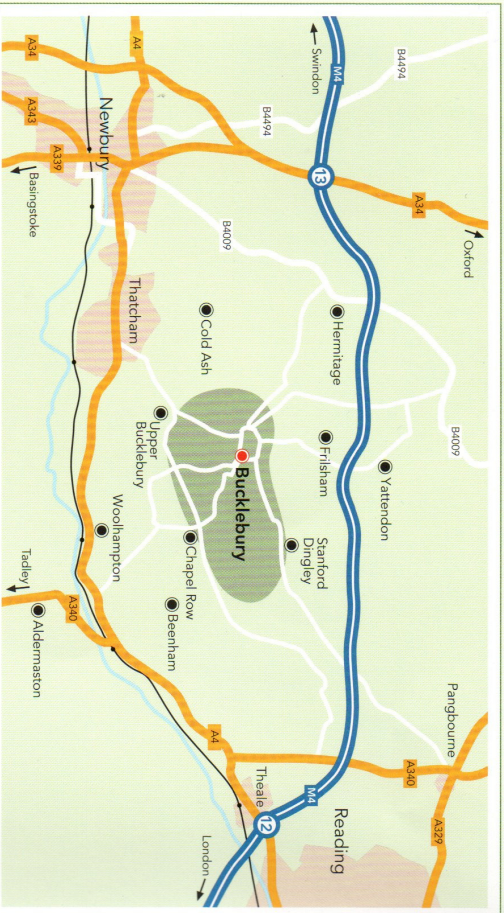


Veteran Trees for the Future on Bucklebury Common

Hard copies of this leaflet can be obtained from Bucklebury Parish



Bucklebury Common is owned by the Bucklebury Estate. It lies on a curving gravel ridge between the Pang and Kennet valleys that was once the bed of a large river. The soils are particularly acid and much of the Common was open heathland until the mid 20th century. West Berkshire Countryside Society's Bucklebury Heathland Project is working to recover and conserve this scarce heathland habitat. The acid soils favour silver birch, oaks and heathers. During World War II part of the Common was used to house military equipment and personnel.

Acknowledgements

The thirteen special trees were selected by local volunteers. The main map was created by Nick Hopton. Dick Greenaway wrote the text. Photography and GPS positions were provided by Dickon Ainsworth, John Bundy, Dick Greenaway and Helen Patt. Bucklebury Estate gave permission for publication. West Berkshire Council provided the Rights of Way data. The Woodland Trust provided the positions of the other reported Veteran Trees. The leaflet was published in 2017 by the West Berkshire Countryside Society.

For more information about individual trees marked by the red tree symbol go to the Ancient Tree Hunt website interactive map (www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk), clicking on the tree symbol will provide a picture of the tree and details of its species and girth.

The aim of the West Berkshire Countryside Society is to promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of the West Berkshire Countryside, furthering these objectives through publications, practical conservation work and guided walks and talks by local experts.

The West Berkshire Countryside Society was formed in 2012 by amalgamating the Friends of the Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys, the Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group, the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers and the Barn Owl Group.

www.westberkshircountryside.org.uk

WOODLAND TRUST



Veteran Trees for the Future

Trees with a story to tell and experiences to share

Bucklebury Common

West Berkshire Countryside Society

Caring for our Countryside – Join Us and Help Make a Difference

Veteran trees

are trees with a story to tell and experiences to share

Veteran trees can tell us tales of their lives, of when they were established and what they provided for the people who lived near them.

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 wildlife 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 local people who chose the trees in this leaflet.

Veteran trees are important and valued features in the landscape of the **North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** in which Bucklebury Common lies.

Woodland products were vitally important before railways and motor

vehicles could distribute coal and before plastics were invented.

Standard trees are in their natural state.

Pollard trees were cut off at about 2 or 3 metres above the ground when they were young so that animals could not graze the shoots. These were harvested at regular intervals. Pollard oaks and beeches provided firewood and small timber. Acorns and beech mast were valuable food for animals in the autumn.

Coppice stools were cut near ground level and their shoots harvested at short intervals. Their shoots provided fencing hurdles, tool handles, firewood etc.

Generally the tenant had the use of the shoots of pollards and coppice stools while the lord of the manor owned the pollard trunks and coppice stools. Regularly cut pollards and stools live much longer than ordinary trees. Our oldest trees, like the Coronation Oak, are pollards.

Dating Veteran Trees and Coppice Stools

This is not an exact science!

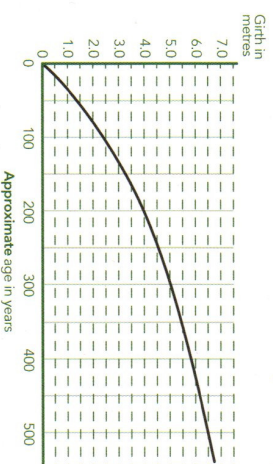
However, you can make a reasonable estimate by measuring the girth at about 1.5m above the ground and then using the diagram.

The 'girth' is the tree's 'waist measurement'!

The curve gives the estimated age of a **Standard oak tree** – a tree that has not been converted to a pollard by lopping the main stem at about 2.0m.

Pollarding slows the growth until the canopy re-grows. Add an extra third to their age.

Coppicing has the same effect. Take an average diameter of the stool near ground level and allow 0.3 metre for every century.



Beech and ash follow approximately the same curve up to about 150 – 200 years.

Finding the 13 trees is a challenge! These may help

No.	Species	Girth (m)	Grid Ref. For GPS	Date found
1	Sessile oak – double pollard	6.90	SUS5526 6954	
2	Oak stub	5.85	SUS216 7069	
3	English oak standard	4.12	SUS222 7032	
4	Beech – multi-stemmed	4.01	SUS270 6954	
5	Oak – pollard	3.97	SUS352 6982	
6	Beech – multi-stemmed	4.72	SUS411 6942	
7	English oak – standard	4.07	SUS712 6970	
8	English oak – standard	5.43	SUS714 6968	
9	English oak – pollard	5.21	SUS385 6990	
10	English oak – standard	4.50	SUS517 6866	
11	English oak – pollard	5.64	SUS592 6949	
12	English oak – pollard	5.80	SUS793 6995	
13	Wellingtonia	–	SUS555 6933	



Sessile oak pollard



English oak



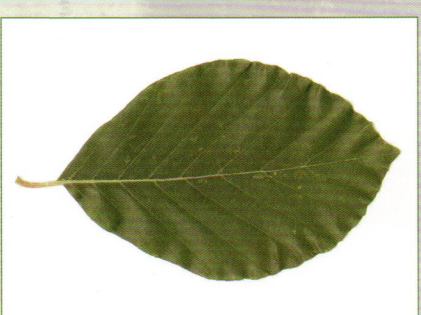
Beech



Sessile oak – acorns on the twig



English oak – acorns on stalks



Beech

Key:

 Veteran Trees



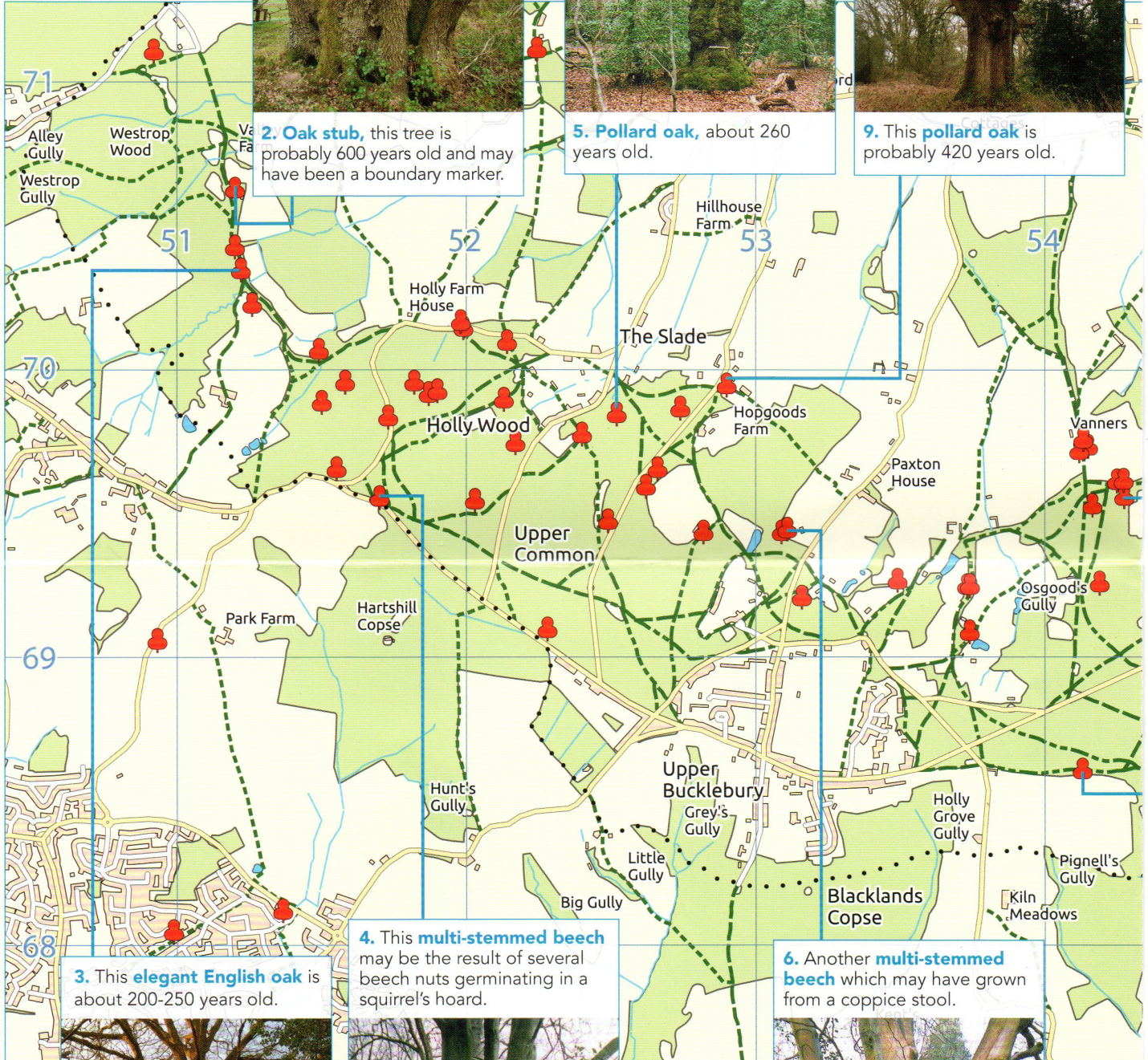
2. **Oak stub**, this tree is probably 600 years old and may have been a boundary marker.



5. **Pollard oak**, about 260 years old.



9. This **pollard oak** is probably 420 years old.



3. This **elegant English oak** is about 200-250 years old.



4. This **multi-stemmed beech** may be the result of several beech nuts germinating in a squirrel's hoard.



6. Another **multi-stemmed beech** which may have grown from a coppice stool.





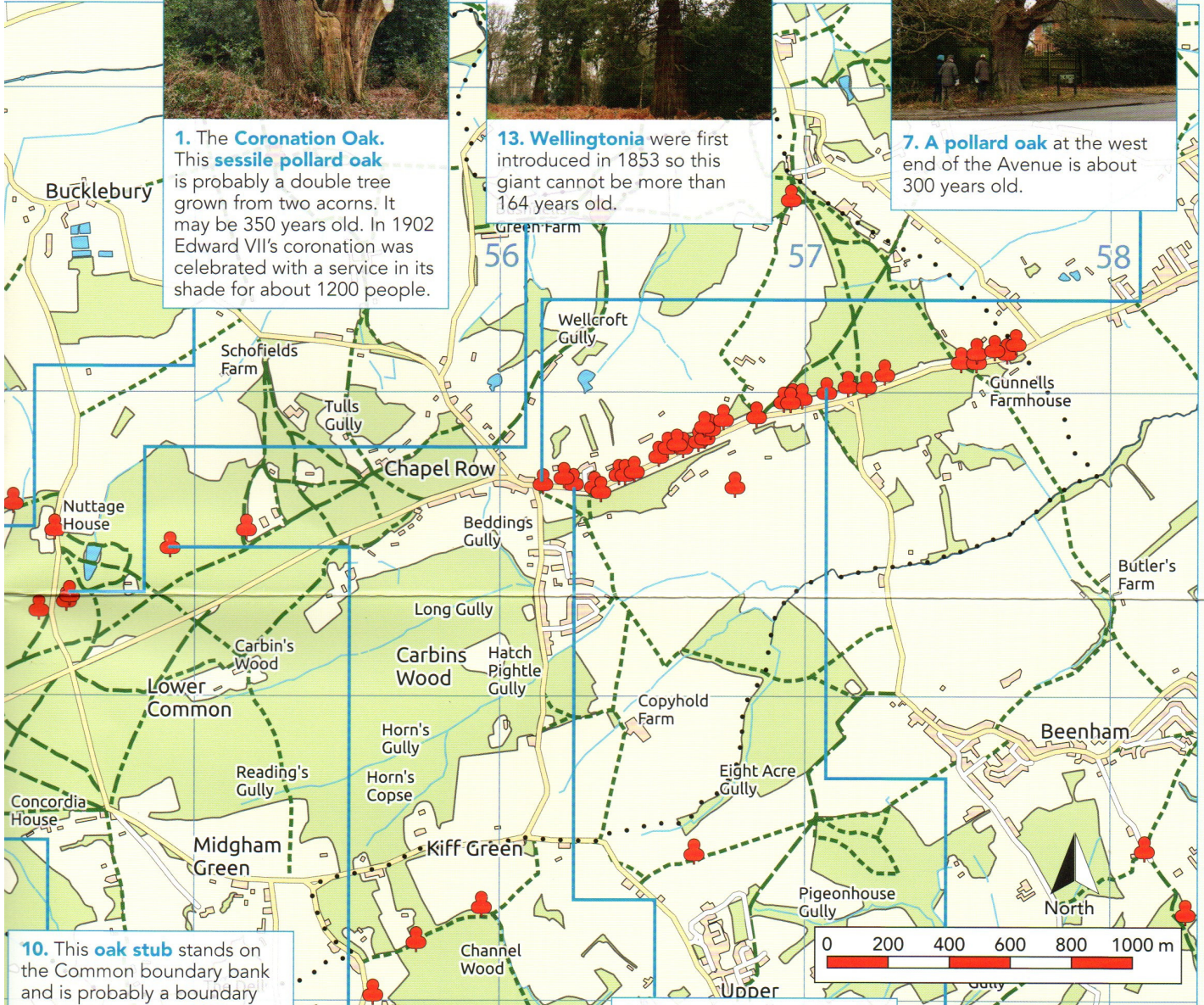
1. The Coronation Oak. This **sessile pollard oak** is probably a double tree grown from two acorns. It may be 350 years old. In 1902 Edward VII's coronation was celebrated with a service in its shade for about 1200 people.



13. Wellingtonia were first introduced in 1853 so this giant cannot be more than 164 years old.



7. A pollard oak at the west end of the Avenue is about 300 years old.



10. This oak stub stands on the Common boundary bank and is probably a boundary marker. It is at least 300 years old. By at least one family it is prized as a climbing tree.



11. Another pollard English oak. About 450 years old.



8. Big Foot. An **English oak** planted about 1680 at the western end of The Avenue.



12. A pollard oak. About 500 years old.

