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Survey Safety Guidelines

The Sylva Foundation aims for all *TreeWatch* surveys to be enjoyable and safe for volunteers. Volunteers should be aware of potential issues that may arise in the field. With this in mind, please take the time to acquaint yourself with the following guidelines.

You are responsible for your own safety and for those in your care. Although minimal, there are always risks associated with being outdoors. You can minimise these risks. The following guidelines will help you to stay safe:

- Take a map of the area with you. In addition, a GPS unit may be helpful.
- Wear, and take with you, clothing and footwear appropriate to the terrain and weather.
- Be aware of the weather. Check the forecast before you leave. Trees and woodlands can be dangerous both during and after storms.
- If you think that your tree may be dangerous, do not survey it!
- If you are working near highways or waterways, take extra care and remain aware of your surroundings at all times.
- It is always preferable to work with someone else, not only for your mutual safety but they may also be useful in conducting the survey! If you do work alone, always make sure that somebody knows where you are going, and take a fully charged mobile phone with you.

When visiting your tree take care to respect the landowner's rights:

- Do not access private land without explicit permission to do so.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Respect livestock and wildlife.
- Do not litter.
- Follow the *Countryside Code* or similar guidelines for your country or region.

Volunteer Safety Statement

1. You are responsible for your own health and safety while carrying out a survey. You take part in a survey entirely at your own risk.
2. Volunteers under the age of 18 should always be accompanied by an adult.
3. The Sylva Foundation does not accept any liability or responsibility for the well-being of any survey participants.
4. The Sylva Foundation does not accept any liability or responsibility for damage to, or loss of, personal property.
5. Volunteers are advised to follow these *Survey Safety Guidelines*. Additional copies are available from the TreeWatch website: www.TreeWatch.com.

