North Somerset Council

Tree Risk Management Plan

Adopted October 2024

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the revision

North Somerset Council's original Tree Risk Management Plan (TRMP) was adopted in 2011 (Decision No. 10/11 DE 123) and revised in 2016. The purpose of the TRMP is to demonstrate the way which North Somerset Council addresses its duty of care as a tree owner. The adopted process meets our legal responsibilities, but it is also intended to reassure local residents and visitors that the risk from trees is dealt with appropriately in the district.

The 2011 TRMP provided valid information about tree benefits and the core principles of sensible risk management, and incorporated guidance contained in the National Tree Safety Group's document *Common Sense Risk Management of Trees*. The 2011 version of the TRMP is still available to view on the Council's website as the relevance of the background information remains valid.

This is the TRMP's second revision reflecting knowledge and experience gained through its practical application since 2016.

In 2016 a more concise working document was prepared which updated the following five key areas:

1. Implementation of a revised set of strategic objectives;

2. Implementation of a revised proactive tree survey and inspection regime;

3. The management of risk to an acceptable level by using competent contractors;

4. Implementation of prioritisation of work instructions issued to contractors;

5. The maintenance of records of the adopted strategy/policy, inspections and works performed.

This revision maintains the premise of these and seeks to update dated elements of the document and changes to our approach and responsibilities.

This document will be reviewed again in 2027 or earlier if changes are required following updated national guidance or advice in relation to situations such as climate change.

1.2 The balancing of duties and resources

It is necessary to repeat the key message from the 2011 original TRMP that it is widely held that the risk of harm from trees is low and that our procedures need to be proportionate to that risk. Because the risk from trees in general is low, it would be disproportionate for us to proactively inspect every tree in our ownership. Tree risk management will also need to be balanced with our tree officers' other duties, which are necessary and valued by the community. For example, they make decisions on tree work applications, investigate unauthorised work to protected trees and planning condition breaches, comment on development applications, organise tree planting and aftercare, and deal with high hedges and hedgerow removal complaints. This means that prioritisation of sites to be proactively surveyed is crucial, and it also means that certain types of sites will not be proactively surveyed at all. Instead, they may be surveyed on an ad-hoc basis as a reaction to enquiries and concerns.

1.3 Retained risk management tool and tolerable risk threshold

The risk management tool Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) continues to be used as our methodology for evaluating risk. Central to this tool is the notion of setting a 'tolerable' level of risk.

The original 2011 TRMP has set the level of tolerable risk of harm from trees in North Somerset at 1 in 10,000 and this revision retains that principle, as it reflects common views around acceptable levels of risk in our society. Our management decisions are informed by balancing the risk of harm from trees against this tolerable level of risk.

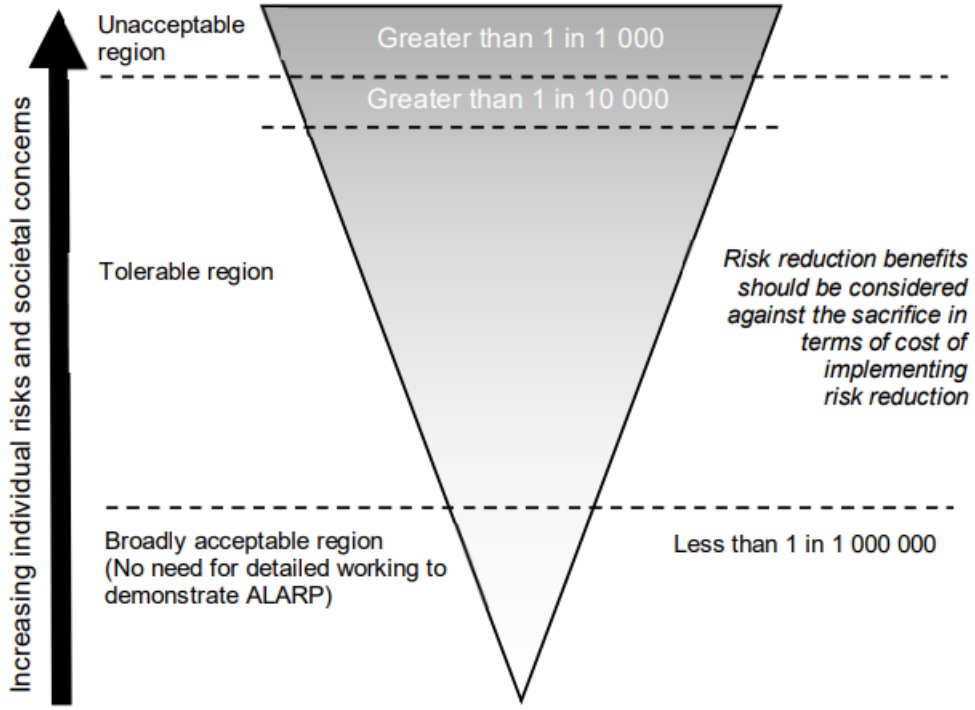


Figure 1. Adapted from the Tolerability of Risk Framework (HSE 2001)

To put the 1 in 10,000 probabilities of significant harm into perspective, Table 1 is reproduced from the British Medical Association Guide and illustrates the risk of death (in 1987) from a range of hazards.

Activity	Risk of an individual dying in any one year
Smoking 10 cigarettes a day	1 in 200
Influenza	1 in 500
Road accident	1 in 8,000
Playing football	1 in 25,000
Accident at home	1 in 26,000
Accident at work	1 in 43,000
Hit by lightning	1 in 10,000,000
Release of radiation from nearby nuclear power station	1 in 10,000,000
Struck by falling tree	1 in 20,000,000

Table 1 Relative risk of dying

2. Revision of the key strategic objectives

2.1 Objectives of risk-based tree management

The key principle of the tree risk management plan is that it follows a risk-based management approach. This approach will enable us to deliver our revised strategic objectives which are laid out below:

1. **Retain and improve tree benefits**
   We retain and grow trees in our district because of the wide-ranging benefits they provide to residents, businesses and visitors.

2. **Focus inspections on highest use areas**
   Trees in general pose a relatively low risk to people so it is appropriate to focus resources on areas with highest use where harm is most likely to occur or places with vulnerable users.

3. **Meeting legal requirements**
   Legislation and case law clearly indicates that tree owners must demonstrate a proactive approach to tree risk management. This does not mean that it is necessary to inspect all trees; and most trees do not need detailed or regular inspections.

4. **Minimise the impact of financial constraints**
   Cost effective tree management is essential. Unnecessary and low priority tree work is a waste of resources and reduces tree benefits. It is therefore to be avoided.

3. Implementation of the proactive tree survey and inspection regime

3.1 The basis for the risk management tool

In 2011, the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) system was selected as the tool to manage tree risk in North Somerset Council. The methodology is clearly laid out at the QTRA website (www.qtra.co.uk) and is explained in detail in our original 2011 TRMP.

The system moves the management of tree risk away from labelling trees as either 'safe' or 'unsafe'. Instead, QTRA allows the risk assessor to identify and analyse the risk in terms of land use, likelihood of tree failure and the potential consequences.

For us to incorporate QTRA into our management of many thousands of trees and implement a defensible risk management tool, we have considered the following issues:

- Land use and proactive/reactive surveying
- Survey frequency
- Staff competency and qualification

3.2 Proactive and reactive surveying

Basic, proactive surveys are carried out on trees located in our busiest streets, parks and open spaces on a 4-yearly basis, in rotation. See Appendix 2 for details of the sites we proactively survey. These surveys involve reviewing all the trees within the location for defects and then focussing on those that require work and then recording any actions. We log trees with a greater than 1 in 100,000 score and those that require work.

Basic, reactive surveys supplement proactive surveys, and originate from North Somerset Council Tree Officers responding to enquiries from the public and/or through their own travelling across the district, or from colleagues working in the public realm.

Detailed inspections are normally carried out when the basic visual tree survey highlights issues which require further investigation. The decision to make a detailed inspection will only ever be made by a Tree Officer because they are the only Officers with the required skills to make that decision.

In all other instances, any Officers working in the public realm and carrying out their normal duties, can only be reasonably expected to notice blatant defects such as a leafless tree in summer or a large and visually obvious broken branch. In such cases this should be reported to the Tree Officer, who will then follow up by visiting the tree(s) in question and recording information and actioning work as required.

This approach is considered proportionate to the risk posed by trees especially when considering that reactive inspections are taking place in conjunction with the planned proactive surveys of our busiest areas.

3.3 Assessment of land use and prioritisation of sites for proactive surveying

Tree surveying is a critical task in delivering tree risk management. Deciding where to survey is also essential. It is not possible to survey every tree managed by North Somerset Council, and it would not be proportionate to the generally low risk of harm from tree failure.

Nonetheless, it is well established that tree owners must demonstrate that they have taken reasonable and proportionate steps to ensure that land users/visitors/passers-by are reasonably safe. In this context, it should be noted that complete safety is not considered achievable.

These circumstances mean that it is appropriate to focus resources on areas where the risk from trees is likely to be highest. To deliver this objective, it is most appropriate to categorise locations and sites in terms of likelihood of occupancy, and then arrange them in order of highest to lowest. This is because it is more likely that a person will be near a tree that fails in a busier location. A decision can then be made regarding which sites can realistically be proactively surveyed with the available staff resources. This ensures a consistent approach to tree management across the district. It helps lead a proportionate and affordable approach to site inspections and tree work, whilst retaining tree benefits, because sites with low occupancy rates automatically fall outside the need to be proactively and regularly surveyed.

Our land can be divided into the following entities:

- public highways,
- public buildings
- open spaces, e.g. parks and woodlands
- off-road pedestrian/cycle routes.

A hierarchy of land use has been developed which reflects vehicle and visitor numbers, as well as speed limits and is described below.

In assessing occupancy levels and vulnerability to impact, QTRA does not require exact occupancy numbers. The cost of acquiring data for usage of our land is disproportionate to the risk of harm from trees in general. Instead QTRA advises that an estimate of usage is made within one of six ranges, with 1 being the range with most occupants and almost constant use.

Users of our land may be divided into persons and vulnerable persons. A vulnerable person is someone who, due to their age, physical/mental ability and lack of responsibilities cannot be expected to assess their surroundings and react to danger in a reasonable way. Our most vulnerable group of users is children, and we have

decided that we have an enhanced duty of care to this group. We apply a reduced trigger level for remedial tree works in child-specific areas (i.e. Land Use Range 1 – constant use), which ensures that the risk to children is kept low. Child-specific areas are locations where we expect a concentration of children, and include formal play areas, and leisure centre forecourts.

The following addresses key issues relating to each land category:

Public highway and public buildings

Public highways in North Somerset are split into a hierarchy in line with national guidance. The hierarchy is based on an assessment of road character, transport connections, traffic count (where available), speed limits and type of vehicles carried (*i.e.* bus routes).

Motorways and motorway slip roads fall within hierarchy code 1 and are maintained by the Highways Agency. We do not survey these roads.

We proactively survey council owned trees along roads that fall within hierarchy codes 2 to 4b, because these have the highest occupancy rates. Code 2 to 3 roads range from strategic routes such as an A road, to main and secondary distributor routes. 4a and b roads are link roads which connect villages in rural areas, and residential or industrial estates in urban areas. Roads in category 4c to 6 have low traffic numbers meaning that proactive surveys are not undertaken.

Footpaths (including public rights of way), cycle paths and off-road cycle routes are not currently included in the highway hierarchy. Census data is not available for these. The Sustainable Travel Team have identified the following commuter/leisure routes as significant commuter/leisure routes (i.e. Festival Way along the A370, Somerset Avenue/Herluin Way WsM, and the Pier-to-Pier route). We also survey the Strawberry Line as a highly used route.

North Somerset Council manages children's centres throughout the district, and some centres have outdoor space allocated for play. The outdoor spaces are proactively surveyed to ensure the risk to children is reduced. Children's centres are surveyed using Land Use Range 1.

We have previously surveyed schools which have bought our Tree Risk Management package, using Land Use Range 1, unless agreed otherwise with the head teacher. As of 2024 there are no schools in North Somerset who use the NSC Tree Team to conduct their tree surveys.

Appendix 1 includes details of the roads, cycle routes, and children's centres that are proactively surveyed. No other highways or public buildings will be proactively surveyed.

Public Rights of Way

Whilst the risk of harm from falling trees on public rights of way (PROWs) is low, we have decided that public footpaths and bridleways in our managed woodlands shall

be proactively surveyed. This forms part of management objectives set by the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme, which the council aim to adhere to.

We do not proactively survey PROWs because the trees tend to be growing on private land and the responsibility lies with the landowner. However, in circumstances where the risk of harm is significant and it has been brought to our attention, we will discuss with the landowner and if necessary, serve a section 154 notice.

Appendix 1 includes a list of Council-owned woodlands where we proactively survey public rights of way.

Open spaces

Many of our open spaces are used frequently by a high number of people. Evidence from a 2007 survey of users of our green spaces identified the level of usage of the different types of spaces (Appendix 2).

This information was used to inform our decision that the following open spaces are proactively surveyed:

- Formal parks
- Community Parks
- Sports and recreational areas/ leisure centre grounds
- Strawberry Line

The evaluation of occupancy levels for users in our open spaces includes an on-site assessment of how different parts of an open space are used. For example, some sites will have some areas where visitors are likely to congregate and remain for quite some time (*e.g.* for a picnic), and some areas where they will not. The tree surveyor will use their experience and knowledge of the site to judge occupancy levels, and the reasoning will be documented in the survey. As an example, a group of trees surrounded by an understory of vegetation which prevents the public from passing underneath them will be judged as an area of lower usage compared with a tree with limbs overhanging a busy footpath or bench.

Appendix 2 contains an explanation of the types of open spaces, and a list of the spaces that we survey proactively. No other open space land will be proactively surveyed.

Play Spaces

North Somerset Council manages several formal play areas in the district. Some play areas on council land are leased out to town and parish councils, and these will not be surveyed by us, unless the parish councils have purchased the play area inspection service from the council.

We proactively survey trees on our land which are located within falling distance of a formal play space, irrespective of whom manages the play area.

We use Land Use Range 1 for trees in formal play areas, and within falling distance of these.

Appendix 2 contains a list of the play spaces and surrounding trees which are proactively surveyed by us.

Non-council-owned trees within falling distance of the sites that we survey proactively

We note and action non-council-owned trees which at the time of the proactive survey show obvious and gross defects, posing an unacceptable risk to users of the highway or public land. Examples of this would be a dead and decaying tree, or a large broken branch within falling distance of the highway. We do not enter private land to assess the trees. Where trees are identified we contact the registered landowners seeking acknowledgement of their responsibility and a commitment to take action. If no response to this is received, then we serve a s154 notice and if no subsequent action is taken we will instruct our contractors to remove the tree and will seek to recoup our costs.

As mentioned in 3.3, we do not proactively survey trees along the public rights of way network as they are not council-owned, and the responsibility lies with the landowner. We may intervene if there is imminent risk to users.

3.4 Summary of the assessment of land use and prioritisation of sites for proactive surveys

Table 2 below outlines the roads and sites which are proactively surveyed:

Priority site category					QTRA Land Use Range
Proactively surveyed	**Public Highways, cycle routes, PROWs**	**Public buildings**	**Open Spaces**	**Schools**	
YES	Road hierarchy 2: Strategic routes, heavily trafficked roads between primary destinations	Children's Centre outdoor areas	Play areas	Schools which may in the future sign up to our tree risk management service. As of August 2024, there are no schools signed up to this service.	1
	Road hierarchy 3: - Main and secondary distributor routes, routes between strategic routes and secondary		Formal parks sports/recreation areas; community parks; Strawberry Line.		1-4

	destinations, main routes within urban areas. Road hierarchy 4a and 4b: Link roads and local access roads High use commuter cycle routes. - Pier-to-Pier, Herluin Way and Festival Way PROWs in our woodlands				
NO	Road hierarchy 4c to 5: Estate roads, rural through routes, access roads		Natural areas; Neighbourhood open space		5
NO	Road hierarchy 6: Lanes				5-6

Table 2 Site categories and priority of surveying

3.5 Inspection frequency

Proactive inspections are a visual inspection (walkover) carried out on a four-year-interval.

A walkover survey consists of the Tree Officer visually assessing trees in an area for defects or health issues that may lead to tree or branch failure. Trees which are identified as having a defect that may cause tree or branch failure, will be inspected in more detail. We only record the outcomes of inspections where defects are identified and the risk assessment is a higher risk than 1 in 100,000, or where remedial work is required.

Exceptions may apply to the 4-yearly inspection interval and in these cases the Tree Officer may make a subjective decision to refine the inspection frequency dependent on the circumstances at the time of the survey. The reasoning behind any changes will be recorded and implemented.

Dead trees are considered to present a significant risk of failure and are most obvious to find in the summer when they should be in leaf. An annual dead tree survey is therefore undertaken along our most busy highways in the summer which includes monitoring for ash dieback progression. A list of these roads is at Appendix 1.

3.6 Staff competency

At North Somerset Council our staff are divided into two categories:

Qualified staff

These are our Tree Officers, and they carry out the proactive, technical inspections. They are qualified to at least level 3 in arboriculture; have passed the three-day

Lantra Award Professional Tree Inspection qualification; and are licensed QTRA users or are working towards a license under supervision of a licensed user.

Qualified staff make final decisions on remedial work and timescales. They also instruct and monitor contractors. They are responsible for all aspects of tree risk management implementation.

A log of training undertaken by inspecting officers is at Appendix 4.

Other staff

Officers working in the public realm and carrying out their normal duties, can only be reasonably expected to notice blatant defects such as a leafless tree in summer or a large and visually obvious broken branch. In such cases this should be reported to the Tree Officer, who will then follow up by visiting the tree(s) in question and recording information and actioning work as required.

4 Management of risk to an acceptable level by using competent tree work contractors

4.1 Using competent contractors

A well-functioning tree risk management system depends on using competent contractors to undertake remedial tree work where required.

4.2 Our contractors

Our tree works are contracted to Glendale which won the Parks and Street Scene Contract tender in 2013. Their health and safety competency and professional qualifications of the tree work division were assessed as part of the tender process.

Tree work is a high-risk profession, and competency in carrying out the work, as well as carrying out risk assessments of tasks and sites, are essential components. The risk is not only high to the operatives, but also to property and members of the public. Management of traffic and pedestrians is paramount to run a safe and efficient work area.

Our tree gang operatives are required to have certificates of competency relating to the tasks they perform, or they need to be closely supervised by operatives who do. They are also required to be trained in highway traffic management. Compliance is monitored by the tree officers at monthly operational meetings.

Glendale is an Arboricultural Association ARB Approved Contractor, which is a professionally recognised benchmark for tree work contracting. It means that Glendale has been assessed by the Arboricultural Association and has met and continues to uphold their standards with regards to worksite safety, regulation compliance and quality of work.

4.3 Monitoring of contractor work

Regular ad hoc checks of the tree gang operatives' site-specific risk assessments and traffic management set-up are undertaken by the Tree Officers, and any issues are discussed on site and rectified as appropriate. Records of rectifications are held on the council's computer system, Arbortrack.

A monthly operational meeting is held with the contractor's tree gang supervisor where identified issues are discussed, and action points regarding health and safety and standard of work checked. Minutes of these meetings are held on the council's computer system. Monthly Parks and Street Scene contract meetings also include the consideration of all health and safety related statistics.

All relevant information is reviewed at the annual contract meeting (this includes training records, risk assessments, LOLER records etc.)

5 Implementation of prioritisation of work instructions issued to our contractor

5.1 From unacceptable risk to tolerable risk

When our Tree Officers identify trees that pose an unacceptable risk to people (that is, when the risk of harm is greater than 1 in 10,000), instructions will be made to our contractor for work which reduces the risk to acceptable levels of risk as a priority.

We also instruct a large amount of other tree work to our contractor. This includes both dangerous trees and work which does not relate to risk of harm from tree failure, such as removal of branches that obstruct the highway, regular pollarding and epicormic growth, or pruning of trees that are causing actionable damage to private property. It is therefore crucial that we have a system of prioritising these instructions, to ensure that the highest risks are dealt with before any other works.

The works required to reduce the risk to an acceptable level is determined by the Tree Officer at the time of the assessment. This might mean that a tree is pruned to deal with a localised defect such as a rotten branch, or it may mean that the entire tree has to be felled due to more extensive structural problems.

Due to the volume of work and resource availability, this means we have had to subdivide this into a more refined list to ensure that the most serious cases are dealt with first. The order of works is to complete any greater than 1 in 1,000 category first, followed by the 1 in 3,000-5,000 category trees and then the 1 in 10,000 category trees. Whilst we endeavour to do it in this order, operational constraints mean that some work is undertaken out of sequence.

Emergency callouts (where works to trees which have already partly failed, or where the risk is so great that immediate works are necessary, i.e. where the risk is found to be greater than 1 in 1,000), are phoned through to the tree gang immediately. The gang will attend site and begin work as soon as practicably possible (this is normally within 24 hours). When weather warnings are issued, we relay this to our contractor who is then on stand-by for a potentially higher than usual level of emergency call-outs.

Works which are not an emergency but where the risk of harm is greater than 1 in 10,000, are sent through to our contractor via work orders generated by our tree management system Arbortrack. Our contractor is required to make every effort to deal with the urgent, high-risk jobs before any other work is seen to. At times, for example when traffic management equipment and extra staff have to be organised, and there may be a delay in getting the high-risk tree work completed, lower priority work may be carried out in the interim even though the higher risk work has not yet been addressed. This is considered good use of our resources. Similarly, for efficiency and productivity purposes, where our contractor attends a site to complete high-risk works, they may also undertake other essential (i.e. higher than 1 in 10,000 priorities) works in the vicinity to avoid the need to revisit that site. Some work is not

connected to a risk of tree failure but is instead linked to safe use of the highway for example visibility (e.g. at junctions).

Priority works and their progression are discussed in the monthly operational meetings with Glendale, where performance issues are reviewed and actioned if required.

6 Maintenance of records of the inspections and works performed

6.1 An auditable system of records management

An essential corner stone of a reliable risk management system is the records management method. Records of inspections, decisions, and work instructions are necessary to be able to demonstrate continuity within the system.

All our records are stored electronically on the council's computer system.

Proactive inspections

An annual calendar of proactive inspections is maintained by the Principal Tree Officer in spread sheet format. This includes main inspection sites: highways, Children's centres and open spaces. The inspecting Tree Officers update the calendar with information including date of survey, date that remedial works were instructed, and date that remedial works were completed.

Each Tree Officer is responsible for the records made for each site they surveyed or was the lead surveyor on.

The inspections are recorded on our tree management software (Arbortrack as of 2024). Work orders are also generated through this software and are available directly to the contractor. The contractor also marks each job as complete on the software.

Reactive inspections resulting from enquiries logged through for example CRM/Confirm

Where a survey is the result of an enquiry which has been received by our call centre or via our website, or any other means, records are made in the notes section of that enquiry for storage and against the relevant tree on Arbortrack. Recorded information includes a basic QTRA risk calculation and whether or not any action was required. This allows easy retrieval of records, available under an address, the reporting resident's name or directly by bringing up the relevant tree's record on Arbortrack. If a detailed inspection is required, the results are also recorded on Arbortrack.

Other reactive ad hoc inspections

Detailed records for trees which are inspected on an ad hoc basis are included (if not already on the system) and a note on tree details is added on Arbortrack. The information is normally more in-depth than the records on Confirm.

Contract monitoring

Records of contract monitoring are kept electronically and updated by the Tree Team. Records include minutes from the monthly operational meetings, rectification notices and ad hoc work site inspections.

Staff training and CPD

Records of staff training, QTRA licensing and other Continuous Professional Development (CPD) relating to tree risk management are kept electronically and updated regularly by the Principal Tree Officer. Records of current staff training are available in Log of training.

7 Review

7.1 Review of land use

A review of land use and sites for proactive surveying will take place whenever new or revised information regarding occupancy levels is available.

7.2 Review of the risk management plan

There will be a formal review of this plan every three years.

Additionally, this plan will be informally reviewed by the Principal Tree Officer with relevant staff if and when significant changes are noticed within our tree population or evidence becomes available that suggests more frequent formal reviews are required.

Appendix 1

Roads, cycle routes, woodland PROWs and children's centres

Tables 3 - 5 below show the routes which are proactively surveyed.

Highways which are proactively surveyed		
Highway hierarchy	**Description**	**Locations**
2	Heavily trafficked roads between primary destinations, speed limits usually more than 40mph	See maps 1-5
3	Routes between strategic routes and secondary destinations, main routes within urban areas (speed limits of 40mph and less); routes between secondary destinations and other traffic centres, secondary routes within urban areas (speed limits usually 30mph or less)	See maps 1-5
4a to 4b	Link roads and local access roads. Principal and secondary distributor roads through estates, principal connector roads between villages and main roads, principal and secondary connector roads between small villages and main roads	See maps 1-5

Table 3 Highways which are proactively surveyed

Annual dead tree surveys are carried out along these routes	
Route	**Destination**
A38	Bristol - Winscombe
A368	Banwell - Blagdon
A369	Bristol - Portishead
A370	WsM - Bristol
A371	Airport Roundabout WsM – Sidcot
B3124	Clevedon - Portishead
B3128	Bristol - Clevedon
B3130	Clevedon – Nailsea – Winford
B3133	Clevedon - Langford
B3134	Burrington Combe
B3440	WsM
Toll Road	Kewstoke Road, WsM

Table 4 Annual dead tree survey routes

Commuter cycle routes which are proactively surveyed	
Cycle path stretch	**Location**
Somerset Avenue/Herluin Way	WsM
Festival Way along A370	Long Ashton
Strawberry Line	Yatton to Winscombe
Pier-to-Pier	Weston-super-Mare to Clevedon

Table 5 Proactively surveyed cycle routes

Children's centres which are proactively surveyed	
Centre	**Location**
Ashcombe (Ashcombe Primary)	WsM
Banwell, Winscombe and Sandford	Banwell
Castle Batch	WsM
Locking Castle and Locking (The Campus)	WsM
Milton and Old Worle	WsM
The For All Healthy Living Centre Children's Centre	WsM
Little Waves Community Centre (Windwhistle Primary)	WsM
Oldmixon Family Centre	Uphill
Yeo Valley (at St Andrew's Primary)	Congresbury
Clevedon	Clevedon
Crockerne (at Crockerne Primary)	Pill
Long Ashton	Long Ashton
Nailsea and Backwell	Nailsea
Portishead (at St Barnabas Centre)	Portishead
Yatton Moor (at Yatton Infant School)	Yatton

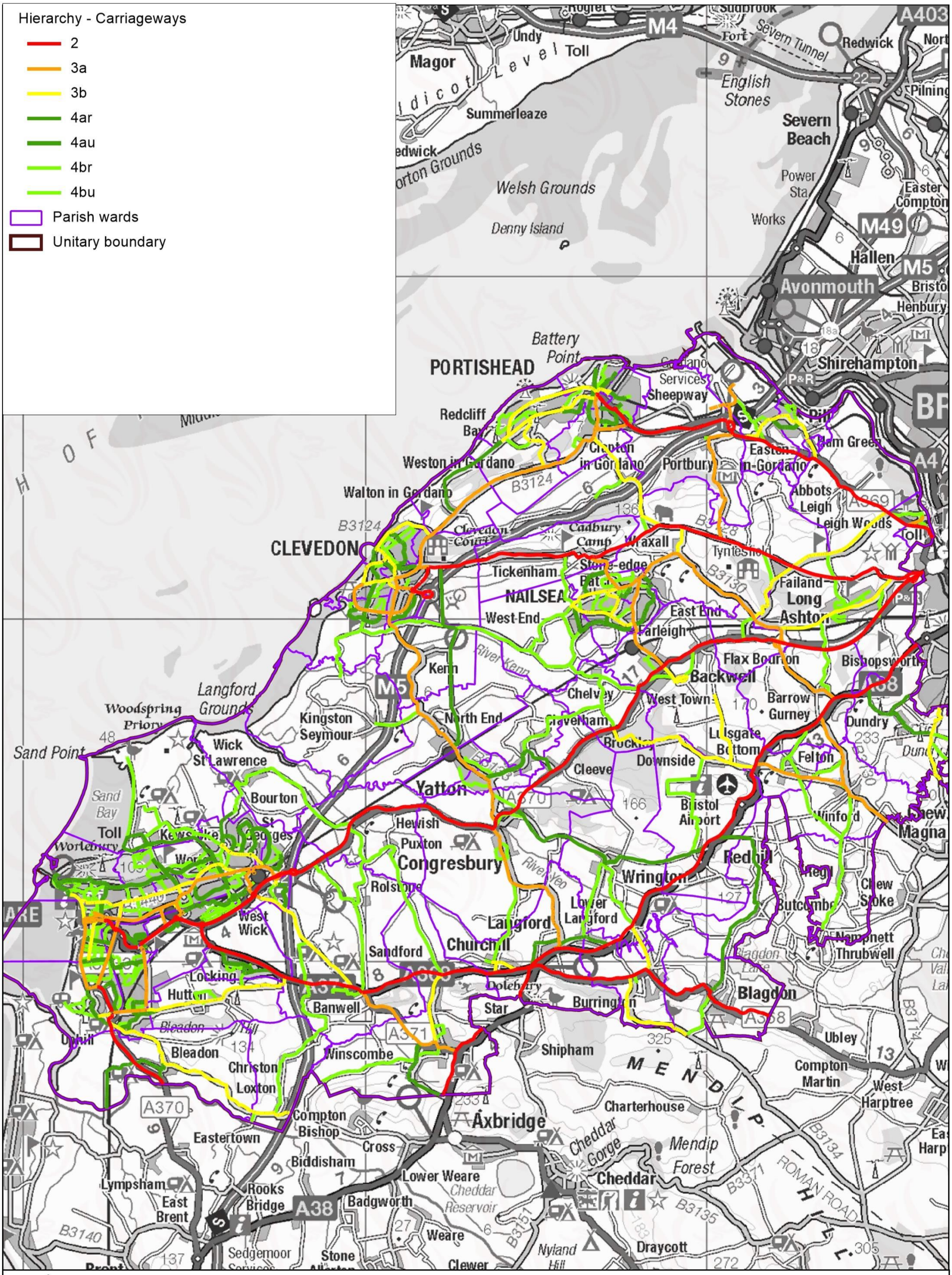
Table 6 Proactively surveyed Children's Centres

Woodland PROWs which are proactively surveyed	
Woodland	**Location**
Abbots Pool	Abbots Leigh
Cadbury Hill	Congresbury
Eastwood	Portishead
Nowhere Wood	Nailsea
Strawberry Wood	Clevedon
Weston Woods	WsM

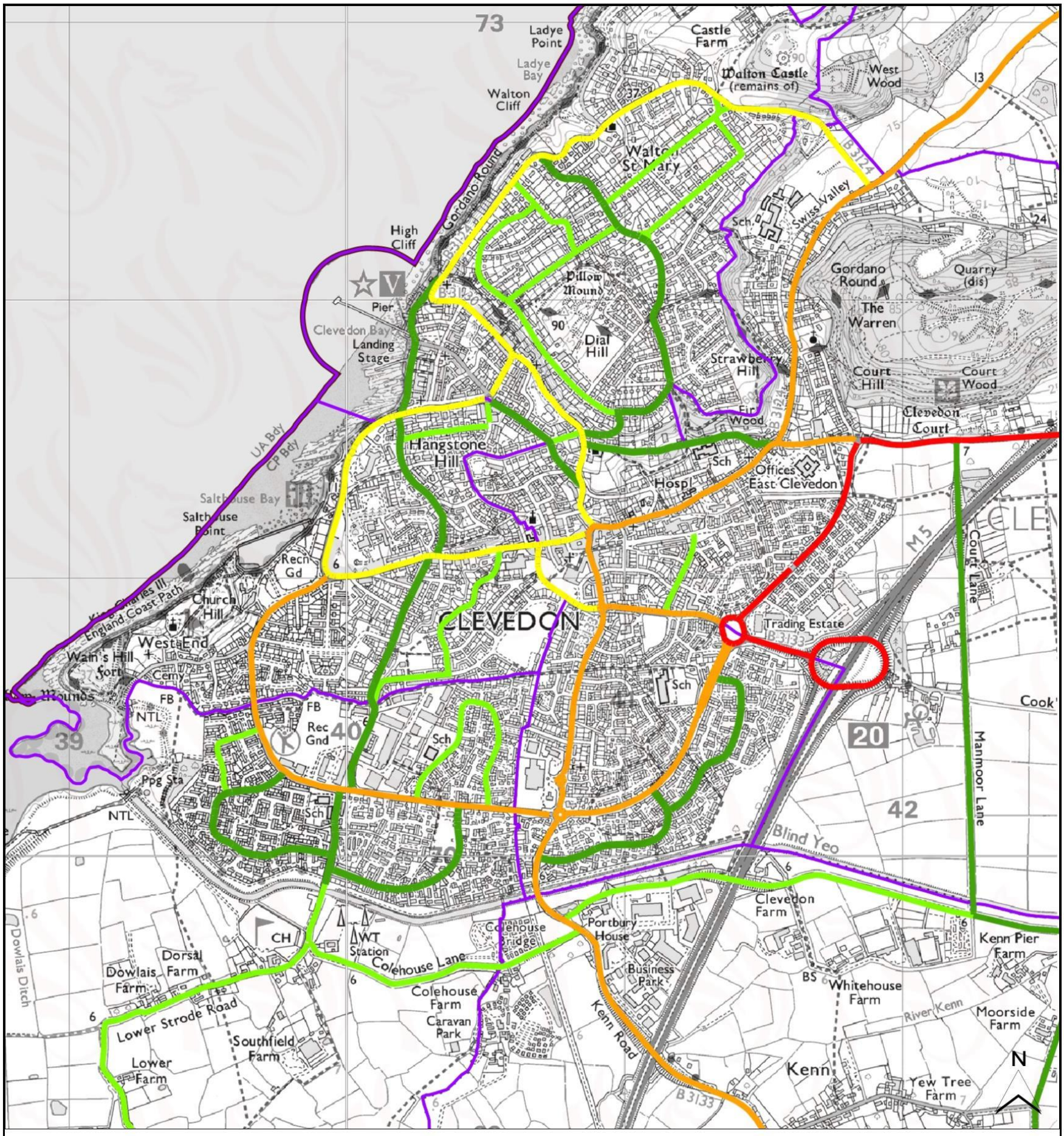
Table 7 Proactively surveyed woodland Public Rights of Way

Roads, cycle paths, Children's Centres, and PROWs not mentioned in the tables above **will not** be proactively surveyed.

Map 1: Surveyed Road Network Overview



Map 2: Surveyed Road Network – Clevedon



Hierarchy - Carriageways

- 2
- 3a
- 3b
- 4ar
- 4au
- 4br
- 4bu

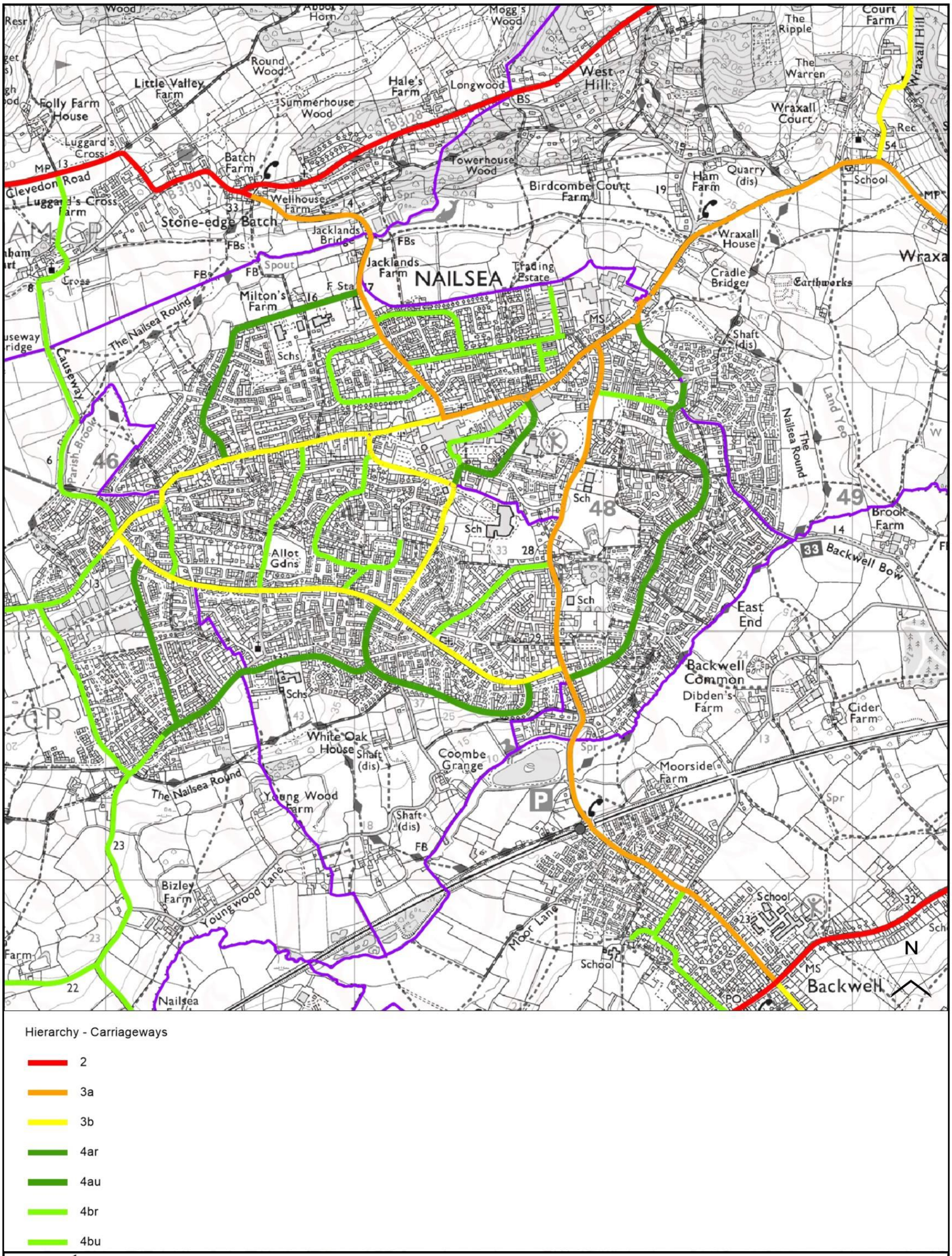
North Somerset Council

Surveyed Road Network

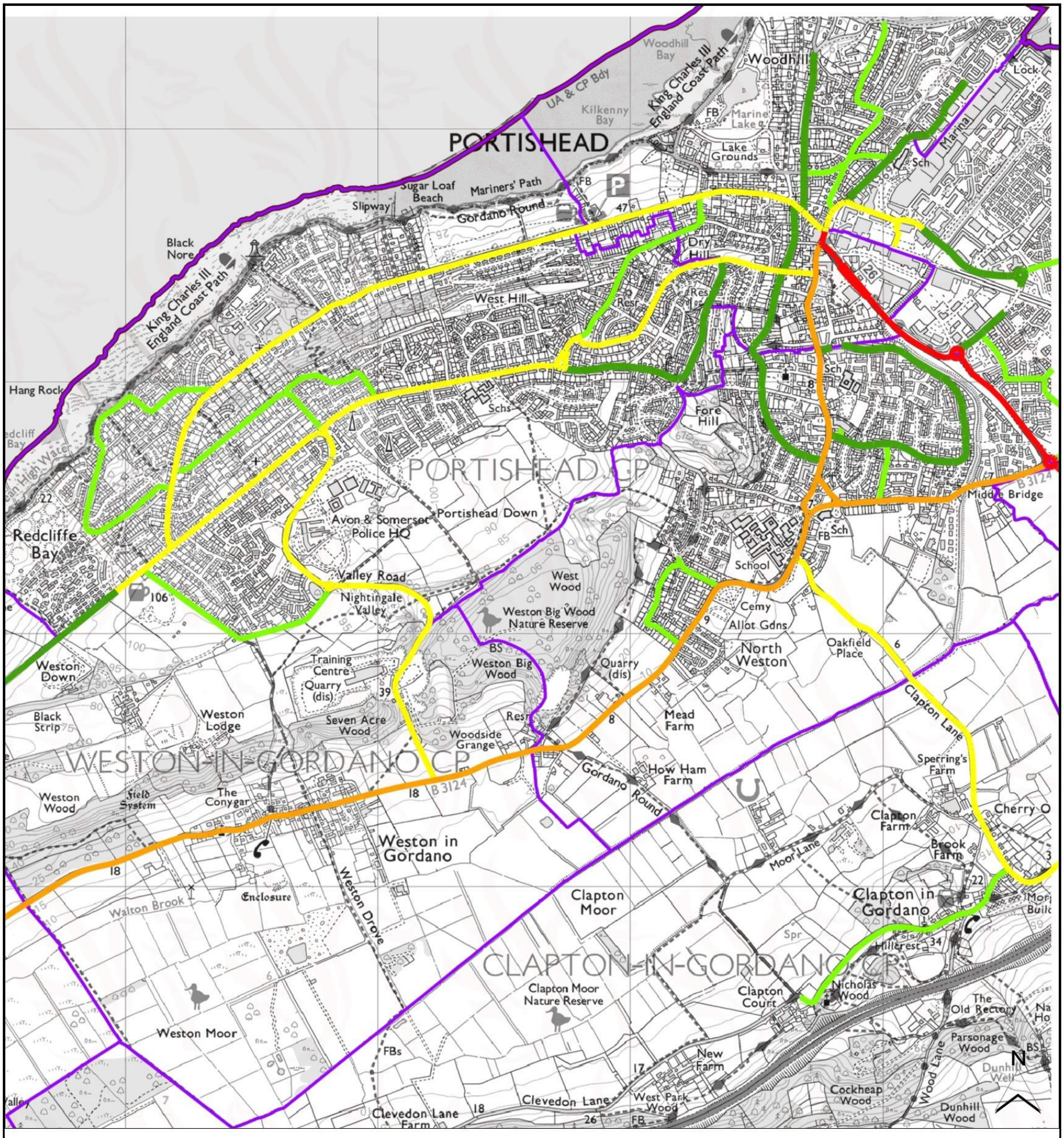
Clevedon Detail

Scale: 1:20000
Drawn by: Esther Coffin-Smith
Date: 19 July 2024

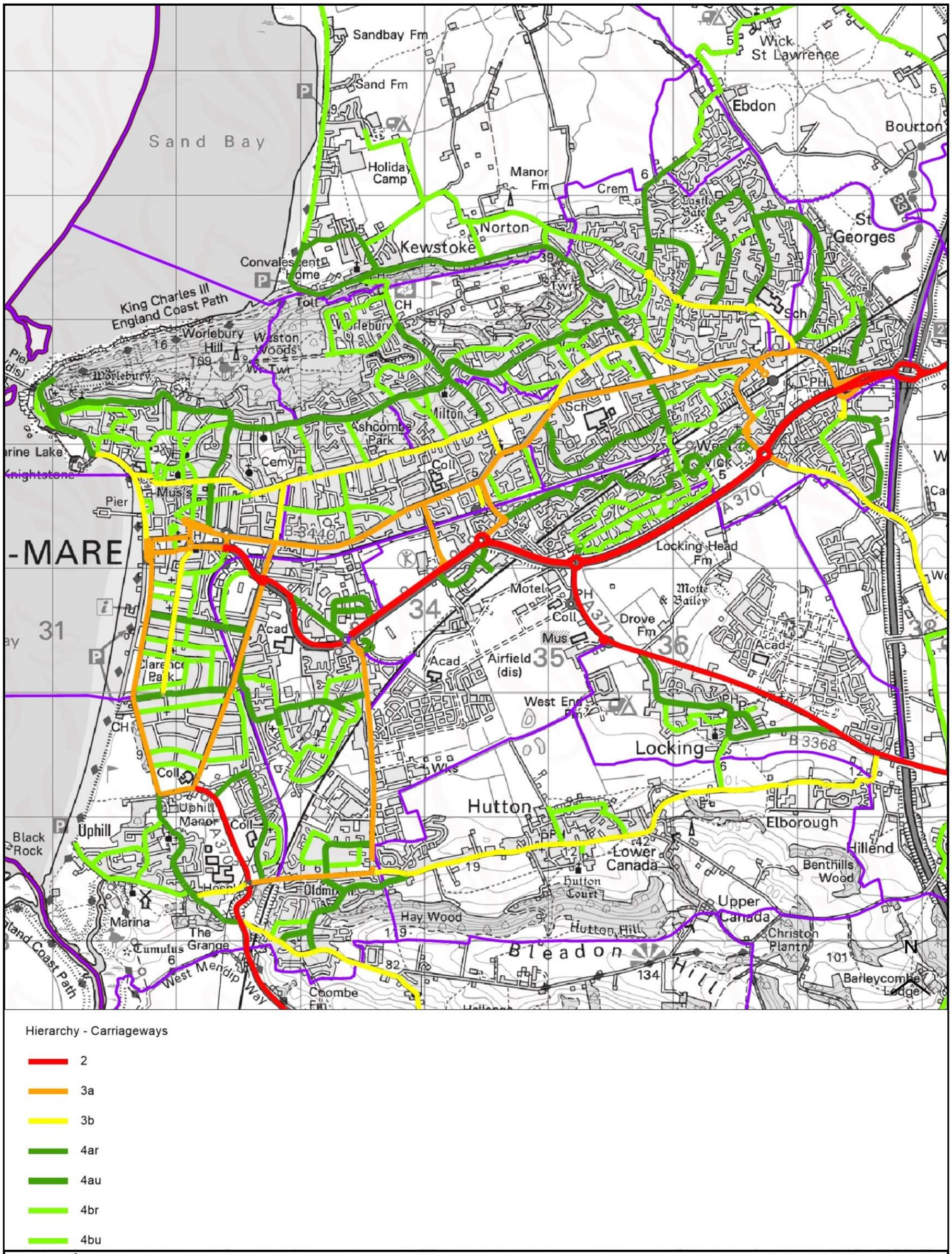
Map 3: Surveyed Road Network - Nailsea



Map 4: Surveyed Road Network - Portishead



Map 5: Surveyed Road Network – Weston-super-Mare



Appendix 2

Open spaces

The results of a survey undertaken in 2007, of users of our green spaces, shows the level of usage of the different types of spaces (Table 8). We have used this data to decide which sites will be proactively surveyed (Table 9). Beaches and seafronts are excluded as there are no trees at those locations.

Type of green space	Frequency of use by individuals					Total annual visits	% of visitors that spent more than one hour
	Every day / most days	1-2 times per week	1-2 times per month	3 – 4 times per year	Once per year		
Formal Park	10,600	20,800	34,200	28,500	6,300	**5,291,000**	49%
Local Park and sports / recreational areas	8,300	19,500	21,500	19,200	8,800	**4,261,400**	47.9%
Residential open spaces	9,700	11,600	10,700	11,700	5,500	**3,724,200**	39.4%
Natural Areas	9,700	12,500	26,200	30,400	5,500	**4,222,500**	66.5%
Beaches and seafronts	11,300	22,800	42,400	44,900	6,300	**5,875,000**	70.5%

Table 8 Survey results of green space usage in North Somerset

Open Spaces which <u>are</u> proactively surveyed (trees within formal play areas not managed by NSC are not surveyed by NSC)		
North Somerset Typology	**Primary purpose**	**Locations**
Formal Parks and Public Gardens	Accessible, high-quality opportunities for recreation in a formal setting where horticultural practices dominate. Visitors drawn from within and outside the area	**Weston-super-Mare** Alexandra Parade Beach Lawns Clarence Park West Clarence Park East Ebdon Road Corner Grove Park Madeira Cove Milton Rose Garden Prince Consort Gardens Town Square Worle High Street **Clevedon** Alexandra Gardens Green Beach Lake Grounds Pier Copse Salthouse Fields Sunhill Park **Portishead** Gallingale Garden Tydenham Garden The Orchard **Nailsea** Millennium Park
Community Parks	Informal green spaces offering opportunities for recreation and biodiversity used by local people from, and beyond, the immediate neighbourhood (including the Strawberry Line)	**Weston-super-Mare** Ashcombe Park Jubilee Park **Winscombe** Observatory Fields **Clevedon** Blind Yeo Riverside **Nailsea** Trendlewood Way **Pill** Pill Park

Outdoor sports facilities	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports	**Weston-super-Mare** Ashcombe Park tennis courts Baytree Recreation Ground Clarence Park East Drove Recreation Ground Hutton Moor Recreation Ground Oldmixon Recreation Ground Worle Recreation Ground **Clevedon** Churchill Avenue Dial Hill Cricket Ground Hazel Close Salthouse Fields Strode Road **Nailsea** Fryth Way Millennium Park **Portishead** Lake Grounds **Pill** Watchhouse Hill
Formal Play Areas	Formal areas with purpose-built play equipment and surface	**Portishead** Avon Way Blackdown Road - Town Council management Brampton Way Charlcombe Rise Cheviot Meadow Hallets Way Lake Grounds - Town Council management Merlin Park – Town Council management Nightingale Rise Parish Wharf Stonechat Green The Vale Trinity MUGA **Pill** St Katherine's Park Watchhouse Hill MUGA **Wraxall** The Elms Elm Lodge Road Yeo Valley Road **Nailsea** Pound Lane

		Scotch Horn - Town Council management The Perrings Trendlewood **Clevedon** Cherry Avenue Esmond Grove Kenn Moor Drive Teignmouth Road Valley Road Salthouse Skate park – Town Council ownership Salthouse Fields Strode Road **Yatton** Grange Farm Road Horse Castle **Weston-super-Mare** Ashcombe Pak Upper and Lower – Town Council management Broadway Play – Town Council management Broadway Skate – Town Council management Bronte Close – Alliance Homes ownership Byron Rec – Town Council management Canberra Road – Town Council management Castle Batch – Town Council management Clarence Park West – Town Council management Coniston Green – Town Council management Dartmouth Close – Alliance Homes ownership Eastern Green Kent Avenue Locking Castle Statues Locking Castle Pelicans Lynch Farm – Town Council management Maltlands – Town Council management Mendip Gate Plumley Park North Plumley Park South Saxon Court The Hedges The Park The Shrubberies Walford Avenue West Wick Wyvern Close – Town Council management Weston Woods 2 x play areas Weston Woods bike track Uphill Recreation Ground

		Flax Bourton Farleigh Green – Parish Council ownership **Backwell** Oatfield Estate - Parish Council ownership Moor Lane - Parish Council ownership **Congresbury** King George V playing field - Parish Council ownership Millenium Green - Parish Council ownership **Wrington** Church Walk - Parish Council ownership Wrington recreation ground - Parish Council ownership **Winscombe** Observatory Fields Play Area **Winford** Higher Winford - Parish Council ownership Vee Lane - Parish Council ownership **Dundry** Dundry play area - Parish Council ownership

Table 9 Open spaces which are proactively surveyed

Table 10 below lists open spaces which are not proactively surveyed.

Open Spaces which are NOT proactively surveyed		
North Somerset Typology	**Primary purpose**	**Locations**
Neighbourhood Open Space	Informal green spaces offering opportunities for recreation and biodiversity used by residents of the local neighbourhood	**Weston-super-Mare** Byron Rec Canberra Road Castle Batch Jubilee Park Lime Close Lynch Farm Milton Road Garden Maltlands Powis Close Railway Triangle Shrubberies 3 Shrubberies 4 Shrubberies 5

		The Foyer The Village Green Uphill Recreation Ground **Clevedon** Cherry Avenue Hazell Close Hillside Road Hither Green Ladye Bay Marshalls Field Teignmouth Road **Portishead** Avon Way Badger Rise Battery Point Blackdown Road Brampton Way Hallets Way Kilkenny Fields Merlin Park The Vale **Pill** Bank Place Ham Green Watchhouse Hill **Long Ashton** Theynes Croft **Nailsea** Blackthorn Way Cricket Field Pound Lane Rhyne View Sedgemoor Close The Perrings Trendlewood Way Uplands **Yatton** Horsecastle Farm **Langford** Rowan Way Spider Park
Natural areas	Informal open spaces with few man-made structures, offering opportunities for tranquil recreation and	**Weston-super-Mare** Pilgrims Way Wood The Tips

	reconnection with nature (only rights of way are surveyed in woodlands).	Uphill Hill Weston Woods **Portishead** Eastwood Lindsey Close **Leigh Woods** Rownham Wood **Abbots Leigh** Abbots Pool **Nailsea** Nowhere Wood **Clevedon** Dial Hill Dowlais Farm Ladye Bay Poets Walk Strawberry Woods

Table 10 Open spaces which are not proactively surveyed

Appendix 3

Log of training

Key (current employees): Cathy Lynch, Principal Tree Officer (joined 2020), JC – Jason Cox, Tree Officer; JM - James McCarthy, Tree Officer; Esther Coffin-Smith – Natural Environment Manager.

Date	Document / training	By	Trainee	Notes
2001	Level 5 Arboriculture		CL	
14/09/2009	QTRA Licensed User Training	QTRA Ltd	JC	
15/09/2009	Practitioners Guide to VTA	QTRA Ltd	JC	
16/09/2010	QTRA Update Training	QTRA Ltd	JC	Bespoke training at North Somerset sites
01/07/2011	QTRA Benchmarking exercise	IM	JC	In-house Tree Officer team exercise
11/11/2011	QTRA Practice Note revision V4.01 discussion	IM	JC	In-house update session
01/12/2011	Q&A email to Mike Ellison	IM	JC	Email to Mike Ellison of QTRA to resolve specific questions and issues
16 to 18/05/2012	Professional Tree Inspection 3 Day Course	Arboricultural Association / Lantra	JC	
10/10/2013	QTRA Update Training V5.0	QTRA Ltd	JC	Updated QTRA calculator. Risk of Harm for all possible combinations of target, size and Probability of Failure have now been calculated using Monte Carlo simulations. Risk of Harm cannot be calculated without the manual calculator or software application.
28/7/2015	QTRA Licensed user training	QTRA Ltd	JM	
29/7/2015	QTRA Probability training	QTRA Ltd	JC, JM	Bespoke training day at NSC sites
14/2/2018	QTRA Licensed user training	QTRA Ltd	CL, JM, JC	
17/11/2021	QTRA refresher	QTRA Ltd	CL, JM, JC	2 day refresher course
8-10/7/24	Professional Tree Inspection 3 Day Course	Arboricultural Association / Lantra	CL	

22/7/24	Basic Tree Inspection	Arboricultural Association / Lantra	ECS	

Table 11 Training Log

Appendix 4

Process for managing s154 notices for dangerous trees on private land adjacent to the highway network (risk higher than 1:10K)

Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 gives highway authorities the power to serve notices on owners or occupiers of land where trees are endangering the highway, and it may require action to be taken within 14 days.

During surveys Tree Officers will inevitably identify trees on private land displaying significant and obvious defects which may require attention to keep highways users safe. Tree Officers do not proactively survey non-council-owned trees.

If our concern is that there is imminent risk posed by the tree (higher than 1:1,000) then we will take immediate action. Firstly, we will try and contact the landowner for them to resolve the problem and if for whatever reason this is not possible then we will intervene and undertake the work.

If we have any concerns about trees with 1:1,001 – 1:10,000 risk during our proactive survey work we will wherever possible contact the landowner with an advisory letter outlining their duty of care regarding trees to prompt the landowner to have their trees assessed by a qualified Arborist.

This letter will either be hand delivered if ownership is clear or posted following a land registry search.

We will ask landowners to confirm that they agree to take responsibility for ensuring the necessary work on the trees is undertaken. If we do not have a response from landowners to agree to take responsibility for the works, we will serve a Section154 Notice.

If we receive a response from the landowner accepting responsibility for the tree works, we will then check the status of the tree after 3 months.

If the condition of the tree(s) decline(s) or no action has been taken within 3 months North Somerset Council will serve a Section 154 Notice.

If the work is not completed following the serving of a Section 154 Notice North Somerset Council will have to intervene and carry out the tree works.

If we cannot identify the landowner, we will intervene and carry out the tree works in a reasonable timeframe.

In all cases where North Somerset Council has cause to intervene with dangerous trees on private land, we will look to recoup the costs via a legal process. We will inform the landowner of debt owed to the local authority. If no payment of the debt is received, then we will seek a court order for a charge to the property.

Process for serving Notices under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976

If we are alerted by a concerned resident to a potentially dangerous tree on private land which could fail and fall onto their property, we would firstly recommend that they speak with the tree owner to raise concerns.

If this approach has failed, then we would recommend that a professional arborist be employed by the concerned resident to assess the tree. If the resulting report identifies an imminent threat, then we would consider applying this Act and contact the tree owner.

Process for Conducting Proactive Walkover Inspections

Walkovers surveys are carried out in certain sites as listed in Appendix 1and Appendix 2.

A walkover tree risk assessment is the starting point for our risk assessment on all our proactively surveyed sites. The purpose of a walkover tree risk assessment is to identify the general nature of the tree population within the site and establish where there are higher and lower value targets. A target is anything of value that could be harmed in the event of tree failure.

The level of detail with which the trees are assessed will be informed by their location (e.g. by a path) and their condition (e.g. a sparse crown).

The Tree Officer will then record individual trees where having considered location and condition, where the risk is higher than 1:100k and whether any remedial or maintenance work is required. Completion of any identified work that is required will be prioritised based on the risk index related to the tree or part of tree highlighted in the inspection (see section 5.).

Trees will be plotted onto our tree database as either individual trees or polygons to show groups of trees.

A record is kept on our tree database of any significant observations and findings to inform any future assessments or proposed management.

Based on the Tree Officer's discretion, any further inspection requirements identified for trees will be specified against that tree on our tree database and will be given a timescale.

Where details of trees have not been recorded this shows that no significant risks were identified, and the date of inspection is added to the inspection calendar by the Tree Officer as confirmation that the whole site has been surveyed.

Process for Conducting Proactive Drive-by Inspections

Highways and annual dead tree surveys are conducted by 2 Tree Officers in a vehicle with observations being made from within the vehicle, for safety purposes. Where the location allows and it is safe to do so, this may then be supplemented by a Walkover survey if a closer inspection is deemed to be required.

Drive-by surveys are carried out in certain sites as listed in Appendix 1.

A drive-by tree risk assessment is the starting point for our risk assessment on all our proactively surveyed highways. The purpose of the drive-by tree risk assessment is to identify the general nature of the tree population along the highway and establish where there are higher and lower value targets. A target is anything of value that could be harmed in the event of tree failure.

The level of detail with which the trees are assessed will be informed by their location (e.g. level of use of the road) and their condition (e.g. a sparse crown).

The Tree Officer will then record individual trees where having considered location and condition, where the risk is higher than 1:100k and whether any remedial or maintenance work is required. Completion of any identified work that is required will be prioritised based on the risk index related to the tree or part of tree highlighted in the inspection (see section 5).

Trees will be plotted onto our tree database as either individual trees or polygons to show groups of trees.

A record is kept on our tree database of any significant observations and findings to inform any future assessments or proposed management.

Based on the Tree Officer's discretion, any further inspection requirements identified for trees will be specified against that tree on our tree database and will be given a timescale.

Where details of trees have not been recorded this shows that no significant risks were identified, and the date of inspection is added to the inspection calendar by the Tree Officer as confirmation that the whole road length has been surveyed.