



Wood-pasture and parkland are mosaic habitats, characterised by the presence of large mature and veteran open grown trees, often pollarded, within a setting of grazed grassland, heathland or woodland. Much wood pasture is derived from former hunting Chase, whilst the Herefordshire parks date from the Norman Conquest through to the 19th century. Large tracts of the county are sufficient to put Herefordshire in the international bracket for ancient trees, wood pasture and parkland, with veteran trees within fields and in the hedges linking the parkland and wood pasture sites.

Specialised and varied habitats within wood pasture and parkland and in the veteran trees themselves provide a home for a wide range of species, particularly invertebrates, lichens and fungi which depend on dead and decaying wood. Key species include the stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*, a bark beetle *Ernoporus tiliae*, a wood boring beetle *Gastrallus immarginatus*, and Moccas beetle *Hypebaeus flavipes*. Key epiphytic flora are orange-fruited elm lichen *Caloplaca luteoalba*, and the oak polypore *Buglossoporous pulvinus*. Veteran trees also provide vital roosting sites for birds and bats including Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*.

#### Threats

- Lack of management of existing mature trees e.g. limited repollarding and lack of planting/promotion of new generations of replacement trees
- Loss of veteran trees through disease, drought and storm damage
- Removal of veteran trees and dead wood for safety/public liability concerns and chopping up of fallen deadwood to make tidy piles
- Damage to trees and roots from soil compaction and erosion - during development and in urban situations (despite BS5837) and from vehicle traffic
- Isolation and fragmentation of habitat and to direct loss by cultivation including ploughing and chemical use within appropriate Root Protection Areas around trees
- Impacts of sprays on tree roots and antihelminths on coprophytic invertebrates
- Inappropriate grazing levels (duration, intensity and poor management) causing poaching, bark damage, dunging and soil compaction
- Lack of funding and expertise to assess and update species and site registers

#### Current Action

- Recent veteran tree surveys (HWT, WVAONB, HTF, RWPT)
- The Herefordshire Tree Forum acts as a strategic focus for the county's treescape (HTF)
- Herefordshire Tree Warden Network has been revitalised to support local 'action for trees'
- Agri-environment schemes require identification and protection of veteran trees
- Several Parks are now being restored under a Parkland Restoration Stewardship projects.
- ATF and the Tree Council have produced detailed guidance on the management, value and cultural significance of veteran trees, and run training courses
- Felling licences require adherence to good practice and policy (FC)
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	Objective	Action
A	Maintain the total extent and distribution	1,3,7
B	Agree standard county recording method to record, map and assess the condition of trees (incorporating GPS logging and photographs)	1,3
C	Plant new generation of trees, using genetically appropriate seed, to replace veterans and improve the connectivity between them	2,4
D	Increase awareness of biodiversity, cultural and historic significance of wood pasture, parkland and veteran trees	4,5
E	Improve the management of the habitat between the trees	2,5
F	Maintain/retain standing deadwood and fallen deadwood and increase pollen sources for saproxylic invertebrates	2,5

	Actions	Target
1	Collate and review existing data from Tithe maps, OS maps, existing veteran tree maps etc and make it more accessible	2020
2	Target funds from agri-environment schemes etc to encourage and support management of wood pasture, parkland and veteran trees, including planting pollen sources for deadwood invertebrates	2020
3	Continue training volunteers in current survey methodology (with GPS and photo tagging)	2020
4	Increase public awareness and involvement (HTF and HTWN)	Annual
5	Promote advice to landowners - set up demonstration events and workshops with relevant land managers and tree wardens	2020
6	Encourage and support HC to place TPOs on accredited veteran trees	Annual

Lead Partner	HWT
Key Partners	HTF, FC, WT, WVAONB, HTWN, PTES