

# 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 the countryside – ancient trees!

The Ancient Tree Hunt team needs your help to discover these forgotten treasures around the UK and record them at [www.AncientTreeHunt.org.uk](http://www.AncientTreeHunt.org.uk)

Winter is prime tree hunting season for ancient trees. This is when most deciduous trees have dropped their leaves and so their silhouettes stand out from other trees, especially as ancient trees are often the fattest, squattest or gnarliest examples of their species.

But to help you find them even more easily, 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 also help you measure trees whilst out and about this winter. It will also 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 first 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 landscape. Help us create the most comprehensive map of our fat, old trees whilst you get to knit your own designer 'British Standard Hug' scarf.

See below for which trees to look out for and their associated hug sizes.

## How many hugs make a tree 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

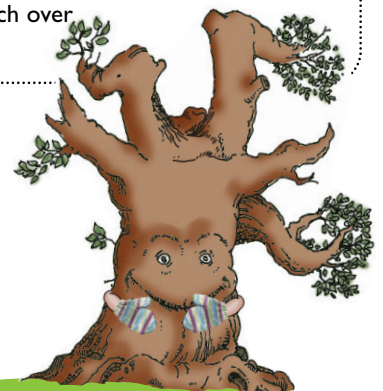
**stocking stitch** = Knit 1 row; purl 1 row

**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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## 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.

