

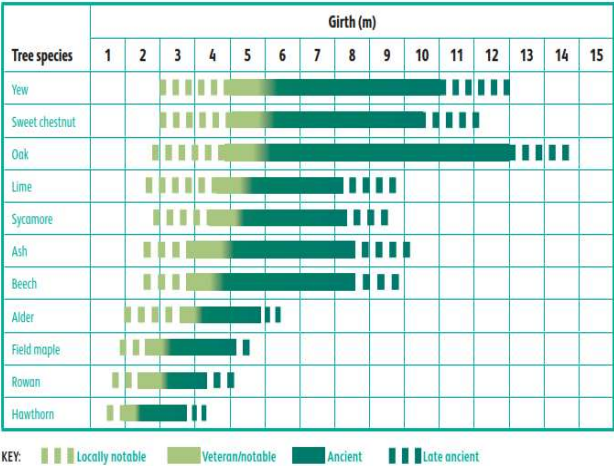
Land East of Knowsley Lane, Knowsley - Veteran Tree Schedule

This assessment criteria for defining Ancient and Veteran trees and the identification of attributable ancient/veteran features, has been based on a range of currently published guidance and resources. In principle, reference has been made to Owen & Alderman (2008) and Reed, H. (2000). Veteran Trees: A Guide to Good Management. English Nature and more recently Lonsdale, D (ed.) (2013) Ancient and other Veteran Trees: Further Guidance on Management, The Tree Council & Ancient Tree Forum for guidance on the recognition of both ancient and veteran trees. Level 3 of the Specialist Survey Method (SSM) of de Berker & Fay (2004) has also been utilised for gathering survey information as this provides a standardised framework for recording characteristic ancient/veteran features.

Ancient and Veteran trees are important components of the landscape, their importance can be for several reasons including that of their ecological, social, cultural and historic value. Ancient and Veteran Trees are also material considerations within the planning process and their importance is specifically recognised within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021, which states
180 (c) 'development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons (footnote 63) and a suitable compensation strategy exists';
With reference to paragraph 180 (c), examples of what is deemed to be 'wholly exceptional' are included within Footnote 63 and provides the examples of 'infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat'.

Various published methodologies are currently available which, due to the complexity and subjectivity of the process of defining and assessing Ancient and Veteran trees, often have conflicting definitions. NPPF 2021 defines the terms Ancient or Veteran tree as:
'A tree which, because of its age, size and condition, is of exceptional biodiversity, cultural or heritage value. All ancient trees are veteran trees. Not all veteran trees are old enough to be ancient, but are old relative to other trees of the same species. Very few trees of any species reach the ancient life-stage.'

Stem girth is the most reliable guide when determining the age of trees, and it would be expected, in normal growing conditions, that Ancient and Veteran trees would have a large girth by comparison with other trees of the same species. To inform the assessment of chronological age reference has been made to the chart provided within Lonsdale (2013).



Ancient Tree

The definition of an ancient tree has been based on Ancient Tree Guide No. 4 (ATF, 2008) which suggest ancient should be used for a tree that:

'has passed beyond maturity and is old, or aged, in comparison with other trees of the same species.

Further to this, in accordance with guidance for use in the Ancient Tree Hunt (Owen & Alderman, 2008), as cited within Lonsdale (2013) an ancient tree is one that has all or most of the following characteristics:

- a) biological, aesthetic or cultural interest, because of its great age;
- b) a growth stage that is described as ancient or post-mature; or
- c) a chronological age that is old relative to others of the same species.

Guided by Lonsdale (2013) to qualify as an ancient tree the tree concern must possess most if not all of the following qualifying features:

- A large girth by comparison with other trees of the same species (within the ancient range set out in the chart above)
- Aging and associated decay (leading to hollowing) of the central wood
- Changes in crown architecture (Raimbault, 2006)
- A progressive or episodic reduction in post-mature crown size - 'retrenchment' (Lonsdale 2004; Rust & Roloff, 2002)

The time of year at which the survey was carried out will have restricted evidence of certain fungal species and activity. Ivy and herbaceous ground cover surrounding or covering tree stems may have obscured some features. The survey was completed from ground level only and aerial inspection of trees was not undertaken at this stage. No invasive or electronic decay detection devices have been used in assessing stem condition. Evaluation of tree condition applies to the date of survey and cannot be assumed to remain unchanged. An assessment of veteran trees and the habitat features associated with the surveyed population does not constitute a safety inspection and further assessment of these trees would be required to inform future management and tree works in the interests of safety.

Veteran Trees

The term 'veteran' refers to those trees that display habitat features associated with ancient trees but are not old enough to be ancient. Not all veteran trees are old enough to be ancient, but are old relative to other trees of the same species.

To qualify as a veteran tree the tree concerned must possess a stem girth which is considered large for its species (within the veteran range set out in the chart above) and either one primary veteran feature

- Major stem cavities and hollowing, with cavity that exceed 30% of stem diameter or are progressively developing
- Signs of crown retrenchment and a natural decline in vigour, with more than 50% of crown dead or dying back

Or 4 or more habitat features associated with veteran trees

- Physical damage to trunk, often the result of storm damage, resulting in exposed heart wood or sap wood
- Decay holes, this can include branch socket cavities on limbs, basal cavities, and cavities within the main stem below 30% of the stem diameter
- Bark missing from main stem in large quantities or large patches of flaking bark with crevices underneath
- Sap runs either from cracks in the bark or from cavities
- Crevices in the bark, under branches or on the root plate sheltered from direct rainfall which provide potential invertebrate habitat
- Fungi fruiting bodies on or around tree this can include heart-rotting species and saprophytic fungi on dead wood
- Epiphytes or Hemiparasites this can include lichen, liverworts and mistletoe but does not include ivy

It is considered that the greater the number and extent of these features present within a given tree, the greater its ecological habitat value.

Tree No.	T11
Species	Sweet Chestnut Castanea sativa

Height	17m
Stem Dia.	1735mm
Buffer	26.0m
Tree Form	Maiden

Comments
Situated 4m from boundary wall Main stem is heavily burred from ground level up to 4m internal decay likely Storm damage with broken branches and branch stubs Deadwood within crown small quantities Epicormic growth noted on main stem and structural branches Missing bark on main stem with exposed heartwood containing insect galleries

Large girth for species
Yes

Primary Features	
Major stem cavities / hollowing	Crown retrenchment

Secondary Features							
Decay holes	Physical damage to stem	Bark loss	Large quantities of dead wood in canopy	Sap runs	Crevices sheltered from rainfall	Fungi	Epiphytes and hemiparasites
	✓	✓			✓		



Tree No.	T12
Species	Sweet Chestnut Castanea sativa

Height	17m
Stem Dia.	1080mm
Buffer	16.2m
Tree Form	Maiden

Comments
15m from boundary wall Heavily weighted to east with leaning stem 30 degrees from vertical Damage to main stem on western aspect from ground level to 1.8m exposed heartwood with aerial rooting noted Small diameter dead branches noted in crown Further small cavity on eastern aspect at base with degraded fungal brackets possibly Laetiporus sulphureus

Large girth for species
No

Primary Features	
Major stem cavities / hollowing	Crown retrenchment

Secondary Features							
Decay holes	Physical damage to stem	Bark loss	Large quantities of dead wood in canopy	Sap runs	Crevices sheltered from rainfall	Fungi	Epiphytes and hemiparasites
✓	✓				✓	✓	



Tree No.	T13
Species	Sweet Chestnut Castanea sativa

Height	18m
Stem Dia.	1315mm
Buffer	19.7m
Tree Form	Maiden

Comments
14m from boundary wall Crown weighted to east with main stem division at 4m Past storm damage with large tear out wound exposed heartwood and brown cuboidal rot noted Cerioporous squamosus noted on tearout wound Deadwood within crown small quantities

Large girth for species
No

Primary Features	
Major stem cavities / hollowing	Crown retrenchment

Secondary Features							
Decay holes	Physical damage to stem	Bark loss	Large quantities of dead wood in canopy	Sap runs	Crevices sheltered from rainfall	Fungi	Epiphytes and hemiparasites
✓					✓	✓	



Tree No.	T14
Species	Sweet Chestnut Castanea sativa

Height	19m
Stem Dia.	1500mm
Buffer	22.5m
Tree Form	Maiden

Comments
27m from boundary wall Large dead branches from neighbouring daed tree piled around base Deadwood within crown small quantities Small diameter wounds noted on main stem with exposed heartwood but no visible decay evident Collybia fusipes noted at base

Large girth for species
Yes

Primary Features	
Major stem cavities / hollowing	Crown reitrenchmnet

Secondary Features						
Decay holes	Physical damage to stem	Bark loss	Large quantities of dead wood in canopy	Sap runs	Crevices sheltered from rainfall	Fungi
	✓					✓



Tree No.	T15
Species	Sessile Oak Quercus petraea

Height	23m
Stem Dia.	1530mm
Buffer	23.0m
Tree Form	Maiden

Comments
Situated 9m from boundary wall Low crown break at 3m Occasional dead wood noted within crown typical of species Occasional small branch socket cavities Crevices noted between buttress roots but no hollowing evident

Large girth for species
Yes

Primary Features	
Major stem cavities / hollowing	Crown retrenchment

Secondary Features							
Decay holes	Physical damage to stem	Bark loss	Large quantities of dead wood in canopy	Sap runs	Crevices sheltered from rainfall	Fungi	Epiphytes and hemiparasites
					✓		

