

The Survey

The survey maps the veteran and other significant trees in the 17 towns and parishes in Wokingham Borough and surrounding districts. Grants to assist the project have been made by town and parish councils, the National Lottery, The Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre and The Conservation Volunteers.

The WDVTA website at www.wdvta.org.uk includes a *Map* page of the Wokingham area on which the locations of all recorded trees can be displayed. Details of any individual tree can be called up together with photographs.



Trees 1959 and 1960: English Oaks (*Quercus robur*) in Matthewsgreen, about 100 years old.

Join us!

Membership is free.

Visit our website www.wdvta.org.uk and select the *Contact us* page, or fill in the form below.

I would like to join WDVTA.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Post Code.....

Phone

Email.....

I would like to survey trees.....Yes / No

My preferred town or parish for surveying is:-

.....

SignedDate.....

Return the completed form to:

WDVTA, 24 Askew Drive, Reading, RG7 1HG.

Your contact details will be stored on a computer and only used within the WDVTA to send you information about the Association and its activities.



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to connect to our website



Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association

www.wdvta.org.uk

Who are we?

The Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association (WDVTA) was launched in January 2007 to help ensure that veteran and other significant trees in and around the district of Wokingham were properly identified, protected and managed - and to increase public awareness of their importance. In 2010 WDVTA broadened its objectives to include concern for all Wokingham's trees. Members can become tree wardens under the Tree Council's national scheme which encourages local projects and enables people to champion their local trees.

The Association supports the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Survey which aims to map veteran and significant trees in the Wokingham area. Trained volunteers record details such as a tree's location, species, girth, condition, habitat and setting with photographs. This information is stored in the WDVTA database and copied to The Woodland Trust, the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre and other environmental organisations. The database now holds the details of over seven thousand trees, most with photographs.

WDVTA organises tree-related talks, walks, visits and other events to which all are welcome.

Contact us on our website www.wdvta.org.uk or email honsec@wdvta.org.uk



Tree 432: Old pollarded English Oak (*Quercus robur*) at Shinfield Park, over 500 years old.

What is a veteran tree?

WDVTA defines veteran trees as those that have reached full maturity and are showing signs of ageing. The age at which this occurs varies with species - an oak tree will take many more years to mature than a silver birch. Veterans are characterised by a number of features such as cavities and bark loss, which provide a good habitat for wildlife. One indicator is girth - for example, a veteran oak may grow to over six metres. In our survey of the Wokingham district we look especially for trees with a girth of three metres or more.

Why are veteran trees important?

All trees, but especially veteran trees, are important and beautiful features of our landscape. They give changing colour and interest through the seasons and remind us of our closeness to the natural world, even in built up areas.

Veteran trees are an irreplaceable part of England's landscape and biological heritage. They are of international importance as the UK has many more veteran trees than any other Northern European country. Many of these trees are to be found in the district of Wokingham, probably descendants of ancient oaks and other native trees that grew in the original Windsor Forest. These veterans may well represent a gene pool that links back to the natural woodland (the 'wildwood') that covered Britain thousands of years ago.

Old trees of all kinds can remind us of the different ways in which our land was used in the more recent past, particularly for agriculture and as gardens, orchards and parkland. They are especially valuable for biodiversity as they can support a rich variety of wildlife, including lichens, mosses, invertebrates, birds and small mammals.