

Veteran Trees

There is no single definition of a 'Veteran Tree'; it includes trees that fall into at least one of three general categories:

- trees of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally, because of their age;
- trees in the ancient stage of their life, and
- trees that are old, relative to others of their species.

These trees can provide valuable habitat for a range of other species, as well representing important gene pools for often declining species.

Identifying Veteran Trees

Characteristic Features

The diagram above shows some of the characteristic features of veteran trees; the more features present, the greater the value of the tree to the environment.

Protecting Veteran Trees

Sources of Funding

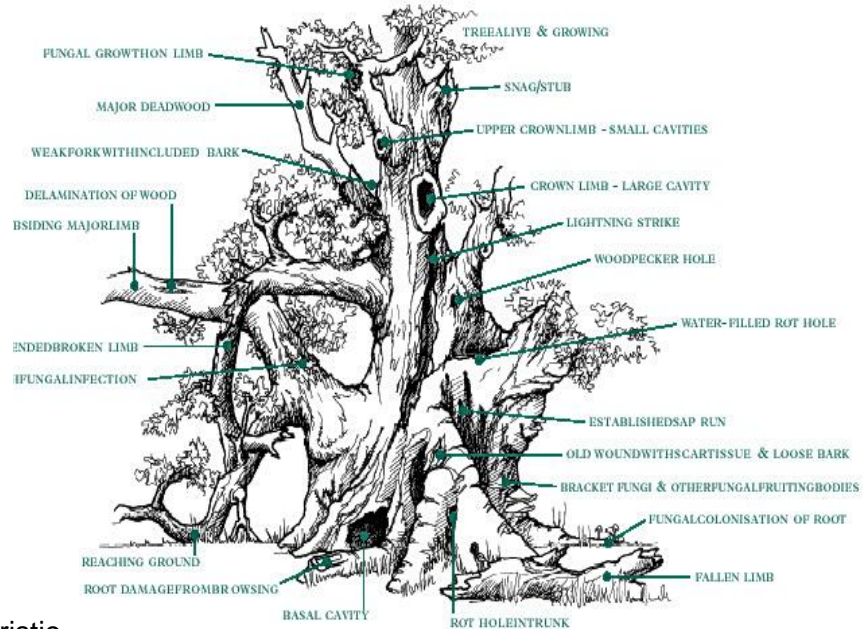
Under Entry and Higher Level Stewardship, there are a number of options available to help protect veteran trees. These can contribute to points totals for ELS or £25 per tree for HLS.



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An 'ideal' veteran tree for wildlife.

Source: Ancient Tree Forum



Retaining Veteran Trees – Code of Conduct

- Before starting any works on a veteran tree, check whether a tree has a Tree Protection Order or holds species protected by law (e.g. bats)
- Only consider felling to ground level as a last resort – try other options such as reducing the canopy first
- Leave fallen branches and use them to protect trunks and roots from stock

Protection from Grazing and Cultivation

- Create a root protection zone around a tree 15x the width of its trunk – HLS assistance may be available
- Avoid applying fertilisers or pesticides near trunks or roots
- Fence off trees or provide physical barriers to prevent congregations of stock around veteran trees
- Provide alternative sources of shade and locate feeding / watering points away from veteran trees

For further information please contact: