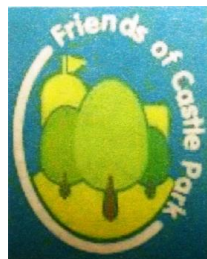


# Colchester Castle Park

# Tree Trail



**Christopher Howard**



October 2012

Produced by the Friends of Castle Park – [www.friendsofcastlepark.com](http://www.friendsofcastlepark.com)

# Colchester Castle Park Tree Trail

The trail follows a map and begins by the bridge into the castle. The route sets off in a northerly direction to the left of the castle, until you reach the River Colne which it follows within the park until it turns south following a curling route that brings you back to the front of the castle. It is possible to march around this route in 30 minutes, but with all the interesting things to see, allow at least an hour, or possibly more. Of course, you could take a picnic, or stop for tea in the café, and take as long as you like. Enjoy your walk!

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## A tree index, glossary and map can be found at the back of this guide

The trail begins with an oddity, but not a rarity, and is the highest, but not the tallest tree. Look up! Next to the cupola above the castle entrance is the castle's famous (1) **Sycamore** (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Legend has it that there's been a tree there since 1815, planted by the gaoler's daughter to commemorate victory at Waterloo. This one has been trimmed like a big Bonsai and has quite a lot of rot. Nonetheless, it is healthy enough to give a good show of foliage each year. There are plenty of larger specimens later on the trail.

To the right of the large gates on your left stands one of our (2) **Horse Chestnuts** (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). This looks splendid in May decked with its flowers looking like an arrangement of upright candelabras. Not one to stand under later in the year when the conkers drop.

Following the path, the tree next to the Horse Chestnut looks at its best in autumn. (3) The **Claret Ash** (*Fraxinus angustifolia*) is aptly named for the royal purple colour its glossy green leaves turn to; orange, pink and gold are also discernable, in its autumn splendour.

A few paces on and keeping to the left-hand path, you will come across (4) the **Sweet Chestnut** (*Castanea sativa*), this stands out because of its deeply ridged bark, noticeable here on the trunk above the surrounding bushes. The species was introduced into Britain by the Romans (who also left much of the building material used in the Norman Keep behind you). Its beautiful display of catkins in the summer is only followed by a viable crop of Chestnuts in very warm summers but the spiny husks are always there.

The next tree is the first one on your right at the beginning of the grass strip between the two paths. This is the first in the collection of Oaks, being a fine example of (5) the **Hungarian Oak** (*Quercus frainetto*). It will be interesting to compare Oak leaves as you move along the trail, which has 10 Oak varieties selected. The leaves here are easily the largest of all of the Oaks in the collection, often 25cm in length and are probably the largest of any Oak growing in Europe.

Proceed along the left-hand path until you are in line with the path over to your right that is parallel with the back wall of the castle. A little further along your path, on your left, with its rough and coarsely ridged bark is (6) the **Locust Tree** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), with its attractive compound leaves with pairs of oval leaflets. Most attractive in June with its hanging spikes of white flowers. The later seed pods often hang into the winter.

The next tree has been something of an enigma. It is found further along the path where there is a small gate on your left, the tree is to the left of the gate. This is noted on the Borough's tree schedule as the Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*). While similar, that's incorrect. It was at first thought to be a Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*). However, after noting all aspects of the tree (and checking with specimens in Cambridge University Botanic Garden), it's conclusively shown to be (7) a **Keaki** (*Zelkova serrata*). A member of the *Ulmaceae* family, related to the Elms. It shows some good autumn colours.

Moving back on to the main path with formal bedding both sides, look forward and note the tall tree ahead on the left. This is (8) the **Silver Pendent Lime** (*Tilia x petiolaris*). It has clusters of very fragrant small creamy-white flowers in the summer, possibly too high for you to see detail. You may notice that the smell attracts a great many bees and some have said that the tree itself appears to be humming! This Lime gets its name from the silvery underside of the leaves.

Move on to where the three paths meet at the beacon. Go down the left hand path and you will come to the second of the Oak trees on the trail. On the left, with a bench under it, is (9) **Mirbeck's Oak** (*Quercus canariensis*). This tree is relatively rare here and originally from Spain and North Africa. Many Oak leaves are similar to the familiar English ones you may know. Mirbeck's tend to be larger, fairly glossy and with smaller regular lobes. While not an evergreen, this one often retains some green leaves until the spring.

Moving down the steps you will pass on your right a much larger specimen of the Locust Tree (6) with very pronounced ridging of its bark. Further down, on your left, you will come to (10) **Turner's Oak** (*Quercus x turneri*). This is a hybrid (crossed) evergreen Oak from English and Holm Oaks, both of which you will pass later. Notice how some of these leaves are more 'stretched', and smaller compared to Mirbeck's Oak.

The next tree to note a little further on your right (11) is **Wellingtonia** or the Giant Redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). With very reddish-brown bark, this is a relatively young specimen of what is believed to be the world's biggest tree (not tallest, that one is later). The taller it grows the more flared its base will become. This giant is a big useless softy; in timber terms, it has very soft wood indeed, but it looks good!

Pass through the gates into the Lower Castle Park where you will see ahead of you a magnificent (12) **Golden Weeping Willow** (*Salix x sepulcralis* 'Chrysocoma'); best viewed at a distance, it's one of the two easiest trees to identify. (You will see the other one later). This tree looks good on a sunny winter's day showing off its yellow-gold twigs. It's very accommodating and people sometimes sit underneath it to eat their ice creams in the dappled shade.

Take the path left with the boating lake on your right (WCs on left) and half way along you will find on your left, (13) the **Foxglove Tree** (*Paulownia tomentosa*) with its smooth grey bark. Best in warm weather when it will give an impressive show of tall heads of violet-blue flowers in June before the huge heart shaped leaves appear.

It goes on to show interesting beak-like seed capsules. There is another example planted in full sun later in the trail. This specimen is best viewed from the path outside the railings as there is better growth nearer the crown.

Standing on the opposite side of the path is (14) a **Variegated Sycamore** (*Acer pseudoplatanus* f. *variegatum*). The beautifully dappled green leaves look as if they have been splashed with a lighter colour from a fine paintbrush. This is nature being rather artistic; every leaf has a different pattern – take a look.

Move to the large gates ahead of you. The last tree on the left, close by the fence, can be seen closest from the pavement just outside the park. This is (15) the **Bird Cherry** (*Prunus padus*) a common tree but not often found in gardens. It is most notable in the late spring for its numerous stiff spikes of white flowers. The cherries later in the year are small, black and rather bitter.

With your back to the gates and the old stone drinking fountain just in front of you, the tall tree on your right, sometimes mistaken at a distance for a Lombardy Poplar, is the (16) **Cypress Oak** (*Quercus robur* f. *fastigiata*). An English Oak but in a neat form with near vertical branches. If you look left in the direction of Middle Mill on the map and look up you will see one of the tallest (if not the tallest) trees in the park. At over 42 metres high and over 150 years old, stands (17) the mighty **English Oak** (*Quercus robur*). Everyone's friend, it supplies us with excellent timber and provides a free lunch for more leaf-eating insects than any other tree in Britain. Perhaps that's because a large mature Oak like this one has about a quarter of a million leaves!

Still by the drinking fountain, the tree to its left is (18) a **Lawson Cypress** (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*). A common tree in many parks, it adds interest here as an attractive evergreen in the winter. It originally comes from the U.S. north-west coast where it is much valued for its timber.

Following the path towards the river you pass, on your right, the second easiest tree to identify, which is (19) the **Monkey Puzzle** (*Araucaria araucana*). Not as common as you might think, yet somehow familiar. It is one of our 'living fossils' and was around at the time of the dinosaurs. This one is a young specimen; eventually heavy cones should form at the end of the branches which take two years to ripen. The tree originally comes from South America, where it is no longer common in the wild.

On the triangle of grass with the locked gate behind you, the forward left tree with the largest trunk is particularly attractive. It is (20) the **Fern-Leaved Beech** (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Heterophylla'). Note the puzzling variation in the leaves. Some are lobed like an oak and others at the shoot tips are narrow like a willow, very interesting. If it's a fine day, look up at the blue sky through the soft green and almost feathery foliage. It's magical. Take the time to look back at this tree from the other side of the lake when you move on. Like many of the trees on the trail, they can also be admired from a distance, to fully appreciate their form.

Follow the path to the open gate on your left. With the gate behind you the path now follows the course of the river with the boating lake to your right. Ahead of you on the left are two tall (21) **Corsican Pines** (*Pinus nigra ssp. laricio*)

Carry on along this path keeping the river on your left and leaving the boating lake behind you. You will pass under a few specimens of (22) **Common Lime** (*Tilia x europaea*) – a good example of these, on your left, after the path that leads off to the right. You will see some pollarded specimens later on the trail but those here show their full growth of over 100 years. You will be able to appreciate the full majesty of these trees from various viewpoints later in the trail. You will notice the rather flimsy rounded leaves growing out of bosses on the pale grey-brown ridged bark on some of the others nearby.

The tree next to this and leaning towards the river, is (23) the **London Plane** (*Platanus x hispanica*). A tough tree. Planted a lot in London streets and parks where it can tolerate high pollution levels. Its leaves are Maple-like but it has some distinctive characteristics in bark and fruits. Among the other large trees on this path it stands out for its scaly bark, showing greys, cream and brown, it's sometimes called blotchy. The fruits become very noticeable in the winter after the leaves fall. These are 3cm balls of hairy seeds, which then break up in the spring.

Next a tree best seen in May/June is on the right of the path on the edge of the large grassed area, a couple of trees up from the path junction, after a Yew tree. This is (24) the **Manna Ash** (*Fraxinus ornus*). It has remarkable panicles of fluffy creamy-white flowers in the spring. Manna can mean divine nourishment or an unexpected gift (as in manna from heaven). This tree's gift is manna sugar, a type of sweetener derived from its sap.

There are also Horse Chestnut and Sycamores along this path which is a lovely leafy walk on a hot summer's day. As you move along the path you will notice the bridge over the river to the cricket ground. Stand on the far side of the bridge to properly appreciate the shape and form of the Sycamore on the opposite bank - looking into the park, on the right. This is a bigger version of (1) the castle's own tree.

Back to the path, this next stretch of the riverbank has some very interesting trees, the first of which, on your left, is (25) the **Indian Bean Tree** (*Catalpa bignonioides*). Originally from the southern U.S., this tree seems to play dead for many months and comes into leaf in late June. But what big leaves. They can be up to 30cm across and are followed in July with flower spikes that have been compared to the Foxglove Tree (13), which also has a similar leaf. However, these are white with very attractive yellow and purple splashes. The fruit are extraordinarily long and thin (up to 40cm) bean pods; these dangle from the branches through the winter. You will also see a smaller golden variety of this tree later on the trail.

The next tree on the left is (26) the **Common Ash** (*Fraxinus excelsior*). This is the last of our native trees into leaf, these are pinnate, in opposite pairs of leaflets. It is also one of the first to drop its leaves. The timber is often used for traditional tool handles. It is a common woodland and hedgerow tree.

Move on three trees to the next, which is (27) the **Hornbeam** (*Carpinus betulus*). You cannot miss its heavily buttressed and almost muscular trunk. Its leaves are beech-like but have distinctive toothed edges and the fruits are borne on 3-lobed wings. It is a very hard wood, once used for butchers' blocks and the cogs in mill wheels.

The next specimen is (28) the **Maidenhair Tree** (*Ginkgo biloba*) on the bend in the path. A fascinating and ancient tree. Fossil records show that the *Ginkgo biloba* existed over 200 million years ago. It has a singular and unmistakable leaf, fan-shaped and split down the middle. It is the only remaining species of the *Ginkgoaceae* family. Without doubt, it is a great survivor.

You will pass another Oak and Hornbeam, and then various (29) **Norway Maples** (*Acer Platanoides*). You will spot the one with the most striking leaf because of its variegation of bright green with a creamy yellow border, the variety is called 'Drumondii'. The Maples are a large family with 150 species. Many of the smaller forms are popular in gardens. Leaf shapes can vary, but the most typical are like the ones here with 5 veins radiating into 5 lobes.

After another Ginkgo on your left, comes (30) the **Caucasian Wingnut** (*Pterocarya fraxinifolia*). This has big compound lush green leaves with up to 25 leaflets and can be 60cm long, the leaflets are more oblong than rounded or oval. Note all the suckers around the base, but the glory is in the catkins. Tiny red and green flowers appear on shorter catkins in the spring and there is a later development of 'necklaces' up to 50cm long with many green fruits, each with two semi-circular wings. A tree that seems to drip - with interest.

The path ends with another variety of Oak, (31) this one is a very tall **Lucombe Oak** (*Quercus x hispanica* 'Lucombeana'). Quite shiny dark leaves are much smaller than Mirbeck's Oak (9) which you saw earlier. They look deciduous but in fact most stay on the tree, making this hybrid another evergreen in the collection. Turn right at the Lucombe Oak.

The first tree on the left on this path is (32) the divinely named **Tree of Heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*), best viewed from the nearby Castle Park signboard. There are four examples on this short stretch of path. Often confused with the Ash because of the similar large pinnate leaves. These trees usually are either male or female. The male trees have plumes of cream-white flowers in mid-summer with a strong unpleasant smell. This one is male, and the leaves, and fruits, which are like single Ash 'keys', ripen to reddish-brown in the autumn. It is a clever tree. There are tiny glands at the base of each leaf that secrete nectar and this attracts ants. These in turn combat leaf-eating insects.

The last tree on the left on this section of path, where it divides, is (33) the **Ash-leaved Maple** or Box Elder (*Acer negundo*) Its pretty little plumes of flowers appear in March and the unusual leaves follow. They are pinnate, but the leaflets are recognisable as Maple; just, – what do you think?

On the right of the path here is (34) the **Yellow Buckeye** (*Aesculus flava*) The bulge in the lower trunk shows this to be a graft on a Horse Chestnut.

It has flowers similar to the Horse Chestnut but not as large or showy. The leathery looking conkers when they come have smooth husks.

Move on to the grass behind the Buckeye to the evergreen planted here. This is (35) a young **Coast Redwood** (*Sequoia Sempervirens*) tall and very conical. You saw the Giant Redwood (12) earlier. The Coast redwood is believed to be the world's tallest tree. It will take some time for this one to achieve that status. If you look through the needle-like leaves you will see the reddish bark.

At the back of the adjacent bed you can admire the conic crown of the smaller of two trees here; it is (36) the **Turkish Hazel** (*Corylus colurna*). Note the shiny leaves and the nuts when they come. The nuts are larger than the Common Hazel, in distinctive frilly and bristly cups, which are much favoured by the squirrels, who take most of them. The tree is also valued for its pink-brown timber, used in furniture making.

Next to this is (37) the **Silver Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*). Its five-lobed leaves are a light silver-grey on the underside, hence the name.

Moving on, the second bench on the path is a good viewpoint for some of the larger trees you passed near the riverbank. An interesting new planting nearby is the (38) **Himalayan Birch** (*Betula utilis*) with its strikingly bright white bark. To the left of this is another Foxglove Tree (13), note its large leaves.

You will notice, against the perimeter fence on your far left, with the bench in front of you, a row of elegant (39) **Silver Birches** (*Betula pendula*).

In the same direction, the grouping on the left near the path to the upper bowling green are a Red Oak (you will take a closer look at another of these later) and two (40) **Smooth-leaved Elms** (*Ulmus minor var. minor*). You now move into an area overlooking the 'arena' of the Lower Castle Park containing some very large, and a few recently planted trees.

A small tree to note here on the left of the path, is a recently planted (41) **Blue Atlas Cedar** (*Cedrus atlantica f. glauca*), attractive for its form and colour. Originally from the Atlas Mountains in north Africa this variety has vigorous growth and will be one to watch.

Pass the large Sycamore where the upper bowling green fence turns, taking the path that branches up to the left. On your right you will notice another evergreen (42) the **Holm Oak** (*Quercus ilex*). The young Holm Oak leaves are spined around the edge, but then these develop into a smooth edged leaf, different from most of the other Oaks you will see.

This is big tree hill. On your left (43) a massive Cedar, the **Deodar** (*Cedrus deodara*). This tree has pungent and useful wood for furniture, its smell is often mimicked in Cedarwood scented candles.

On your right is another tall Corsican Pine like the two you saw earlier (20), but with a lot more lower branches.

Moving on towards the upper park you will notice a relatively recent planting of a (44) **European Larch** (*Larix decidua*). A deciduous conifer that gives a good show of new lime-green needles in the spring.

There are other large Limes, Oaks, Sycamores and Planes in this area but before moving back into the Upper Castle Park glance into the fenced nature reserve area for some more impressive Cedars and another, slightly more mature, Monkey Puzzle.

Then back to the upper park...

Proceed up the path that lies straight ahead past a fine shaped English Oak on the left planted by the Mayor in 1980, to a very distinctive small tree with copper coloured bark. This is (45) the **Paper-bark Maple** (*Acer griseum*). It shows its bark in papery scrolls of colours ranging from a rich copper-red to chocolate and almost dark orange-browns. You will notice that the leaf stalks are pinkish-red and the leaf colour in the late autumn changes to orange and crimson. If you catch this tree at any time in full sun it seems to make a good photograph. This bed also contains a number of decorative conifers and Hollies. Leave this to cross the grass, keeping the bandstand and a number of large trees to your left as you head for the tree with the seat around it.

This is a fine example of (46) the **Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*). A little neater in appearance than the English Oak (17). This variety has large leaves looking more cut and pointy than most of the other oaks you have seen. These go a deep red after a good and long summer. Move slightly downhill to join the path that diagonally crosses this part of the park; turn left onto the path and move uphill.

The first of three small trees that you come to is a young specimen of (47) the **Tulip Tree** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). In this open position it is likely to mature into one of the most handsome trees in the park. As you can see, it has very distinctive leaves, lobed and ending in a slightly V shaped notch. When the flowers come they will be in June, and at their best after a warm spring when there should be abundant yellow-and-green tulips. They do blend with the foliage rather well, but once you spot one they all seem to appear.

Continuing up the path, you will pass another two interesting Oaks. The first, on the right is what has been unfairly described as a knarled and angry looking tree, in the Harry Potter sense, (48) the **Cork Oak** (*Quercus suber*). Normally growing on hot scrubby hillsides around the Mediterranean where its bark has been used for corks for hundreds of years. Plastic capsules and screw tops are changing that, but a harvest of the bark every 8-10 years does not damage the tree. Tough tree, tough leaves. These are small often with small spiny lobes and so different from the next Oak that you will see.

Next on your left, is a newly planted (49) **Pin Oak** (*Quercus palustris*), a close relative of the Red Oak (46) This was planted in 2012 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen, it has yet to realise its full potential but 'mighty Oaks from little acorns grow'. You can already see the interesting leaf with its very narrow lobes. These change colour to a beautiful deep-red in the autumn.

At the top of this path turn left into the avenue of pollarded Lime trees passing the bandstand on your left. Bear to the right at the long seat at the end of the avenue.



(The café is on your left). You will pass the corner of the shrub bed around the seat. The low tree here is (50) the **Whitebeam** (*Sorbus aria* 'Lutescens'). This tree looks beautiful in the breeze. The leaves are a light dullish-green with thick white hairs underneath. The effect is steely-grey rather than silvery, but it does make you smile! There are rather dull red berries that follow the small flower heads, which attract the birds.

Before you cross Hollytrees Meadow between the two play areas, to the Lime trees on the far side, stand at the edge of the grass. Look back to note a rather heavily lopped old (51) **Common Yew** (*Taxus baccata*). This is possibly the oldest tree in the park, which it pre-dates. It may have been planted by the birds. The trees are very long-lived, up to an incredible 2,000 years. Some of the oldest are found in churchyards, sometimes older than the church itself and it is thought that the tree had pre-Christian religious significance. The seeds in the small red fruits are poisonous but the clippings have medicinal uses.

If you now look to your left (north) you will see the striking outline of (52) the **Dawn Redwood** (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*). An endangered tree in the wild, originally from SW China. It is a deciduous Cypress notable for its straight trunk and dense spire; it's one of the easiest trees for young children to draw. A robust tree, it sits happily alongside the frenetically energetic adventure play area.

Cross the meadow diagonally to your right, towards the far end of the row of Limes ahead of you; some of these are pollarded while others still retain their full height. This belt of trees is a favourite place to sit with a good book (perhaps about arboreal hybridisation) in the late warm sunshine of a summer's evening.

Take the path with the Castle Road gates behind you. The bed on your left is planted mainly with decorative conifers but there is an interesting young (53) **Southern Evergreen Magnolia** (*Magnolia grandiflora*). This one is a smaller cultivar, its glossy leaves have a brown, suede like, underside. The tree usually carries wonderfully scented flowers from early summer onwards. This specimen is possibly a little drought stressed, but it should recover.

The last tree on the left, rare in gardens, originally from the central Japanese mountains, is (54) the **Japanese Larch** (*Larix kaempferi*). The leaves are deciduous, very fine dark green needles. Interesting reddish-grey brown bark, and small rounded cones add interest as these curl back at the top. The fine branches look a little messy in the winter, as though the tree needs a good combing.

Turn left and then left again onto the path at the back of Hollytrees Lawn towards (55) the large **Copper Beech** (*Fagus purpurea*). This usually shows good colour but it has been known to vary year on year. Some visitors have called this the 'Elephant's foot tree', you'll see why.

Take the path beside the bed and perimeter fence. On your left you will find two small but interesting varieties of tree. The first is (56) the **Golden Bean Tree** (*Catalpa bignonioides* 'Aurea'). A smaller variant of one (23) you saw earlier, by the river. It has large yellow leaves that fade to green. Walking past this tree on a dull morning is like finding a patch of sunshine! This one does not flower as well as the larger tree but it still produces the tell-tale beans, which remain during the winter.

Next to this is (57) the **Judas Tree** (*Cercis siliquastrum*). A tree with some unusual characteristics. It has beautiful spring flowering of deep-pink pea-like flowers directly on the branches and even the trunk, followed by the heart shaped leaves. The tree produces brown pea pods which often stay on the tree until winter.

At the end of this path (which is alongside an interesting sensory garden) in the middle of a small raised bed, is (58) a very young **Olive Tree** (*Olea europaea*). You will know what their fruit is. There is an old and sheltered tree in the Chelsea Physic Garden in London. That one crops enough to produce olive oil. This ambitious young tree has a long way to go.

On the left of the back wall of Hollytrees museum is (59) a **Small-leaved Lime** (*Tilia cordata*), a very old native tree with lots of small flowers very evident in high summer. This tree was presented to the town by the people of Wetzlar, one of our twin towns, in 1979.

Pass the back of Hollytrees museum, down the steps and towards the small garden with the rectangular pond, go past this and turn left beside the garden towards some steps up. You pass on your left (60) a **Saucer Magnolia** (*Magnolia x soulangeana* 'Rustica Rubra'). This puts on a magnificent display in early spring of deep pink goblet-like flowers. A bit of a show-off.

Turn right at the top of the steps and take the path to the ramparts past the stone archway.

Just past the archway and on your right, you overlook a planted bank and bed below. There are some more spring show-offs here. You look down on to (61) a small **Variant Sycamore** (*Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum') with bright shrimp-pink leaves in the spring that fade to a light yellow-green by the summer.

There is also to the left of this (62) a small **Snowy Mespil** (*Amelanchier lamarckii*) here. This has good autumn colour but is best in mid-spring as a beautiful flowering tree with very abundant white erect flowers above the leaves.

Continue past the steps on your right up to the bend to the left. You get a very good view here in the winter of the Dawn Redwood (52). Turn left into the striking and cool avenue of Plane trees with their blotchy bark. There is a good view down to the right of the formal bedding and the lower park. Take the path to the left towards the obelisk. (Before that, a small diversion is recommended half-way down the path to the left of the closed shelter ahead of you, to see the crown of the Kentucky Coffee Tree (7), if it is autumn)

Pass the obelisk and turn left behind the castle and you will notice the lofty and impressive Lime trees (22), some of these are over 110 years old, standing over 30m tall. This mixed group also contains some (63) **Crimean Limes** (*Tilia x euchlora*) with slightly glossier leaves, as well as Common Limes. These become more evident in winter when their dense weeping branches are more evident.

With the castle on your right, walk back towards the start. Turn towards the castle entrance. In the summer you pass a good show of Roses here with an elegant backdrop of weeping Silver Birches. Do follow this trail again in another season. It is a very pleasant walk and you will be the spectator of another free performance of Nature's Wonderful Tree Show!

*Thank you for taking our trail, we hope you enjoyed it - The Friends of Castle Park*

## INDEX

### Trees by English name

<u>Tree Name</u>	<u>Tree Number</u>		
Ash, Claret	3	Maidenhair Tree	28
Ash, Common	26	Maple, Ash-leaved	33
Ash, Manna	24	Maple, Norway	29
Bean Tree, Golden	56	Maple, Paper-bark	45
Bean Tree, Indian	25	Maple, Silver	37
Beech, Copper	55	Mespil, Snowy	62
Beech, Fern-leaved	20	Monkey Puzzle	19
Birch, Himalayan	38	Oak, Cork	48
Birch, Silver	39	Oak, Cypress	16
Buckeye, Yellow	34	Oak, English	17
Cedar, Blue Atlas	41	Oak, Holm	42
Cedar, Deodar	43	Oak, Hungarian	5
Cherry, Bird	15	Oak, Lucombe	31
Chestnut, Horse	2	Oak, Mirbeck's	9
Chestnut, Sweet	4	Oak, Pin	49
Cypress, Lawson	18	Oak, Red	46
Deodar	43	Oak, Turner's	10
Elm, Smooth-leaved	40	Olive	58
Foxglove Tree	13	Pine, Corsican	21
Golden Bean Tree	56	Plane, London	23
Hazel, Turkish	36	Redwood, Coast	35
Hornbeam	27	Redwood, Dawn	52
Indian Bean Tree	25	Redwood, Giant	11
Keaki (Zelkova)	7	Sycamore	1
Judas Tree	57	Sycamore, Variant	61
Larch, European	44	Sycamore, Varigated	14
Larch, Japanese	54	Tree of Heaven	32
Lime, Common	22	Tulip Tree	47
Lime, Crimean	63	Wellingtonia	11
Lime, Silver Pendent	8	Whitebeam	50
Lime, Small-leaved	59	Willow, Golden Weeping	12
Locust Tree	6	Wingnut, Caucasian	30
Magnolia, Saucer	60	Yew, Common	51
Magnolia, Southern Evergreen	53		

## GLOSSARY

**Catkin** A tail-like cluster of male or female flowers.

**Compound** A single leaf divided into leaflets.

**Cultivar** A cultivated variety produced from a natural species, maintained by cultivation.

**Hybrid** The offspring of the result of a cross between different species, sub-species or varieties often growing in close vicinity.

**Leaflet** One part of a compound leaf.

**Lobes** Rounded indentations and promontories on a leaf edge

**Panicle** A head of stalked flowers.

**Pinnate** Having leaflets in pairs on either side of a leaf stalk.

**Pollard** A tree cut 2-4m, so that it grows new limbs.

