

MRN 3366 – CYPRESS OAK (*Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata'),

HARRIS GARDENS, WHITEKNIGHTS CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF READING,

SU 73889 71365

This tree is a Britain & Ireland champion for girth and county champion for girth and height, as registered by TROBI (Tree Register of the British Isles). The first record of it dates from 1903.

Extract from TROBI newsletter №3 1993/4:

"The Fastigate Oak, noted by E. as "the finest Cypress oak I have seen, very well shaped and 7'10" x 75", is still in excellent shape and now measures 10'3½" x (about) 85'. It has given rise to a large number of seedlings of various sizes and similar shapes all over the park."

The "E." referred to is H.J. Elwes, and his unpublished manuscript notes made between 1903 and 1907, when he and Augustine Henry were compiling their monumental work in seven volumes on *"The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland"*. Elwes visited Whiteknights in August 1903 (alone) and in May 1907 (with Henry).



Measurements for this tree:

Date	Girth (m)	Height (m)	Source
1903/1907	2.39	22.9	see above
1993	3.14	25.9	see above
2004	3.36	25	TROBI database #106463
2018	3.44		WDVTA

Growth rate (cm/year)

	1993	2004	2018
1903/1907	0.85	0.98	0.93
1993		2.00	1.20
2004			0.57
2018			

This is the only Cypress oak we have in our database.



The cleft down one side, shown in the photo above, is the result of a lightning strike. It has reportedly been struck by lightning twice within living memory.

The **Cypress oak** is a variety of English oak with a fastigate (upright) growth form, alternatively known as the Pyramid oak (*Quercus robur* 'Pyramidalis'). It's a naturally occurring form, first selected in Babenhausen, Germany in 1874. If bred from seed the resultant offspring are, as expected, of variable form, and vegetative propagation is needed to preserve the fastigate form. Such trees have a guaranteed narrow columnar shape, with foliage that turns golden brown in autumn and remains on the tree throughout winter in less exposed conditions. It has the same leaf characteristics and all the wildlife benefits of *Quercus robur*, making it an excellent tree for planting in restricted spaces. Thriving in a wide variety of soils, including clay, and particularly tolerant of surrounding hard surfaces, it is an ideal choice as an urban or street tree.

The other TROBI Britain & Ireland champion for girth is in Knoke Park (National Trust) in Sevenoaks, Kent, with a girth of 4.12m at 0.8m in 2000.

Sources:

<http://www.treeregister.org/> (database accessed May 2013)

TROBI newsletter №3 1993/4

<https://www.vdberk.co.uk/trees/quercus-robur-fastigiata/>;

[https://www.barcham.co.uk/products/quercus-robur-fastigiata-koster](https://www.barcham.co.uk/products/quercus-robur-fastigiata-koster;);

<https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/assets/Uploads/BTC17-Fastigate.pdf>

