The OPAL Tree Health Survey

Upload your results to the OPAL website **www.opalexplorenature.org**

Activity 1: **Get to know your tree**

A Start surveying

1. Date of survey _____

2. Who are you doing the Water Survey with today?

☐ Primary school ☐ Secondary school ☐ Friends or family ☐ College / university

☐ Youth group ☐ Adult volunteer group ☐ Other

3. Are you involved in working with trees or forestry?

☐ No ☐ Yes, as part of a volunteer group or society ☐ Yes, I work in the industry

4. Record the location of your site (postcode / OS grid reference / GPS reading).

Further help is available on the OPAL website if you are unsure of the exact location.

_____

5. Which of these best describes your survey area?

☐ Street ☐ Garden ☐ School ☐ Park ☐ Open field ☐ Hedge ☐ Woodland edge ☐ Inside woodland

☐ Other *please describe:* _____

6. What is the main ground cover at the base of the tree? Choose one option.

☐ Grass or other plants ☐ Bare soil ☐ Hard surface (like pavement) ☐ Fallen leaves

7. If there are fallen leaves beneath the tree, how many are there?

☐ A few ☐ A lot ☐ Ground is completely covered

B Identification

8. Record the name of the tree (tree species). _____

You can use the Tree Identification Guide to help you.

C Tree characteristics

9. Measure the girth (circumference) of the trunk at 1.3 metres (130cm) above the ground. _____ centimetres

10. Measure the height of the tree. _____ metres

11. Is the tree taller or shorter than most of the other trees nearby?

☐ Shorter than most ☐ Same height as most ☐ Taller than most ☐ No other trees nearby

D Crown

12. Which of these best shows the shape of the tree?

☐ Spreading

☐ Oval

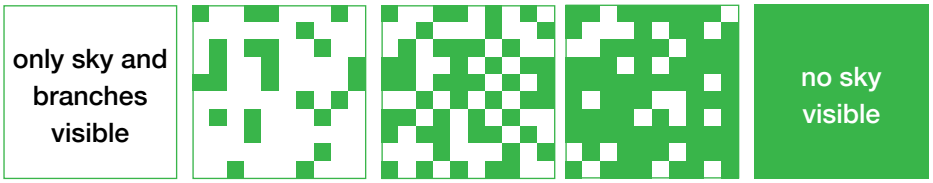
☐ Fan

☐ Column

☐ Cone

13. Stand underneath the tree, next to the trunk and look up. How much of the view is made up of leaves?

Choose the closest fit from the five options.



☐ No leaves ☐ 25% ☐ 50% ☐ 75% ☐ All leaves

14. Can you see any dead wood (branches that have no leaves or twigs on them)? yes no

If YES, how much dead wood is there? ☐ < ¼ of the tree ☐ ¼ - ½ of the tree ☐ ½ - ¾ of the tree ☐ > ¾ of the tree

E Leaves

15. What types of leaf browning can you see? Tick all that apply.

☐ Brown leaf edges ☐ Brown spots ☐ Leaves all brown ☐ None

16. If there is leaf browing, how much can you see on the tree?

☐ < ¼ of the tree ☐ ¼ - ½ of the tree ☐ ½ - ¾ of the tree ☐ > ¾ of the tree

17. What types of leaf yellowing can you see? Tick all that apply.

☐ Yellow leaf edges ☐ Yellow spots ☐ Leaves all yellow ☐ None

18. If there is leaf yellowing, how much can you see on the tree?

☐ < ¼ of the tree ☐ ¼ - ½ of the tree ☐ ½ - ¾ of the tree ☐ > ¾ of the tree

19. Can you see any of the following signs of insect damage on the leaves?

☐ Leaf holes: holes all the way through the leaf

☐ Leaf mining: the upper and lower layers of the leaf are intact but the green tissue inside has turned brown or disappeared

☐ Leaf galls: bumps and growths on leaves

F Wildlife

20. It is useful to know how the tree supports biodiversity. Record any animals, signs of animal activity, plants or fungi.

☐ Birds or birds' nests ☐ Squirrels ☐ Animal burrows at the base ☐ Insects ☐ Fungi

☐ A large hollow in the trunk ☐ Spiders ☐ Moss / lichens / algae ☐ Ivy ☐ Other

Activity 2: **Pests and diseases on Oak, Ash and Horse Chestnut**

Activity 2 is about the pests and diseases of Oak, Ash and Horse Chestnut. If you looked at Oak, Ash and Horse Chestnut in Activity 1, please carry out Activity 2 on the same tree. Refer to the Tree Pest and Disease Identification Guide for photographs and more information.

A Oak

Is this the tree surveyed in Activity 1? yes no

☐ Oak mildew ☐ Knopper gall ☐ Tortrix roller moth ☐ Oak decline

B Ash

Is this the tree surveyed in Activity 1? yes no

☐ Ash bud moth ☐ Ash key gall ☐ Nectria canker ☐ Ash decline

C Horse chestnut

Is this the tree surveyed in Activity 1? yes no

☐ Horse Chestnut leaf blotch ☐ Horse Chestnut leaf-miner ☐ Bleeding canker of Horse Chestnut ☐ Horse Chestnut scale