Inspection of a Single Lime Tree at

Orchard House, 38 Chapel Road, Heytesbury. BA12 0HA

15th August 2023

Prepared by Stephen Woollard

wrc trees

ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANTS

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Contents.

1. Introduction
2. Data Collection
3. Risk Management
4. Limitations
5. Statutory Protection
6. Conclusions and Recommendations

Appendix 1. Tree Location Plan

Appendix 2. Survey Schedule

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1. Introduction

1.1 WRC Trees were instructed by Mr and Mrs Gee of Orchard House, 38 Chapel Road, Heytesbury to undertake a safety inspection of a lime tree (*Tilia sp.*) growing within the curtilage of that address.

1.2 This inspection has focused on the safety of this tree only.

2. Data Collection

2.1 The tree inspection was carried out by Stephen Woollard, a licensed user of Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) methodology and holder of a LANTRA certificate for Professional Tree Inspection qualification, on 15th August 2023. The weather was sunny.

2.2 The tree was assessed from ground level employing the Visual Tree Assessment method, using a nylon sounding mallet, steel probe and binoculars where necessary. Otiss Tree Survey software and a GPS enabled handheld device were used to record data and map the tree locations (see Appendix 1 - Tree Location Plan).

2.3 The tree was assessed for physiological health and structural condition, and an assessment of the local environment made. This was to enable identification of any defects predisposing the tree to failure, and where a significant risk to people and property may be posed. This assessment also gives an indication of the vitality of the tree and of its tolerance to competition for nutrients and light, stress, wounding and pathogens.

3. Risk Management

3.1 This inspection aims to accord with the 'Common sense risk management of trees - Guidance on trees and public safety in the UK for owners, managers and advisers - 2011' as published by the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG). The Health and Safety Executive was consulted in the production of the above publication. It endorses the sensible, proportionate, reasonable and balanced advice to owners on managing the risk from trees set out in their guidance.

4. Limitations

4.1 Trees are dynamic living organisms, whose health and condition can be subject to rapid change, depending on a number of external and internal factors.

4.2 All trees will drop branches during their lifetime and no tree can be considered entirely safe. Trees can be damaged during high winds or extreme weather. Fungal fruiting bodies may appear in the future and can indicate decay or the threat of decay and possible tree failure.

4.3 The conclusions of this inspection relate to conditions observed at the time of inspection. Any significant changes to the condition of the tree or to the use of the surrounding land will necessitate a reassessment of the tree. Aerial tree inspection, invasive procedures not highlighted, soil analysis and excavations are outside the scope of the inspection, but if considered a requirement will be recommended in the report.

5. Statutory Protection

5.1 A check of the Wiltshire Council Planning Explorer Map indicates that the tree inspected is protected by Tree Preservation Order W/77/00004/IND. The tree is also within the Heytesbury Conservation Area.

5.2 The principal effect of a Tree Preservation Order prohibits the cutting down, uprooting, lopping, topping, wilful damage or wilful destruction of any trees subject to their protection without the formal consent of the Local Planning Authority (Wiltshire Council) following a written application.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 The condition of the lime tree is good with dense foliage of good size and colour. The density of the foliage is in part due to historic crown reduction, to which the tree has responded well and typically of lime.

6.2 There are multiple stem junctions typical of species which appear from ground level to be strong, although future climbing work may confirm this.

6.3 The lowest parts of the crown are in contact with structures (greenhouse, trellis and shed) and whilst not currently causing damage it is advisable to undertake pruning to avoid any damage in the future (see Appendix 2 – Survey Schedule).

6.4 The tree has been crown reduced which has resulted in dense regrowth around the pruning points. This regrowth may become poorly attached and prone to failure as it matures and increases in size and weight, combined with the likely development of decay at the pruning points. It is therefore recommended that cyclical crown reduction every 5-7 years commences to mitigate the risk of such failure and to retain the tree within its surroundings.

6.5 The lime tree should be inspected at an interval of no greater than two years by a suitably qualified and experienced arboriculturalist.

Appendix 1. Tree Location Plan

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Appendix 2. Survey Schedule

Ref.	Species	Life Stage	Condition	Survey Notes	Recommendations	Timescale
T001	Lime *(Tilia sp.)*	Mature	Good	Growing in corner of garden circa 1-1.5 metres from retaining wall above highway. Wall has trellis on top which is braced by nailing to the tree. Base of tree is obscured by building materials and other detritus and could not be fully inspected. Four major branches have been removed on the east side with some occlusion. All were probed but not to a significant depth. Aphids present. Heavy epicormic growth on stem, the lowest of which is in contact with trellis, greenhouse and shed. Two major branches arising at approximately two metres with main stem then trifurcating at approximately six metres. Unions appear sound but future climbing work can confirm. Partially occluded pruning wounds south/east side close to main union. One branch has died over the garden but the crown condition is otherwise good with large, dense and well coloured foliage. The tree has been historically crown reduced and has dense regrowth typical of species. Minor deadwood throughout crown typical of species and pruning history. Slightly over extended branch to south over High Street	Crown lift to provide approximately on metre clearance from structures. Reduce crown to previous pruning points as cyclical maintenance.	1 Year