Recognition of Ancient, Veteran & Notable Trees –
R A V E N

Step One—Size Assessment

Tree has very large girth for species
Note—pollarding & senescence reduce stem increment: girth may be deceptive – assess stem girth relationship with life-stage accordingly

Refer to *Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management* (Lonsdale, ATF 2013) at Fig. 1.3: *Chart of girth in relation to age and developmental classification of trees*

IF GIRTH NOT VERY LARGE FOR SPECIES, STOP HERE!

Step Two—Additional Primary Features

At least one of the following should be present, or refer to Step Three

- ☐ Extensive decay, especially brown rot or exposed stem heartwood in relevant species
- ☐ Extensive hollowing
- ☐ Crown senescence
- ☐ Retrenchment

Step Three—Secondary Features

If no additional Primary Feature is present, tree should have at least four Secondary Features

- ☐ Large quantity of dead wood in crown, especially where large-sized
- ☐ Major storm damage/ breakout wounds
- ☐ Habitat spaces: decay holes and/ or crevices/ branch splits sheltered from direct rainfall
- ☐ Aerial rooting
- ☐ Sap run/ slime flux
- ☐ Water pool
- ☐ Bark loss inc. due to lightning strike
- ☐ Fungi
- ☐ Other epiphytic plants, including significant presence of lichens

Step Four – Identification Guide

☐ **ANCIENT**
Veteran tree with extremely large girth: age likely > 50% of estimated species maximum
E.g. pedunculate oak, 2m stem dia, average site: ca. 460 years old, ca. 50% of species max

☐ **VETERAN**
Very large girth for species and qualifies under either Step Two or Step Three

☐ **NOTABLE**
Very large girth for species but does not qualify under either Step Two or Step Three

IF A TARGET IS PRESENT, ASSESS RISK USING *THREATS*