



Veteran Beech Tree by Susan Wharton (pencil drawing)

Naphill Common shows signs of being occupied for many centuries and has been used for many purposes including excavation of clay and flint, brick making, charcoal burning and timber production.

“I drew this tree because I was impressed by its appearance of strength and the natural balance of its enormous branches”, says artist Susan Wharton. “I later found out that it may be hundreds of years old, reaching such an age as a result of pollarding. The great trunk allows wildlife to shelter in its base and the development of the canopy means it stands clear of the surrounding growth giving it a special grace and dignity of its own.”