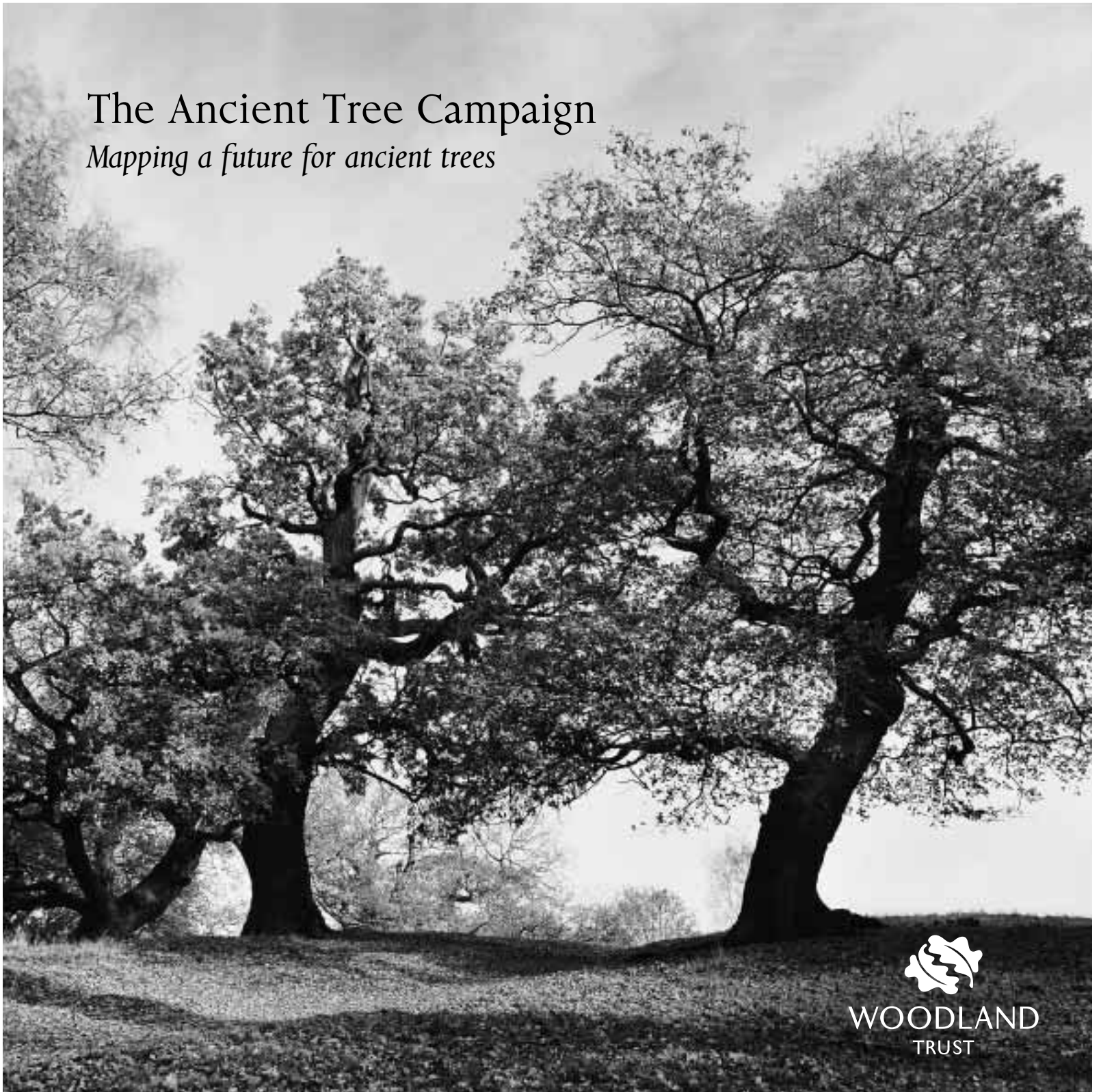
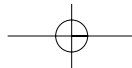
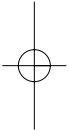


The Ancient Tree Campaign

Mapping a future for ancient trees



WOODLAND
TRUST



Treescape

When you leave the ferry at Dover, the landscape tells you you're home. But what is it about this landscape that sets it apart from mainland Europe? Cast your eye over the patchwork of fields, hedges and woodland and you start to see a few of the thousands of the UK's old and mature trees. Some experts believe these trees survive in such great abundance nowhere else in Northern Europe and make us the custodians of a landscape of international importance.

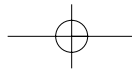
*"...these trees survive in such great abundance
nowhere else in Northern Europe"*

"The UK's ancient trees are the remnants of Europe's rainforests. It's incredible to think that an oak tree of 1000 years links back just seven or eight generations to the last Ice Age."

Ted Green, founder member,
Ancient Tree Forum

Map: Some of the few known concentrations of ancient trees in Northern Europe. Data supplied by the Ancient Tree Forum.





“Ancient trees are precious. There is little else on Earth that plays host to such a rich community of life within a single living organism.”

Sir David Attenborough



“The man of science and of taste will... discover the beauties in a tree which the others would condemn for its decay...”

Humphrey Repton, 1803, landscape gardener, contemporary of Capability Brown



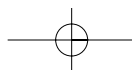
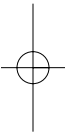
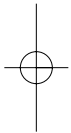
- The single most important wood-decay resource for invertebrates is a large standing living tree with columns of decay in the heartwood.
- Of the 447 macrofungi on the British Red Data Book list nearly 400 are characteristic of wood pastures containing ancient trees.
- Some ancient forests and parklands with ancient trees in southern England have 150 – 200 species of epiphytic lichens per kilometre.

More than just a tree

Ancient trees support life forms that can live nowhere else. Many of these species are rare and declining and can't easily move to new trees. We have only scratched the surface in understanding the role ancient trees play in sustaining our wildlife.

Who knows how many other wonders we have yet to discover about ancient trees and the species that live in synergy with them.

Photographs from left to right: Colin Varndell, Richard Smithers, Ted Green, Roger Key



“They have stood witness to our island’s history...”

Living history

Almost all ancient trees at one time worked for a living, providing our ancestors with renewable sources of firewood and building materials, with shelter and fodder for livestock and with features in designed landscapes.

They have stood witness to our island’s history for hundreds, even thousands of years. They are relics of the past, akin to Scheduled Ancient Monuments and listed buildings for their importance to our heritage. And yet, unlike structures of brick and stone, these living edifices are virtually unprotected.

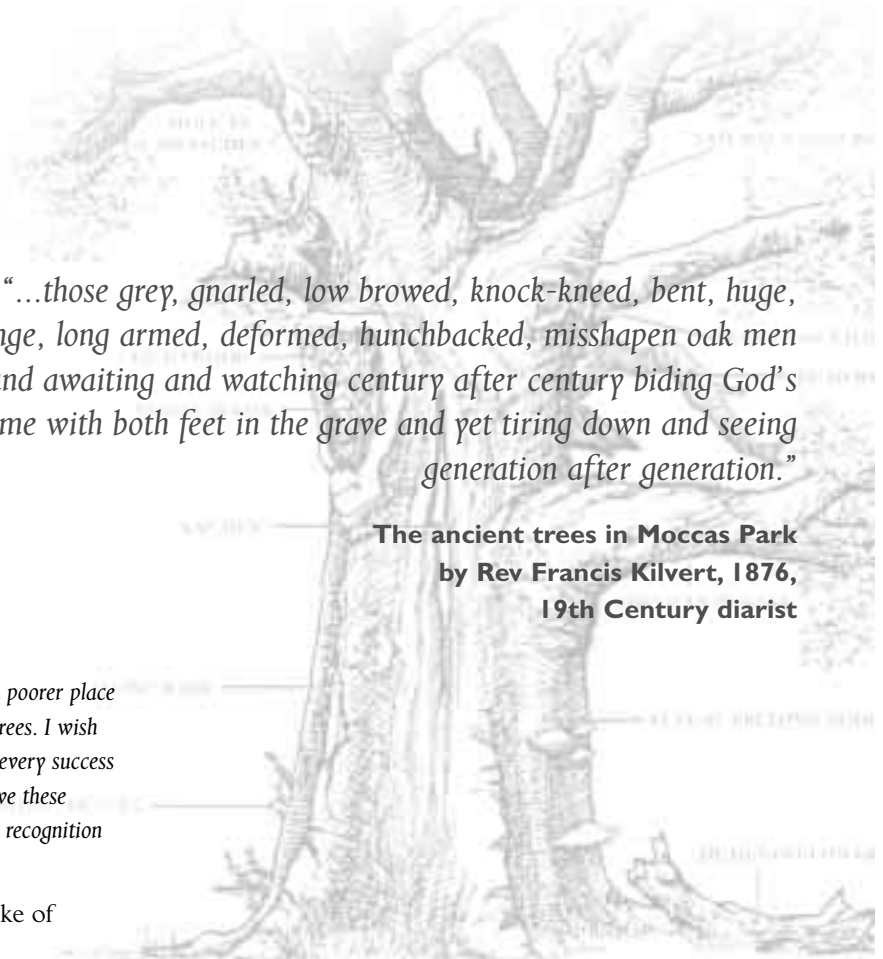


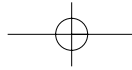
“The UK would be a poorer place without its ancient trees. I wish the Woodland Trust every success in their efforts to give these natural treasures the recognition they deserve”.

His Grace the Duke of Northumberland

“...those grey, gnarled, low browed, knock-kneed, bent, huge, strange, long armed, deformed, hunchbacked, misshapen oak men that stand awaiting and watching century after century biding God’s time with both feet in the grave and yet tiring down and seeing generation after generation.”

**The ancient trees in Moccas Park
by Rev Francis Kilvert, 1876,
19th Century diarist**





“An oak tree grows for 300 years, rests for 300 years and then spends the next 300 years gracefully declining.”

Anon

Bleak picture



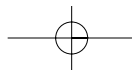
To people who understand the great importance of ancient trees, the news of a tree destroyed through development, neglect or our culture of safety and tidiness is received with sadness and dismay.

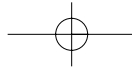
*“What we really need is a
fundamental change of heart...”*

What we really need is a fundamental change of heart and a better understanding of the true value of ancient trees to prevent these tragic losses in the future.

But until the sheer extent of the UK's ancient tree population is properly understood, there is a limit to what can be achieved. Mapping this extraordinary asset is a crucial step towards a more enlightened approach to ancient trees.

Photographs on this page: Ted Green





Taking action

The Ancient Tree Campaign

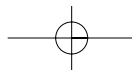
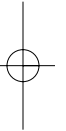
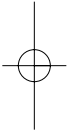
We need to start raising money now in order to fund:

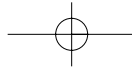
- **Our programme of providing advice** to ancient tree owners.
- **Our lobbying work** – e.g. to secure more funding to help ancient tree owners manage their trees.

“We think it’s time ancient trees were given the care and attention they deserve.”

- **Events, publications, online information and art** which will open people’s eyes (the public, landowners, politicians) to the importance of ancient trees.
- **And most importantly of all, a map of all the UK’s ancient trees.**

Aerial photograph: WTPL





A powerful tool

Although there are some records of individual ancient trees, thanks to the Tree Register of the British Isles and local surveys, they don't provide the sort of information needed to make real advances in the protection of ancient trees as a whole. A comprehensive map of all the UK's ancient trees is what we need to:

"After the sad demise of so many great ancient trees, it is heartening to know that there are things one can do for our favourite trees. Putting ancient trees on the map will help secure their future as part of the UK landscape."

Charlie Burrell



- increase awareness of the importance of ancient trees in UK landscapes



- lobby for more public spending and protection for ancient trees

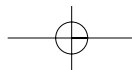


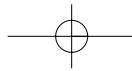
- identify the location of the main concentrations – places where wildlife associated with ancient trees has the greatest potential to survive



- help us monitor current threats and future losses

"A comprehensive map of all the UK's ancient trees is what we need..."





How much will it all cost?

Here are the essential ingredients of the project:

Providing advice
to tree owners

Mapping the
UK's ancient
trees

Opening people's
eyes to ancient trees

Lobbying

Monitoring
threats

Total cost of the project: £1,250,000



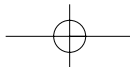
"Mapping the United Kingdom's ancient trees is a fantastic idea. Old trees play a unique part in our landscape - each one has its own special characteristics and distinct history. Please support the Ancient Tree Campaign and help the Woodland Trust to conserve a valuable part of our natural heritage."

Susan Hampshire

**This project will only
be possible with your support...**

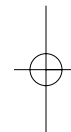
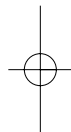
Further information?

Still not quite sure about something?
Need to find out more about the
project or the appeal? Please call **Liz
McLelland** on **01476 581142**, mobile
07774 107715 or e-mail
lizmclelland@woodland-trust.org.uk



“The leaves have all left but the tree will be alright.”

John Hegley, comic poet.



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