

**Developing the skilled workforce
needed to safeguard the UK's
ancient and other veteran trees.**

VETcert

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**Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION**

trees.org.uk

The home of tree care









Raising standards in veteran tree care across Europe





What is VETcert?

- ▶ An EU-funded project from 2016 - 2019
- ▶ To develop a pan European certification scheme for managing veteran trees
- ▶ Aimed at both practising and consultant tree professionals.
- ▶ VETcert builds on the EU VETree project
- ▶ 10 partners, 7 countries

10 Partners from 7 Countries



ANCIENT
TREE
FORUM

Pro Natura



Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION

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Why do we need VETcert?

- ▶ To give validation/quality control to those working with veteran trees
- ▶ To help people who are looking for a consultant/tree worker to find someone with suitable experience
- ▶ Increase the opportunities for tree work professionals across Europe

With the aim to build up a good network across Europe



Why do we need VETcert?

- ▶ Better management of veteran trees
- ▶ Higher quality of the work performed
- ▶ Increased awareness
- ▶ Increased transparency in tenders/contracting
- ▶ Continued personal development encouraged in the workplace
- ▶ Vocational education available



















Challenges

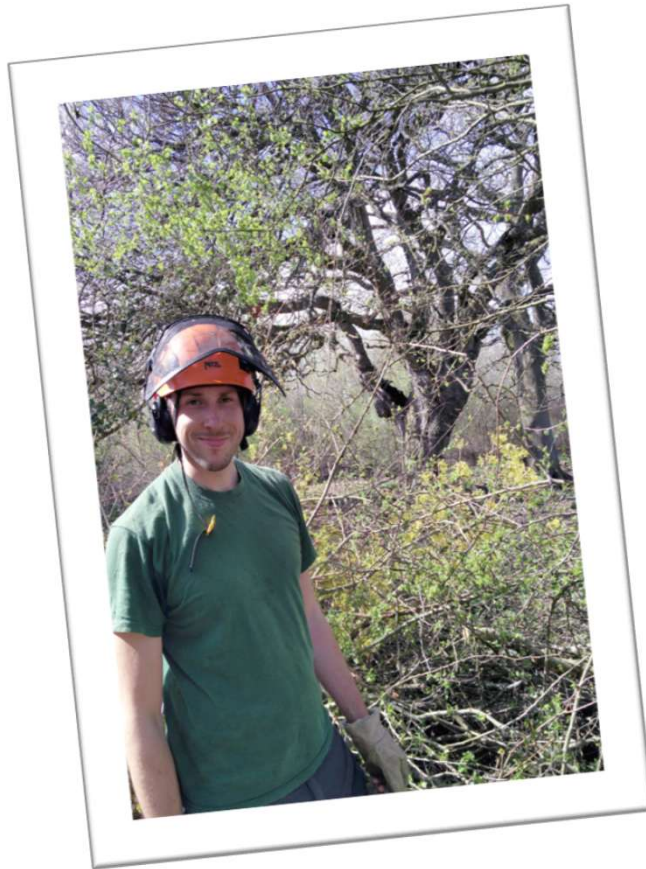


- ▶ Types of Veteran trees
 - ▶ And how to define them!
- ▶ Climate/Geographic variation
- ▶ Cultural Heritage
- ▶ Existing professional standards in tree management
- ▶ Language and terminology
- ▶ Legislation





Accreditation Scheme - Two levels



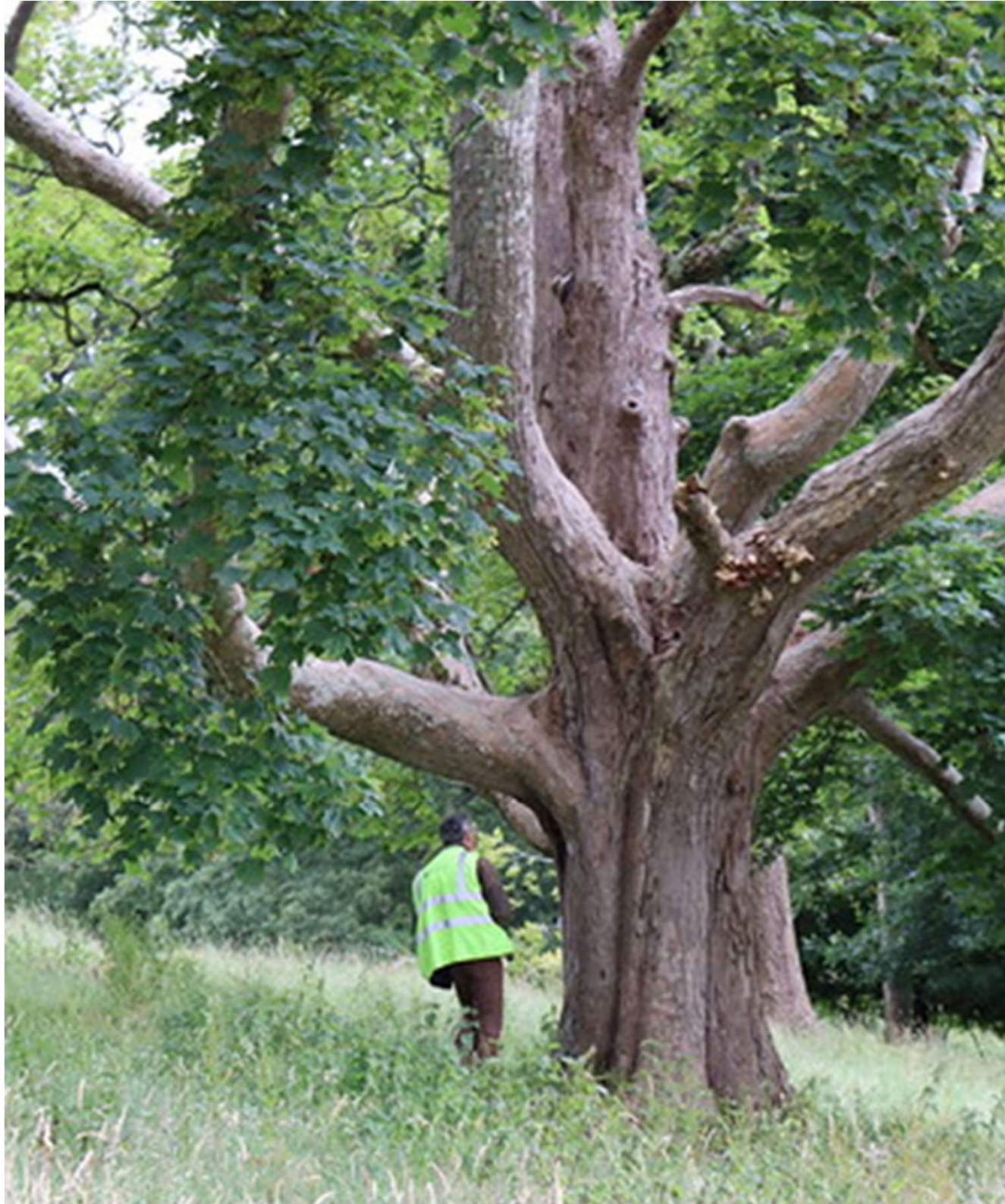
Practising



Consulting















Pre-requisites

Practising level

- ▶ Arboricultural qualification - ETW or equivalent
- ▶ chainsaw & climbing/platform certificates
- ▶ 5 years experience

Consulting level

- ▶ Relevant qualification - ETT or equivalent
- ▶ 5 years experience (3 in consulting)
- ▶ Or equivalent qualifications and 10 years experience (5 in consulting)



Structure of exams

Practising level - 1 day (5 hours)

► Indoor written paper (2 hrs) (31 %)

Multiple choice questions

Written questions

► Outdoor session (2 hrs) (69 %)

Oral examination

Exercises



Structure of exams

Consulting level - 1 day (8 hours)

- ▶ Indoor written questions (2hrs) (36 %)
- ▶ Outdoor oral examination and survey (2hrs) (21 %)
- ▶ Tree 'management plans' (2hrs) (43 %)

Need to bring: Laptop with USB port, equipment to survey a tree (camera etc.)





12 VETcert standards

1. Veteran trees; recognition and values
2. The growth, development and aging of trees: the role of physiological function and dysfunction
3. Roots and the soil environment
4. Veteran trees as ecosystems
5. Their value for people
6. Their cultural history values

www.vetcert.eu



12 VETcert standards

7. Survey and assessment
8. Legislation and official guidance
9. Tree risk management
10. Planning for urban development and infrastructure
11. Veteran tree management in all its aspects
12. Personal skills

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VETcert responsibilities

- ▶ **Ancient Tree Forum**
 - ▶ Exploration and development of good practice
 - ▶ Delivery of training for VETcert
- ▶ **Arboricultural Association**
 - ▶ VETcert Certification Centre for UK
 - ▶ Organises and delivers exams
- ▶ **European Arboricultural Council (EAC)**
 - ▶ Managing Body for VETcert
 - ▶ Registration
 - ▶ Certification



Recertification

- **VETcert is subject to a 3-year recertification**
- **Demonstrate Continuing Professional Development**
 - Conferences, training, meetings, reading, webinars
- **Examples of work and/or management undertaken**
 - Work sites, before/after photos, references
 - Projects, reports, presentations, collaborations
- **Renewed registration with EAC**



What can you do?

Practitioners

- Look at the standards
- Identify any training needs
- Training / experience
- Become VETcert-certified

Clients

- Make it a requirement in your procurement tenders





Thank you



Where to go for more information

www.vetcert.eu

- ▶ Standards
- ▶ Indicative content
- ▶ Fact sheets
- ▶ Videos
- ▶ Case studies
- ▶ Further reading

www.ancienttreeforum.org.uk

- ▶ Link to videos from VETree
- ▶ Walk through of standards (£50)
- ▶ Training courses
- ▶ Books
- ▶ Forum meetings

www.trees.org.uk

- ▶ Exam information
- ▶ Pre-requisite application
- ▶ Exam booking



Further info

- ▶ www.vetree.eu
- ▶ www.vetcert.eu
- ▶ www.ancientreeforum.org.uk
- ▶ www.trees.org.uk

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