

Using National Tree Map to Inform Tree Condition Surveys



Client:

MWA is an independent consultancy providing expert advice and support on the management of trees to private, commercial and public sector clients across the UK. Using the latest technology for tree assessment, digital surveying, mapping and reporting, MWA offers a range of consultancy and surveying services including risk and asset management, trees and development, subsidence surveys, insurance and mitigation services and expert witness.



Industry:

Arboriculture

Product:

National Tree Map™

“ Using desktop mapping to identify the largest trees in relation to roads, footpaths or buildings, we can assist clients to ensure resources and expenditure are correctly prioritised above that of lower-risk trees in lower-risk zones. The mapping also helps to demonstrate a conclusive paper-trail for future health and safety audits, rather than simply working on guesswork, as is often the case! ”

Andy Clark, Arboricultural Consultant at MWA

Summary:

Arboricultural consultancy MWA Arboriculture is using data from the National Tree Map to inform tree condition surveys. The data is used to undertake initial desktop assessments of potential risk and to prioritise more detailed survey work, helping to target resources more effectively.

MWA also uses data from the National Tree Map to help prepare quotations for future survey work, reducing the need for costly and timely site visits.

Challenge:

Tree owners, without exception, have a legal duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure the safe condition of their trees. For owners with large estates or disperse land holdings, understanding the risk posed by individual trees can be an expensive and time-consuming task, particularly if the tree stock holding reaches into the hundreds or thousands.

The responsibility of tree owners, with respect to works on trees, is also governed by statute and common law. This includes a duty of care that the work itself does not cause harm or injury and also that the work carried out does not cause additional damage to the tree which may result in future injury or harm.

Solution:

Derived from high resolution aerial photography and height data, the Bluesky National Tree Map accurately records the location height and crown spread of more than 300 million trees across Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland that are 3 metres and taller in height.

Using the National Tree Map, MWA has created a number of workflows that efficiently assess properties and estates of all sizes through the application of tree risk zoning. These workflows are in keeping with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recommendations for managing the risks associated with trees.

Results:

MWA undertakes initial assessments using the National Tree Map data along with several Geographical Informations Systems (GIS), desktop mapping software and additional map layers, such as Ordnance Survey mapping, local authority maps and site plans.

This work can range from simply counting the number

of trees in a specific location in order to prepare a quotation for future survey work, right through to preliminary assessments of risk posed by individual trees, or groups of trees, in relation to surrounding infrastructure or specific activities that are undertaken with the proximity of the tree or trees.

National Tree Map Specification

Layers	1. Canopy Polygons (Vector Polygon) - Representing individual trees or closely-grouped tree crowns 2. Idealised Crowns (Vector Polygon) - Crown polygons visualised as circles for ease of use 3. Height points (Vector Point) - Detailing the centre point and height of each canopy feature
Coverage	England, Wales & Scotland
Accuracy Z	± 1m rmse
Classification Criteria	Trees over 3m in height
Formats	Include: ESRI Shape & MapInfo, Geodatabase, DWG, KMZ
Standard Projection	British National Grid

Get in touch today at info@bluesky-world.com