

Professional Tree inspection

'Tree inspection should be carried out by an experienced and qualified Arboriculturist. The inspection process involves all aspects of the tree from roots up to branch tips. Additionally, any target hazard needs to be identified and considered.....' Lantra Awards¹

Introduction

The aim of professional tree inspection is to assess the health, safety and overall condition of a tree. This is normally achieved using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) methodology.

The Process of Tree Inspection

The process of tree inspection involves;

- recording data collection and presenting it in accordance with agreed instructions,
- a visual assessment of pests, diseases and disorders that affect tree health, safety and overall condition (hazard),
- an evaluation of the observed pests, diseases and disorders (risk),
- an assessment of the area likely to be affected in the event of a tree or part of a tree failing (target),
- identify potential future defects and offer pro-active management solutions
- a hazard/ risk assessment based on hazard x risk x target
- recommending the appropriate control and/or remedial measures required to remove or reduce the identified hazard/risk to an acceptable level. This may include further investigation,
- suggesting a suitable time frame for the recommended works to be completed within.

The recommendations made should reflect a balance between a) the measures required to remove or reduce the identified hazard/risk to an acceptable level and b) the range of benefits and values that a tree offers. Special attention should be given to amenity, wildlife, historical, veteran, rarity and public access.

1. Lantra Awards is a nationally recognised Awarding Body approved to develop and accredit qualifications such as NVQ/SVQ and VRQ by Ofqual and SQA the Regulatory Bodies of qualifications.