

1 Basic Validator Guide

Trees with the highest risk are the easiest to spot
 Be watchful after storms

When a tree has a risk that might not be Acceptable or Tolerable, it'll usually have an obvious risk feature you can't help but notice. If you come across a tree with anything like these obvious risk features when you're carrying out *Passive Assessment*, or *Active Assessment* at a *Basic* level, report it to your Manager and Contact Arborist.

1.1 Root failure

Storms can break tree roots without blowing them over
 Signs to look out for are
 Change in angle of the trunk
 Large cracks in the soil
 Hump in the ground on one side



1.2 Hanging branches

Don't forget to look up
 Branches can break during storms and still hang on
 Sometimes they can get stuck up there for quite a while



1.3 A crack or split into the wood, beyond the bark

When trees bend and twist in storms the wood can split and crack
 Vertical cracks in the bark are just the tree growing well there's no need to worry



1.4 Decline & death

To stay healthy and strong trees need 'solar panel' leaves to make food
 When trees suffer they often have much less leaf cover and many dead branches
 Standing dead trees have great habitat benefits but need checking



1.5 Decay fungi fruiting bodies

To decay fungi these 'fruits' are like apples to an apple tree
 Decay fungi and trees mostly live happily together creating essential habitat for wildlife
 Fungi can sometimes 'eat' too much wood and weaken the tree



Photographs
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