Pests and diseases survey

These instructions will take you through how to conduct a tree pests and diseases survey. It is likely that many trees will be in good condition and free from pests and diseases, but it is still good to survey and make a note of healthy trees. Within the task details on the webpage we have provided information on the following pets and diseases, which you may find it easier to focus on:

• Chalara ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus)

• Sycamore tar spot (Rhytisma acerinum)

• Oak powdery mildew (Erysiphe alphitoides)

• Horse chestnut leaf minor (Aesculus hippocastanum)

However, you can find out about threats and what to look for in other species via Observatree.

Take photos of symptoms as appropriate and a context photo of the tree(s). These can be submitted to Tree Alert if a full report is needed and record the following in the table.

- Location – 10 figure grid reference or W3W. If you have a phone with the right app such as OS locate, or W3W you will be able to find out the location of your tree/group of trees when you are out in the field. Otherwise make a note of your location so that you can find it out later. You can use www.gridreferencefinder.com to help you do this.
- Context - What are its surroundings? - Is it on a street or in a field, park, or forest? Is it a lone tree, or in a group?
- Species – Which of the above species are you surveying? Keep a tally of how many trees of each species you surveyed.
- Symptoms - It's not always possible to see the crown or top of the tree but pay attention to its health if it is visible and then work methodically down the trunk of the tree to the base looking for symptoms.
- Diameter of affected trees – Measure the diameter of the trunk at 1.3m from the ground, as this helps to establish the age of the tree.
- Damage – If relevant, make notes about other causes of damage if it has an impact on the health of the tree. Could the tree have been damaged by lightening, a vehicle, or a mammal such as a squirrel that can strip off the bark?
- If you have identified symptoms, please go to Tree Alert to make a full report so that this can be reviewed by the Forestry Commission's Tree Health Officers.
- To continue this work, you may wish to use the trees reported as sentinel trees. This means you regularly survey them which will act as an early warning system for any outbreaks of pests and diseases.

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Date	Location – 10 figure grid reference or W3W	Context - surroundings	Species	Symptom		Diameter of affected trees	Other cause of damage?
				Position on tree	Description		