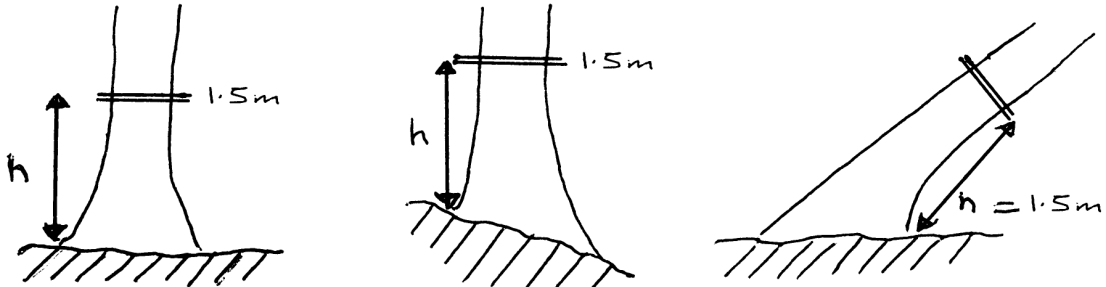


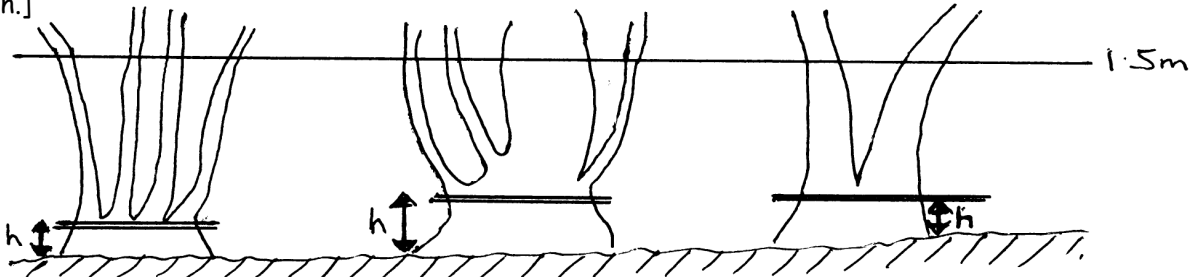
Measuring the girth of a tree

The girth should be measured at a height of **1.5m above the ground** or 1.5m above the **highest** point of the surrounding ground (if the ground is uneven). A leaning or collapsed tree should be measured on its lower side.

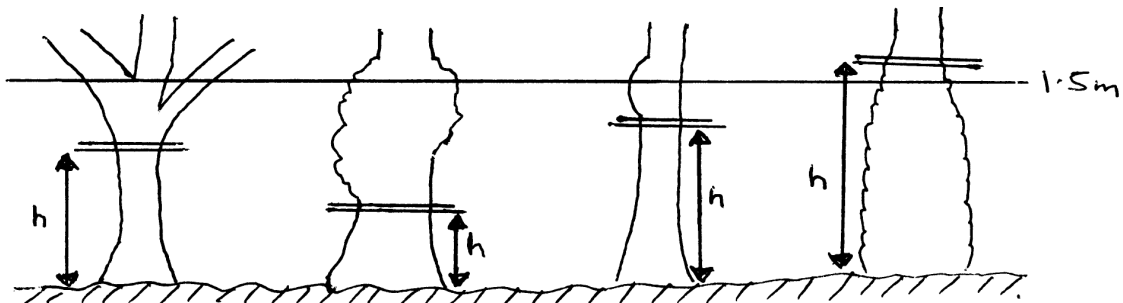


For trees with flared bases that taper quickly (eg Wellingtonias), it is especially important to measure at 1.5m **vertically** above ground - don't measure the height along the sloping trunk.

For coppiced and multi-stemmed trees measure the girth below any branching. This may well be at ground level. [If the girth of individual branches is over 3m this can be recorded in the comments column.]



If the tree forks or is swollen at 1.5m, then measure at the **narrowest point below 1.5m** and measure the height from the ground at which that girth measurement was taken. [In exceptional circumstances you may need to measure just above 1.5m if the bulging is from ground to just above 1.5m]



h = height of girth

For a tree with a completely burred trunk, or covered with ivy, the measured girth will be an estimate and should be recorded as such. [A 5cm deep layer of ivy all round a tree equates to a 0.3m increase in apparent girth.]

Some cedars and cypresses have very low branches - often resting on the ground. If there is an obvious main stem measure this at 1.5m (even though the branches are below 1.5m). If the trunk splits then treat as a multi stem and measure below the split. There may well be a combination of split trunk and low branches. A photo is particularly useful here. Try to take one to show the branching detail as well as a photo of the whole tree.

A 1.5m long stick is useful to hold against the tree for accurate height measurement and can also be used to hold back bracken and nettles!

Make sure the tape is level around the tree. Don't stretch the tape. You may need to take the measurement two or three times to ensure accuracy. If there is a discrepancy between repeated measurements, choose the smallest value. Periodically check your tape to make sure it is not stretched or damaged.