

# EDUCATION

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## ADOPT A TREE

A single tree is a framework for a very complex community of plant and animal life. Literally hundreds of kinds of insects may live on or beneath one tree.

A naturalist looking for a long-term project can 'adopt' an individual tree and study it throughout the year to see exactly what lives on it.

Choose a NATIVE tree like an oak. NON-NATIVE trees have fewer animals associated with them than native trees.

Start a TREE DIARY or TREE CHART.

- Sketch or photograph your tree throughout the seasons.
- Make a bark rubbing.
- Make a leaf print.
- Press a few leaves from the tree.
- List everything you find living on or in close association with the tree, including insects, birds, mammals and fungi.
- Always record the dates you discover them.

## MEASURE THE GIRTH AND AGE OF THE TREE

Measure the girth at the standard height of one and a half metres from the ground. Roughly, the age in years is equal to the girth in inches. A more accurate way is to count annual growth rings on a stump of the same size and species as your tree.

## HABITAT IN TREE AREA



PYGMY SHREW



WOOD PIGEON



MEASURING GIRTH

## ADOPT A TREE

### MEASURE THE CANOPY AREA OF THE TREE

The canopy is the branches and leaves of the tree casting shade on the ground below. List the plants living on the ground beneath the tree. Does the amount of shade cast by the tree affect the type and amount of ground vegetation?

Pace or measure the distance from the trunk to the outermost branches in eight directions and draw a scale map, as below. Trees in exposed places often have a windblown one-sided canopy.

### MEASURE THE HEIGHT OF THE TREE

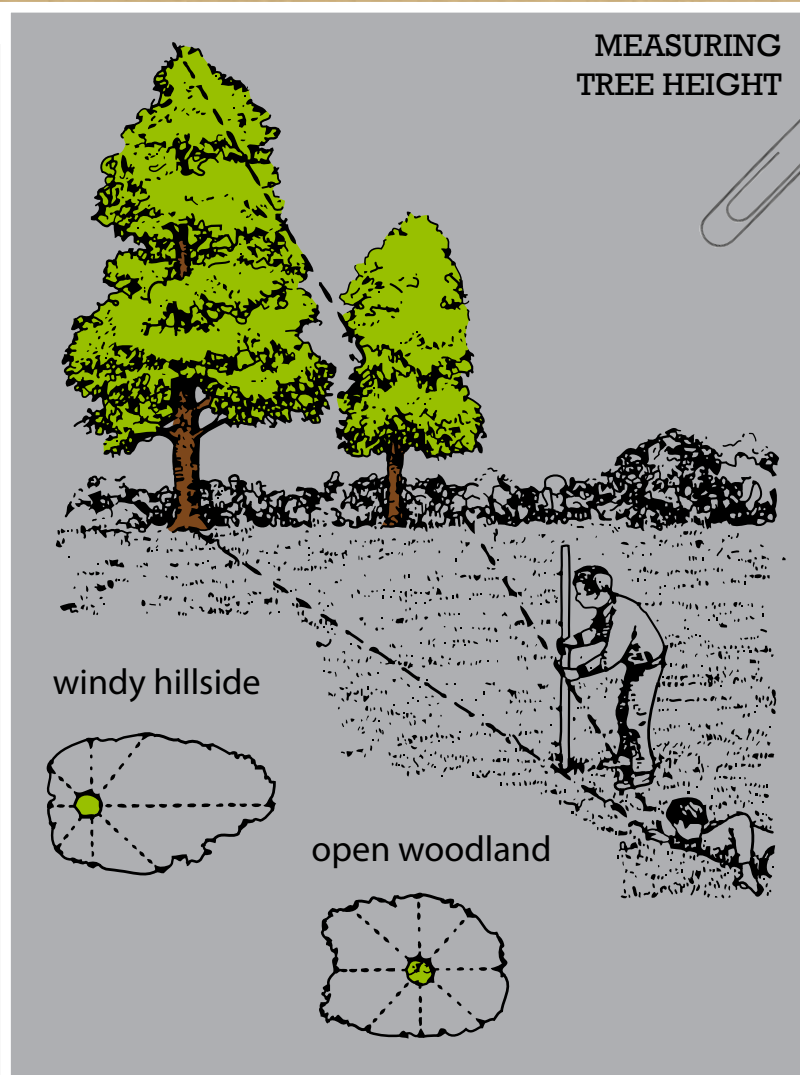
Walk 27 paces from the trunk and get a friend to hold a stick upright on the ground. Take three more paces, get down to the ground and tell your friend to mark the stick where it crosses your sight line to the tree's top. The tree is ten times the height of the mark.

Here are some books that will help you identify trees:

The Clue Book Trees by G Allen & J Denslaw (pub. Oxford)

Which Tree by P Forey (pub. Hamlyn)

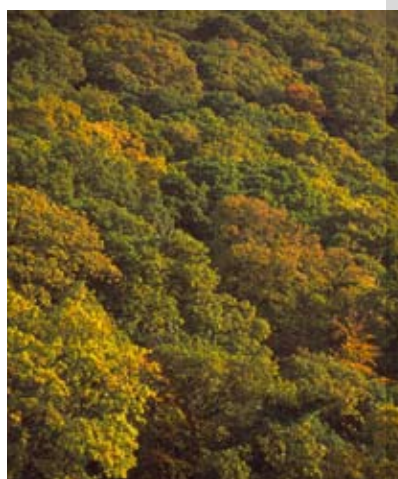
Collins Handguide to Trees of Britain & N. Europe by A Mitchell (pub. Collins)



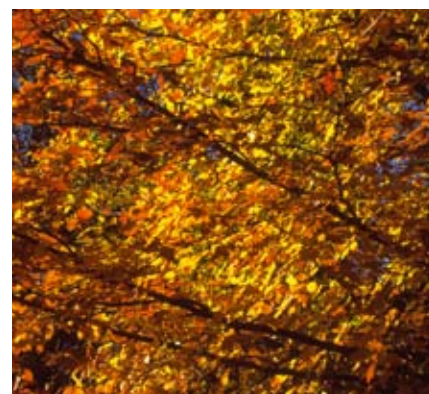
Our aim is to protect, conserve and promote the natural and built environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

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OAK FOREST



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