



## 2. General Survey Techniques Level 2: Worked Trees.

### INTRODUCTION

In most cases in woodland there is a variety of species, age of trees and growth forms. It is the older, mature trees which are of particular interest to survey as they indicate the history and type of past management practices carried out. For example, if all the old worked trees in the wood are pollards it may indicate that you are in former wood pasture or a deer park. It is worth remembering that some worked trees such as coppiced Rowan and Hawthorn may be quite small but very old and can easily be overlooked.

Worked trees have often been managed for centuries before being abandoned as markets and management practices changed. A coppice stool for example, can be extremely old but the stems arising from it can be relatively young. This gives the appearance of a cluster of small-stemmed trees indicating when the tree was last coppiced.

From the walk-over survey, you should have identified some notable or obvious worked trees to be recorded in more detail. Recording the worked trees can be carried out as a separate exercise or in conjunction with recording detailed surface features.

### CONTEXT

Make a note of where the tree is growing and any other features or similar trees growing close by. This will help you to build a picture of the history of the woodland and what has happened within it. Describe if the tree appears to be growing in or on another feature and sketch the relationship on the reverse of the survey sheet.

### TREE DATA

Where possible identify the species of tree that is being recorded. There are very good guides available, for example, by The Woodland Trust who also now have a tree identification website <http://www.british-trees.com/introduction> and the Field Studies Council <http://www.field-studies-council.org/publications.aspx> which you can use. Make a note of which part of the tree you used to identify it, for reference.

### Measuring the Girth of a tree

If your tree has a main single stem it should be measured at 1.5m above ground level. Make sure your tape is level around the tree. It is advisable to measure your tree at least twice to check your reading. Note the girth in metres or centimetres (e.g. 3.24m or 324cm). If your tree has a single stem but is burred or knobbly at 1.5m then you can shift the tape down the stem to get a more accurate reading. The same is true if your tree forks at or below 1.5m.

If your tree is a coppice stool or other multi-stem you can carry out some extra measurements. Firstly, measure around the coppice stool at the narrowest point (or around the stems at the narrowest point if no stool is present). This approximates to the girth of the tree. Note at which height you have taken the measurement (below 1.5m). Secondly, count the number of stems and then measure the largest two or three stems at 1.5m above ground level. If you want to measure a multi-trunk, each trunk should be measured separately as you would a coppice. If this is not possible as the trees have merged too high up the stem, measure them as one tree but note that the tree is a multi-trunk. You can also make a sketch of the tree form.

Tree girth varies with the age of the tree, the species, the growing conditions and past management.

It is also useful to record associated features on the tree, for example, cavities and burrs on the trunk which again may indicate former usage or damage to the tree.

### SKETCHES AND PHOTOGRAPHS

An annotated sketch of the form of the tree with notes on where measurements were taken should be included on the survey form as a record of what the tree looked like at the point of survey. If there are any associated features either on the tree or in context it will be useful to sketch these. Similarly a photographic record of the form and type of tree can be compiled and may be used to verify the species.





## 3. Survey Sheets Worked Trees.

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Woodland Name</b>		<b>Surveyor(s) Name(s)</b>	
<b>Woodland Area / compartment (if applicable)</b>		<b>Date of Survey</b>	<b>Reference Number (from walk- over)</b>
<b>Grid Reference</b>			<b>Aspect (NSEW)</b>

### 2. CONTEXT INFORMATION (RECORD ALL THAT APPLY / ADD NOTES IF NECESSARY)

<b>Woodland Character close to feature</b>	Dense woodland	Open Woodland	Shrubs/ brambles	Felled trees
	Ground flora	Other habitat		
	Comments			
<b>Topography &amp; Geology close to feature</b>	Steep	Undulating	Gently Sloping	Flat
	Outcrop rock	Stream / wet area	Other (describe)	
<b>Relationship to other features / or similar trees</b>	Yes / No	Number	Type	
	Adjacent / Next to/ Parallel	Nearby (within 30m)	Connected	
<b>Chronological evidence (if any)</b>	For example, tree growing in hollow or on top of mound			

### 3. SUMMARY OF TREE DATA

<b>Tree Species</b>		<b>Identification used eg, in leaf, bark, bud, fruit</b>	
<b>Overall Girth of Tree and height recorded at.</b>		<b>Total number of vertical stems.</b>	
<b>Tree Form (see background sheets for details.)</b>	Bundle planting	Coppice	Stored Coppice      Pollard
	Lapsed/abandoned Pollard	Stub	Maiden/Standard      Medusoid
	Shredded	Phoenix	Layering/laid
<b>Tree Features</b>	Trunk cavities / decay holes	Burrs / burls on trunk	Dead wood in tree
	Fungi / Moss / Lichens on tree	Other (specify)	





## 3. Survey Sheets Worked Trees.

### 4. SUMMARY SKETCH SHOWING FORM OF TREE

Sketch (overall form) :

Total girth (measure at approx. 1.2m) :

Number of vertical stems:

Stem girths (for multi-stem forms):

Maximum:

Minimum:

Maximum internal distance between stems:

Layering / laid length:

Notes:

### 5. SKETCH(ES) SHOWING TREE FEATURES AND CONTEXT (OPTIONAL)

### 6. LINKED PHOTOGRAPHS (REFERENCE NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION)


