



# Barclay Park Tree Trail



# Trees

## 1 Flowering Cherries

There are many types of Cherry but most only flower for a couple of weeks in spring. In Japan, schools have a public holiday at Cherry Blossom Time. Not all cherry trees produce cherries, which can be very sour but can still be used to make jam, all birds love them. The transience of the blossoms, the extreme beauty and quick death, has often been associated with mortality.

## 2 English Oak

The true native oak. Long lived, durable and host to over 300 species of wildlife and insects. Only 500 years ago, one third of England was covered in forests dominated by oak trees. It took 300 Oak trees to make one of Nelson's ships like HMS Victory. Oak is still important for furniture and building as it is very durable. English Oak is also the majestic tree of Sherwood Forest in the stories of Robin Hood.

## 3 Variegated Maple

A cultivated form of Norway Maple. It can revert to green foliage and this must be pruned out. Due to its tolerance of urban pollution, salt and other stresses it was planted by choice to replace Elms destroyed by Dutch Elm Disease in the mid-20th century. Like Sycamores, Maples produce "helicopter blade" seeds that spread freely.

## 4 Wych Elm

In Celtic mythology, elm trees were also associated with the underworld. They had a special affinity with elves which were said to guard the burial mounds, their dead and the associated passage into the underworld. Mediaeval Welsh archers often made their long bows from elm wood.

## 5 Yew

The longest life span of any native tree. All parts are poisonous. Often found in Churchyards, many churches were built on old religious sites where Yew was worshiped by Druids before Christianity. Yew trees can be up to 3,000 years old and they can survive even if totally hollow. An extract from Yew leaves is now being used as a cancer treatment.

## 6 Hawthorn

The "Maytree" or "Bread and Cheese" tree. Valuable for bird life and usually found in hedgerows. The hawthorn was thought to be the ancestor of the maypole and was the source of May Day garlands. The rhyme "here we go gathering nuts in May" referred to the collection of knots (not in fact "nuts") of May blossom. The leaves were eaten in times of hardship.

## 7 Beech Walk

Includes narrow forms of Beech. As beech trees live for so long they provide habitats for many deadwood specialists

such as hole-nesting birds and wood-boring insects. In 19th century England the oil from the tree was used for cooking and to fuel lamps. The tree's fruit was also ground to make flour and a coffee substitute.

## 8 Copper Beech

This Beech is a variant with coloured leaves ranging from copper to purple. Copper Beeches appeared as natural mutants of the common beech in various parts of Europe, as early as the 15th century. This specimen is known as "The Wishing Tree" and is around 150 years old.

## 9 Cedars

Very long lived and native to Mediterranean countries. Lebanese Cedar wood was often used to make the covers for Bibles. The wood of cedar trees is very resistant to disease and has a very pleasant smell that can deter clothes moths. The branches of cedar trees make excellent locations for bird and squirrel nests. These trees are probably over 200 years old.

## 10 Himalayan Birch

The white peeling bark helps the tree to survive in a snowy climate. This is the "Jubilee Walk" and all the birch trees are memorial trees that have kindly been sponsored by members of the public. It is native to Pakistan and Nepal where its bark is valued for medicinal purposes.

## 11 Wellingtonia

A "Giant Redwood" named in memory of the Duke of Wellington after he defeated Napoleon's army in 1813 and it was frequently planted in stately homes and in avenues around 1870. Giant Redwoods are the world's largest single trees and largest living thing by volume. They are native to California.

## 12 Alder

The tree's foliage provides shade for fish such as brown trout and salmon. As they have deep roots, they help maintain soils in riverbanks which reduces damage from erosion. Alder wood is used for traditional clog making. Alder is the only British native deciduous tree to develop cones.

## 13 Horse Chestnut

It was introduced to Britain in the 1600s and has naturalised in the UK. The leaf stalks leave a scar on the twig when they fall, which resembles an inverted horse shoe with nail holes. The most famous use of horse chestnut is in the game of conkers. The tree is now threatened with a fungus and a leaf miner moth that can lead to their death.

## 14 Scots Pine

The Scots Pine is our only native conifer to be grown commercially for timber. The Scots Pine is excellent for wildlife, in Scotland it is used for nesting by Golden Eagles and Osprey.

The resin from the bark was used to make tar and turpentine. Mature Scots Pines have pink bark on the upper stems.

## 15 White Willow

White willows are fast-growing, but relatively short-lived. The stems from coppiced and pollarded plants are used for basket-making. Charcoal made from the wood was important for gunpowder manufacture. The bark tannin was used in the past for tanning leather. The wood is used to make cricket bats. In ancient medicine willow bark could ease aches and pains and reduce fevers and led to the development of Aspirin pills.

## 16 Weeping Willow

A variety of White Willow. Willows are symbolic of death thanks to their weeping form. If you're a J.K. Rowling fan, you'll note the willow is also an important character in the Harry Potter book series. The Whomping Willow is a tree with attitude that lives on the Hogwarts grounds. It is often seen in Japanese art and "Willow pattern" crockery.

## 17 English Elm

Once common, now rare due to "Dutch Elm Disease". Can grow from root "suckers" from nearby trees. Hollowed-out elm used to be used to make urban water pipes before the introduction of metal ones. Elm wood was traditionally used to make coffins. Huge elms grew in farmland until they were wiped out during the 1970s and they are often seen in the paintings of Constable.

## 18 Silver Birch

The native birch. The silver birch is one of the first trees to appear on bare or derelict land. Many species of birds and animals are found in birch woodland, The tree supports a wide range of insects. It is used for forest products such as joinery timber, firewood, tanning, racecourse jumps and brooms.

## 19 Goat Willow

Happy beside water or on dry land. The species was historically also widely used as a browse for goats. Also known as "Pussy Willow" due to its furry catkins produced in springtime. The flowering shoots of Pussy Willow are used both in Europe and America for spring religious decoration on Palm Sunday.

## 20 Holly

Holly trees are closely associated with the Christmas season. The bringing in of holly to houses at Christmas is linked to the strong association between Holly trees and the rebirth of the sun at the midwinter Solstice. Holly berries are inedible to humans, but they do provide food for birds and other wildlife.

Distance walked is approximately 1 mile or 1.6 km.

Sat Nav location for start/finish is EN11 8JX.