



## Ancient Tree Forum Concordat

Ancient trees are a vital and treasured part of the natural and cultural landscape. They support a stunning diversity of wildlife and are a very important and highly valued part of our heritage.

The Ancient Tree Forum (ATF), [www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk](http://www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk) has pioneered the conservation of ancient trees in the UK and worldwide.

**Our vision** is for ancient trees, their wildlife, and their heritage and cultural values to be safeguarded now and in the future.

**Our aims** are to:

- Champion the conservation and management of ancient trees and their wildlife, heritage and cultural values
- Develop and share knowledge and experience of ancient trees and awaken people to their beauty and value
- Prevent avoidable loss of existing ancient trees
- Secure and expand future generations of ancient trees

The ATF is the main UK organisation concerned solely with the conservation of ancient trees and we seek to secure the long-term future of ancient trees through advocacy of no further avoidable loss, good management, the development of a succession of future ancient trees. The ATF works with owners, tree care professionals and supporters worldwide and works in partnership with other organisations to secure a future for ancient trees.

This concordat outlines the commitment we want to see from partner organisations and the Government to safeguard our precious resource and to ensure future generations of ancient trees.

We call upon other organisations to help us by:

- Ensuring that ancient and veteran trees and trees of special interest are fully represented in tree strategies, local plans and through the planning system
- Working in partnership to develop and improve the grants and incentives for ancient trees and their successor generations through for example the agri-environment schemes.
- Working in partnership towards ensuring the recognition of ancient tree habitats in EU policy and Directives so that the ecosystems services, cultural and biodiversity values of ancient trees are recognised at a European level
- Identifying a network of demonstration sites showing best practice in ancient and veteran tree management
- Ensuring that veteran tree management training is incorporated in the syllabuses of all relevant training courses and good quality vocational training is widely available
- Continuing and developing a working network of knowledge and information exchange through field meetings and publications
- Working in partnership to complete a comprehensive, living inventory of the location of all ancient and culturally important trees.
- Ensuring that issues related to ancient tree conservation and protection are included in all relevant policy and legislation
- Promote study and research in the biology, ecology and conservation of ancient trees and their associated wildlife and to develop the best techniques for their conservation
- Raising awareness of the value of ancient trees as key components in the British landscape
- Working in partnership towards securing no avoidable loss of any ancient trees



Signed on behalf of: The Ancient Tree Forum

Name: Brian McKeen

Position: Chairman

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 13.06.13

Signed on behalf of: MUNICIPAL TREE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

Name: MORAY SIMPSON

Position: CHAIR

Signature: Moray Simpson

Date: 13th July 2013