



Simon Scotting Tree Consultancy and Training

Professional Tree Inspection Course Information

Format of the course:

The three-day course aims to provide specific tree inspection programme at an advanced level for **competent arboriculturalists** to enable them to reach a level of competence that can be recognised as having received adequate training.

Candidates are required to inspect trees and specify the necessary remedial works and record the inspection process. This would then form part of a defensible system. The course is not aimed at covering report writing however, presentation of findings will be examined and advice given.

Who is the Course for?

Prospective trainees should be **experienced and qualified arboriculturalists** with an in-depth knowledge of plant and arboricultural science, including a thorough knowledge of wood decaying fungi, identification and interpretation of signs and symptoms of ill health and structural failure across a wide range of tree species and circumstances. **They should be thoroughly experienced in carrying out tree inspection and survey.**

Pre-requisites for the course:

A minimum of arboricultural qualification at level three or equivalent, plus five years' experience in carrying out tree surveys and inspections, is expected.

As a pre-requisite of attending the course it is fully expected that you will have a detailed knowledge of tree biology, the tree as an undamaged self-optimised structure, biological and mechanical weaknesses, pathology, legislation, remedial options and their likely implications and the British Standard 3998 Recommendations for Treework. Any other specific arboricultural knowledge such as detection and measurement of tree defects and recommendation of control measures that reduce the risk posed to an acceptable level.

It is also an opportunity for candidates to update their level of knowledge and its application to inspecting trees, particularly if that previous knowledge was gained some time ago.

Assessment: The objectives of the course will be assessed, by written question paper, fungi identification and practical tree inspection. At the end of the course candidates will undertake a competence-based assessment directly related to tree inspection.

The pass mark for the test is 70% overall and 70% in each of the two tree inspections.

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Required equipment

Please bring all weather clothing and the following basic tree inspection tools:

- Clipboard / Weather writer
- Clinometer or other means to measure the height of a tree
- Compass
- Probe
- Nylon hammer
- Binoculars
- Diameter tape

Suggested books:

The following books are considered essential reading and should form part of the tree inspector's library:

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| - Draper and Richards | Dictionary of Managing Trees in Urban Environments |
| - Lonsdale | Principals of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management |
| - Mattheck | Stupsi Introduces the Tree
Updated Field Guide for Visual Tree Assessment |
| - Mitchell | The Body Language of Trees: Encyclopedia of Visual Tree Assessment
Collins Field Guide: Trees of Britain and Northern Europe |
| - Watson & Green | Fungi on Trees |
| - Wilson | A-Z of Tree terms: A companion to British arboriculture |