



# Recognition of Ancient, Veteran & Notable Trees – **R A V E N**

## **Step One—Size Assessment**

### **Tree has very large girth for species**

*Note—pollarding & senescence reduce stem increment: girth may be deceptive – assess stem girth relationship with life-stage accordingly*

Refer to *Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management* (Lonsdale, ATF 2013) at Fig. 1.3: *Chart of girth in relation to age and developmental classification of trees*

IF GIRTH NOT VERY LARGE FOR SPECIES, STOP HERE!

## **Step Two—Additional Primary Features**

### **At least one of the following should be present, or refer to Step Three**

- Extensive decay, especially brown rot or exposed stem heartwood in relevant species
- Extensive hollowing
- Crown senescence
- Retrenchment

## **Step Three—Secondary Features**

### **If no additional Primary Feature is present, tree should have at least four Secondary Features**

- Large quantity of dead wood in crown, especially where large-sized
- Major storm damage/ breakout wounds
- Habitat spaces: decay holes and/ or crevices/ branch splits sheltered from direct rainfall
- Aerial rooting
- Sap run/ slime flux
- Water pool
- Bark loss inc. due to lightning strike
- Fungi
- Other epiphytic plants, including significant presence of lichens

## **Step Four – Identification Guide**

- ANCIENT**  
Veteran tree with extremely large girth: age likely > 50% of estimated species maximum  
*E.g. pedunculate oak, 2m stem dia, average site: ca. 460 years old, ca. 50% of species max*
- VETERAN**  
Very large girth for species and qualifies under either Step Two or Step Three
- NOTABLE**  
Very large girth for species but does not qualify under either Step Two or Step Three

IF A TARGET IS PRESENT, ASSESS RISK USING *THREATS*



WEST YARNTON - RAVEN ASSESSMENT

Guide to column headings

**Tree No.** Refer to accompanying plan  
**Species** Listed by common name  
**Form** Key factors that influence significance of stem size and age estimation  
**Pollard** Whether the tree bears a pollard form, even if now long grown out  
**Relic** Tree assessed as bearing <75% of former maximum crown volume

**Required primary feature** Tree must be large relative to others of its kind to qualify for assessment (or evidence retarded increment); refer to Lonsdale 2013  
**Additional primary features** Features of principal importance for identifying A/V trees. In each case, feature should be present significantly  
**Secondary features** Less important though still valuable features that aid identification, especially where present in numbers  
**Extensive decay** Exposed decay areas should exceed 400cm<sup>2</sup>  
**Exposed HW** HW refers to heartwood; applicable to relevant species only

**DW>150mm dia** Dead wood present in the crown with diameter over 150mm  
**Maj. Storm damage** Breakout wounds or broken spars exceeding 30cm dia  
**Dry habitat space** Potential for faunal use where not subject to rain entry  
**Water pool** Offers niche habitat for specialist invertebrates, even where transient  
**Signif. Bark loss/ LS** Bark loss exceeding 400cm<sup>2</sup>. LS refers to lightning strike  
**Notable fungi** Refers to species with known associations to old-growth trees  
**Other epiphytic plants** Should be either rare or present in significant quantity

**Age estimate** Computed using FC White Method, form & senescence weighting added  
**Ancient** Trees beyond 50% of species' maximum life expectancy  
**Veteran** Trees with Required/ Primary or Secondary features as listed  
**Notable** Trees that are large and/ or old for species, but which lack qualifying features  
**Non-special** All other trees

Note: This assessment reports findings on identified candidate A-V-N trees within Sylvan's study area: refer to accompanying indicative plan of tree locations

Tree no.	Species	Form		REQUIRED PRIMARY FEATURE	Either: ADDITIONAL PRIMARY FEATURES - at least one of						Or: SECONDARY FEATURES - at least four of										AGE ESTIMATE		RAVEN ASSESSMENT				NOTES		
		Pollard	Relic	Large stem dia. (mm)	Extensive decay			Hollowing	Senescence	Retrenchment	DW>150mm dia	Maj. Storm Damage	Dry habitat space	Aerial roots	Sap run/ slime flux	Water pool	Signif. bark loss/ LS	Fungi		Other epiphytic plants			Years	Origin	Ancient	Veteran		Notable	Non-special
					Brown rot	Exposed HW	Other											Notable	Other	Lichens	Ferns	Other							
7006	Ash	X		940			X					X										174	1846		X			Age adjusted to allow for reduced increment due to pollarding	
7009	Pedunculate oak	X		2200	X	X		X		X	X	X						X				666	1354	X			Age adjusted to allow for reduced increment due to pollarding. Notable fungi recorded due to brown rot		
7010	Ash			1250			X				X	X							X			210	1810		X		Confirmed presence of <i>Inonotus hispidus</i>		
7021	Crack willow	X		1300																		n/a	n/a		X		Grown-out pollard at risk of severe collapse: urgent repollarding recommended		
7028	Pedunculate oak			1420			X					X										257	1763		X		Low number of veteran features#. Historic loss of co-dominant leader from stem noted		
7032	Ash	X		860			X					X										178	1842		X		Undersized however age adjustment allowance made for loss of increment due to pollarding		
7043	Ash			MS			X					X							X			n/a	n/a		X		Grown-out coppice. Confirmed presence of <i>Ganoderma lipsiense</i> and <i>Ceriporus squamosus</i>		
7047	Pedunculate oak			1160					X	X		X										248	1772		X		Bacterial stem exudate noted consistent with systemic oak decline. Age adjusted to allow for impaired condition		
7048	Pedunculate oak			1370								X										242	1778			X	Lacks veteran features; notable tree due to size		
7050	Crack willow	X		1450			X															n/a	n/a		X		Grown-out pollard at risk of severe collapse: urgent repollarding recommended		
7051	Crack willow	X		1300			X															n/a	n/a		X		Grown-out pollard at risk of severe collapse: urgent repollarding recommended		
7059	Pedunculate oak			1330						X												231	1789			X	Lacks veteran features other than major dead wood; notable tree due to size		
7066	Ash			1100			X					X										171	1849		X		Early signs of ash dieback		
7075	Pedunculate oak			1050	X	X				X	X								X			203	1817		X		Confirmed presence of <i>Fistulina hepatica</i> and <i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i> . Age adjusted to reflect reduced crown size		
7078	Pedunculate oak			1680	X					X	X											339	1681		X		Habitat features present from significant storm damage and decay		
7083	Pedunculate oak			1630					X	X	X								X			362	1758		X		Confirmed presence of <i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>		
7085	Pedunculate oak	X		1460	X		X												X			308	1712		X		Age adjusted to allow for reduced increment due to pollarding. Notable fungi recorded due to brown rot		
7106	Pedunculate oak			1260	X				X	X												213	1807		X		Brown rot decay fungi and crown retrenchment		