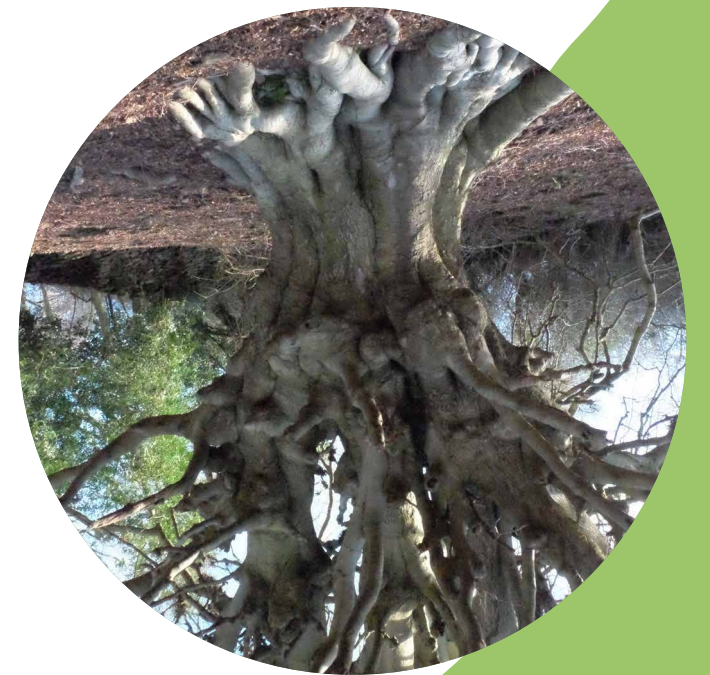


## AROUND THE FOREST OF DEAN



# ANCIENT & NOTABLE TREES

## Plantlife

### What is an Ancient, Notable or Veteran Tree?

#### An Ancient tree:

Will be of mature years, over 300 years for yew and oak trees, 200 years for a beech and ash, 85-100 years for a birch, hawthorn or cherry.

#### A Veteran Tree:

This can be an ancient tree of great age but it could also be a younger tree that has the signs of ageing, such as dead, dying limbs, fungi, a hollow stem or thick flaking bark. If a tree has any of these and other aging features, it is considered a veteran. WVeteran trees are usually native trees - these are species that have grown in the UK since the Ice Age.

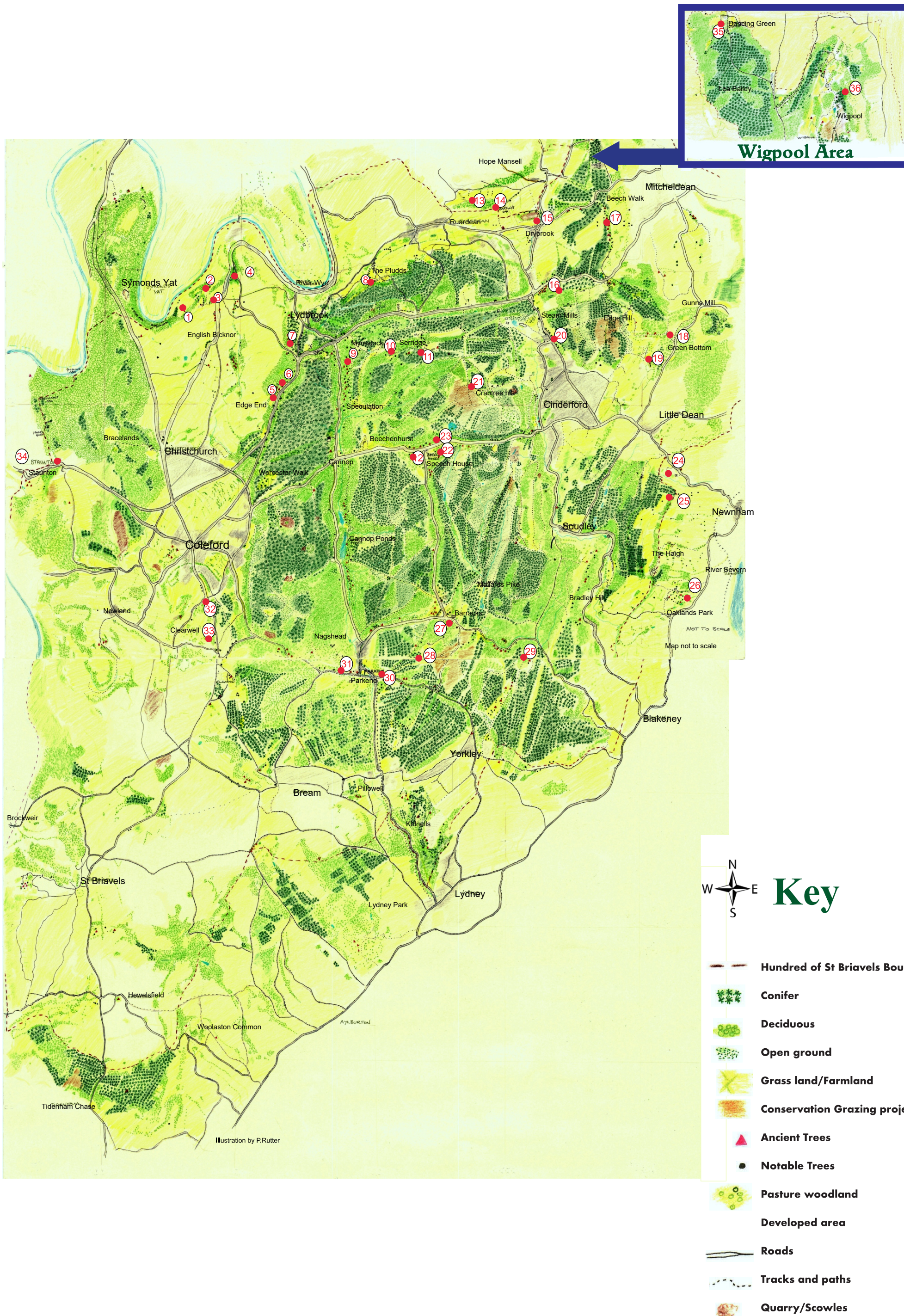
#### A Notable Tree:

This can be of any species of tree that has become a feature in the landscape, linked in some way to the local community or has county or national significance such as being the tallest tree, oldest or strangely shaped tree, or just be a tree where people sit under and enjoy. It may also have a local name. Ancient trees are a crucial component for providing special habitats and for biodiversity

### 7 Ways to help Ancient and Notable Trees remain in our landscape.

1. Give them enough space and light.
2. Leave fallen deadwood where it falls uncut and close to the tree
3. Avoid cutting off limbs, especially low ones.
4. Avoid compacting or disturbing soil around the tree.
5. Allow the natural decay process.
6. Prevent waterlogging or using fertilisers near the tree.
7. Avoid disturbing wildlife, so look at the tree without removing bark, leaves or branches.

Supported by:





# Ancient & Notable Tree Survey

## Introduction:

The Ancient and Notable tree survey is one of a number of Foresters' Forest National Lottery Heritage Fund projects to "unearth the past" and to "discover our nature" in the Forest of Dean within the Hundred of St Briavels. An area of the Forest specified for the Foresters' Forest programme.

This project, led by Plantlife, supported by local volunteers, has been recording where the oldest and other notable trees remain in the landscape. This information will assist in promoting the long term management and protection of not only the trees but also the biodiversity that these trees support around the Forest of Dean.

## Selected Forest of Dean Ancient and Notable Trees.

The following 36 outstanding ancient and notable trees have been selected to show where they are located in and around the forest and can be visited by using public footpaths or are on Forestry England land.

An OS map reference is listed for each tree to confirm their precise location so please use an OS map to check your route before visiting.



**1 Raven Cliff Lime.**  
OS ref: 57468/15975  
One of the ancient lime trees found along the Wye Valley. A tree that can live up to 2000 years. Note the aerial roots growing inside the stem.



**2 Collins Grove veteran Oak**  
OS ref: 58143/16420  
An ancient oak approx. 350 years old with a girth over 4 metres with many veteran features, including attached dead wood, thick flaky bark, stem swelling and low branches. **Sheep grazing, please keep dogs on leads in this area.**



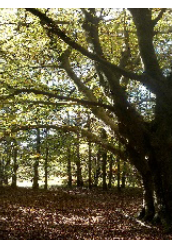
**3 School Oak.**  
OS ref 58092/15812  
Another mature oak in a very changed environment today since it began growing as a young sapling over 250 years ago.



**4 Reverend Burden Oak.**  
OS ref 58850/16631  
One of the largest oaks remaining on the forest estate. The tree was bought by Reverend Burden for £5 in 1950 to prevent it being felled.



**5 Machen Oak.**  
OS ref 59627/13533  
Possibly one of the oldest oaks in the forest over 350 years old, now hollow with many other veteran features. Named after Edward Machen the Deputy Surveyor for the Dean, he lived at Eastbach Court from 1889– 1899.



**6 Edge End Beeches.**  
OS ref 59669/13663  
A line of fine old beech trees along the route of an old tramway. The low hanging branches help keep the tree stable in high winds.



**17 Beech Walk cluster.**  
OS ref 65853/17710  
Another group of old trees along a footpath. The trees have many veteran features, some are hollow and have interesting fungi. Deadwood is left as habitat for insects and fungi.



**18 Green Bottom Beech.**  
OS ref 67094/15185  
This ancient piece of sheltered woodland includes beech, hazel, willow, silver birch and oak and is rich in spring with bird song. A walk up to Edgehill has fine views to May Hill. An alternative circular route around Tanners hill will take you past old beech and oaks to Gunns Mill. This is where many trees from the forest were burnt in the 1600s for smelting iron in the blast furnace.



**19 Collafield Oak.**  
OS ref 66806/14893  
A statuesque mature oak tree that is surrounded by other fine ancient trees on the edge of a conifer plantation.



**20 Steam Mills Oak.**  
OS ref 65028/15296  
Another very fine open grown tree in a line of notable trees along the road edge between Steam mills and Cinderford.



**21 Crabtree cluster.**  
OS ref 63487/13618  
A group of notable trees that once surrounded an old foresters lodge. It includes yew, lime, hawthorn and some veteran oaks. The adjacent open landscape gives fine views across a now grazed part of the forest.



**22 Speech House Hollies.**  
OS ref 62313/12176  
This is a part of the forest that has been grazed for centuries, and where old hollies were frequently pollarded to feed livestock. The wood of holly can be burnt still green so holly was also a source of firewood. Because of their age and well lit situation these trees support rare lichens.



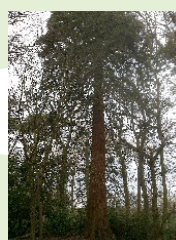
**23 Old Man Oak.**  
OS ref 62363/12407  
An ancient veteran oak of high biodiversity importance supporting many species of insects and birdlife over its long life and could continue to live for another 300 years.



**24 Grange Oak.**  
OS ref 67761/12084  
**Private land no public access.** Although just over the boundary of the Hundred of St Briavels and on private land, this tree has been included because it has the largest girth of any oak found around the forest measured at 8.2 metres. It can be viewed from the footpath passing Culver House.



**25 Culver Oak .**  
OS ref 67761/11675  
This is a fine example of an ancient pollard oak. It is hollow but still growing vigorously. As well as extending the life of a tree, pollarding was a way of harvesting timber from a living tree while protecting new growth from browsing deer and other animals.



**26 Oakland Wellingtonias.**  
OS ref 68236/09320  
This is one of the tallest trees in an area of fine notable specimens. A very popular tree planted on the estates of the Victorian owners, and introduced from America. **The surrounding land is private so please stay on footpaths.**



**7 Hangerberry Beech coppice.**  
OS ref 59652/14572  
An overstood coppice stool of great age with contorted stems covered with moss and lichens growing over the bark. Lichen and mosses actually slow rainwater reaching the ground so help to reduce sudden run off and flood risk.



**8 Horsley Beech.**  
OS ref 60949/16104  
One of a number of old maturing trees along the forest edge with very large trunk and open grown branches indicating they originally grew in more open ground in the past.



**9 Myrestock Oak cluster.**  
OS ref 61387/14437  
A cluster of old oak, beech and hawthorn trees growing between the old tunnel and Speculation car park. This more natural structure is how the forest may have looked before much of it was felled in 1700s for the iron smelting industry.



**10 Serridge Ridge cluster.**  
OS ref 61941/14227  
A group of mature trees around the private lodge grounds including oak, beech, sweet chestnut and yew. Nearby fallen trees have been left to support fungi and invertebrates.



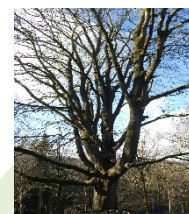
**11 Trafalgar Beech.**  
OS ref 623451/14405  
Named after a nearby, now closed mine, this notable tree has many low branches growing downwards which can help it grow vigorously and reach an age of well over 300 years.



**27 Shaden Tuft Oak.**  
OS ref 63024/09154  
One of a few named oldest trees in the Forest, this 350 year old tree could be one of the few remaining Dean oaks of the 1700s. It is showing its age and losing limbs but is still a very important part of the woodland ecosystem as it slowly decays and is used by wildlife.



**28 Forest Giant Oak.**  
OS ref 62616/08529  
An enormous tree hidden away in a forest plantation . This is an example of the type of oak that Admiral Nelson encouraged to grow in order to build his warships. 6000 oaks were needed for each ship.



**29 Danby Ridge Oak.**  
OS ref 64745/08646  
A pleasant woodland walk from Yorkley takes you past many fine old trees growing in pasture woodland before reaching this mature oak standing on a high ridge.



**30 Charles Oak Parkend Common.**  
OS ref 62114/08045  
With a 5.37 metres girth this is an example of a perfect shaped oak tree with many lateral branches left to grow close to the ground.



**31 Parkend Gate Beech.**  
OS ref 60984/07899  
An ancient beech with low limbs growing in a woodland together with other old trees and close to the cycle route along the edge of Nagshead nature reserve.



**12 Verderers Oak.**  
OS ref 61958/11962  
One of the largest girth oaks in the forest, at 8.2 metres. The swollen stem is caused by invading gall wasps that lay their eggs inside the tree buds which then deform inside the tree. It is named after the Verderers court of forest guardians who still meet at Speech House today.



**13 Old Purlieu wood ancient Hawthorn.**  
OS ref 63078/18287  
This is one of many thorn trees that would have been widespread throughout the forest and are still found close to old oak trees. Thorn trees gave protection to oaks as they emerged from acorns and provide nectar as food for tree dwelling insects in May.



**14 Cockshoot Ash.**  
OS ref 63316/18135  
The extraordinary shape of this old tree shows how ash trees can change their growth to find enough light to grow to an age of over 250 years



**15 Tump Oak.**  
OS ref 64231/17624  
Standing proud on a knoll, this veteran oak is one of all too few in-field trees, that have survived land use change in a landscape where so many trees outside of woodlands have been lost.



**16 Nailbridge Cluster.**  
OS ref 65001/16364  
This ancient beech is one of an important group of ancient veteran trees on the edge of the forest. A place well worth exploring along the footpath to see more ancient oak, hawthorn, sweet chestnuts.



**32 Sling Belly Oak.**  
OS ref 58051/08765  
This tree stands out from the surrounding trees with its large swollen trunk. Another tree colonised by gall wasps



**33 Sling Willow pollard.**  
OS ref 58000/08079  
Another pollard tree that has lived a long time because of this type of management. Willow is a tree species that is not usually known for it's longevity. Its yellow flowers in spring are another important source of early nectar for insects.



**34 Staunton Yew.**  
OS ref 55093/12617  
One of a number of ancient yew trees found in churchyards and on rocky outcrops in Scowles around the forest. Yew trees can grow for over 1000 years and were worshipped by the Druids.



**35 Dancing Green Oaks.**  
OS ref 63359/20947  
A pair of ancient oak trees at the northern end of the forest just over the border in Herefordshire but within the Hundred of St Briavels



**36 Wigpool Beech.**  
OS ref 65355/19964  
This is one of the largest trees in the area hidden in a conifer and beech plantation but well worth finding.

## Enjoy the Trees