

**Chairman:** Terry Smith      **Co-ordinator:** Malinda Griffin

**This Month's Editor:** Terry Smith



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@HavantTree      <https://twitter.com/HavantTree>

**Website**

<https://groups.tcv.org.uk/havantboroughtreewardens/>

**E-mail**

[hbctreewardens@gmail.com](mailto:hbctreewardens@gmail.com)

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## Missing Trees Planted in Poppy Way

In April 2019, Barratt David Wilson Homes admitted that 12 trees had not been planted in Poppy Way, Denvilles, in contravention of the planning permission, and an application (APP/19/00405) was submitted to remove 12 street trees shown on the approved Landscaping Plan.



New trees in Poppy Way.

Photo: Peter Wallbank

The covering letter claimed that if the trees were to be planted as per the approved specification, it was likely to result in disruptions to the utilities and service arrangement for all surrounding properties. The letter included the statement, "If the street trees were to be implemented as per the approved consent, this is likely to be the only tree lined street within the development and as such it is not considered that the removal of these trees from the approved landscaping scheme would result in any detrimental impact to the landscape scheme or character of the development."

13 objections to the application were submitted from individual residents, Havant Borough Residents' Alliance, Warblington and Denvilles Residents' Association and Havant Borough Tree Wardens.

Barratts submitted an amended proposal to plant 12 additional trees of the same specification as those omitted, within the public open space.

Peter dropped by recently to see if anything had changed and, to his surprise, 12 trees have been planted in Poppy Way, as per the original scheme. The frequent references in the objections to substantial compensation to home owners may have influenced the decision. The trees have been planted in planting pits, with watering points and ties fixed tightly to the cross supports. One tree doesn't look too healthy but there are some small apples on others.

David Eaves the Principal Planning Officer for HBC was involved in making sure the trees were planted in January. The management company is responsible for their maintenance.

### **Trees as Wildlife Support Systems– Malinda Griffin (the focus here is on bats)**

A tree needs light and space, spreading its branches to make the most of the sun; “That’s 360 degrees of niches and cover for wildlife”, remarked Ted Green, Tree Adviser to the revolutionary Knepp Wilding project. \*



Trees offer a vast range of resources on which our wildlife depends; leaves, flowers and fruits of course, but also insects, mites, lichens, fungi and plants that thrive on trees.

No one individual tree of a particular species will harbour all the insects and animal species we might associate with that type of tree. This depends on the tree’s age and variables such as local climate and geography. However, the value of an individual tree for wildlife definitely depends on its age. Not only are the different species associated with an individual tree present at different stages of its lifecycle, but most importantly, older trees have a much greater variety of microhabitats available for colonisation and this leads to a wider range of resident species and its value to wildlife.

Left: Barbastelle bats roost behind loose bark on this tree in the New Forest.

(Photo: Nik Knight - Hampshire County Bat Recorder)

As trees age, they get bigger. With increased size comes increased surface area for other plants to colonise, together with gnarled and fissured bark, rot-holes and hollows in the trunk. Past a certain size, the tree will begin to decline and bits of it will die off, but remain attached to provide standing rotting wood microhabitats. Old trees therefore develop a wealth of microhabitats for other organisms and a large surface area for colonisation.

Each of the 18 UK bat species depend on woodland and individual trees for a range of survival needs:

**A source of food** - Mature native trees support a great number of insect species that are all bats eat, and of course, veteran and ancient trees are especially important as ‘larders’.

**Route finding at night** - Bats use navigational landmarks such as woodland edges, hedgerows, rivers and other linear features like tree-lined footpaths as corridors to commute from one area of countryside to another.

These linear features also give some protection from predators and help with a bat’s echolocation calls as they bounce off trees trunks so it can find its way in the dark. Their hunting time is limited to the hours between sunset and around midnight.

If a commuting route is severed (e.g. by roads) bats can be cut off from their foraging habitats, which threatens their hunting success and survival.

**Shelter** - Bats need roosts for various purposes, and at different times of year or in different weather conditions: protection during bad weather, as places for their winter hibernation, as a feeding perch and also as safe places to birth and rear their young.

Bats don't construct roosts, but use features already available – these take time and chance to develop and are usually the result of damage and decay. Trees offering good roost potential are sadly those most likely to be felled or “tidied up”.

Every species of UK tree offers scope for one or other of the types of shelter preferred by different bats – some, like Barbastelle and Brown long-eared bats, like roosting behind loose bark. Bechstein's bat, Natterer's bat and Noctules prefer holes caused by rot.

The three species of Pipistrelle like to roost behind dense ivy.

All our bat species will hibernate in a hollow trunk if it's frost-free. Hibernation is during November to February, with periods of limited activity.

Right: Trees at Langstone Millpond with good bat roosting potential for Noctule, Bechstein's and Natterer's bats.

(Photo: Nik Knight)



### **A Dwindling UK Tree Population, and a Dwindling UK Bat Population**

Loss of trees, particularly due to human intervention (surgery or clearance for development) is a major threat for bats. Understanding the needs of bats can help identify the trees with “bat potential”, and should lead to ways of managing trees that promote bat conservation, e.g. replacing hollow branches securely to a pruned veteran tree, including artificial roosts on new and old buildings and using sensitive artificial outside lighting design.

Sadly, UK law on Tree Protection has not developed since 2005. Despite some amendments, none of these recognise the importance of trees, especially mature trees carrying dead wood, in supporting our biodiversity or in providing ecological goods such as cleaner air.

Bats are not rodents and do not nibble on wood or wiring should they make a roost behind hanging tiles or roof spaces. They are harmless insectivores, and all species have seriously declined. It's important to remember that all bat species and their roosts are legally protected in the UK and in international law, and it is a criminal offence to disturb a wild bat or interfere with its roosts.

\* 'Wilding' by Isabella Tree, 2018, Picador

### **Hayling Update – Eric Walker**

Early in July, serious preparation started for tree planting this Autumn. With the help of HCC Councillor Quantrill, a consolidated list of trees proposed for planting on Hayling Island was produced. There are basically three categories: Street Trees (Hampshire County Council), Parks (Havant Borough Council) and private/community land. On Saturday 5th September, we will be planting a Whitebeam tree at the Hayling Theatre. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of a tree-planting programme.

August is a good time to identify ash trees with dieback. Here on Hayling, I have seen Rowan and Norwegian maple with a bad disease with the bark coming off. There is also a sycamore which three years ago had a small amount of dieback at the top of the crown. This year almost half of it is affected. Now one of its neighbours is also looking a bit sick.



Right: Sick Sycamore at 2 Hollow Lane (from the South)



From the 21st July for three days I had chainsaws working outside my window on a Monterey Pine (TPO 1510) reducing it to cordwood and chippings. It was there before the houses were built 20? years ago. The replacement is to be a Holm oak. It's very difficult to select a tree for a location like this, so close to the sea and with the houses and flats being so close too.

Left: Monterey Pine Cordwood (Photos: Eric Walker)

### The Queen's Inclosure – Terry Smith

There was a welcome resumption of work parties on Monday 27th July. The day started with a brief shower and light drizzle with an expected wet afternoon that did not materialise. We were joined by volunteers from the Friends of Nore Barn Woods and PAWARA, making a total of five.

The first task was removing sticks that had been thrown into the main pond. The rest of the morning was spent digging bricks, stones and lumps of concrete out of the smaller pond and using them to build up the bank to hold water for longer and allow tadpoles a better chance of survival.



The drinking den in Queen's Inclosure being dismantled.

(Photo: Peter Wallbank)

Forestry England regularly finds dens in woodland and Wardens spend a lot of time removing them. While a few dead sticks are not a concern, some are more elaborate and include trees cut down and material brought into the woods. A particularly large construction was found in The Queen's Inclosure. The sides and a roof had been built around a yew tree. It had clearly been used as a drinking den and Pam filled the convenient supermarket trolley with empty bottles and cans that were strewn around. We spent an hour dismantling the structure and moving the bricks used for a fireplace.

## Bedhampton Oak Felling Under Investigation

A mature and apparently healthy oak to the side of Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton has been felled. It is believed the owner of the neighbouring property objected to leaves falling in the garden. An investigation into the circumstances of the felling is being carried out by Hampshire County Council.

A local resident placed an ode next to the stump. The poem has since been removed.



Top Left: The oak in June 2011  
(Photo: Google street view)

Lower Left: The remains  
(Photo: Jim Graham)

Above: A poem in memory of the oak.  
(Photo: Jim Graham)

## Treezilla – Eric Walker

Early in July, Treezilla started its transition to a completely new system, with the website being made live and ready for use during the week of 13th - 17th July 2020. Towards the end of July, the Treezilla app for Android and iPad was launched.

The new Treezilla is the first tool implementing the Individual Tree Data Standard which has been developed by Forest Research, TreeWorks, Natural Aptitude, the Open University and The Institute of Chartered Foresters. This standard will allow different individuals and organisations to work together on collecting tree data and to combine their data to make the most of their survey efforts. It basically comprises eleven measurements and is supplemented by four photographs of the tree being surveyed. The app includes a guide to support measuring and data recording while surveying using a smart phone.

For the new Treezilla, the ecosystem services calculations have been refined. The package includes a new tree ID guide based on more than 50 of the most common urban trees, which it is hoped will improve data. Being a new package it is necessary to re-register on Treezilla. Also, as a Beta version, there are a number of, what I consider, essential features needed to get it running smoothly and the developers are looking into what can be done.

## Adhurst Allotment Holders to Plant 1,000 Trees

Volunteers of the Adhurst Estate Allotment Association have set aside three acres of land near the community allotments on Waterworks Road in Sheet to plant a mixed woodland of 1,000 trees as part of East Hampshire District Council's campaign to see 120,000 trees planted, one for every resident in the district.

The trees and planting equipment have been bought from the Woodland Trust with a £665 grant from EHDC Councillor Nick Drew. The Association has taken advice from The Woodland Trust and the South Downs National Park on when and how to plant the trees and on the variety of trees to be planted.



The planting site next to the Adhurst Allotments in Sheet.

(L-R) Steve Amos and David Petch of Adhurst Estate Allotment Association with Guy and Alison Lubbock, owners and managers of the Adhurst Estate

(Photo: East Hampshire District Council)

Steve Amos, of the Adhurst Estate Allotment Association, said: "We have around 20 varieties of trees to plant along with the stakes and guards that will protect them in the early weeks. It'll be a lot of work for our members to plant them all, but we've got willing volunteers from the Association and the local Scouts have promised to help out too. The new wood will be seen not just by those working their allotments but by walkers and even commuters on the train to London. It'll be a really magical addition to the village and we are all very excited to get started."

The majority of the trees will be planted in the autumn although 150 Lime and Elm trees, of a type resistant to Dutch Elm Disease, are already in the ground.

The EHDC tree planting campaign is part of its strategy to combat climate change. It has also pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050.

[www.easthants.gov.uk/tree-planting](http://www.easthants.gov.uk/tree-planting)

## Strimmer Damage



This street tree in Emsworth is clearly suffering from serious repeated damage from a strimmer over a long period of time. Recent strimmer damage to street trees has started to be noticed elsewhere in the Borough, but, so far, it has been minor. Please let us know if you see any recent strimmer damage to street trees. (Photos: Anne Sayer)

## Consultation on England Tree Strategy

Defra has opened a consultation on a new England Tree Strategy which, subject to review, will be published later this year. The strategy will set out policy priorities to deliver the government's commitment to increase tree planting to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025.

It will focus on expanding, protecting and improving trees and woodland, how they can connect people to nature, support the economy with clean growth, help achieve the commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and recover biodiversity.



Image: Forestry Commission

This strategy will set the ambition for UK trees for a generation. Everyone, including members of the public, is invited to give their views and all Tree Wardens are urged to respond.

### The consultation closes on 11th September.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/forestry/england-tree-strategy/>

More information is given in the press release.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/consultation-launched-on-the-england-tree-strategy>

## Bring Back the Wildwoods of Britain

According to Professor Alastair Driver, "The Government's England Tree Strategy document mentions natural regeneration just twice in the 39 page document and not at all in the specific consultation questions. We need to change this old school forestry mindset and here - very eloquently - is why:"

This article is by Isabella Tree, the author of *Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm*.

### We need to bring back the wildwoods of Britain to fight climate change

Planting a vast northern forest will be expensive and inefficient. Far better to allow nature to do the job itself.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/nov/26/wildwoods-britain-climate-change-northern-forest>

## Petition on Legal Rights for Ancient Trees

A petition aimed at giving all ancient trees (over 100 years of age) the legal right not to be damaged or felled was started on the Parliament Petitions website in March.

The definition of ancient trees is questionable, but the petition now has over 16,700 signatures and has received a response from the Government.

The Petitions Committee considered the Government's response and felt it did not directly address the request of the petition and a revised response has been provided.

The petition and Government responses can be found here.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/300050>

## From The Ancient Tree Forum

### **Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management**

Edited by David Lonsdale

This 212 page handbook from the Ancient Tree Forum brings together the collective wisdom on the management of ancient and veteran trees for the benefit of owners, advisers and practitioners. It is a new, updated standard for the care and management of ancient and other veteran trees, which will serve those who own and manage old trees for decades to come. The book recognises that, alongside the appreciation of old trees, there are responsibilities for their continuity, protection and care.

Softback £30 or **free pdf e-book** - published in February 2013.



Other books on Ancient and Veteran trees are available from the ATF website.

<https://www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk/resources/ancient-trees-books-shop/>

### **ATF Podcast Series Launched**

#### **Episode 3 - Suzanne Perry on wood pasture**

**Running Time: 32:28**



What makes wood pasture unique? What are the interactions between trees and grazing animals? The July episode is a conversation with Suzanne Perry, senior specialist in wood pasture and parkland at Natural England. As the ATF starts to explore the four key themes of Recognise, Protect, Restore and Enhance, Suzanne and Clare explore the history and development of these tree'd landscapes. The discussion covers the key features to look for and in what way the habitat is threatened.

<https://www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk/category/podcast/>

### **Refresh Your Memory – masses of online material for you...**

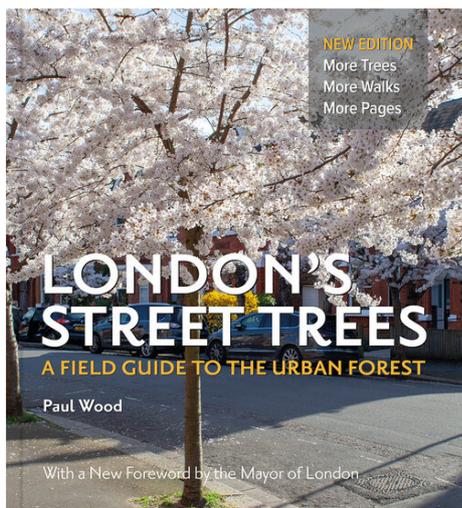
A series of short videos, presented by a range of experts, has been produced by the Ancient Tree Forum and other partners in the VETcert project to encourage good practice in the management of ancient and other veteran trees. Subjects include:

- ◆ Introduction to fungi and mycorrhiza
- ◆ Different types of wood decay
- ◆ Colonisation of sapwood
- ◆ Unconventional pruning techniques
- ◆ The management of veteran trees in urban areas

<https://www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk/resources/videos/vetcert-further-guidance-on-veteran-tree-management/>

## Trees on the Radio

### Saturday Live – BBC Radio 4



Paul Wood, an expert in urban trees, was a guest on 25th July. His passion has led him to uncover a forest of exotic trees in London, including Giant Redwoods and the Peanut Butter Tree. Apparently, there are over 400 different types of tree on London's streets. Only 3% of the trees are London Plane which was planted in Paris long before it was planted in London.

The programme is available from BBC Sounds.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000l714>

Paul is the author of London's Street Trees:  
A Field Guide to the Urban Forest  
New edition

£14.99 + £2.00 P&P

<https://www.safehavenbooks.co.uk/shop/londons-street-trees>

Paul has a blog 'The Street Tree', mostly about trees, mostly in London.

<https://thestreettree.com/>

### Book of the Week - BBC Radio 4

(Monday 3rd to Friday 7th August) 09.45 and 00.30

**The Oak Papers by James Canton** - James Canton spends time with an ancient oak, and explores the history and symbolic power of oak trees. Read by Jonathan Keeble. (14 minutes)

### Videos on Wood Pasture and Parkland

The People's Trust for Endangered Species has a series of videos on Wood Pasture and Parkland, including: An Introduction; History; Wildlife Value; Management Advice; The Need for Grazing and an Introduction to Pollard Trees and How to Spot a Lapsed Pollard.

<https://ptes.org/wppn/videos-links-downloads/>



### Diary Dates

#### 17th July – 9th August - The Big Butterfly Count

A UK-wide survey helping to assess the health of the environment by counting the number and species of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) seen in 15 minutes.

An identification chart is available to download. Results are reported online.

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

## **Monday 24th August 10.00am – 4.00pm - HBTW Work Party in The Queen's Inclosure**

Please bring a packed lunch, refreshments, gloves and a high visibility vest if you have one. You may also wish to bring a folding chair.

Volunteers will be at least two metres apart and other precautions will be in place.

Meet at the entrance in Park Lane (opposite Cherry Tree Avenue) Cowplain at 10.00am.

Parking in Cherry Tree Avenue, PO8 8BA

**Maximum six people, including the Ranger. Places must be booked and confirmed in advance.** Please contact Terry Smith: [tjs.oaktreecottage@gmail.com](mailto:tjs.oaktreecottage@gmail.com)

## **Newsletter Contributions**

Please submit newsletter contributions to [hbctreewardens@gmail.com](mailto:hbctreewardens@gmail.com)

**Deadline for next issue:** 24th August 2020

Photographs illustrating articles or photographs on their own (with captions) would be appreciated. If you are not the photographer, please check you have permission and say who is so that credit can be given. To keep file sizes manageable, please avoid sending high resolution images. The ideal image size is 250KB or less.

If you embed images in documents, please also send the images as attachments.

Please let us know if you have ideas for future articles or subjects you would like to see included.

## **Would you like your own copy of this newsletter?**

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to request your own copy, please send an e-mail to [hbctreewardens@gmail.com](mailto:hbctreewardens@gmail.com)

## **Membership of Havant Borough Tree Wardens**

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in trees. We do not currently charge a membership fee and, although we need members who want to be involved in practical tasks or the running of the network, we also welcome supporters. If you would like to become a member, please request a membership application form by e-mail to [hbctreewardens@gmail.com](mailto:hbctreewardens@gmail.com) or download it from our website. <https://groups.tcv.org.uk/havantboroughtreewardens/>

## **Donations**

If you would like to make a donation to Havant Borough Tree Wardens, payments can be made into our bank account.

Account No: 84937017

Sort Code: 55-70-34

Please include your name as a reference.

## **Havant Borough Community Lottery**

You can also support us through the Havant Borough Community Lottery. You have the chance to win up to £25,000, plus additional prizes in special draws, and we receive 50p from every £1 ticket. A further 10p is paid into a community fund and grants for specific projects are distributed from the fund to eligible good causes every six months.

<https://www.havantlottery.co.uk/support/havant-borough-tree-wardens>