arboricultural Association. Further information about my qualifications and experience is provided in Appendix 1.

1.2 The basic principle in Law is that a tree owner has a duty to take reasonable care to protect those reasonably likely to be affected by their trees.

1.3 Subsequently, a tree owner, or those responsible for the tree(s), must take steps to ensure they are aware of foreseeable risks that may cause harm; and they should take appropriate remedial action to protect those who are reasonably likely to be affected.

1.4 Guidance issued by the Government, the Forestry Commission and the Arboricultural Association advises that a regular tree survey is undertaken by a suitably qualified tree expert. Failure to do so may leave those responsible liable to prosecution.

1.5 Contact details:

| Who | Name | Organisation | Details |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arboricultural Consultant | Trevor Heaps | THAC Ltd.<br>12 Plover Drive, Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire, SO41 0XF | Tel: 07957 763 533<br>E-mail: trevor@trevorheaps.co.uk |
| Client | | Stonor Enterprises | |
| London Borough of Hillingdon - LPA | Tree Officer | Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW | Tel: 01895 556000<br>E-mail: trees@hillingdon.gov.uk |

## 2.0 Instruction

2.1 We are instructed to carry out a tree survey to assess the condition of all trees along Dene Road.

2.2 Based on the data collected during the tree survey, we are to provide a report to make recommendations to manage all identifiable, foreseeable, and significant risks.

2.3 The purpose of this report is to demonstrate that the trees have been visually checked by a suitably qualified tree expert and to ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to ensure that persons and property are not at risk of harm from them.

## 3.0 Statutory tree protection

3.1 According to the Council's website, some trees along Dene Road are covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO); which means that if any tree works are required (to the trees covered by the TPO), an application must be made to the Council.

## 4.0 Ecological constraints

4.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) provides statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees.

4.2 These animals could impose significant constraints on the timing of any recommended tree works. You are therefore advised to seek advice from a suitably qualified ecologist prior to the start of any tree works.

## 5.0 The tree survey

5.1 The trees were inspected by Trevor Heaps on the 6th June 2024.

5.2 The weather was dry and sunny - visibility was good.

5.3 The trees were inspected from ground level.

5.4 The trees were inspected using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) methodology, developed by Mattheck & Breloer (The Body Language of Trees, 1994).

5.5 Neither root nor soil samples were taken for analysis.

## 6.0 The trees

6.1 The locations of all trees surveyed are shown on the site plan in Appendix 4. Further information about the trees can be found in appendices 2 & 3.

6.2 To help visualise the general condition of the trees on the site plan, they are colour coded as follows:

- **Tree coloured green – Acceptable** - These are in a normal condition with no significant defects.
- **Tree coloured amber – Be aware** - These are either located in an unsustainable position (a large species of tree close to property for example) or defects have been noted that could lead to future problems. Recommendations are made to remove the tree or the defects or reduce the defects to an acceptable level.
- **Tree coloured red – Take action** - These are hazardous to life and property and cannot be made safe by remedial works alone. These will need to be removed.
- **Tree coloured purple – N/A** – These have been removed since the last survey.

## 7.0 Recommendations

7.1 All recommendations are described in the tree data schedule in Appendix 3.

7.2 Any urgent works are highlighted red. These must be organised as a matter of urgency and carried out as soon as possible.

7.3 If lower priority works have been recommended, they are highlighted green, and should be carried out within the given timescales.

7.4 To help prioritise work, a risk index figure (between 0-100) has been provided. The larger the number, the more important the work will be.

7.5 If re-inspection timescales (other than every 3 years) are specified, these are highlighted yellow.

## 8.0 Signature

8.1 This report represents a true and factual account of all potential arboricultural issues and makes recommendations for appropriate remedial action.

**Signed**

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**Trevor Heaps**
Chartered Arboriculturist
**BSc (Hons), MArborA, MICFor.**

**Dated**

7th June 2024

**Appendix 1 - Professional résumé**

I am Trevor Heaps, Director of Trevor Heaps Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd. I hold a First-Class Honours Degree in Arboriculture; I am a Chartered Arboriculturist and a professional member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters; and I am also a Registered Consultant with the Arboricultural Association.

**Professional training**

- Arboriculture and Bats: Scoping Surveys for Arborists (BCT & AA) – October 2017
- Tree Science (AA) – June 2016
- OPM (Oak Processionary Moth) Training (FC) – May 2016
- Visual Tree Assessment (Arboricultural Association) - October 2015
- Trees and the Law (Dr Charles Mynors) - June 2015
- Mortgage (Home Buyers) Report Writing (LANTRA / CAS) - February 2015
- Tree Preservation Orders - effective application (LANTRA / CAS) - November 2014
- Professional Tree Inspection 3-day course (LANTRA / AA) - July 2014
- Arboricultural Consultancy Course (AA) - May 2014
- Further down the subsidence trail 1-day course (AA) - April 2013
- Getting to grips with subsidence 1-day course (AA) - November 2012

AA – Arboricultural Asscociation

BCT – Bat Conservation Trust

CAS – Consulting Arborist Society

FC – Forestry Commission

## Appendix 2 - Tree data schedule

| Ref | Species | Comments | Likelihood of problem occurring within 3 years | Risk Index (0-100 / low-high) | Recommendations | Priority | When to re-inspect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T1 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Lapsed pollard. Decay noted at base. Quite sparse. Outside 63. Sounds hollow when tapper | Possible | 9.375 | Re-pollard. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T2 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Lapsed pollard. Decay noted at base. Very sparse. Die-back in crown. Outside 59. Large decaying cavity on house side | Likely | 18.75 | Remove. | As soon as practicable | N/A to be removed |
| T3 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Lapsed pollard. Ganoderma noted at base. Kretzschmaria deusta noted. Outside 57 | Likely | 18.75 | Remove. | Within 1 year | N/A to be removed |
| T4 | Acer platanoides 'Crimson King' (Norway Maple 'Crimson King') | Outside 55 | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T5 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Crown reduced in past. Epicormics. Outside 53 | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T6 | Fraxinus excelsior (Ash) | Hard to inspect base due to location and undergrowth. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T7 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Lapsed pollard managed by crown reductions. Epicormics. Old tear-out wound noted. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. Re-pollard to 5m | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T8 | Fraxinus excelsior (Ash) | Hard to inspect base due to location and undergrowth. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T9 | Prunus cerasifera 'Pissardii' (Purple-leafed Plum) | Dead / dying tree | Likely | 12.5 | Remove. | Within 1 year | N/A to be removed |
| T10 | Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore) | Hard to inspect base due to location and undergrowth. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T11 | Tilia cordata (Small-leaved Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to location and undergrowth. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T12 | Fraxinus excelsior (Ash) | Hard to inspect base due to location and undergrowth. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T13 | Quercus robur (Common Oak) | Hard to inspect base due to location and undergrowth. Suppressed. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |

| Ref | Species | Comments | Likelihood of problem occurring within 3 years | Risk Index (0-100 / low-high) | Recommendations | Priority | When to re-inspect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T14 | Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut) | Hard to inspect base due to location and undergrowth. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| G15 | Fraxinus excelsior (Ash) | Sparse. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| G16 | Acer campestre (Field Maple) | Hard to inspect base due to location and undergrowth. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T17 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Crown reduced in past. Outside 51 | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T18 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Epicormics. Ganoderma noted at base. Jct College Way. Large vertical cavity on roadside | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Re-pollard. Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T19 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Crown reduced in past. Epicormics. Outside 47 | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T20 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Lapsed pollard managed by crown reductions. Opp High Elms Close. Quite recently pruned. Heavy epicormic growth covering tree | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T21 | Acer platanoides 'Crimson King' (Norway Maple 'Crimson King') | Entrance to Sunshine House | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T22 | Acer platanoides 'Crimson King' (Norway Maple 'Crimson King') | Entrance to Sunshine House | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T23 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Lapsed pollard managed by crown reductions. Leaning (not significant).Is 46 | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |

| Ref | Species | Comments | Likelihood of problem occurring within 3 years | Risk Index (0-100 / low-high) | Recommendations | Priority | When to re-inspect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T24 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth .Opp Wildwood. Quite recently pruned. Heavy epicormic growth covering tree | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T25 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Dead tree. | Likely | 18.75 | Remove. | Within 1 year | N/A to be removed |
| T26 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Exit for Sunshine House. Quite recently pruned. Heavy epicormic growth covering tree | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T27 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Minor deadwood in crown. Opp exit for Sunshine House. Heavy epicormic growth covering tree. Cavity at 1m sealing well. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T28 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Minor deadwood in crown. Near exit for Sunshine House. Heavy epicormic growth covering tree | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove deadwood. Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T29 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Outside 42 | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T30 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Epicormics. Opp 42, Significant decay on roadside | Likely | 18.75 | Pollard to 6-8m OR remove | As soon as practicable | Within 3 years |
| T31 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Outside 40. Cavity at base to 1m sealing well. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T32 | Fraxinus excelsior (Ash) | Growing on third-party land. Very sparse. Die-back in crown. Opp 29 (within 38 or 40) | Possible | 12.5 | Notify tree owner (tree's condition should be assessed). | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |

| Ref | Species | Comments | Likelihood of problem occurring within 3 years | Risk Index (0-100 / low-high) | Recommendations | Priority | When to re-inspect |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T33 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Epicormics. Outside 38. Extensive cavity on back of stem | Possible | 9.375 | Pollard to 5m OR remove | As soon as practicable | Within 3 years |
| T34 | Betula pendula (Silver Birch) | Outside 38 | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T35 | Betula pendula (Silver Birch) | Outside 36 | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T36 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Outside 36 | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T37 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to basal growth. Epicormics. Minor die-back in crown. Opp Felden | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove deadwood. Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T38 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Hard to inspect base due to location and undergrowth. Epicormics. Minor die-back in crown. Outside 33/32. Sounds slightly hollow when tapped | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove deadwood. Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T39 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Outside 30a | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T40 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Outside 30a | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T41 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Epicormics. Minor die-back in crown. | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | | N/A | Within 3 years |
| T42 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Dead tree. Growing on third-party land. Looks to be within 17 Dene Road | Likely | 25 | Notify tree owner (dead / dying tree within falling distance). | As soon as practicable | N/A on third-party land |
| G43 | Pinus sps. (Pine) | Ivy (heavy covering). Quite sparse. Opp 24a | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove ivy to 2-3m up stem and reinspect for defects | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T44 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Epicormics. Minor deadwood in crown. Opp 22a | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove deadwood. Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |
| T45 | Tilia X europaea (Common Lime) | Epicormics. Minor deadwood in crown. Opp 22. Dense epicormics | Unlikely or N/A | 0 | Remove deadwood. Remove epicormics from base of tree and re-inspect for defects. | Within 1 year | Within 3 years |

## Appendix 3 - Tree data schedule explanatory notes

This section explains the terms used in the **Tree data schedule** (Appendix 2).

**Ref:** Each item of vegetation has its own unique number prefixed by a letter such that:

**T1**=Tree **S2**=Shrub or stump **G3**=Group **H4**=Hedge **W5**=Woodland

**Species:** Common names are given (with Latin names given in brackets)

**VTA – Visual Tree Assessment**

1 (tree coloured green) – **Acceptable** - These are in a normal condition with no significant defects.

2 (tree coloured amber) – **Be aware** - These are either located in an unsustainable position (a large species of tree close to property for example) or defects have been noted that could lead to future problems. Recommendations are made to remove the tree or the defects or reduce the defects to an acceptable level.

**3 (tree coloured red)** – **Take action** - These are hazardous to life and property and cannot be made safe by remedial works alone. These will need to be removed.

4 (tree coloured purple) – **N/A** – These have been removed since the last survey.

**Comments:** Tree form and pruning history are recorded along with an account of any significant defects

**Likelihood of failure or problem occurring:** The tree surveyor's opinion on how likely it is the tree or part of it will fail or cause an issue (such as direct or indirect damage) within 1 year.

**Risk Index**: An estimate of risk (0 = no risk to 100 = very high risk) based on a calculation made from the assumed occupancy, the size of the tree (or defect) and the assumed likelihood of a problem occurring (see above). This allows work to be prioritised.

**Recommendations:** These are based on any defects / problems observed and are intended to ensure that the tree is maintained in an acceptable condition.

**Priority:** Depending upon the threat posed by the tree, and the likelihood of a problem occurring, any recommendations made should be carried out within the prescribed timescales.

**When to re-inspect:** The suggested interval before the next inspection should be carried out.

## Appendix 4–References

[1]OPSTD/Agriculture and Waste Recycling Sector/ Agriculture Safety Section (2015), *Management of the risk from falling trees or branches*. Available at https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag_food/010705.htm#(Accessed: 14 January 2020).

[2]Forestry Commission (2011), *Common sense risk management of trees, Managing trees for safety.*

[3]Arboricultural Association (2016), *Tree Surveys: A guide to good practice, Guidance Note 7.*

[4]Mattheck & Breloer (1994), *The Body Language of Trees, 1994.*

[5]Watson and Green (2011), *Fungi on Trees – an Arborists' Field Guide.*

# Appendix 5 - Site Plan

Aerial photo showing the approximate locations of the tree/s (Google Earth background). See Appendices 3 & 4 for an explanation of the colours used.

## Tree Survey Legend

**No issues noted** - These trees are currently considered to be in an acceptable location and condition with no significant defects noted

**Be aware** - These trees are either within (current or potential) influencing distance of property or defects have been noted that could lead to future problems.

**Take action** - These trees are considered to be hazardous to life and property and cannot be made safe by remedial works alone. These trees will need to be removed

**N/A** - Removed since last survey

**Note:** Trees are shown as a coloured-coded stems. Hedges and groups are depicted as colour-coded polygons