



The Borders Forest Trust ...

... rooted in the community

You are here: [home/projects/veteran trees](#)

[Conservation Community](#) [Economy](#)

Veteran trees

The Veteran Trees project aimed to identify ancient trees of social, cultural and ecological importance and investigate how best to protect them and manage them as part of our natural heritage.

In 1998, BFT commissioned ecologist Mike Smith to study the distribution and nature of veteran trees in the Borders and to produce a report recommending the best methods for protecting and managing these old trees. The study began in Tweeddale where the pilot Tree Warden Scheme had just been established which created a good support network of local volunteers to help gather information on trees in this area.

A large number of veteran trees were identified in the Borders many of which provided tangible links to the past and information on former land uses. Some old trees show where former land and field boundaries once lay, while others are found in areas of remnant or abandoned wood pasture, revealing a land use which was once more widespread.

Individual trees are very important in the Borders landscape. Many of these are trees in maturity are present and if managed sensitively will become veteran trees of the future. It is important for the future of these trees is secured as much of the local veteran tree resource has been lost as land use intensified and with it associated habitats and species.

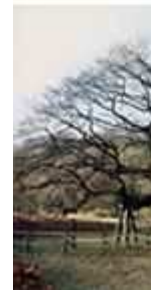
Since Borders Forest Trust and the Ancient Tree Forum organised the first veteran tree workshop in the Scotland, the profile of Veteran Trees has been raised nationally and many articles on the subject have been published in newspapers and ecological journals. Increasingly the ecological, social and cultural value of veteran trees is being recognised and efforts are being made to secure their survival and existence in the future.

If you would like to participate in the veteran tree survey and tell us about a veteran tree you know of please contact the BFT office.

[Home Help Sitemap](#)

Borders Forest Trust, Monteviot Nurseries, Ancrum, Jedburgh, TD8 6TU Tel.- 01835 830 750 Fax.
- 01835 830 760

Email - enquiries@bordersforesttrust.org



Cr
Ch