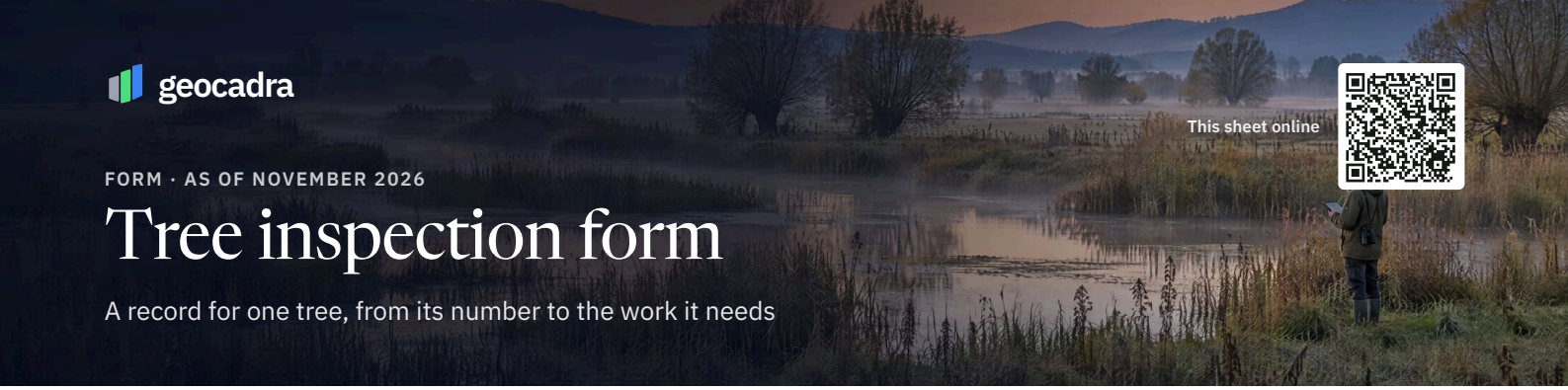

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This sheet online

FORM · AS OF NOVEMBER 2026

# Tree inspection form

A record for one tree, from its number to the work it needs

One sheet per tree, meant for trees with findings: a tree with nothing to note takes one row in the register of the Excel file. Fill in the record first, then walk the list from the crown down and tick what you find. The list is a prompt, not a complete list: write down what you see, even if it is not on the list.

## Tree record

### Tree and inspection

Tree number

Species

Site or street

Date

Inspector

The tree was

☐ In leaf ☐ Not in leaf

### Size and life stage

Stem diameter (cm / in)

Height (m / ft)

Crown spread (m / ft)

Life stage

☐ Young ☐ Semi-mature ☐ Mature ☐ Over-mature ☐ Veteran

### Targets

How often people are in reach

☐ Rarely ☐ Occasionally ☐ Frequently ☐ Constantly

Targets in reach

### Condition

Vitality

☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Dead

Defects in brief, photo numbers

### Verdict

Risk rating

The tree

☐ Needs no work now ☐ Needs work

☐ Needs a closer examination

### Next inspection

Next inspection due

## 1 Crown and branches

Look up first, from two sides, with binoculars where the crown is high.

| NO. | DEFECT AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR | Nothing found | Finding | Not visible | WHAT AND WHERE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.1 | **Dead branches**<br>Their size and what they hang over. Note the diameter of the largest one above a target. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 1.2 | **Broken or hanging branches**<br>Lodged in the crown or partly attached: these are the urgent ones. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 1.3 | **Weak unions**<br>Forks with included bark, codominant stems, cracks running down from the union. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 1.4 | **Dieback and thin foliage**<br>Dead tips, small or yellowing leaves, a crown you can see through in summer. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## 1 Crown and branches

Look up first, from two sides, with binoculars where the crown is high.

| NO. | DEFECT AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR | Nothing found | Finding | Not visible | WHAT AND WHERE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.5 | **Overextended or heavy limbs**<br>Long horizontal limbs with their weight at the end, and earlier failures of similar branches on the same tree. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 1.6 | **Past pruning**<br>Topping, lion-tailing, large old wounds and the regrowth they left behind. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 1.7 | **Clearance over road and path**<br>Branches below the clear height the highway authority asks for, or hiding signs, signals and street lights. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 1.8 | **Pests and disease**<br>Signs you can name, such as ash dieback or the nests of oak processionary moth. Record what you saw, not a diagnosis you cannot support. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## 2 Trunk

Walk round it. Sound it with a mallet where something looks or feels wrong.

| NO. | DEFECT AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR | Nothing found | Finding | Not visible | WHAT AND WHERE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.1 | **Cavities and decay**<br>Openings, soft or hollow-sounding wood. Estimate how far round the stem it reaches. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 2.2 | **Fungal fruiting bodies**<br>Brackets and mushrooms on the stem. Photograph them: the species decides what they mean. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 2.3 | **Cracks and splits**<br>Vertical cracks, shear cracks, bark pushed apart by movement. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 2.4 | **Dead or missing bark**<br>Impact damage from vehicles and mowers, lightning scars, bleeding or ooze. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 2.5 | **Lean**<br>The angle, and whether the tree has grown upright above it or the lean is new. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## 3 Root collar, roots and soil

Clear leaves and ivy away. If the root collar is buried, say so in the record.

| NO. | DEFECT AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR | Nothing found | Finding | Not visible | WHAT AND WHERE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3.1 | **Fungi at the base**<br>Fruiting bodies on the buttress roots, or coming up from the roots nearby. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 3.2 | **Root plate movement**<br>Lifted soil, cracks in the ground, a gap opening on the side away from the lean. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 3.3 | **Cut or damaged roots**<br>Trenches, new kerbs and paving. Note how far from the trunk the roots were cut. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 3.4 | **Fill, girdling roots and compaction**<br>Soil piled against the stem, roots circling and constricting its base, sealed surfaces, vehicles parked on the root zone. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## 4 Site and targets

What the tree could hit decides the risk.

| NO. | DEFECT AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR | Nothing found | Finding | Not visible | WHAT AND WHERE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4.1 | **Recent changes**<br>Neighbouring trees removed, new exposure to wind, building work, changed drainage. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| 4.2 | **Habitat**<br>Nest holes, likely bat roosts, veteran features. They limit when and how work can be done. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |

## Work recommended

Urgency in your own words, for example at once, within a month, within a year.

| No. | Work | Urgency | Done (date, by) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Date

Inspector

Signature

## Methods and editions this sheet draws on

| | |
|---|---|
| **ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form, instructions © 2025** | International Society of Arboriculture, isa-arbor.com. The form for a Level 2 (basic) assessment. This sheet is not that form and is not an ISA product. |
| **FLL Baumkontrollrichtlinien, 3rd edition, 2020** | Germany. The guideline for inspecting trees for safety. The grouping of the defect list by tree part follows the layout it shares with the ISA form. |

The grouping follows the layout that the ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form and the German FLL guideline share. The list does not replace training, and it is not the ISA form.

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The same form opens from each tree on the map in Geocadra, and every inspection stays on the tree:

**www.geocadra.com/en/templates/tree-inspection-form**