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9

9 Yew trees live more than 3,000 years, but are notoriously difficult to age. There are several yews hiding here with trunks big enough to qualify them as veterans.

TURN TOWARDS THE HALLS AND MAKE YOUR WAY ALONG THE NEW ROAD SIDE OF THE GROUND

10 Weeping Willow. Recognised by its bright green leaves and the way its long thin branches hang down (weep).



10

THE CAR PARK WHERE THE WALK ENDS IS NOW JUST BEYOND THE HALLS AND THE CAFE



8

VETERAN TREES

Veteran trees are important. They are remarkable and beautiful; they support a rich variety of wildlife (lichens, mosses, invertebrates, birds and small mammals); they are an irreplaceable gene pool; and they are of historic significance, being living indicators of past land use.

WDVTA, launched in January 2007, was established to make sure that veteran and other significant trees in and around Wokingham are properly identified, protected and managed - and to increase public awareness of their importance. In 2010 the WDVTA broadened its objectives to include concern for all trees, not just veterans.

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT VETERAN
TREE ASSOCIATION

www.wdvta.org.uk

BEARWOOD RECREATION GROUND

TREE WALK



8

START AND FINISH AT THE CAR PARK BY
WINNERSH COMMUNITY CENTRE

WALK CLOCKWISE ROUND
THE RECREATION GROUND

1 The young oak tree by the car park has a plaque on the ground beside it saying it was planted in 2005. Despite its age it is already producing acorns ►



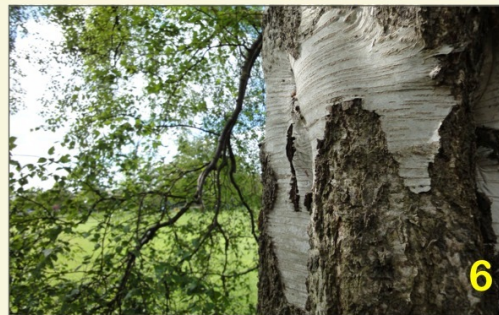
1

Tree Walk

► **2** Sweet Chestnut tree. It has been coppiced (cut back to ground level. Where a piece has been cut you can count the rings, one for each year.

3 Veteran Oak tree by the playground. With a girth of 5.50m, it is about 350 years old.

4 Horse Chestnut tree with sticky buds in spring and conkers in the autumn.



YOU ARE NEAR THE END OF MOLE ROAD, There is an Oak tree, and a copse with Ash trees and Silver Birches.

On the Bearwood Road side of the Ground

5 Laburnum tree. Coppiced like №2. The seeds are poisonous but laburnum wood may be used to make flutes, recorders or bagpipes. **6** Silver Birch tree by the bench. Silver Birches only live to about 80 years of age. The girth of this large specimen is 1.66 m. **7** Remains of felled Beech trees now dwarf the older Log garden next to them – a home for fungi and invertebrates. Decaying logs are an important habitat for the endangered stag beetle. Their larvae eat decaying wood for up to seven years before becoming adults.



8 The second Veteran Oak. It has the same girth measurement, so they may have been planted at the same time. Of the two oaks, this one's trunk is smooth and straight so it would be the forester's choice for producing timber products.

FOLLOW A TRACK INTO THE WOODED AREA AT THE END OF THE GROUND

