

This ancient olive tree in Al-Walajeh, Palestine, is thought to be 1,300–1,500 years old. It has the potential to score highly for visual, scientific and cultural heritage characteristics, making it a strong candidate for the top Grade I heritage listing.

TreeAH: Guidance on its use for assessing heritage trees (Version 12: October 2013)

TreeAH is an abbreviation for *Tree Assessment for Heritage*. The method is a framework for assessing whether individual trees or groups of trees are of sufficient interest to be designated as 'heritage trees', and therefore worthy of special consideration when making management decisions. TreeAH systematically considers the factors that make trees especially interesting, which creates a ranking mechanism that allows comparisons at a local, national and international level.

TreeAH was first conceived by Barrell Tree Consultancy (BTC) (www.barrelltreecare.co.uk) in 2008 in response to the increasing losses of irreplaceable heritage trees from development activity around the world. Since then, it has evolved through extensive international discussions and field-testing to arrive at this latest Version 11. The development of TreeAH is an ongoing process and the method will be updated in the future as the field-testing programme identifies areas for improvement. Although this guidance is primarily focused on the UK, its principles are universally applicable and it can be used as a template for assessing heritage trees around the world.

It has been produced by BTC and is distributed through the BTC tree assessment website (www.TreeAZ.com). The BTC business is based in the UK, although it does have a background of training and development in other countries. BTC has no direct income through the publication of its tree advisory guidance and finances the development of its tree assessment methods through its UK business. The objective of these endeavours is to enhance the international dissemination of good tree management guidance through the BTC websites. This document is the intellectual property of BTC, but can be copied freely as long as its origin is attributed to BTC at each source of use.

Introduction: TreeAH in a national and international context

This introduction sets out how TreeAH can be used on a national level for any interested country, and then how the resulting consistency between countries allows the comparison of heritage trees internationally. It is explained under the following headings:

- What is a heritage tree?
- Assessment of special interest using TreeAH
- The local and national assessment framework
- How TreeAH fits in with existing tree assessment methods
- National and international aspirations
- How to use this guidance

What is a heritage tree?

Trees, like buildings, are an essential part of the fabric of where we live, making a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of our communities and the wider environment. Heritage trees are individuals or groups that are so special that they are worthy of recognition and protection for future generations. The characteristics that make trees sufficiently '*special*' to justify heritage listing can be many and varied, but broadly fit into three main groups; visual importance, scientific value and cultural connections. That special interest is normally local, where the value is realised by the immediate community, but may extend to a national level for the most important examples. If trees are of sufficient quality in any of the three groups, then they can be nominated for heritage listing, and the more groups they qualify in, the more important they are.

Assessment of special interest using TreeAH

The first stage is to assess whether the tree or group has any heritage potential by considering three main heritage indicators; visual impact, scientific interest and cultural connections. If this assessment identifies potential heritage qualities under any of these headings, the tree or group can be nominated for a further and more detailed verification process to decide if heritage status is appropriate. If the outcome of that process is positive, a scoring system can apply a designation of Grade II (special interest), Grade II* (more than special interest) or Grade I (exceptional interest). Heritage designation results in the tree or group being eligible to be recorded on a national list of heritage trees, which allows communities to mark and celebrate its special status. The older a tree or group is, the more likely it is to be suitable for listing, but great age is not the only route to heritage recognition.

The local and national assessment framework



TreeAH is useful because it provides a means of standardising local approaches so that they fit in with a national model. Consistency between local initiatives assists in comparing trees on a national basis, with the benefit of the increased status that a national ranking brings. Such status is particularly useful where important trees are under threat, usually from some sort of development, and enthusiasts urgently need a quick and easy means of identifying whether the quality of the trees warrants intervention to delay any harm until a proper assessment has been made. The local and national framework is illustrated in Figure 1 above.

This framework is currently an informal aspiration, but it does outline a national approach to standardising heritage tree assessment and recording into a formal process. BTC is currently developing partnerships to move these aspirations onto a formal footing and will update this guidance once those have been detailed and finalised. In the meantime, BTC is temporarily administering the process until those formal arrangements have been agreed, and all enquiries should be directed to info@barrelltreecare.co.uk.

How TreeAH fits in with existing tree assessment methods

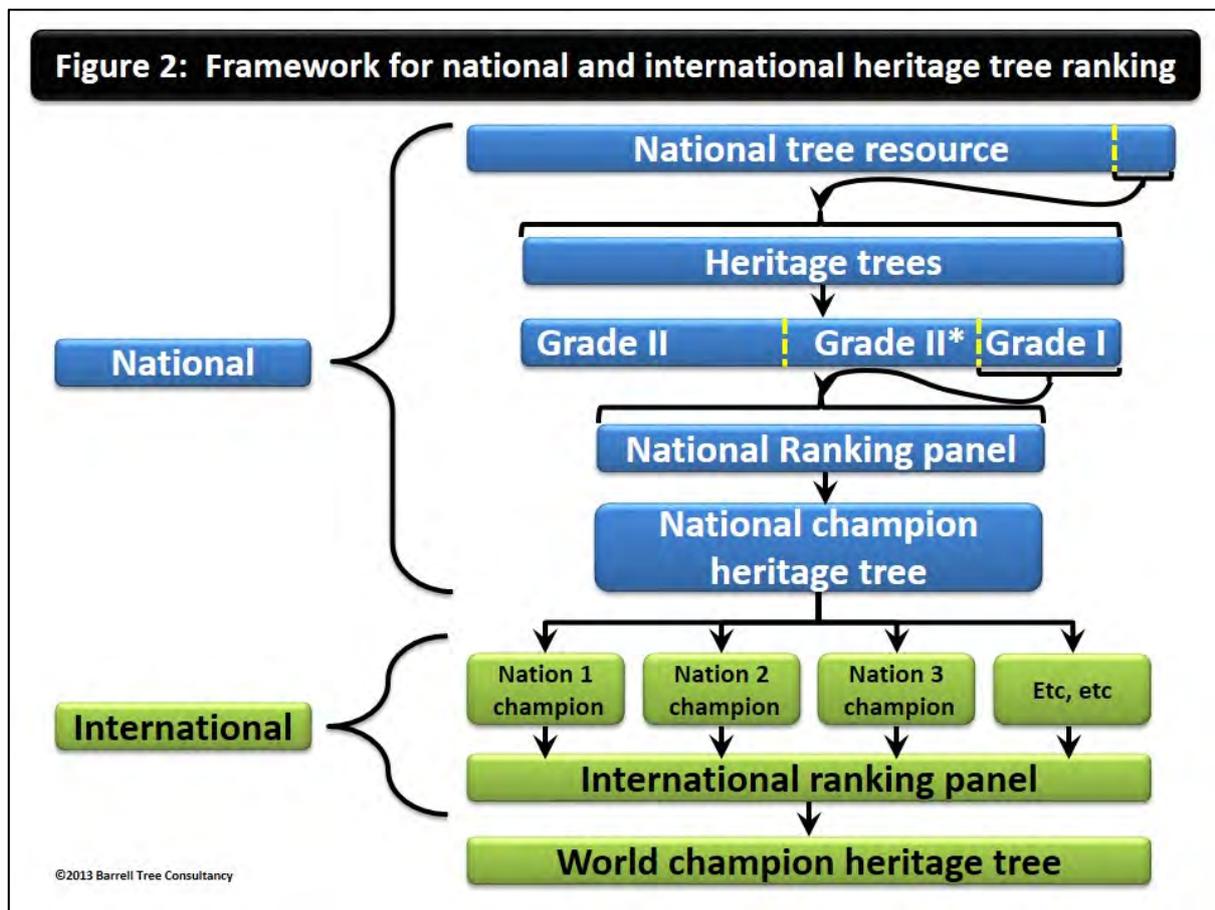
The original basis for TreeAH was an international literature search to identify how trees of special importance were being assessed and recognised around the world. That research revealed many different approaches, primarily tailored to local needs, with some particularly advanced and sophisticated projects mapping and listing trees of interest (See examples at www.kentheritagetree.tvc.org.uk, www.treesontario.ca and www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk). However, that analysis also showed that there was no overall formalised framework for these local approaches to sit within that allowed trees to be ranked or compared with others beyond the region of each initiative.

In that broad context, TreeAH was designed to complement existing initiatives and not replace or supersede any of them. Instead, it offers an additional layer of interpretation that can comfortably sit alongside existing projects without any conflicts. Adopting TreeAH opens up the possibility of an internationally consistent mechanism for identifying, ranking and scheduling special trees, which has a number of obvious benefits. Knowing where special trees are and which are the most valuable is a good starting point for raising public awareness at a community level. In turn, this opens up opportunities for expanding tree-based eco-tourism on a national and international level. But, perhaps most importantly, these irreplaceable green assets are increasingly under threat from modern development, and a formalised ranking approach imparts the status necessary for enthusiasts and professionals alike to protect what remains of this diminishing living resource.

National and international aspirations

It is widely accepted that trees provide many benefits, with the national population forming a valuable environmental resource. However, only a very small proportion of that national asset will be of 'special interest' in a heritage context. 'Special interest' means that they have to be outstanding, different, unusual or important, which excludes the majority of the trees we see around us on a daily basis. For those trees that attain heritage status, the ability to grade them according to importance by using a three-tiered grading system is particularly useful because it allows the very best of the best (Grade 1) to be separated out as the elite trees in the national resource. Grade 1 listing is intentionally a very difficult designation to achieve and only a small number of trees will ever acquire that status.

The structured grading of trees then opens up the potential for a national ranking panel to rank those elite Grade I listed trees in order of national importance to identify a national champion. This approach could then be extended to an international level, where the top tree from each nation is set before an international ranking panel to identify a world champion, i.e. the most important heritage tree in the world. This framework is illustrated in Figure 2.



How to use this guidance

This guidance has been designed to be easy for enthusiasts with no tree expertise to use quickly to identify if a tree or group has heritage potential and is suitable for heritage nomination. If that assessment is positive, the formal nomination will undergo a verification process to review the heritage qualities against an agreed national standard to arrive at a reasoned and balanced decision. Further explanation of this heritage assessment process is set out in the following four sections:

1: Heritage nomination



Pages 6–10: If you want to nominate a tree or group for heritage verification, then go to page 6 and read the brief notes on what to do, using the nomination form in Section 4 as a guide. If this process indicates that there may be heritage potential, then fill in the form and submit it for the verification process.

2: Heritage verification



Pages 10–12: These brief explanations summarise the verification and grading process that will be applied by the national verification panel to the submitted nomination.

3: Examples



Pages 13–21: This series of photographic examples provides further explanation of how the grading process can be applied in practice to assist in the nomination and verification process.

4: Nomination form



Pages 22 & 23: This is a clean copy of the nomination form to be filled in and submitted for trees and groups to be assessed by the national verification panel.

Section 1:

The heritage nomination process

Section 1 explains who can nominate trees for consideration in the heritage verification process and what they should do, with some useful tips on how the process works. It is structured under the following headings:

- Who can nominate a tree or group for heritage verification
- How to nominate a tree or group for heritage verification
- Tips for assessing visual importance
- Tips for assessing scientific importance
- Tips for investigating cultural value

Who can nominate a tree or group for heritage verification

Heritage trees are not always obvious at first glance and can often become threatened because their value is not fully appreciated by their owners. Experience shows that these threats are often only identified at the last minute and the initial burden of protection is placed on enthusiastic members of the public who have no specific tree expertise, but suspect that a tree or group should be more thoroughly assessed. For that reason, the initial nomination stage can be carried out by anyone and there is no requirement for specific tree knowledge or expertise. Anyone who knows of trees that may have heritage importance can carry out this assessment, in advance of a more detailed verification process that will decide if heritage status is justified. If this verification process is successful, the tree or group is of sufficient special interest for national heritage listing.

How to nominate a tree or group for heritage verification

If you think a tree or group is worthy of heritage recognition, then use the form in Section 4 to record the information that will assist in deciding if heritage listing is appropriate. The top of the form is an administrative section to record who inspected the tree or group, and when. The middle section is for sketches and photos to show the location in relation to identifiable features so it can be found again, along with space to record any other notable features that indicate special heritage importance. The final section at the bottom focuses on the following three primary characteristics that contribute to making trees special heritage assets:

- **Visual:** Is the tree or group of special visual interest because of how it looks, i.e. is it a visually striking and memorable landmark feature, and can it be seen by a sufficient number of people?
- **Scientific:** Is the tree or group of special scientific interest because it is old, rare, unusual, or has some other characteristic where investigation is likely to yield important and unique information that may be lost if not protected?
- **Cultural:** Is the tree or group of special cultural interest that makes it valued in the community because of links with the past or through present use, i.e. ancient trees, trees planted by notable people, trees linked to events and customs of importance, etc?

If you assess that the tree or group is of special interest under any of these three characteristics, then the completed form can be used to nominate it for formal consideration of whether it is suitable to be listed as a heritage asset. See the photographs in Section 3 for examples of what makes trees 'special' for heritage reasons and how they can qualify for heritage listing.

Remember: For the purposes of heritage assessment, 'special' means just that, i.e. outstanding, unusual, different, exceptional, unique, etc, and everyday normal trees that have no special characteristics will not qualify for heritage recognition.

Tips for assessing visual importance

Trees that stand out because of their location, size or other notable visual characteristics become landmarks recognised and valued by the community if enough people can see and know about them. There are two main aspects that combine to make such trees special:

- **Memorability:** Landmark trees should be visually memorable, i.e. they remain embedded in people's memories long after they have experienced the view. Memorable visual features tend to focus around size and form, so big trees, prominent but isolated individuals, and trees with large or uniquely shaped trunks, would be obvious candidates. For a tree or group to be recognised as memorable, it must remain a lasting memory for the viewer.
- **Visibility:** For trees to be of special visual importance, they must be seen by enough people, but there is no clear threshold on how many people that is. Trees that are screened by buildings, natural features or other trees, so that they are hidden from view beyond the immediate vicinity, obviously sit at the lower end of the scale and are unlikely to be considered special enough to be of heritage value. In contrast, trees viewed by many people in a public place comfortably sit at the other extreme. For example, in a churchyard context,

Section 1: The heritage nomination process

trees near the entrance that are obviously visible may be strong candidates, whereas trees hidden by other trees in a far corner would be a lot less likely to qualify under this heading.

Assessors should consider both of these features separately and only explain their observations on the form if they think the tree or group has special visual importance. For trees or groups to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual reasons, they must score well in both of these aspects.

Tips for assessing scientific importance

Trees that will contribute to public benefit for scientific reasons are important from a heritage perspective. The bulk of the tree population that are normal, with no special or outstanding characteristics, would not be expected to qualify as scientifically important. However, exceptionally old, rare or unique trees of obvious interest and value, that make a significant contribution to scientific knowledge, are more likely to be suitable for heritage designation under this heading. Assessors should only explain their observations on the form if they think the tree or group has special scientific importance.

Tips for investigating cultural value

The integration of trees into traditions and customs, both well-established and emerging, can significantly enrich people's lives and greatly enhance the cultural experience of individuals and communities. Obvious examples are trees that were present when an important event occurred or trees that are linked to an important person. However, it is also commonly held that trees which have been a focus within a community for longer than living memory have great psychological importance because they provide a living link with ancestors who are no longer physically present. It is unlikely that trees in gardens and streets that are part of the fabric of the community, but not specifically connected to traditions or customs, would be suitable for heritage designation. However, trees that make a significant contribution to cultural enhancement because they are directly linked to existing or emerging traditions or customs, or have been present for longer than living memory, would be strong candidates.

Cultural value is often closely linked to the immediate neighbourhood of the tree or group and its historical associations with the local community. However, these may not be immediately obvious and further investigations may yield surprising results. Here are a few ways you may be able to find out more about whether trees have cultural links that make them worthy of heritage recognition:

1. Ask locals in the community if they know of any stories associated with the tree or group.
2. Search for historical references in local archives and on the internet. In particular, internet sites can provide valuable historic information about trees, as well as links to existing organisations working on heritage preservation. The following list of websites is not exhaustive, but it may provide a useful starting point for finding information to support your nomination:

Historical research websites

- The National Archives <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>
- Ancestry.co.uk <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>
- London metropolitan Archives <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk>
- Parish registers <http://www.parishregister.co.uk>
- Find my past.co.uk <http://www.findmypast.co.uk>
- A vision of Britain through time <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk>

Organisations involved with heritage preservation

- The Tree Council <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk>
- English Heritage <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk>
- The Conservation Foundation <http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk>
- The Woodland trust <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/Pages/default.aspx>
- Natural England <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk>
- Heritage lottery fund <http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Tree heritage projects and preservation groups

- Tree Council (Green Monuments) <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/community-action/green-monuments>
- The Ancient Tree Hunt <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/>
- Kent Heritage Trees Project <http://kenthalheritagetrees.tcv.org.uk/>
- The Tree Register <http://www.treeregister.org/>
- Ancient Yew Group <http://www.ancient-yew.org/>

Useful maps

- English Heritage maps <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx>
- Natural England environmental maps <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/maps/default.aspx>
- A vision of Britain through time historical maps <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/maps/>
- Heritage cartography Victorian town and village maps <http://www.victoriantownmaps.co.uk/>
- Ancient tree hunt interactive map <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/discoveries/interactivemap>
- London's Elm Heritage Map <http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/content.php?id=147>

Assessors should only explain their observations on the form if they think the tree or group has special cultural importance.

Section 2:

The heritage verification process

Section 2 summarises how the heritage verification and grading process works as background information to assist with filling out the nomination form. It is explained under the following headings:

- Overview of the verification process
- The scoring and grading system
- Scoring for trees of special visual interest
- Scoring for trees of special scientific interest
- Scoring for trees of special cultural interest

Overview of the verification process

The verification process is a review of the information submitted on the nomination form and an assessment of whether the tree or group meets the national standards for heritage tree listing. It is possible to have a local panels that can provide a preliminary assessment in the context of a local initiative, but the final decision on whether a submission meets the national standards has to be confirmed by the national verification panel before a tree or group is included in the National Register. The panels consist of specialists with a detailed understanding of the national standards and experience in heritage tree assessment. The verification process is based on a scoring system for each of the three main heritage characteristics and consists of two parts; firstly, does the tree or group score enough to meet the national standards for heritage listing; and, secondly, if that assessment is positive, then what grading is appropriate.

The scoring and grading system

The scoring and grading system is applied using the form below. This approach is useful because it provides an intuitive means of confirming that a tree or group is of heritage importance, and then assists in placing that importance on a comparative national scale. In general terms, a tree or group has to score 1 in any one of the three special interest groupings (visual, scientific and cultural) to qualify for heritage status. The more groupings it scores in, the more important it is compared to other heritage trees. This is expressed as a grading, with **Grade II** for trees of special interest (must score at least 1), **Grade II*** for trees of more than special interest (must score at least 2) and **Grade I** for trees of exceptional interest (must score 3). There is provision for a score of 0.5 for each of the two main components of the visual characteristic, memorability and visibility, which is explained in more detail below.

TreeAH Verification and Grading Summary Form														
Visual	Landmark trees are special because they stand out in the local landscape to the extent that people remember them as outstanding. This visual importance can be broken down into how memorable the tree or group is and how many people experience its special characteristics (its visibility). Each attribute can score 0.5 if it is considered to be of special interest, but for a tree or group to be worthy of heritage recognition, it must score 0.5 in both to make a total score of 1.		(Summarise why the tree/group is memorable here)	0 = No heritage value 0.5 = Heritage value	<input type="text"/>									
			(Summarise how visible the tree/group is here)	0 = No heritage value 0.5 = Heritage value	<input type="text"/>									
Scientific	Exceptionally old	Yes	(Circle any items on the list that apply and summarise why the tree/group has scientific value here)	0 = No heritage value 1 = Heritage value	<input type="text"/>									
	Rare or unique	Yes												
	Endangered species	Yes												
	Provides threatened or rare habitat	Yes												
	Other research interest or scientific value	Yes												
Cultural	Linked to an important event or location	Yes	(Circle any items on the list that apply and summarise why the tree/group has cultural value here)	0 = No heritage value 1 = Heritage value	<input type="text"/>									
	Linked to an important person	Yes												
	Part of an established/emerging custom	Yes												
	Long established community feature	Yes												
	Other cultural value	Yes												
(Circle the box below that applies to this tree)														
Score of 0 or 0.5 Not a heritage tree and unsuitable for listing		Score of 1 or 1.5 Grade II listed heritage tree (special interest)		Score of 2 or 2.5 Grade II* listed heritage tree (more than special interest)										
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Scoring for trees of special visual interest

Trees that stand out because of their location, size or other notable visual characteristics become landmarks recognised by the community if enough people can see and know about them. The two features that make such trees special are memorability and visibility, which are explained in more detail in Section 1. Trees can score either 0 or 0.5 for each of these characteristics and have to score 0.5 in both to make a total score of 1 to be recognised as special for visual reasons.

Visibility is strongly affected by local circumstances and can alter very quickly if, for example, levels of access could change if new paths or roads are created, and previously obscured views could be revealed through screening changes. This opens up the possibility of currently hidden memorable trees becoming heritage assets in the future by increasing the number of people who can see them through improving access or increasing their visibility. The setting/surroundings of trees is also a matter that should be carefully considered and weighed when assessing if they are worthy of special recognition for visual reasons.

Scoring for trees of special scientific interest

As set out in Section 1, trees that will contribute to public benefit for scientific reasons are important from a heritage perspective. The form lists four obvious characteristics that can apply, but there may be others worthy of consideration. A tree can either score 0 (no heritage scientific interest) or 1 (has heritage scientific interest) for this characteristic.

Scoring for trees of special cultural interest

As set out in Section 1, trees that will contribute to public benefit for cultural reasons are important from a heritage perspective. The form lists four obvious characteristics that can apply, but there may be others worthy of consideration. A tree can either score 0 (no heritage cultural interest) or 1 (has heritage cultural interest) for this characteristic.

Section 3:

Examples illustrating principles of grading for heritage listing

Section 3 sets out a series of examples with brief explanations of the relevant heritage considerations. Their purpose is to illustrate the reasoning behind heritage assessment and the grading process that leads to heritage listing. It is structured under the following headings:

- General principles: special visual interest
- General principles: special scientific interest
- General principles: special cultural interest
- Review of Grade II listing criteria (TreeAH score of 1 or 1.5)
- Review of Grade II* listing criteria (TreeAH score of 2 or 2.5)
- Review of Grade I listing criteria (TreeAH score of 3)

General principles: special visual interest

<p>1: Memorable features</p> <p>Trees with spectacular characteristics that people remember are likely to score 0.5 for memorability, but they also must be seen by enough people to qualify as a heritage tree under the visual criterion.</p>	
<p>2: Memorability and size</p> <p>This tree is large, but so are the other trees along the road and it does not stand out as a landmark tree in the wider setting. Although it is seen by many people, it may not be sufficiently memorable to qualify as a heritage tree under the visual criterion. The context and the setting of the tree or group is a very important consideration.</p>	
<p>3: Unusual characteristics</p> <p>This tree has unusual and memorable characteristics, but it may not be seen by enough people to qualify as a heritage tree under the visual criterion.</p>	 <p>Rob McBride www.thetreehunter.com</p>
<p>4: Low visibility</p> <p>Striking trees that are not seen by enough people may not have sufficient visibility to qualify for heritage status under the visual criterion.</p>	 <p>Rob McBride - thetreehunter.com</p>

General principles: special scientific interest

5: Rare species

This elm tree in Brighton (UK) not only has good habitat potential, but is also part of a unique collection of elm trees that has survived Dutch Elm Disease. For these reasons, it is of significant scientific value and likely to qualify as a heritage tree under this criterion.



6: Great age

Trees of great age are generally rare and represent a resource that cannot be replaced within a reasonable timescale. The age that will qualify a tree as being of scientific value will vary with species. Yews and oaks are known to live for well over 1,000 years and trees of these species that are only a few hundred years old would be unlikely to qualify for heritage status under this criterion.



7: First introduction

Soon after the discovery of the dawn redwood in China in 1949, seedlings were planted in many parks throughout China and represent the earliest introduction of the species from the wild. As one of the oldest individuals outside of the wild population, this tree in Qingdao has good potential to qualify as a heritage tree for scientific reasons.



8: Rare habitat

Old fruit trees have their own unique associates making them important ecological reservoirs of scientifically important species. If a tree contains habitat that is disappearing or under threat of being lost, then that may be sufficient to qualify a tree or group for heritage status under the scientific criterion.



General principles: special cultural interest

9: Trees planted by important people

Young trees planted by important people have cultural significance. The more well known the person is, the greater the weight that should be placed on the importance of the tree.



10: Planted trees

This big old tree was planted by a deceased relative of the owner. It has links with the family home, but it is not historically linked with anyone known beyond the immediate family. It is unlikely to be deemed as special by enough people to justify qualifying as a heritage tree under the cultural criterion.



11: Documented cultural associations

These English oaks in Port Arthur, Tasmania, were brought over from England *circa* 1835–1838, planted by the Commandant because he was homesick! The planting date was estimated from charcoal drawings made by convicts. This is a strong and reliable cultural association, and likely to justify heritage status for the group under the cultural criterion. (Photo courtesy of Craig Hallam, Enspeg, www.enspec.com.)



12: Trees linked to historic events

The Tolpuddle Martyrs met under this sycamore tree in 1834 to form a protest group against poor wages. They were deported to Australia and later pardoned, being credited with starting the first union movement. The tree is estimated to date from 1680 and so would have been a large tree when the meeting occurred. This is a strong and reliable cultural association, and likely to justify heritage status for the tree under the cultural criterion.



Review of Grade II listing criteria (TreeAH score of 1 or 1.5)

13: Elvetham redwood (UK)

Visual: This tree is prominent in a new residential development with no other trees nearby. It would score well in both the visibility and the memorability consideration, which makes it very good candidate for visual heritage importance.

Scientific: No obvious scientific importance.

Cultural: No obvious cultural importance.

Overall assessment: This tree is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual reasons.

Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual 0.5 + 0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 0) + (Cultural = 0) = 1

Likely heritage listing: Grade II



14: Hilltop group of yews, Lyndhurst (UK)

Visual: These trees are prominent on top of a hill with no other trees nearby. They would score well in both the visibility and the memorability consideration, which makes them very good candidates for visual heritage importance.

Scientific: Although these trees are thought to be 200–300 years old, yews can live to thousands of years and their age alone does not make them special in the context of scientific heritage importance.

Cultural: No obvious cultural importance.

Overall assessment: This group is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual reasons. It may be possible to establish some cultural link to the past that would increase its heritage value, but that would be a matter for further investigation.

Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual 0.5 + 0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 0) + (Cultural = 0) = 1

Likely heritage listing: Grade II



15: Aboriginal scar trees, Melbourne (Australia)

Visual: These trees are set in a park with other similar sized trees in the surrounding area. They are not visually prominent or particularly memorable, and so unlikely to score well for visual heritage importance.

Scientific: No obvious scientific importance.

Cultural: These trees have very strong cultural significance to the local Aboriginal community and are likely to be considered of cultural importance.

Overall assessment: This group is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for cultural reasons.

Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual = 0) + (Scientific = 0) + (Cultural = 1) = 1

Likely heritage listing: Grade II



Review of Grade II listing criteria (TreeAH score of 1 or 1.5)

16: Planes, Connaught Hotel, London (UK)

Visual: These trees are prominent at a road junction with no other trees in the immediate visual vicinity. They are an obvious landmark, seen by many people, and they are memorable because of the setting. They are likely to score well for visual heritage importance.

Scientific: No obvious scientific importance.

Cultural: No obvious cultural importance.

Overall assessment: This group is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual reasons.

Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual 0.5+0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 0) + (Cultural = 0) = 1

Likely heritage listing: Grade II



17: Cedar, Caterham-on-the-Hill (UK)

Visual: This tree is prominent on a major route into the town. It is an obvious and memorable landmark seen by many people, and is likely to score well for visual heritage importance.

Scientific: No obvious scientific importance.

Cultural: No obvious cultural importance.

Overall assessment: This tree is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual reasons.

Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual 0.5+0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 0) + (Cultural = 0) = 1

Likely heritage listing: Grade II



18: Isolated trees

Visual: This tree is prominent because there are no other nearby trees. It is an obvious and memorable landmark seen by many people, both from a distance in the wider landscape setting, and close up by people using the path. It is likely to score well for visual heritage importance.

Scientific: No obvious scientific importance.

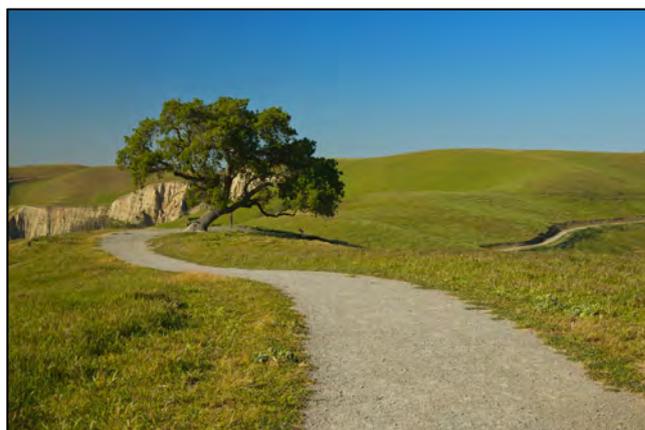
Cultural: No obvious cultural importance.

Overall assessment: This tree is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual reasons.

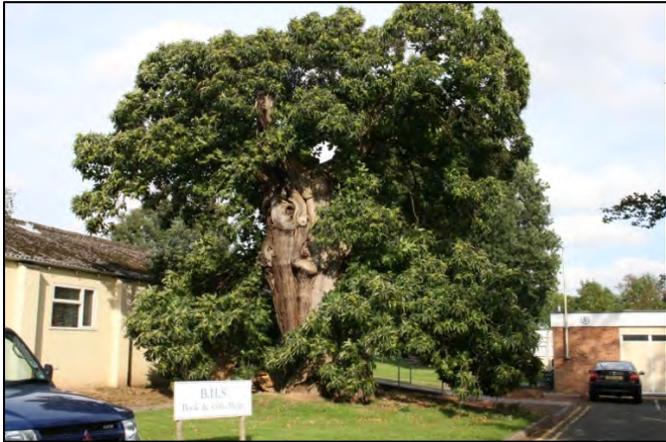
Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual 0.5+0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 0) + (Cultural = 0) = 1

Likely heritage listing: Grade II



Review of Grade II* listing criteria (TreeAH score of 2 or 2.5)

<p>19: The original Bramley apple (UK)</p> <p>Visual: It is hidden in a rear garden and cannot be easily seen, and so has no obvious visual value.</p> <p>Scientific: This tree is one of the first and most famous widely propagated apple varieties, and is very old at about 200 years, which provides a strong scientific value.</p> <p>Cultural: It is also remembered by generations of people as part of their diet, providing a very strong cultural value.</p> <p>Overall assessment: This tree is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for scientific and cultural reasons. There is little potential for this tree to become Grade I because, although increasing access could possibly raise the score to 0.5, it is unlikely to every be considered a memorable tree so could not score the extra 0.5 point needed to score 3.</p> <p>Summary of likely TreeAH score (Visual = 0) + (Scientific = 1) + (Cultural = 1) = 2</p> <p>Likely heritage listing: Grade II*</p>	
<p>20: King George V avenue of oaks (Tamworth, Australia)</p> <p>Visual: It is a very strong visual feature dominating the local area and being seen by many people.</p> <p>Scientific: No obvious scientific importance.</p> <p>Cultural: This avenue of trees was planted to commemorate the death of King George V, which provides a strong cultural value.</p> <p>Overall assessment: This group of trees is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual and cultural reasons. There is little potential for this feature to become Grade I unless some scientific value was discovered.</p> <p>Summary of likely TreeAH score (Visual = 0.5+0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 0) + (Cultural = 1) = 2</p> <p>Likely heritage listing: Grade II*</p>	
<p>21: Ancient sweet chestnut, Stoneleigh Park (UK)</p> <p>Visual: This tree has a very wide and striking trunk, which makes it memorable and it is seen by many people on a daily basis.</p> <p>Scientific: This tree is very old for the species, which provides a strong scientific value.</p> <p>Cultural: No obvious cultural importance.</p> <p>Overall assessment: This tree is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual and scientific reasons. There is little potential for this tree to become Grade I unless some cultural value was discovered.</p> <p>Summary of likely TreeAH score (Visual = 0.5+0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 1) + (Cultural = 0) = 2</p> <p>Likely heritage listing: Grade II*</p>	

Section 3: Examples illustrating principles of grading for heritage listing

22: The Ankerwycke yew (UK)

Visual: It is a very strong visual feature with a large and unusually shaped trunk that is obviously memorable. However, it is not currently seen by many people as it is in a rather secluded location and would struggle to be considered a landmark tree.

Scientific: This tree is thought to be about 2,500 years old, which imparts obvious scientific value.

Cultural: Additionally, it has recorded connections with the signing of the *Magna Carta* and later with Henry VIII, which provides a very strong cultural value.

Overall assessment: This tree is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for scientific and cultural reasons. If the level of access was improved and enough people were able to view it, then that may well allow it to score an additional 0.5 for this aspect, which would elevate it to a Grade I listing.

Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual = 0.5+0 = 0.5) + (Scientific = 1) + (Cultural = 1) = 2.5

Likely heritage listing: Grade II*



23: Ilex Way, Worthing (UK)

Visual: This avenue of trees is over a kilometre long and dominates the immediate vicinity, which makes it memorable and it is seen by many people on a daily basis.

Scientific: No obvious scientific importance.

Cultural: These trees were part of the original carriage ride that formed the entrance to a home where the Queen Mother spent a significant part of her childhood.

Overall assessment: This feature is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual and cultural reasons.

Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual = 0.5+0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 0) + (Cultural = 1) = 2

Likely heritage listing: Grade II*



24: Pagoda tree, Kew (UK)

Visual: This tree is striking because of its unusual form and the efforts that have been taken to stabilise it. Adjacent to a main thoroughfare in Kew Gardens, it is seen by many people on a daily basis.

Scientific: This tree is one of the few remaining specimens from the original planting dating back to the 1760s, and is one of the oldest known individuals of the species in the UK.

Cultural: No obvious cultural importance.

Overall assessment: This tree is worthy of nomination and has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual and scientific reasons.

Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual = 0.5+0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 1) + (Cultural = 0) = 2

Likely heritage listing: Grade II*



Review of Grade I listing criteria (TreeAH score of 3)

25: Tule tree (Mexico)

Visual: This tree is striking because of its size and is seen by many people on a daily basis.

Scientific: It is a Montezuma cypress thought to be 1,200–3,000 years old, and of obvious scientific importance.

Cultural: It has longstanding cultural connections because of the local church and its community status as a sacred site.

Overall assessment: This tree has the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual, scientific and cultural reasons.

Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual = 0.5+0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 1) + (Cultural = 1) = 3

Likely heritage listing: Grade I



26: Group of 6 Indian bean trees, Westminster (UK)

Visual: These trees have large contorted trunks and form an isolated group. Although their crowns are not particularly big, they are still landmarks and seen by many people on a daily basis.

Scientific: At about 150 years old, these are some of the oldest of the species in the UK and of obvious scientific importance.

Cultural: These trees are located at the heart of the UK political establishment and have been witness to generations of Prime Ministers and politicians passing by them at close quarters, which gives them significant cultural importance.

Overall assessment: These trees have the potential to be confirmed as a heritage asset for visual, scientific and cultural reasons.

Summary of likely TreeAH score

(Visual = 0.5+0.5 = 1) + (Scientific = 1) + (Cultural = 1) = 3

Likely heritage listing: Grade I



Section 4: Nomination form

This form should be printed and filled out for use in nominating trees with the potential for heritage status.

Explanatory notes for heritage tree nomination form

This is background admin information to record who looked at the tree or group, their phone number and email so they can be contacted if necessary, the address of the tree or group so that it can be found again, who owns it, i.e. is it private or publicly owned, whether it is accessible to the public and the species, with common and botanical names if possible.

The most important measurement is the girth, especially for old trees, because this is one of the most reliable means of estimating age. Height and branch spread are useful because they provide a record of the general tree size, but estimates rather than measurements will be OK.

Record if it is an individual or a group feature. How it sits within the landscape is also useful because it helps someone who has not seen it to visualise that aspect.

Insert a hand sketch, a plan extract or an aerial photo to show where the tree or group is, so that it can be easily found again. If your PDF will not support inserting an image, then either attach it to the email when mailing the form or print the image and attach it to a paper copy of the form.

Add a photo or sketch if the tree or group has an important feature that is relevant to its heritage value, i.e. a memorable shape or other striking visual characteristic.

Mark the tick box that applies. The extremes of this range are normally easy to identify, i.e. it really does have a memorable characteristic or there is nothing that obvious. Anything that is not obvious one way or the other, choose 'Not sure' and leave it up to the Verifying Panel to decide. Provide more explanation here and on the reverse of the form if that will help the Verifying Panel decide.

Mark the tick box that applies. Again, the extremes of this range are normally easy to identify, i.e. lots of people see it or very few people see it. If it is not obvious one way or the other, choose 'Not sure' and leave it up to the Verifying Panel to decide. Provide more explanation here and on the reverse of the form if that will help the Verifying Panel decide.

Mark the tick box that applies. Select the characteristic/s that you think the Verifying Panel should consider when assessing whether the tree or group has special scientific value. Summarise it here using the tick boxes, with a short text explanation, using the space of the back of the form to provide further explanation, if necessary.

Mark the tick box that applies. Select the characteristic/s that you think the Verifying Panel should consider when assessing whether the tree or group has special cultural value. Summarise it here using the tick boxes, with a short text explanation, using the space of the back of the form to provide further explanation. You should list your research findings with supporting references to justify any heritage value that is proposed.

Heritage tree nomination form (PDF)
(Please write as much as you can about the tree or group you are nominating on this form)

Name & contact details	David Brown 01-25 351 170, davidb@binlemet.co.uk		
Date of site visit	17/07/13		
Location of tree(s)	Ashford Road, Fordingbridge, SP6 1BY		
Ownership of tree(s)	Private in office landscaping		
Public access of tree(s)	Yes, no formal boundaries		
Common name/species	Dawn redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides)		
Dimensions (do not worry if these cannot be easily measured; just a rough indication is all that is needed, although girth should be measured if possible)	Height (measure in metres)	9m	
	Trunk girth (measure minimum girth and record height)	75cm @ 1.5m	
	Branch spread (north, south, east, west to nearest metre)	2m in all directions	
General description of tree(s) (individual, group or avenue and position in landscape etc.)	Single tree planted outside an office		

Location plan (Attach a plan of how to find the tree(s) in relation to nearby notable features so it can be easily found)

Photo of tree(s) (Attach photo of tree(s) showing any notable features)

Visual: Is the tree or group a striking landmark feature that is obviously memorable for the local community? Visual importance can be broken down into how memorable the tree or group is and how many people experience its special characteristics. For a tree or group to be worthy of heritage designation for visual reasons, it has to be obviously special for both characteristics.

Is the tree/group memorable? (Select the term that best describes how memorable it is. Explain why as a summary here and use the back of the sheet for further notes if necessary.)

Very memorable
 Not memorable

How many people see the tree/group? (Select the term that best describes how many people see it. Explain why as a summary here and use the back of the sheet for further notes if necessary.)

Seen by many people
 Not sure
 Seen by few people

Scientific: Is the tree or group very old, rare, unique or unusual, where scientific investigation is likely to lead to some beneficial cultural enhancement? Ordinary, everyday trees with no unusual characteristics would not normally qualify for heritage status under this heading.

Cultural: Does the tree or group have any historical, social, cultural and/or spiritual associations? This can include links or associations with what people used to do or are doing, but for trees to qualify under this heading, they have to be obviously and demonstrably special.

Other scientific value: (Select the term that best describes its scientific value. Explain why as a summary here and use the back of the sheet for further notes if necessary.)

Exceptionally old
 Rare or unique
 Endangered species
 Rare/threatened habitat
 Other scientific value

Other cultural value: (Select the term that best describes its cultural value. Explain why as a summary here and use the back of the sheet for further notes if necessary.)

Linked to event/place
 Linked to a person
 Linked to a custom
 Old community feature
 Other cultural value

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Heritage tree nomination form

(Please write as much as you can about the tree or group you are nominating on this form)

Name & contact details

Date of site visit

Location of tree(s)

Ownership of tree(s)

Public access of tree(s)

Common name/species

Dimensions (Do not worry if these cannot be easily measured; just a rough indication is all that is needed, although girth should be measured if possible!)

Height(Estimate in metres)

Trunk girth(Measure minimum girth and record height)

Branch spread(North, south, east, west to nearest metre)

General description of tree(s) (Individual, group or avenue and position in landscape etc.)

Location plan (Attach a plan of how to find the tree(s) in relation to nearby notable features so it can be easily found)

Photo of tree(s) (Attach photo of tree(s) showing any notable features)

Visual: Is the tree or group a striking landmark feature that is obviously memorable for the local community? Visual importance can be broken down into how memorable the tree or group is and how many people experience its special characteristics. For a tree or group to be worthy of heritage designation for visual reasons, it has to be obviously special for both characteristics.

Is the tree/group memorable? (Select the term that best describes how memorable it is. Explain why as a summary here and use the back of the sheet for further notes if necessary)

- Very memorable
 Not sure
 Not memorable

How many people see the tree/group? (Select the term that best describes how many people see it. Explain why as a summary here and use the back of the sheet for further notes if necessary)

- Seen by many people
 Not sure
 Seen by few people

Scientific: Is the tree or group very old, rare, unique or unusual, where scientific investigation is likely to lead to some beneficial cultural enhancement? Ordinary, everyday trees with no unusual characteristics would not normally qualify for heritage status under this heading.

(Select the term that best describes its scientific value. Explain why as a summary here and use the back of the sheet for further notes if necessary)

- Exceptionally old
 Rare or unique
 Endangered species
 Rare/threatened habitat
 Other scientific value

Cultural: Does the tree or group have any historical, social, cultural and/or spiritual associations? This can include links or associations with what people used to do or are doing, but for trees to qualify under this heading, they have to be obviously and demonstrably special.

Select the term that best describes its cultural value. Explain why as a summary here and use the back of the sheet for further notes if necessary)

- Linked to event/place
 Linked to a person
 Linked to a custom
 Old community feature
 Other cultural value

Heritage tree nomination form extension sheet

If necessary, use this extension sheet to explain in more detail the reasons for the summaries on the front