

DISCOVERING ANCIENT AND VETERAN TREES IN ENGLAND

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Study Description

Ancient and veteran trees are an amazing ecological resource, yet so little is known about their true distribution. Using a combination of existing tree records from the Ancient Tree Inventory, novel statistical models and field surveys, new distribution maps of these large, old trees were produced across England. Our research suggests there could be 10 times as many such trees across the country than currently recorded, with estimates reaching ~2 million overall. These findings will be extremely useful to inform upcoming surveys and conservation actions, and to ensure these incredible trees are preserved and protected into the future.



Photo 1. A veteran common beech growing in Froggatt Woods. Peak District, England. Photo credit: Tom Reed.



Photo 2. Two ancient oaks growing in a historic deer park, showing significant decay in the trunk in the foreground. Chatsworth Park, Derbyshire, England. Photo credit: Tom Reed.

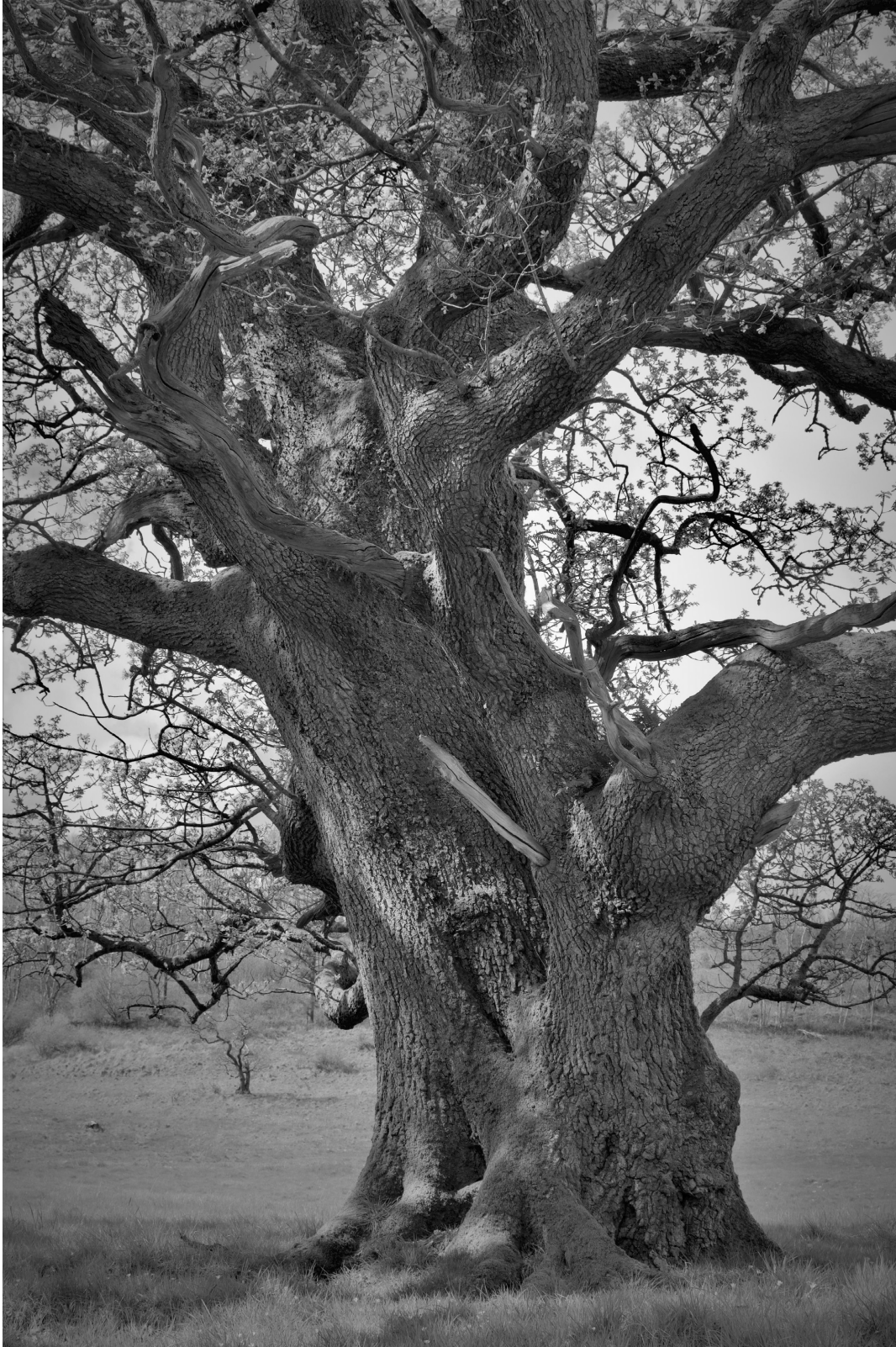


Photo 3. A veteran pedunculate oak in an old wood pasture habitat. Glenarm, Northern Ireland. Photo credit: Tom Reed.



Photo 4. An ancient pedunculate oak; a former forest tree now growing in a historic garden. Chatsworth Gardens, Derbyshire, England. Photo credit: Tom Reed.



Photo 5. An ancient hornbeam; a surviving lapsed pollard that originates from a former medieval hunting forest. Hatfield Forest, England. Photo credit: Tom Reed.

These photographs illustrate the article “Distribution models calibrated with independent field data predict two million ancient and veteran trees in England” by Victoria Nolan, Francis Gilbert, Tom Reed, and Tom Reader published in *Ecological Applications*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2695>