



Direct Global Trading

5th October 2026

Ref: AWA7781

Tree Survey Risk Report:

T8 - Beech

*Woodlands Lodge, 106 Hawshaw Lane,
Hoyland, Barnsley S74 0HH*

Introduction

As instructed, we revisited the site and undertook a detailed inspection and risk assessment of T8, a large mature Beech tree, following the possible identification of decay fungi. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the tree's condition, identify any significant hazards and, where necessary, recommend proportionate management to reduce tree-related risks to an acceptable level.

A formal, detailed inspection was undertaken from ground level. The assessment considered the condition of the crown, stem base and visible rooting area, fungal fruiting, surrounding targets and recent changes within the tree's immediate environment.

The tree was examined using Visual Tree Assessment techniques, in line with National Tree Safety Group guidance, and was given a formal risk assessment using Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) methodology. QTRA applies established risk-management principles to tree safety management, allowing tree managers to balance safety with tree value and operate to a predetermined limit of reasonable or acceptable risk.

The site is shortly to open as a special school. The tree stands immediately adjacent to newly formed car-parking and electric vehicle charging areas, with substantial parts of the crown extending over parking spaces and the adjoining garden. Future occupancy of the area beneath and around the tree is therefore expected to be relatively high.

Tree Survey

T8 is a large, mature Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), approximately 20m high with a stem diameter of approximately 1,200mm. The tree has a broad, spreading crown and is situated immediately adjacent to the car-parking area, with principal limbs extending over parking spaces and over the adjoining garden.

Copious fruiting bodies consistent with *Meripilus* were present around the base and rooting area. Fruiting was most conspicuous on the eastern side of the stem, with further substantial fruiting to the south-east and south-west. The extent and distribution of fruiting, together with the crown symptoms, give significant concern regarding the condition of the tree and its root system.

Ivy covers substantial parts of the stem and obscures inspection of some features, including the principal unions at approximately 4-5m above ground level.

The crown displays extensive dieback and reduced foliage density throughout. Decline is particularly pronounced within the northern half of the crown. The remaining crown also contains scattered dieback and sparse foliage, although this is less pronounced. Deadwood is present and there have been reports of recent branch failures.

The site is due to operate as a special school, with staff and pupils using the site throughout the day and associated occupation of the parking and surrounding areas. Several parking spaces are positioned directly beneath substantial limbs. The combination of extensive *Meripilus* fruiting, marked crown decline, deadwood/reported branch loss, possible recent rooting-area disturbance and relatively high target occupancy results in a significant tree-safety concern.

The QTRA data records the whole-tree risk as Unacceptable / Moderate. Given the observable condition of the tree and the nature and occupancy of the surrounding targets, remedial action is required.

Removal of T8 is recommended as moderate-urgency work. Given the size and potential habitat value of the stem, consideration should be given to retaining the lower approximately 5-6m as a standing monolith, provided this can be achieved at an acceptable level of risk and is compatible with the future use of the site. If suitable monolith retention cannot be achieved, the tree should be felled to near ground level.

Legal

The following advice is for guidance purposes only. Some trees are protected by legislation, and it is essential that the legal status of trees is established prior to carrying out works to them. Unauthorised work to protected trees could lead to prosecution, resulting in enforcement action such as fines or a criminal record. Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas, Planning Conditions, Felling Licences or Restrictive Covenants legally protect many trees in the UK.

An online search was undertaken with Barnsley Council on 02/09/26 to check whether any trees at the site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or are located within a Conservation Area. **The surveyed tree T8 is protected by a Tree Preservation Order.**

Before carrying out any works to protected trees the permission of the local planning authority is required. There are large potential penalties for illegally carrying out work to protected trees.

Trees provide a wide range of habitats for many species, some of which are legally protected such as bats, nesting birds, badgers and dormice. It is essential that appropriate care is taken to ensure that this legislation is not contravened.

When appointing a tree surgeon, only properly qualified and experienced companies should be used, who have adequate Public Liability and Employer's Liability Insurance.

All tree work should be carried out according to British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work - Recommendations.

Conclusion

T8 was given a formal detailed visual assessment from ground level. T8 is a mature Beech in poor physiological condition, with extensive crown dieback and copious Meripilus fruiting around several sectors of the stem base/rooting area. In combination with deadwood/reported branch loss and the relatively high occupancy anticipated around the adjacent school parking area, these findings give concern regarding foreseeable tree failure.

Removal is recommended as moderate-urgency work. Where practicable, retention of approximately 5-6m of the lower stem as a habitat monolith should be considered, subject to a site-specific assessment confirming that this can be retained at an acceptable level of risk. Otherwise, the tree should be felled to near ground level.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Winson, MSc, BSc (Hons), Chartered Arboriculturist, MICFor, MArborA, QTRA & VALID Registered

Photographs



Photo 1: T8, overall crown and relationship with car parking



Photo 2: T8, crown dieback above parking area



Photo 3: Meripilus at eastern side of stem



Photo 4: Meripilus at western side of stem

AWA Qualifications and Experience

Adam Winson: Chartered Arboriculturist, MSc, BSc (Hons), MICFor, MArborA, QTRA & VALID Registered

Adam is the company Director and Principal Consultant. He has a mix of the highest-level academic qualifications and relevant work experience. He has worked within the tree care profession for over 25 years and was awarded an MSc in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, with distinction. Adam is a Chartered Arboriculturist and a Registered Consultant with the Institute of Chartered Foresters, a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association and he has original research published by the UK Forestry Commission. His work ranges from individual expert tree inspections to managing trees on major infrastructure projects. His work often involves trees with preservation orders or litigation, and he has appeared as a tree expert, at planning appeal hearings up to the crown court. Adam also regularly undertakes locum Tree Officer work for several Local Planning Authorities.

James Brown: Chartered Arboriculturist, BSc (Hons) Arboriculture, MICFor, MArborA, PTI (Lantra), QTRA Registered

James is a highly experienced and qualified Arboricultural Consultant. He is a Chartered Arboriculturist and a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association, and he has a BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture, attaining first class honours, as well as being awarded the Institute of Chartered Foresters student award. James joined AWA in 2016, he has many years' experience as an Arboricultural Consultant, he previously worked in Europe's largest container tree nursery and he has experience of local authority Tree Officer work.

James Godfrey: BA (Hons), FdSc Arboriculture and Tree Management, TechArborA, PTI (Lantra), QTRA Registered James has had extensive arboricultural experience working as an arborist within the public and private sector. While working at AWA, James completed his FdSc in Arboriculture and Tree Management, graduating with a distinction and was also awarded for achieving the highest overall mark in his year. James has used his arboricultural knowledge to inform and carry out accurate tree surveys and produce detailed reports that aim to balance appropriate tree retention with the requirements of landowners.

Joe Thomas: MSci Biology, L4 Dip Arboriculture, TechArborA, PTI (Lantra), QTRA Registered

Joe achieved a first class degree in Biology with an integrated Masters (MSci) from the University of Sheffield. Additionally, he has a Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture. Joe joined AWA in 2022 after an Urban Forestry role with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and Sheffield City Council, where he gained a variety of experience in different aspects of the arboriculture sector.

Lucy Garbutt: MSc, PGCert, BSc (Hons) Biology, PTI (Lantra), TechArborA, QTRA Registered

Lucy graduated with a masters degree in Animal Behaviour from the UK's highest rated university, St Andrews of Scotland, immediately following the completion of her BSc degree in Biology from Lancaster University. Lucy has experience in botany and plant science and moved into arboriculture after previous experience of protected species and botanical surveys with a large environmental consulting company.

Ross Lane: FdSc Environmental Conservation, Diploma Arboriculture, TechArborA, PTI (Lantra), QTRA + VALID Registered

Ross has a diverse background spanning horticulture, arboriculture, and ecology. Ross has extensive experience conducting surveys throughout the UK and has worked on projects of all sizes, including major infrastructure projects such as HS2. In his previous role as a Tree Inspector at Derbyshire County Council, projects involved managing the county wide tree stock in relation to the ash dieback response and contributing to ambitious County Council targets of planting a million trees. Possessing technician-level membership with the Arboricultural Association, coupled with a comprehensive range of qualifications from tree risk assessment to habitat management, underscores Ross' dedication in professional arboriculture.

Brandon Townsend: BSc (Hons) Biology, L4 (Arb) Apprentice, QTRA Registered

Brandon is an Arboricultural Technician at AWA, currently completing the Level 4 Arboriculture Apprenticeship at Myerscough College. He holds a BSc (Hons) in Biology from Bangor University, where he developed a strong interest in woodland ecology. Before joining AWA in April 2024, he gained practical arboricultural experience and completed his NPTC chainsaw qualification. Brandon supports a range of consultancy work including tree surveys, risk assessments, and technical reporting, and is developing skills in specialist inspection methods such as PiCUS tomography.

Tree Species			Measurements					Tree Condition			Risk Assessment									
	Common Name	Latin Name	Maturity	Height (m)	Number of Stems	Stem Diameter (mm)	Spread Radius (m) (Average)	Vitality	Obvious Defects	Additional Comments	Assessed	Target Type	Multiple?	Target Range	Size Range	Probability of Failure	Reduced Mass (%)	Risk of harm/ Urgency	Works	Next Survey
T8	Beech	Fagus sylvatica	Mature	20	1	1200	10	Poor	Leaning stem; Decay; Crown dieback; Sparse crown	Meripilus giganteus. Limb loss. Car parking area / Car charging area under crown.	Whole Tree	H: HUMAN	2	2	1	3	0	Unacceptable/ Moderate	Fell to ground level OR retain as monolith	NA

