

trees with a story to tell and experiences to share

Veteran Trees for the Future



Veteran trees

are trees with a story to tell and experience to share

Veteran Trees can tell us tales of their lives, of when they were planted and what they provided for the people who lived near them.

They can tell how the land was used and give clues to the age of the landscape features they stand on. To add to this, their scars and rugged barks provide homes and food supplies for a multitude of wildlife from fungi and invertebrates to birds and mammals.

Veteran Trees for the Future need not necessarily be ancient trees now, but they will be trees with a significance for the local community or with particular historic or ecological importance. This is illustrated by the trees selected by the local people who chose the trees in this leaflet.

Veteran Trees are important and valued features in the landscape of the **North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** which sponsors the **Veteran Trees for the Future** project.

Woodland products were vitally important before railways and motor vehicles could distribute coal and before plastics were invented.

Pollard trees were cut off at about two or three metres above the ground so that animals could not graze the shoots which were harvested at regular intervals. Pollard oaks and beeches provided firewood and small timber. Acorns and beech mast were valuable food for animals in the autumn.

Coppice stools were cut near ground level and their shoots harvested at short intervals. Their shoots provided small timber for fencing hurdles and tool handles etc.

Generally the tenant had the use of the shoots of pollards and coppice stools while the lord of the manor owned the pollard trunks and coppice stools. Regularly cut pollards and stools live much longer than ordinary trees. Our oldest trees, like the Coronation Oak, are pollards.



Sessile oak



English oak



Beech

North Wessex Downs
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Denford Manor
Lower Denford
Hungerford
RG17 0UN

Bucklebury Estate
The Estate Office
Bucklebury House
Bucklebury
Berkshire
RG7 6RR
Tel: 01189 714187

Pang Valley Countryside Project FWAG
The Old Estate
Office,
Englefield Road,
Theale,
RG7 5DZ

Woodland Trust
Autumn Park,
Grantham,
Lincolnshire
NG31 6LL
www.woodland-trust.org.uk

Bucklebury Parish Council
All Saints,
Upper Bucklebury
RG7 6SD
Tel: 01635 863581
email: buckleburyparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk

Bucklebury Common is owned by Bucklebury Estate. It lies on a curving gravel ridge between the Pang and Kennet valleys and was once the bed of a large river. The soils are particularly acid and much of the Common was open heathland until the mid 20th century. The Bucklebury Heathland Project is working to recover and conserve the heathland. The acid soils favour birches, oaks and heathers.

During World War 2 part of the Common was used to store military equipment.



Dating Veteran Trees and Coppice Stools

This is not an exact science!

However, you can make a reasonable estimate by measuring the girth at about 1.5m above the ground and then using the diagram.

The 'girth' is the tree's 'waist measurement'!

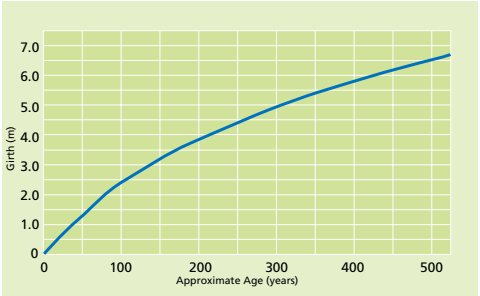
The curve gives the estimated age of a **Maiden** tree – a tree which has not been cut.

Pollarding slows the growth until the canopy re-grows. Add an extra third to their age.

Coppicing has the same effect. Take an average diameter of the stool near ground level and allow 0.3 metre for every century.

Approximate Ageing Curve for Oaks growing in Open Conditions

Trees in woodland will be older for the same dimensions. For pollard and coppiced oaks add 30% to the age indicated by the girth.



Beech and ash follow approximately the same curve up to about 150-200 years

Map no.	Tree species and description	Girth (m) 2008	Estimated age
1	Sessile oak – pollard	6.9	520+
2	Oak stub	5.85	600
3	Beech – multi-stemmed maiden	5.04	260
4	Beech – multi-stemmed	4.01	???
5	Oak - pollard	3.97	260
6	Beech – multi-stemmed	4.72	???
7	Oak - maiden	4.07	210
8	Oak - maiden	5.43	330
9	Oak - pollard	3.21	200
10	Oak stub	4.50	325
11	What species and age do you think these two trees are?		
12	We challenge you to go out look and measure! Our estimate is on the Friends' web site www.pangandkennetvalleys.org.uk		
13	Wellingtonia	/	Less Than 150

Sessile oak.
Acorns on the twig.



English oak.
Acorns on stalks.



Beech





This elegant Beech is about 260 years old



Oak stub this tree is probably 600 years old and may have been a boundary marker



Pollard oak about 260 years old



This Oak pollard is probably 200 years old

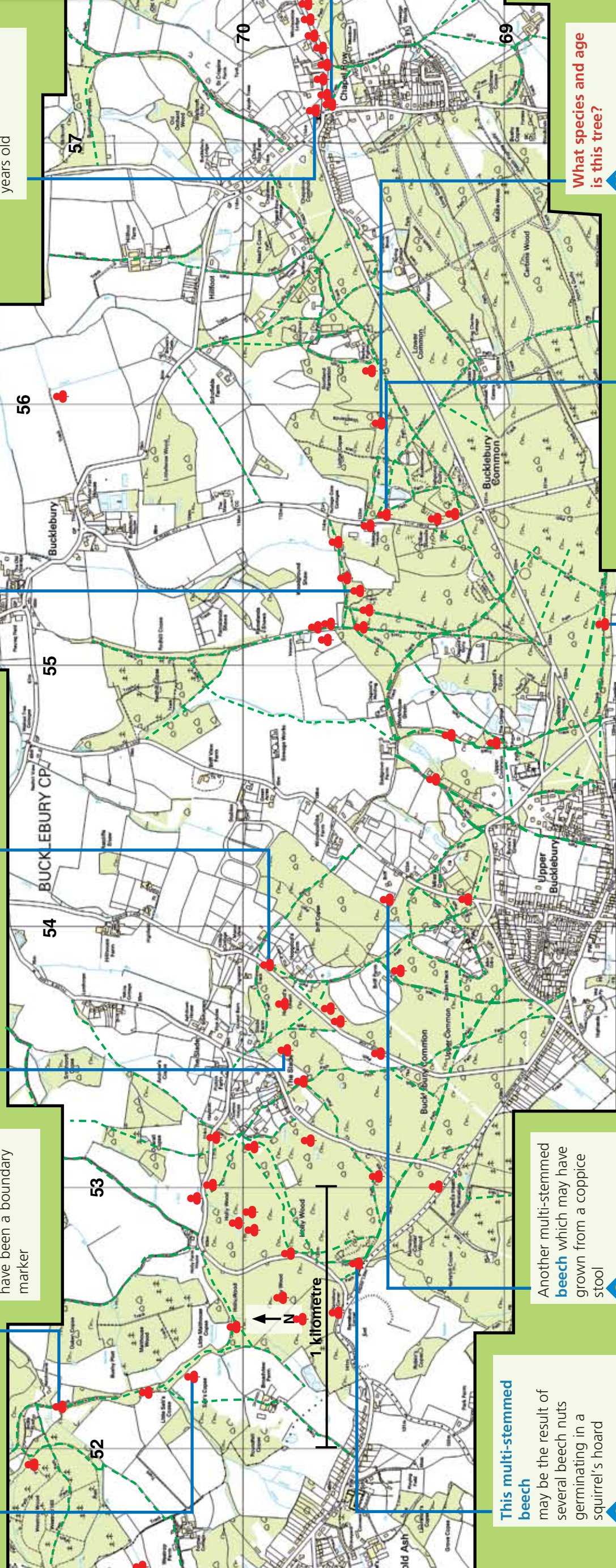


The Coronation Oak. This pollarded sessile oak started life in Tudor times and is about 520 years old. In 1902 Edward VII's coronation was celebrated with a picnic in its shade by 1200 people



A pollard oak at the west end of the Avenue is about 210 years old

KEY:
🌳 **Veteran Trees**
These are Veterans recorded for the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Hunt.
For more information go to www.AncientTreeHunt.org.uk



This multi-stemmed beech may be the result of several beech nuts germinating in a squirrel's hoard



Another multi-stemmed **beech** which may have grown from a coppice stool



This oak stub stands on the Common boundary bank and is probably a boundary marker. It is at least 325 years old. It is prized as a climbing tree

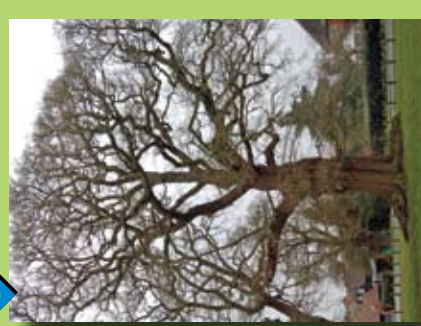


Wellingtonia were first introduced in 1853 so this giant cannot be more than 150 years old



What species and age is this tree?

Big Foot. An **English Oak** planted about 1680 at the western end of The Avenue



What species and age is this tree?

What species and age is this tree?



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO
OS Licence Number: 100020291