

THE REMARKABLE TREES
OF
HEREFORDSHIRE.

Archie Miles

The Whiteleaved Oak,
deeply significant for
hundreds of years,
marking the boundaries
of three counties, and
still greatly revered





THE REMARKABLE TREES
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"THE EARDISLEY OAK," EARDISLEY COMMON.

(*Quercus pedunculata*.)

"A fine old tree," says Loudon in his Arboretum, "having an immense head. The trunk is 18ft. high, and 30ft. in girth at 3ft. from the ground; with a hole at the ground which in warm weather serves as a retreat for pigs and sheep." The exact measurements of the tree now (1867) are at ground level 62ft.; at 3ft. high, 34ft.; at 5ft. high, 28ft. 2in.; at 6ft. high, 26ft. 6in.; and at 10ft. high, 38ft. Its centre bough has a circumference of 19ft. The greatest height is 66ft., and the spread of foliage is about 90ft. Nine or ten of its chief boughs are now dead, and several have been cut off. The hole is nearly filled up with new wood.

One of Herefordshire's greatest oaks – The Eardisley Oak – recorded in 1867 by The Woolhope Naturalists Field Club. Their project celebrating the most remarkable county trees is the inspiration for our title

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"THE MONARCH," HOLME LACY.

(*Quercus sessiliflora*.)

This noble, well-balanced tree, stands on the ridge of Holme Lacy Park (Sir Edwyn F. Scudamore Stanhope, Bart.) The circumference of the bole at 5ft. from the ground is 21ft. 10in. The exact height, by Mr. Well's Clinometer, is 97ft. 6in., and the diametric spread of its foliage is, north and south 142ft., and east and west 97ft. The tree is now rather past its prime. A swarm of bees has located itself in one place; fungus appears here and there on the trunk; and two or three small boughs are broken off.

Lothmore and Son, Photographers to the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.



The Club visited every corner of the County and left a fine legacy of images and information



Almost 150 years on it is high time we recorded and celebrated Herefordshire's great trees and treescapes once again, raising awareness locally, nationally, and even internationally, leaving our own legacy for those who follow 150 years from now.

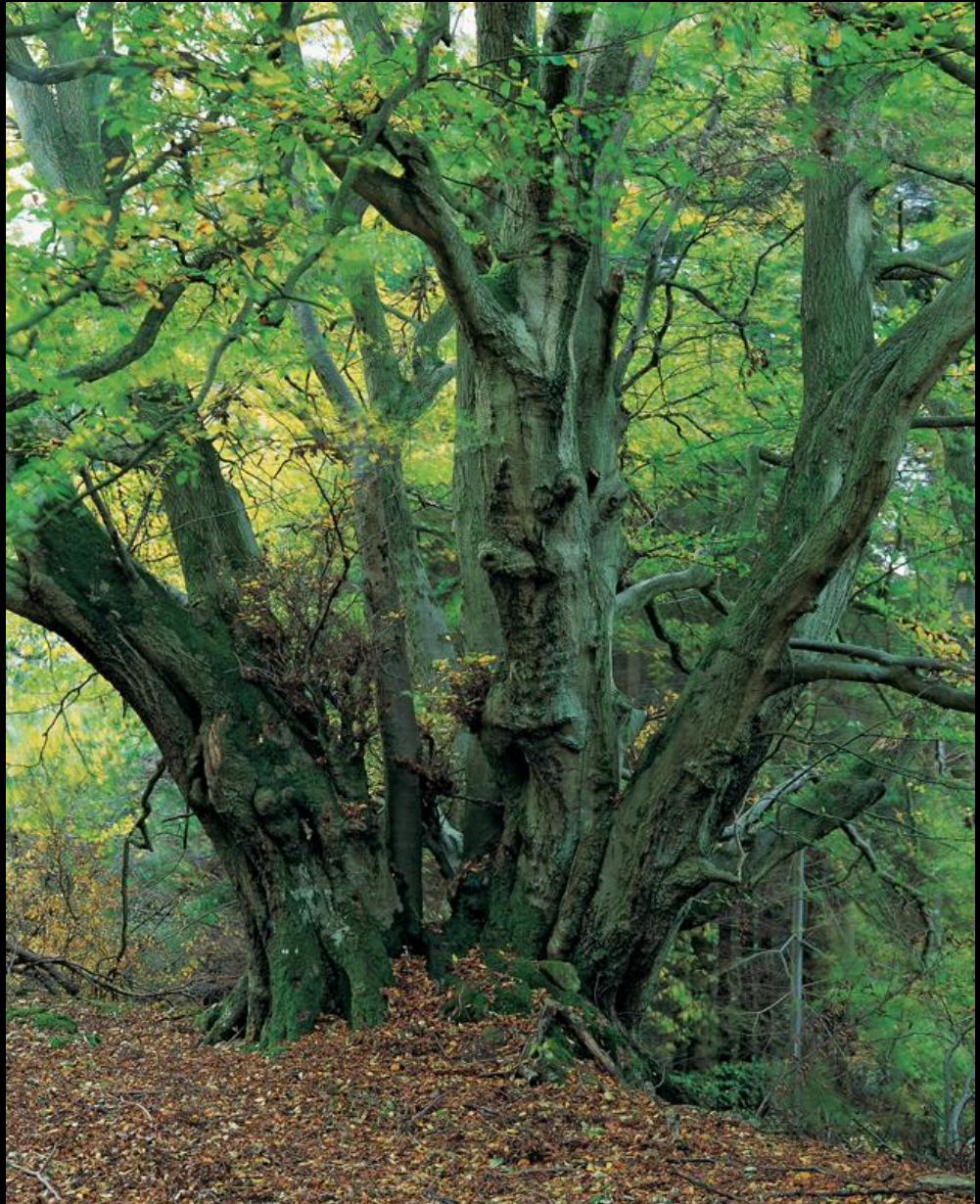


The Gospel Oak at Grendon Bishop



With an astounding girth of 42' this is the joint British record holder

And it's not just about
huge or ancient individuals,
such as oak or beech...





...or sweet
chestnut

...ash...





It's about how these trees are associated with different types of landscapes, such as deer parks...



Ancient wood pasture at Moor Abbey Farm



..and at nearby Whyle where the wood pasture overlies medieval strip farming



Different types of hedgerows – their history and their management



Ancient woodlands and some of the magnificent coppice stools that reflect centuries of woodmanship



The Preaching Limes at Hallwood Green –
Boundary markers with a ceremonial past



Ancient lime coppice stool on an old wood bank
right on the Herefordshire/Gloucestershire border



Large-leaved limes
at Downton – massive
trees in defunct parkland

Ancient pollards such as this
field maple at Kentchurch





A massive rowan on hills above Kinsham – a girth of 4.5 metres makes it a world record holder



Urban trees that
breath life into our
city and towns, as
well as some of the
beloved individuals
of our villages





An impressive crab apple on Midsummer Hill – perhaps a direct descendant of trees that grew around this Iron Age hillfort over 2,000 years ago



Traditional orchards – a definitive landscape feature of Herefordshire, a rich fruit gene bank, a repository of many extraordinary trees and invaluable habitat



Ancient yews of the
county's churchyards,
some of which could
easily be over 2,000
years old



Introductions and exotics associated
with the county's ancestral homes and
private parks and estates



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THE MAIDENHAIR TREE. WHITFIELD.

(*Salisburia Adiantifolia*.)

SEPTEMBER, 1868.

This very handsome Japanese tree was planted by Lady Catherine Stanhope soon after 1775, and may therefore be considered about 96 or 97 years old. It is now 50ft. 6in. in height, has a circumference of 7ft. 2in. at 5ft. from the ground, and a diametric spread of branches of 40ft. It is situated near the Conservatory entrance to the kitchen garden at Whitfield, the residence of the Rev. Archer Clive.

This Photograph is kindly presented to the Club by Mr. Clive.

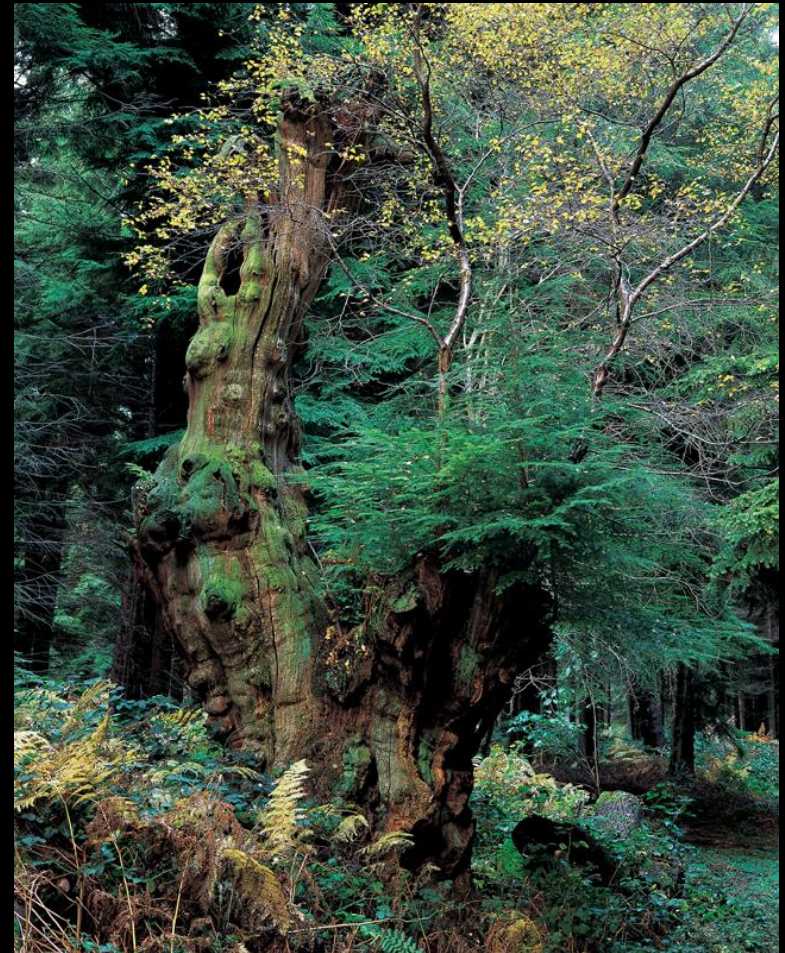
Lodmore and Son, Photographers to the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.

The Woolhope Club sought out many of these unusual exotic trees on the private estates and all the detailed information from 1868 proves fascinating and useful today





And there are rare treescapes, such as the Scots pine and yew avenue at Monnington Walk and the multi-stemmed, layered perry pear at Holme Lacy, thought to be well over 300 years old

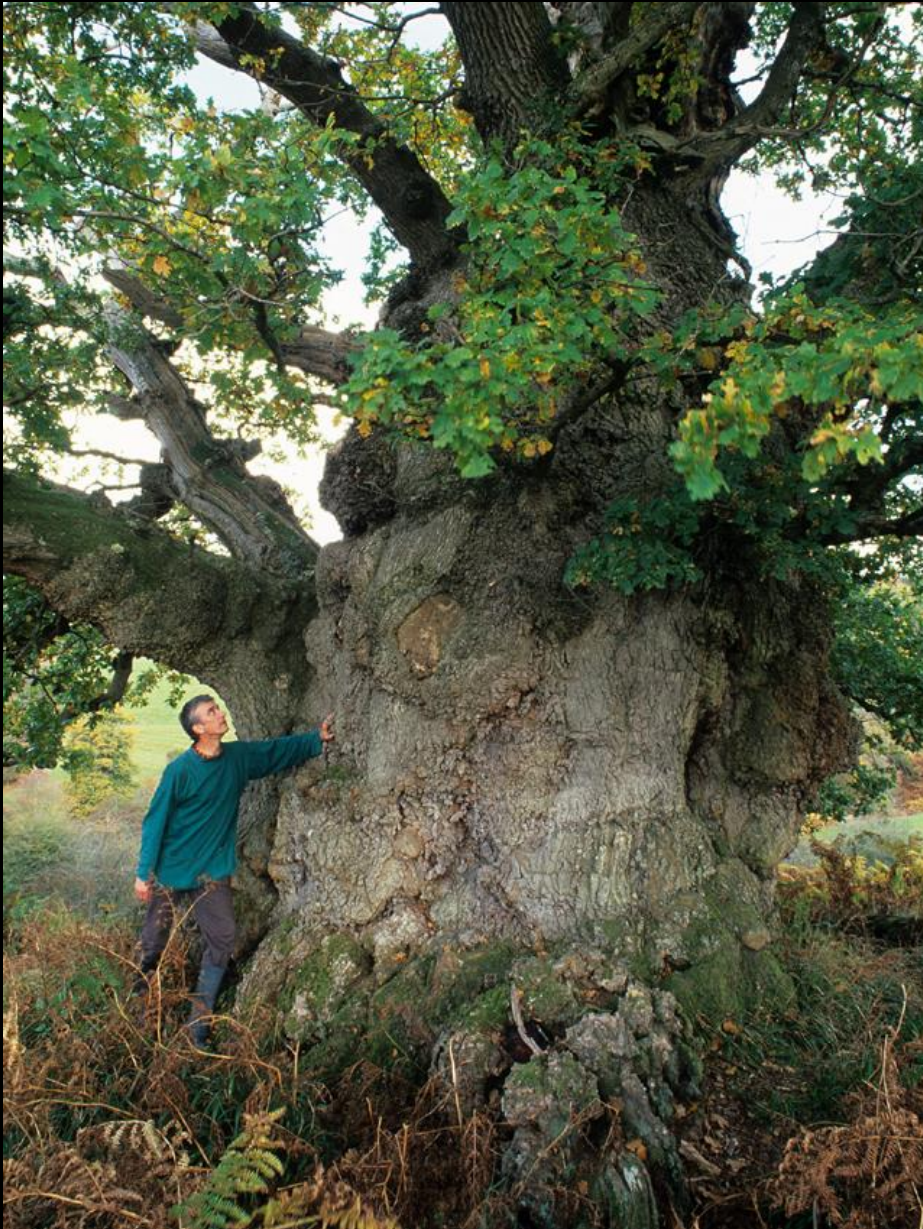


Not to mention some bizarre,
truly unique trees





So by exploring the records of the remarkable trees of Herefordshire's past...



...and discovering, celebrating and documenting today's remarkable trees, explaining their significance and telling their stories, we can build an outstanding and enduring legacy that will inform and inspire generations long into the future.

Archie Miles
Specialist tree writer & photographer
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