

The Ancient Tree Hunt

Join the Woodland Trust in an amazing voyage of discovery to track down some of the oldest living things on earth, lying forgotten in towns, parks and countryside. The Ancient Tree Hunt team needs your help to discover these forgotten tree treasures all around the UK.

Winter is prime tree hunting time for ancient trees, because they are often the fattest, squattest or gnarliest of their species within your local landscape. Their silhouettes stand out from all the other trees, just begging to be recorded at www.AncientTreeHunt.org.uk

And to help you put them on the map, we have created an ingenious measuring device – this knitted ‘British Standard Hug’ scarf!

This pattern is designed to be the same length as a British Standard Hug (1.5 metres) and will help you measure trees whilst out and about this winter. It will help you hone your knitting skills, keep you cosy and make you highly fashionable as it’s an original piece designed specifically for the Ancient Tree Hunt by London-based knitwear designer Laura Long.

About the artist

Brought up in Brighton surrounded by antique shops and dressed in jumpers made by her grandmother, Laura Long developed a love for traditional crafts and collecting vintage treasures.

A 1st class honours degree in textiles at Central St Martins combined with time spent in Ireland working with fashion designer John Rocha, enabled Laura to explore and develop a love of traditional Irish crafts. From lace making and crochet to Aran knitting and knot work, the fascinating stories and history behind each craft never cease to inspire her.



Ancient Trees are as distinctive as UK fashion and a vital element of the UK’s hedgerows and landscapes. Help us create the most comprehensive map of our fat, old trees whilst you get to knit your own designer ‘British Standard Hug’ scarf.

What trees to look out for in the landscape and hug sizes for helping you spot the ancient ones

How many hugs make an ancient?

- Oak** – 3 scarves/4.5m
- Beech** – 2 scarves/3m
- Scots Pine** – 2 scarves/3m
- Rowan** – 1 scarf/1.5m
- Birch** – 1 scarf/1.5m
- Hawthorn** – 1 scarf/1.5m
- Field maple** – 1 scarf/1.5m
- Sweet chestnut** – 4 scarves/6m
- Ash** – 2 scarves/3m



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STRIPY MITTEN SCARF

Left hand

Cast on 34 stitches in green (main colour)

Row 1 – 8: k2, p2 rib.

Row 9 – 12: k2, p2 rib (maroon).

Rows 13 – 16: k2, p2 (green)

Thumb gusset – change to blue yarn

Row 17: knit

Row 18: purl

Row 19: k12, p1, kfb, kfb, k1, p1, k17

Row 20: p17, k1, p5, k1, p12

Row 21: (green) k12, p1, k5, p1, k17

Row 22: p17, k1, p5, k1, p12

Row 23: k12, p1, kfb, k2, kfb, k1, p1, k17

Row 24: p17, k1, p7, k1, p12

Row 25: k12, p1, k7, p1, p17

Row 26: p17, k1, p7, k1, p12

Row 27: k12, p1, kfb, k4, kfb, k1, p1, k17

Row 28: p17, k1, p9, k1, p12

Row 29: (maroon) k12, p1, k9, p1, k17

Row 30: p17, k1, p9, k1, p12

Row 31: k12, p1, kfb, k6, kfb, k1, p1, k17

Row 32: p17, k1, p11, k1, p12

Thumb

With main colour (green) K 25, turn

Cast on 1 stitch then purl, cast on stitch plus next 13 stitches, turn

Cast on 1 stitch then knit cast on stitch plus next 14 stitches, turn

(green) purl on these 15 stitches

Stocking stitch 4 rows

(blue) stocking stitch 4 rows

(green) stocking stitch 4 rows

K1, (k2 tog) repeat to end

Put thread through these stitches and pull tight. Sew up thumb seam

Mitten (hand) – starting at the base of thumb

Row 33: Using green pick up 5 stitches at the base of the thumb – k to end of row (34 stitches)

Row 34: p

Rows 35 – 38: (maroon) stocking stitch

Rows 39 – 42: (green) stocking stitch

Rows 43 – 46: (blue) stocking stitch

Rows 47 – 54: (green) stocking stitch

Rows 55 – 58: (maroon) stocking stitch



Equipment needed:

5mm needles

Yarn: recommend pure wool DK

25 grams – green (main colour)

15 grams – (maroon and blue)

Abbreviations:

k = knit

p = purl

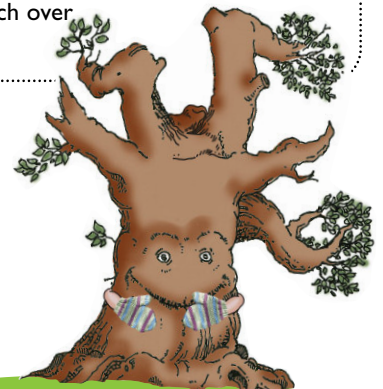
stocking stitch = Knit 1 row; purl 1 row

kfb = knit into the front and back of a stitch to make a new stitch

k2tog = knit 2 stitches together

pss0 = pass slipped stitch over

sl = slipped stitch over



continued over



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WOODLAND TRUST

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continued from previous

To shape top

Row 59: (green) k1, sl 1, k1, pss0, k1 1, k2 tog, k2, sl 1, k 1, pss0. K1 1. k2tog, k1

Row 60: purl

Row 61: k1, sl 1, k1, pss0, k9, k2 tog, k2, sl 1, k 1, pss0. K9. k2tog, k1

Row 62: purl

Row 63: (blue-green) k1, sl 1, k1, pss0, k7, k2 tog, k2, sl 1, k 1, pss0. K7. k2tog, k1

Row 64: purl

Row 65: k1, sl 1, k1, pss0, k5, k2 tog, k2, sl 1, k 1, pss0. K5. k2tog, k1

Row 66: purl

Row 67: (green) continue decreasing in this way until there are 10 stitches. Split stitches in half and cast off both sides of the top together (on the wrong side).

Right hand

Cast on 34 stitches in green (main colour) and work rows 1 – 16 as for left hand.

Row 17: knit

Row 18: purl

Row 19: k17, p1, kfb, kfb, k1, p1, k12

Row 20: p12, k1, p5, k1, p17

Row 21: (green) k17, p1, k5, p1, k12

Row 22: p12, k1, p5, k1, p17

Row 23: k17, p1, kfb, k2, kfb, k1, p1, k12

Row 24: p12, k1, p7, k1, p17

Continue in this way as for left hand with the same colour changes but with the thumb shaping on the opposite side of the mitten.

Thumb

With main colour (green) K 30, turn, work as for thumb on left hand.

Mitten (hand) – continue on the hand as for left mitten.

To make up

Fold each mitten in half with right sides together and sew up seams.

The joining thread

Take 2 strands from each of the green, maroon and blue yarns.

Using a crochet hook chain stitch until the cord and both mittens (from their top to ribbed base) measures 1.5 metres. Alternatively, plait the 6 strands to form the cord.

Join the cord to the bottom edge of each mitten.



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