

Veteran trees

are trees with a story to tell and experience to share

They can tell us tales of their lives, of when they were planted and what they provided for their communities. They can tell how the land was used and give clues to the age of the landscape features they stand on. To add to this, their scars and rugged barks provide homes and food supplies for a multitude of creatures from fungi and invertebrates to birds and mammals.

Veteran Trees for the Future need not necessarily be ancient trees now, but they will be trees with a significance for the local community or with particular historic or ecological importance. This is illustrated by the trees selected by the local people who chose the trees in this leaflet.

If you would like to be involved with the project and receive training in identifying and recording the **Veteran trees** are important and valued features in the landscape of the **North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** and the **Veteran Trees for the Future** project aims to identify and record trees in a given locality together with the stories attached to them.

The information will be supplied to landowners and other interested people and will be used to help with the management and preservation of the trees so that their stories and habitats are available for future generations.

The project is sponsored and funded by the **North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**. It is being carried out by volunteers working in their own localities and is monitored and guided by the Friends of the Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys. Data will be added to both the AONB database and the Ancient Tree Forum on-line database.

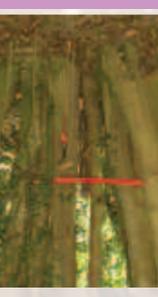
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please contact: *The Friends of the Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys* on 01 189 305336 or visit our website www.pangandkennetvalleys.org.uk

(Sweet Chestnut)
Ashampstead
200+ years old
Common



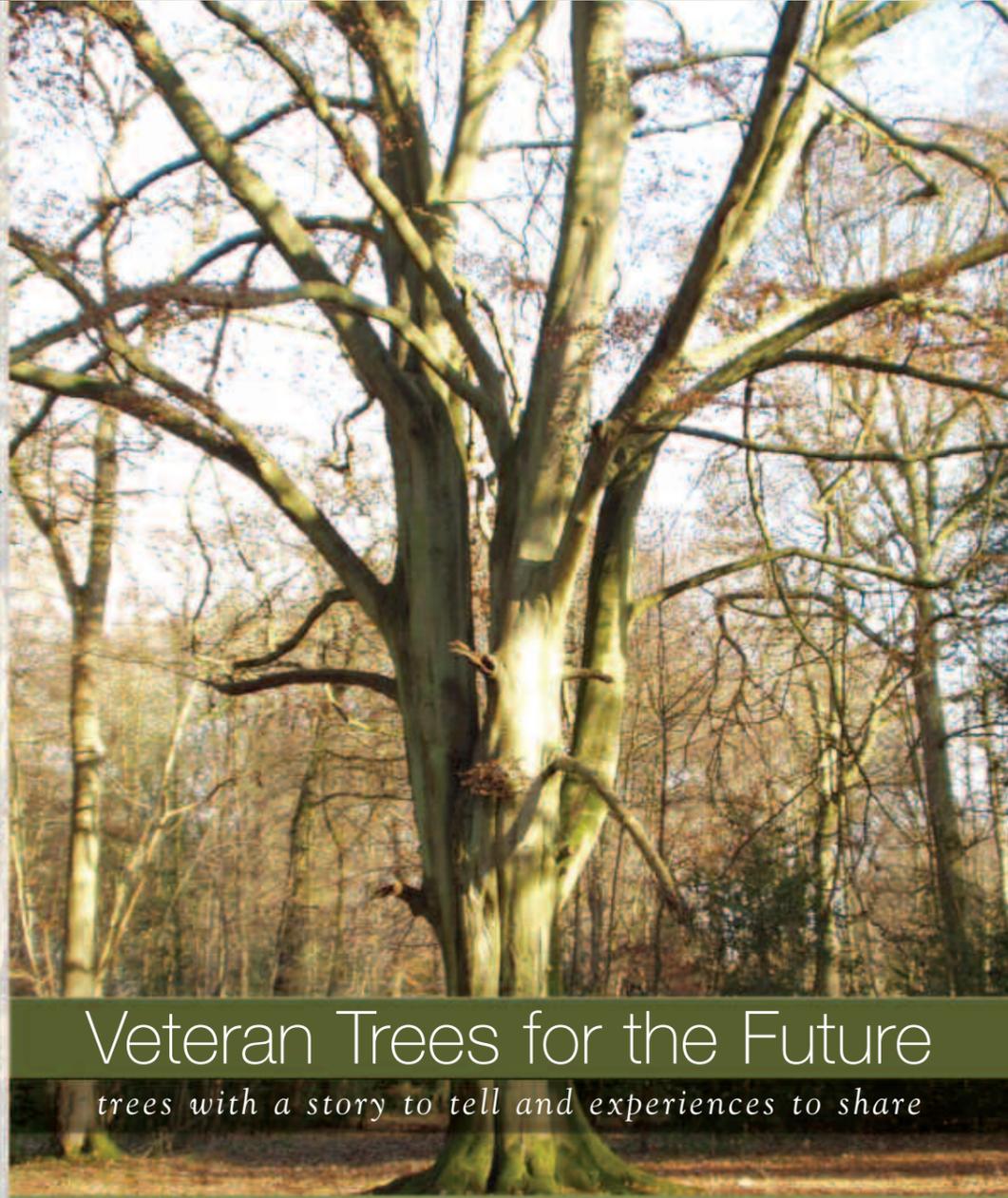
(Holly)
Burnthill
300+ years old
Common



(Yew)
Ashampstead
500+ years old
Common



(Yew)
The Junipers
400 years old
Common



Veteran Trees for the Future

trees with a story to tell and experiences to share

Ashampstead and Burnt Hill Commons



Future Veteran Trees on Ashampstead Common	
No. on map	Tree species and description
1	Yew tree on bank
2	Oak (pollard)
3	Yew in Yew Tree Glade
4	Beech in Beech Tree Glade
5	Beech (copiced) on the Pillow Path
6	Wild service tree clone near Path 39
7	Sweet Chestnut near the Kid's Path
8	Sweet Chestnut near Path 42
9	Sweet Chestnut
10	The Soldier's Tree, Sycamore
11	Sweet Chestnut
12	Holly Stool in Holly Clearing
13	Oak near path 42
Future Veteran Trees on Burnt Hill Common	
1	Sloe Frightle Beech, Beech (pollard)
2	The Climbing Tree, Beech (copiced)
3	Holly Stool
4	Beech
5	Beech
6	Beech
Future Veteran Trees in The Junipers	
1	Ash
2	Yew
3	Yew

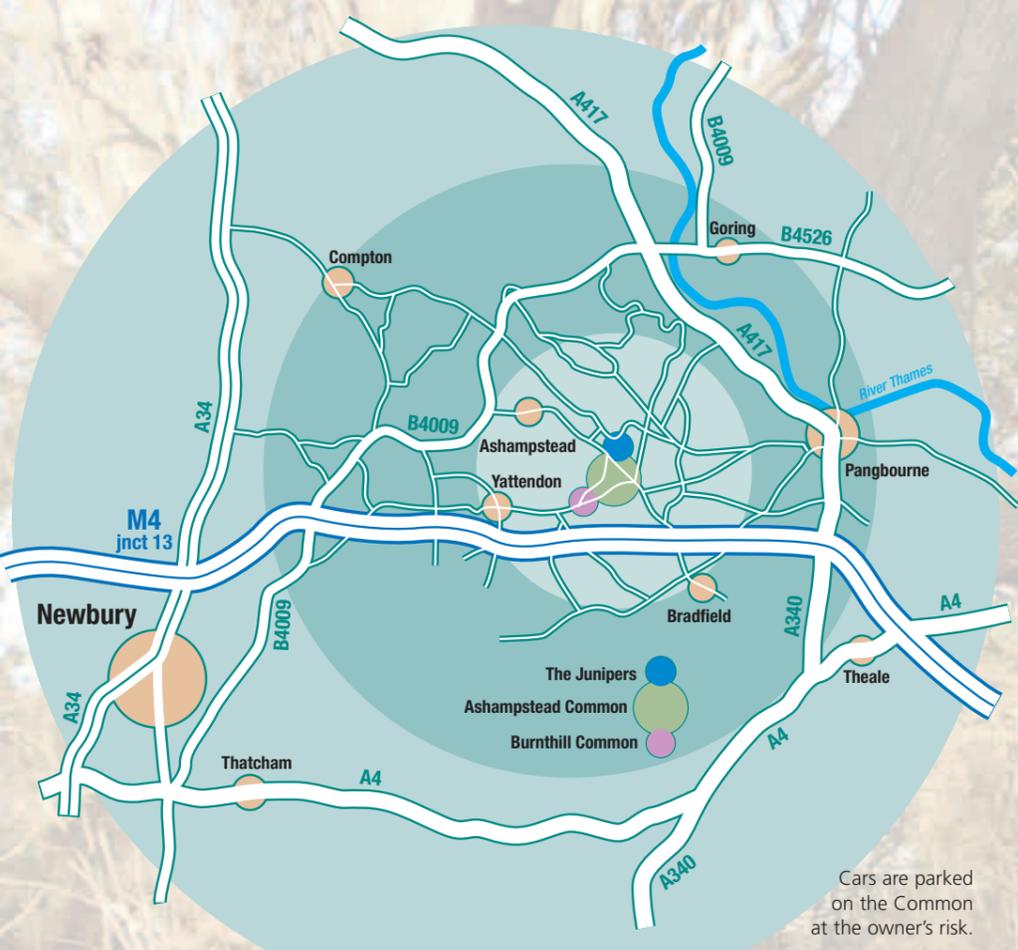
Ashampstead Common lies in the **North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** and is a West Berkshire Woodland Heritage Site. It is owned and managed by Yattendon Estates Ltd with the co-operation of a Commons Management Committee drawn from Ashampstead Parish Council and the local community.

Research indicates that it was a Deer Park in the 13th century and the remains of its park pale can be traced for three and a half miles.

Each Future Veteran has been recorded and a management plan adopted to ensure a healthy life far into the future.

Its varied soils and lack of ground disturbance has provided a rich flora. Almost 250 species of flowering plants and trees have so far been identified and the list continues to grow as research continues. There is excellent access via a dense network of public rights of way and access paths which allow most of the **Future Veterans** to be visited.

Ashampstead & Burnt Hill Commons



North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Denford Manor
Lower Denford
Hungerford
RG17 0UN



Yattendon Estates Ltd
Estate Office
Yattendon
Thatcham
RG18 0UY



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c/o Pang, Kennet & Lambourn Valleys Countryside Project (FWAG)
The Old Estate Office, Englefield Road, Theale, Berkshire RG7 5DZ
Tel/Fax: 0118 9305336 Email: pang.kennet@fwag.org.uk
Website: www.pangandkennetvalleys.org.uk

Pang, Kennet & Lambourn Valleys Countryside Project is a partnership funded and supported by: Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, West Berkshire Council, Englefield Estate, Environment Agency, English Nature and local Parish Councils.

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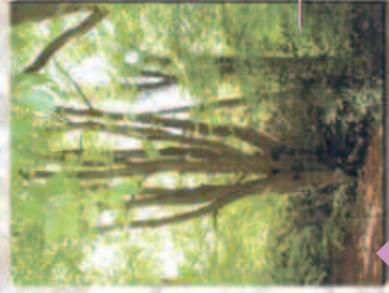
(Yew on bank) This ancient yew is probably at least 500 years old. It is growing on the boundary bank which kept the deer inside the 13th century deer park and therefore shows the age of the bank. The bank would originally have had a high wooden fence on the top. The internal ditch made it more difficult for the deer to jump out.

(Beech in Beech Tree Glade) This elegant beech is about 150 years old and probably became established during a period after the Napoleonic Wars when grazing by commoner's cattle became less intense.

(Sweet Chestnut) This gnarled sweet chestnut pollard is everyone's idea of an ancient tree. It is at least 200 years old and may originally have been a low cut stub from which branches were harvested. At some point a single stem may have been allowed to grow to form the present tree.

(Sweet Chestnut) A close neighbour of the above tree. Sweet Chestnuts provided durable fencing material and a valuable crop of edible nuts. This tree was probably established at about the same time as its neighbour and is at least 200 years old.

(The Climbing Tree) The Climbing Tree. Generations of Burnt Hill children have learned to climb on this tree.



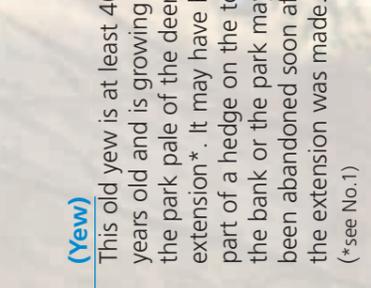
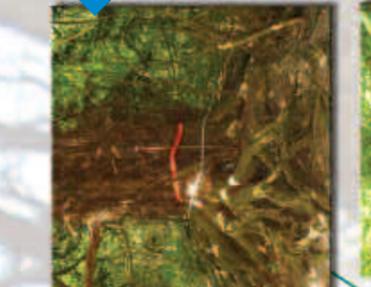
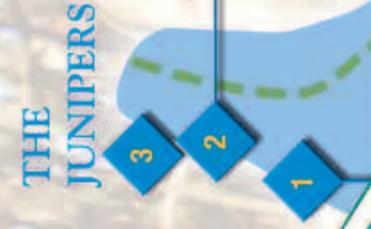
(Pollard Beech)

Beeches were pollarded to provide regular crops of timber and firewood. Pollarding involves cutting off the stem of a tree at about 10 feet (3.0m) above the surface so that the re-growth is above the reach of cattle. A cow or a deer will walk a long way to graze fresh new tree shoots! This tree is about 150 years old.



(Holly Stool)

This large clump of holly stems is a clone with all the stems growing from the same root system. Regular cutting for hundreds of years has developed this shape. Holly was cut in spring and stacked in ricks until the winter when it was fed to sheep and deer. Holly leaves are amongst the most nutritious of all tree foliage. In spite of the sharp points it is readily eaten by hungry animals. When the animals had eaten the leaves and the bark the dry sticks were sold for firewood. Nothing was wasted.



THE JUNIPERS

(Yew) This old yew is at least 400 years old and is growing on the park pale of the deer park extension*. It may have been part of a hedge on the top of the bank or the park may have been abandoned soon after the extension was made. (*see No.1)

(Ash) This ash is about 150 years old and the level of its first branch shows that it grew in a dense coppice. The bank and ditch alongside it are the boundary of a 15th century extension to the deer park.



(Wild Service)

This is an example of a young tree being designated as a Future Veteran. Wild service trees are relatively rare in our area and are recognised by English Nature as indicating that the woods in which they grow are Ancient Semi-natural Woodland.



0 50 100 150 200
distance in metres