



Specification

T.1 Limb (M)

Section fell in safe and controlled manner to just above ground level.

1. Site Context and Tree Description

T1 is a mature Lime (*Tilia* sp.) situated on a sloping riverbank within the rear garden of the property. The tree formerly formed part of a shared canopy structure with a large adjacent Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), which has since failed and been removed. The Lime has consequently developed an elongated, unbalanced canopy, heavily biased towards the west over the swimming pool and river.

2. Structural Condition and Physiological Concerns

The loss of the adjacent Beech has resulted in a sudden increase in wind exposure. The Lime exhibits a one-sided canopy structure with significant lateral extension towards the open aspect. This growth pattern, combined with the altered wind dynamics, presents an elevated risk of structural failure, particularly during high wind events. Additionally, the tree's position on a raised, sloping bank raises concern over long-term root plate stability. The removal of the neighbouring Beech is likely to have influenced soil stability and may further compromise anchorage, especially under saturated ground conditions.

3. Safety and Risk Considerations

The principal target area beneath the canopy is the rear garden, which includes a swimming pool and is heavily used throughout the spring, summer, and autumn months. Any failure—either whole tree or major limb—has the potential to cause serious injury to occupants and/or significant damage to property. While partial pruning could marginally reduce wind loading, the extent of reduction required to meaningfully mitigate risk would result in severe loss of crown structure and vitality. Such intervention would not represent good arboricultural practice and would likely lead to ongoing management and decay issues.

4. Amenity and Landscape Impact

The property and surrounding area benefit from extensive mature tree cover, ensuring that the removal of this single Lime will have only a minimal effect on the local visual amenity or character of the area. Should the Local Planning Authority consider it appropriate, a replacement planting scheme can be provided to offset any perceived loss of canopy cover.

5. Alternative Management Options Considered

Alternative works, including heavy crown reduction or staged retrenchment pruning, have been considered but discounted. These options would not sufficiently reduce the inherent structural and positional risks and would adversely affect the tree's long-term viability and appearance. Removal



and replacement with a more suitably located and proportioned specimen represent a balanced and sustainable management solution consistent with BS3998:2010 – Tree Work – Recommendations.

6. Summary and Justification

In summary, the tree has become structurally unsustainable due to:

- * Significant canopy imbalance following the loss of the companion Beech;
- * Increased wind exposure and loading;
- * Reduced stability due to its position on a sloping riverbank.
- * High potential risk to property and persons in a frequently used garden area.

Felling is therefore proposed as a proportionate and responsible course of action. The works will not materially affect the visual amenity of the area and are in line with sound arboricultural management principles.