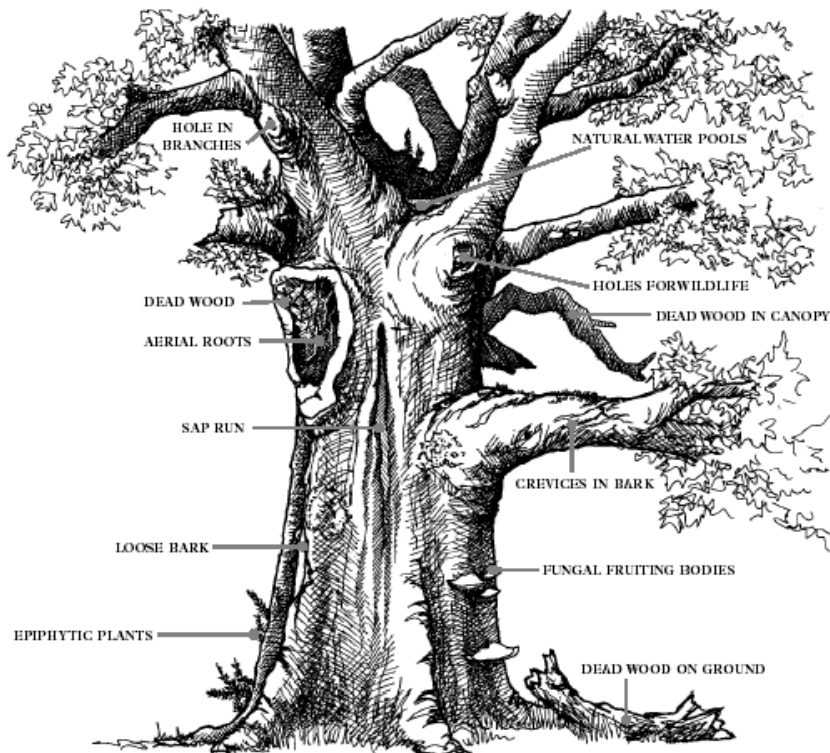


## Information Sheet 2 – Tree Inspecting


The council has a duty of care for all of its tree stock and we inspect all of our trees regularly, however you too can help and keep an eye out for the following:

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Trees are an important part of our world. They offer a wide range of benefits to the environment and provide tremendous beauty. However, trees may be dangerous. Trees or parts of trees may fall and cause injury to people or damage to property. We call trees in such situations hazardous, to signify the risk involved with their presence. While every tree has the potential to fall, only a small number actually hit something or someone. The following are tips for identifying the common defects associated with tree hazards. However, evaluating the seriousness of these defects is best done by the Tree Section so if in doubt give us a shout!



*You will see trees like this in Richmond Park and some of our parks and open spaces because they are fantastic for wildlife and biodiversity, unfortunately we can't keep this type of tree on our streets because the risk is too high, so if you see a street tree looking like the above or having any of the features shown above let us know!*

-  Consider these questions . . .
- Are there large dead branches in the tree?
  - Are there detached branches hanging in the tree?
  - Does the tree have cavities or rotten wood along the trunk or in major branches?
  - Are mushrooms present at the base of the tree?
  - Are there cracks or splits in the trunk or where branches are attached?
  - Have any branches fallen from the tree?
  - Have adjacent trees fallen over or died?
  - Has the trunk developed a strong lean?
  - Do many of the major branches arise from one point on the trunk?
  - Have the roots been broken off, injured or damaged by lowering the soil level, installing pavement, repairing sidewalks or digging trenches?
  - Has the site recently been changed by construction, raising the soil level or installing lawns?
  - Have the leaves prematurely developed an unusual colour or size?

If so let us know!

Contact the Tree Section 020 8891 7808 or e-mail [trees@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:trees@richmond.gov.uk)  
[www.richmond.gov.uk/trees](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/trees)