

1. Photo	
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2. Grid reference or Location	
3. Tree Species	
4. Girth in meters or hugs at 1.5m from the ground	
5. Is it publicly accessible?	

6. If not is it publicly visible?	
7. Estimated height	
8. Coppiced or pollard?*	
9. Estimated age (& method used to calculate estimated age)	
10. Any other comments	

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Braintree
 Wildlife Advisory Group

Veteran Tree Hunt



Braintree Wildlife Advisory Group is working in partnership with the Woodland Trust to track and record all large, old trees within the District. We would like to create a District wide database, which we would then feed into the Woodland Trust's national survey. So join us in the search for Braintree's living history



Why identify veteran trees?

Veteran trees are very special and are an important part of our heritage. Britain is unique in Europe for having large numbers of old surviving trees. Many of these ancient trees have cultural associations with people, places or events. Veteran trees are also very important for numerous forms of wildlife; the holes and hollows found on old trees are nesting sites for birds and roosting sites for bats.



How to identify a Veteran Tree

A veteran tree is defined as “a tree which because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value culturally, in the landscape or for wildlife”. Some trees are clearly old and would be instantly recognizable as veteran. Others may not grow to be a great size or reach an old age but they may be veterans for their species or for the wildlife they support.

**Veterans may also be old coppice or pollard trees. Coppice is where a tree is cut down to ground level to allow lots of trunks to grow up from the base. Pollarding is where the stems of a tree are removed, encouraging upwards growth.*

How many veterans do we have in Braintree?

We have limited information about the numbers of veteran trees in the District, their condition and whether they are under threat. For this reason as well as to raise awareness of the importance of veteran trees we are launching the **VETERAN TREE HUNT COMPETITION**.



Threats

There are a number of threats to veteran trees including climate change, neglect and pests and diseases. There is also the threat from development, although Braintree District Council has policies to protect important trees with Tree Preservation Orders.

Where are Veteran Trees?

- All sorts of places including:
- Roadside verges
- Riverbanks
- Old rights of way
- Old wood pasture
- Church yards
- Field boundaries

How can you help?

We want to identify all the veteran trees in the District thereby building a database, which we can use to identify trees under threat and help ensure their long term survival. We need information on species, location, girth and height.

Veteran Trees Pack

Its fun! We have developed a pack which has some fun ideas on how to get groups of volunteers, schools and clubs involved in identifying, measuring and recording veteran trees, the pack is available by contacting the Landscape Services Team on 01376 552525 or to download from Jan 08 at

**[www.braintree.gov.uk/
environment/ landscape](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/environment/landscape)**

or

**[www.woodland-trust.org.uk/
ancient-tree-forum](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum)**

Fill in the other side of this leaflet and send it to the address provided.

Enter our competition to win a prize for finding the Tallest or Widest tree in the District!

Closing date for Competition:
8th November 2008