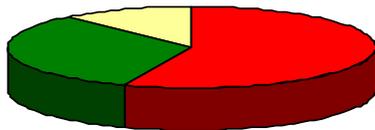


## VERIFICATION TRIAL - ANALYSIS

The 3 teams of verifiers checked a total of 120 records

Records fall into 3 groups:

1. those original submitted to BTCV [MRN < 1000] - 67 records (56%)
2. those recorded using version 1 of the WDVTS recording sheet [1000 > MRN > 2500] - 39 records (33%)
3. those recorded using version 2 of the WDVTS recording sheet [MRN > 2500] - only 14 records (12%)



- Gp 1: Original submitted to BTCV
- Gp 2: WDVTS recording sheet version 1
- Gp 3: WDVTS recording sheet version 2

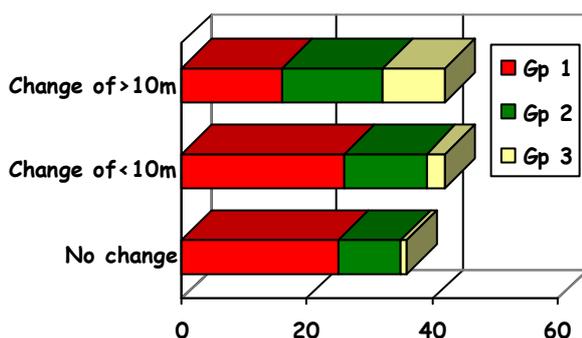
### GRID REFERENCES CORRECTION:

It had been anticipated that (for various reasons) those records in group 1 would be less reliable. There were only 14 records in group 3 and so a comparison with that group is difficult. The original aim of the survey was to obtain positional data within 10m of the true position. Only one of the 14 in group 3 was more than 10m adrift. The majority of records in group 1 were corrected, but this is not surprising since 8 figure grid references were recorded then. Half of those differed by more than 10m.

Where grid references were corrected there was no significant difference between the correction of Northings compared with Eastings.

Group	number of records verified	grid references corrected		
		difference < 10m	difference > 10m	total
1 - BTCV	67	25 (37%)	26 (39%)	51 (76%)
2 - version 1	39	10 (26%)	13 (33%)	23 (59%)
3 - version 2	14	1 (7%)	3 (21%)	4 (29%)
Total	120	36 (30%)	42 (35%)	78 (65%)

One of these grid references was 154m out! The tree was only found because an address was given (emphasizing the importance of recording locations). The original grid reference was only 8 digits, but there was probably a transcription error as well.



Omitting this one outlier, for those records with a difference **over 10m**, there was no difference in the magnitude of that difference between the groups. The **average difference was 19m**, with a **maximum of 46m**.

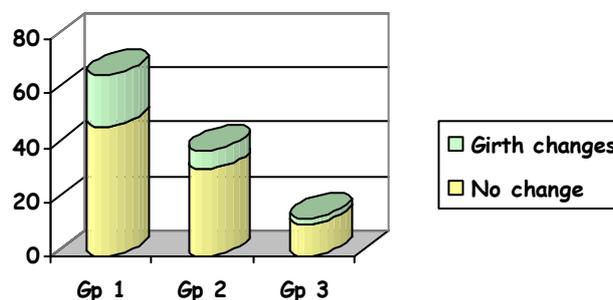
[For those records with a difference of less than 10m, the average was 5m, with a maximum of 9m and a minimum of 1m; and again there was no significance difference between groups.]

## GIRTH

Unfortunately there is an interval of up to 4½ years between the original measurement and the verification. Hence it is not surprising that the girth of some of the trees has changed. However in only one case could the difference perhaps be attributed to expected growth.

Group	No of records verified	No of girth changes
1 - BTCV	67	19 (28%)
2 - version 1	39	7 (18%)
3 - version 2	14	2 (14%)
Total	120	28 (23%)

Six trees were smaller than originally recorded.



## IDENTIFICATION

In only 5% of cases had a tree been incorrectly identified. That's just 6 trees. Two oaks are really limes and one common beech is really a copper beech. One Corsican pine was incorrectly recorded as a Scots Pine and one Sweet Chestnut was really a Red Horse Chestnut.

Identification was refined from genus to species level in 39 cases (33%). We have a lot of trees in the database that are just recorded as oaks. During this verification 31 such trees were confirmed as English oaks, one as a red oak and one as a Turkey oak. One lime was identified as a large-leaved lime; one willow as a crack willow; 3 pines as Corsican Pines and a "redwood family" as a Coastal redwood. One unidentified tree was confirmed as a Wellingtonia.

We still have 11 trees from this verified group that are only identified to genus level - 9 oaks, 1 cedar, 1 lime and 1 maple. They will be included in the next round of verification. Not everyone is competent at identification, but we can always get those more expert amongst us to confirm any suspects.

## UPDATED STATUS

In 12 cases the tree had died or been felled.

## PHOTOS

One of the reasons for verification was adding photos to those records with no photos, but only 9 records came into this category, because a great effort had been made earlier to rectify this situation. Several additional photos were taken. [In May 2011 WT has 1357 trees and all but 9 of them have photographs.]

There were 4 cases of photos being muddled - adjacent trees had photos attributed to the wrong tree.

## VERIFICATION TEAMS

There were some differences between verification teams, but the significance of this cannot be established because they were not verifying equivalent trees.

Verification team	Trees verified	Grid ref inaccurate	Girths inaccurate
A	17	1 (6%)	1 (6%)
B	27	22 (81%)	4 (15%)
C	76	55 (72%)	23 (30%)
All	120	78 (65%)	28 (23%)

With 22 grid reference corrections being made by team B and 55 by team C, it was possible to make a comparison, and there was no significant difference between the two teams.

### OTHER AMENDMENTS

When the survey began, recorders were not asked to record location, setting or access details, although some did (in the comments field). One of the main aims of the verification process was to supply missing data relating to these missing fields and many records have been amended in this way. One setting, 2 locations and 8 access categories were considered incorrect and changed.

Of the other fields, there were only 4 girth heights and 2 tree forms that were corrected during this verification and all were originally recorded before these fields were included on the recording form. This is particularly encouraging.

Fifteen records were left unchanged (apart from additional photos). Hence the majority (105 records - 88%) were amended in some way; although 12 had very minor amendments (including correcting spelling mistakes). One of the purposes of the verification was to concentrate on those records that were incomplete and so this high level of amendments would not be expected had a random sample been used.

In general I think the results of this verification trial are very encouraging. The quality of the records we have in the database is good, but verifying them is very important.

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