

Leaf fall Risk Assessment



Route			Delivery Unit		
ELR		Mileage (start)		Mileage (end)	
Date of inspection			Inspector		

Species	% cover	Species	% cover
Ash		Sycamore	
Horse chestnut		Sweet Chestnut	
Poplar		Lime	
Oak		Elm	
Beech		Birch	
Willow		Alder	
Conifer		Other	
Shrub		Open space	

Type	Description	Risk Score	Actual
Main Species	Conifer	0	
	Oak, elm, beech, birch and willow	1	
	Ash, sycamore, horse chestnut, sweet chestnut, poplar and lime	4	
Tree Size	Recent coppice	0	
	Scrub/young poles	1	
	Semi-mature trees and coppice	3	
	Mature trees and large coppice	5	
Surrounding Land	Farmland	0	
	Urban	1	
	Parkland	2	
	Woodland	3	
Distance From Rail	5m+	0	
	3-5m from rail	1	
	Overhanging cess	3	
	Overhanging 4' or 6'	6	
Other Vegetation	Rough grass/brambles	-1	
	Scrub	1	
	None / other trees	2	
Topography	Embankment	0	
	Flat	1	
	Step	2	
	Cutting	4	
Atmosphere	Open / dry / airy	0	
	Restricted airflow / partial shade	2	
	Heavy shade / damp	4	
Tree Density	None / over 20m apart	0	
	Individuals 5-20m apart	2	
	Less than 5m apart	4	
Sum total:			

This sheet must be fully completed by the inspector on day of site visit

Guidance

How long is each assessment?

220 yards (one-eighth mile)

Up or Down side?

Both sides assessed at the same time from the UP side to give one score for the 220 yard section.

What happens if the Description varies from that listed?

Risk scores (for all Types) can be adjusted to take account of variations over the 220 yard section. For example: 'Step' and 'Cutting' in one 220 yard section may score '3'; Ash, poplar, birch and willow may score '2'.

Does this Risk Assessment apply to Network Rail trees only?

No. Leaves can obviously land on the railway from a considerable distance away and it may be that the only leaf fall risk is due to those falling from the trees outside the operational boundary. In such circumstances, this assessment may be used to demonstrate that mitigation other than vegetation management is required.

How does the score convert to a Risk Category?

Score	Risk description	Risk Category
<10	Negligible risk	1
11-15	Low risk	2
16-20	Moderate risk during peak leaf fall and wet conditions	3
21-25	High risk during peak leaf fall period and wet conditions	4
26+	High risk throughout the leaf fall period	5

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