

CONDITION SURVEY OF NON-WOODLAND AMENITY TREES: Assessment form instructions

Please assess your plots roughly the same time as last year – ideally July/ August.

Part A (more detailed instructions on following pages)

In Columns 01 to 36 fill in the items (e.g. diameter, crown thinning, premature leaf fall) that apply to all tree species.

Use species-specific assessment forms if you are assessing *Acer*, *Aesculus*, *Crataegus*, *Fagus*, *Ilex*, *Prunus*, *Quercus*, *Sorbus* or *Salix* as there are a number of specific diseases we ask you to look out for. These need to be scored in one or two additional right-hand columns. E.g. on *Acer* please look out for and mark down scores for *Acer* tar-spot and *Acer* sooty bark disease.

Part B

Use the top section to record any comments you have about any of the trees in Part A overleaf. Fill in the lower section if you see any **exceptional or striking symptoms** that you have observed on trees of any species anywhere in your locality. For example we would like to know if there are any outbreaks of **Dutch elm disease** and **Phytophthora** disease of alder in your area.

The Photo-guide is a short guide to illustrate all the specified diseases and insects to be scored in those extra columns; 34 to 44 of Part A. There are also photos of a few diseases which need scoring in columns 18 to 33. For example, scab on willow and leaf spot on birch are examples of 'dark spots or blotches on leaves' (column 27 on the form).

Further Notes on your assessment forms

(the numbers below refer to the numbered columns on the form)

Use 1 form per tree species - record the scores for each tree on a separate row.

Plot Name and Plot Number: We might have printed these for you, but otherwise please enter them on every form.

The columns should be completed as follows:

- **01-06 Date:** for example, 4th August 2004 should appear as follows: 040804
- **07-12 Tree I.D. No.** (if you can't remember which tree is which check last year's diameter!)
- **13-16 Diameter:** Measure diameter at breast height using the special tape provided. If your tree has multiple stems arising from near ground level, make a note of all the diameters of stems over 5cm individually in the left-hand margin
(**Note:** use the side of the tape adjusted to read diameter; the 'wrong' side of the tape is an ordinary tape measure and shows girth not diameter!)

- **17 Live, dead or missing:** score as follows:
 1 alive (and therefore assessable).
 2 dead but present. Please leave columns 16 and above blank
 8 missing (i.e. fallen or removed and not replaced). Leave columns 16 and above blank.
 9 a replacement tree. Fill in the other columns if the replacement is the same species.

(For all missing or replaced trees, please write information in the ‘comments’ section in Part B (e.g. reasons for loss of tree; species of replacement tree – by all means choose a replacement from elsewhere in your plot.)

- **18 New disturbance** within the crown-spread. Occurred since the last assessment or not been previously recorded. E.g. compaction (maybe a light mower, pedestrians etc.), change of soil level or excavation.
- **19 Exposed wood:** Only score wood exposed by the loss of bark from the main stem or buttress zone; Ignore sawn or broken surfaces such as pruning wounds. If most of the exposed wood is very decayed, please mention in the ‘comments’ section. As a guide:

0	No exposed wood
1	Very small areas of exposure; bark almost all intact
2	Easily noticed exposure, but less than as described for a score of 3
3	Either two-thirds of the circumference exposed at <u>any one height</u> , <u>or</u> an <u>overall</u> loss greater than one third

**Information for scoring for disease, crown discoloration etc.
 Use the 0-3 score in all following columns**

- 0 nothing
- 1 slight (i.e. inconspicuous; you have to look quite hard for it)
- 2 moderate (i.e. either locally conspicuous somewhere on the tree, or present moderately over much of the crown or other relevant part of the tree)
- 3 severe (i.e. enough to affect the overall appearance of the crown or other relevant part of the tree, or extremely conspicuous over at least a third of the crown or other relevant part of the tree).

- **20 & 21 Bacterial or Other perennial cankers**
- **22 Bleeding canker:** This is a new category as there have been many cases of bleeding canker (black or brown oozing from trunks/branches) over the past couple of years, particularly on horse chestnut.
- **23 Fungal fruit bodies and rhizomorphs** (‘bootlaces’) score these if present on living parts of the main stem, major roots or major branches (e.g. not on dead stubs).
- **24 Insect exit holes:** score all holes caused by insects in the bark. Sometimes there may also be weeping patches or sinuous galleries exposed by the falling away of the bark.
- **25 Pulvinaria scale:** (previously called horse chestnut scale. Please see the photo guide. This can occur on many species!)
- **26 New pruning:** score this **only** for pruning wounds that you know are no more than a year old.

- **27 Crown thinness:** where foliage has withered, fallen or grown only sparsely where it should fill the available space. Do not score for gaps due to a naturally open growth habit or any known removal or breakage of twigs and branches.
- **28 & 29 Crown yellowing & browning:** score if it affects the general colour of the crown through uniform discoloration of the foliage or the frequent presence of yellow or brown spots or blotches on otherwise green foliage. Score any dark spots or blotches additionally in column 27.
- **30 Dark spots/blotches:** See the photo-guide and Diagnosis of ill-health in trees. Do not score dark blotches caused by insect feeding (e.g. mining or skeletonising). If the darkening is enough to affect the general appearance of foliage, score it also under crown browning or yellowing.
- **31, 32, 33 Leaf rust, Mildew and Aphids:** see the photo guide, but please be careful scoring rust; if it differs much from the relevant picture, it probably isn't rust.
- **34 Leaf-feeding damage:** include both holes and skeletonising damage.
- **35 Chemical/salt damage:** yellowing, whitening, dwarfing or distortion of leaves and young shoots is often due to damage by herbicides or salt. Score only if disease and nutrient deficiency have been ruled out.
- **36 Premature leaf fall:** score if some or all of the leaves/ needles have fallen before the usual time i.e. before autumn for deciduous species. Remember that evergreens like yew may normally shed foliage during the assessment season. Premature leaf fall may be obvious from leaves lying on the ground.
- **37-46 Specific problems:** these need to be recorded only for the specified insects and diseases which are printed in the headings above these columns. Please score 0,1,2 or 3 for the disease or insect named above each special column.