

LANTw65 - SQA Unit Code H2SJ 04

Survey and inspect the condition of trees



Overview

This standard is about surveying and inspecting the condition of trees

You will prepare for, carry out and report on both surveys and inspections

Inspection and survey may, however, take place together depending on the job specification

You are likely to be working to BS5837

You are required to use invasive and semi-invasive techniques to investigate tree condition – THESE MUST ONLY BE USED TO CONFIRM THE DIAGNOSIS THAT THE TREES ARE TO BE FELLED

This standard is for those working in the treework sector that would have responsibility to carry out a survey or an inspection against a specification

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Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed works
 - P2 agree access arrangements for surveying with relevant people
 - P3 correctly identify each of the trees surveyed
 - P4 plot trees in relation to fixed features of the site
 - P5 collect data relating to the tree appropriate to the **survey** specifications
 - P6 record and present information in a manner appropriate to the client requirements and data retrieval systems
 - P7 confirm the species and position of trees being inspected
 - P8 select and use appropriate techniques and equipment to assess and evaluate tree condition
 - P9 accurately assess and record the condition and age class of trees in line with the inspection specification
 - P10 collect data relating to tree dimensions appropriate to the requirements of the inspection specification
 - P11 collect data relating to the physical and physiological condition of the tree(s) appropriate to the inspection specification
 - P12 make recommendations on the priorities for action based upon your inspection
 - P13 minimise the impact of your inspection on the health of the tree and the environment
 - P14 maintain suitable records of your inspection and recommendations
 - P15 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times in accordance with current legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K2 how to interpret risk assessments
- K3 how to agree access arrangements and why this is essential
- K4 how to use maps, plans, GPS systems and fixed features to locate and plot trees
- K5 how to identify tree genera and species and the implications of age classes
- K6 how to identify pests and diseases that affect trees and their implications
- K7 how to interpret survey and inspection specifications
- K8 how to present data to produce cogent reports which form the basis for further action
- K8 the process of 'visual tree assessment' to inspect trees and recording or pertinent data and the limitations of this methods
- K9 stages in surveying and inspecting trees
- K10 techniques and equipment used when surveying and inspecting trees
- K11 how to measure and record tree dimensions in line with inspection specification
- K12 how to assess and record the physical (structure and vitality) condition of trees so as to assist in decision making and producing management plans
- K13 how and when invasive and semi-invasive methods can be used to assist as an aid to decision making in the inspection process and the implications of using these methods
- K14 how to analyse data generated by tree monitoring equipment such as decay detections and height measures
- K15 how to make recommendations for action which are based upon, and supported by, your inspection
- K16 how to ensure that your work does not adversely affect the health of the tree
- K17 how to prioritise inspections based on target areas, risk to persons and property and the age and type of tree

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Additional Information

Scope/range

Survey:

- 1 single trees
- 2 groups of trees

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**Range related to
knowledge and
understanding**

Tree dimensions:

- 1 height
- 2 girth
- 3 crown spread

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Glossary

Survey: recording (and where appropriate mapping) the presence and position of trees (species and individuals) within a defined area

Inspection: checking and recording the health, condition and status of trees and making recommendations for arboriculture care of these trees

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