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389 Chiswick High Road  
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29<sup>th</sup> July 2008

FAO Mr Mike Hodson, Technical Secretary to BSI Committee B/213

Dear Mike

**Draft Standard BS8516 2008: Recommendations for Tree Safety Inspection**

I refer to the above draft and have pleasure in enclosing a synthesis of comments received by the Association, from members and others, following the release of the draft on our website.

All respondents reflect the view that the whole standard is premature, given the on-going work of the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG). This cross-industry group representing arboriculturists, foresters, trees owners and risk managers are working hard to identify the risks associated with trees and develop a meaningful strategy to enable cost effective and reasonable response. The actual risk posed by trees seems to have been given a greater emphasis in the Standard than that deserved by the facts and the proposed levels and degree of inspection required for all trees appears to be onerous and unreasonable.

Therefore it is the view of the Association that any further work on the Standard should be postponed until the findings of the NTSG have been agreed, at which time full reconsideration for the need for a Standard should be initiated.

In addition to this unanimous, general opinion, the Association has also received and recorded a number of specific comments. These are not included with this letter as they relate to specific phrasing and individual technical aspects, which are not relevant if the proposal above is accepted.

The Association is grateful for the opportunity to respond to the draft and we look forward to hearing of the BSI Committee's response.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Richmond  
Technical Officer

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