

Sometimes known as a tree risk survey, the aim of a tree inspection is to identify any problems with the tree which can put it, you or your property at risk.

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- The types of tree surveys available and what's included
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- Who should carry them out?



What is a tree inspection?

Sometimes known as a tree risk survey, the aim of a tree inspection is to identify any problems with the tree which can put it, you or your property at risk. The objective of the inspection is twofold:

- To check the current condition of the tree
- To identify any potential issues with the tree which might arise in the near future.

Who carries out a tree inspection?

All tree works must be carried out by a fully qualified arborist who has the experience and accreditations to conduct a thorough and detailed assessment.

Who is responsible for arranging a tree inspection?

It is sensible for any person who owns or manages the land where trees are situated to enlist the help of an arborist who will check that it is in a safe condition.

This might be the person in an organisation who requires an in-depth survey of the trees surrounding their properties, or a local council who have an obligation to protect the public, whilst also preserving the wide ranging environmental, ecological, social, economic and amenity benefits provided by trees.

What is included in a tree inspection?

Tree surveys should detail:

- Tree species (including scientific name)
- Measurements of trees
- Overall condition of trees and detailed observations of any issues found.

Based on this information, management recommendations are made for ongoing monitoring and maintenance regimes.

What are the different types of tree surveys/inspections?

There are several types of tree surveys available:

Walk-Over Tree Survey

Most suitable for environments with a large number of trees, such as schools, parks and woodland areas, a walk-over tree survey is a visual inspection of all trees from ground level. The arborist will check for any areas with damage, cavities or decay, creating a report to detail any remedial work required and the timescales at which this needs to be carried out. In addition to being recorded in the report, any potentially hazardous trees will also be tagged.

Full Tree Survey

Compared with the walk-over tree survey, a full tree survey is conducted at a more detailed level. Each and every tree on the site will be assessed, and all works will be recorded within a comprehensive inventory. This type of tree inspection is most suitable for a collection of trees which are being looked after for research, conservation or education purposes, or areas with a variety of tree species.

Climbed Tree Inspection

Following an initial inspection at ground level, in some instances defects spotted high up in the tree may require further investigation. In such cases, the arborist may recommend a climbed tree survey for a more detailed assessment. From this, they will produce a report to detail the findings, accompanied by photographic evidence and recommendations.

Due to the safety precautions required for working at height, it's imperative that this work is carried out by a qualified professional.

BS5837:2012 Tree Survey

Finally, this type of survey is required for those planning to alter their property or land which contains or is close to trees. This is most commonly applicable for trees on development sites or those requiring planning permission for works on their property, and assesses any potential restrictions caused by surrounding trees, such as rooting or the blocking of light. This is a British Standard for potential construction sites and must be undertaken prior to any further work being carried out.

What services are available to fix any issues found in a tree inspection?

In the event that your tree survey flags an issue with your tree, your arborist will provide sound advice and recommendations on the remedial work required. From felling diseased or dangerous trees in conservation areas to simple removal of dead wood, there are myriad of options available to address any tree-related problems.

