

Welcome

We love the trees in Reigate Priory Park and the aim of the tree walk is to introduce you to some of our favourites and their stories. Look at what makes each tree different (leaves, bark, shape).

Repeat the walk in spring, summer, autumn and winter and you will really get to know the trees of Priory Park.

The familiar names for trees are their common names such as Oak, Beech and Ash. All trees have a botanical name which you will find in italics after the common name.

Directions

Enter the Arboretum section of the park from the Bell Street Car Park and you will find your first tree - an easy one to start with!

All the trees are numbered with small tags to help you identify them.

The Arboretum contains so many trees that we have just picked out a few of our favourites (1-10). You might like to come back with a book of trees and discover more another time.

Once you have found all the trees in the Arboretum head down the path towards the Pavilion to find your next one (11). Look out for the Lime Trees that you will see around the park. They are pleached/trained to cover the walkway by the children's playground and stand either side of the path down to the lake.

Lime trees are a favourite with bees who love their flowers and aphids who love their leaves. They are often seen in city centres because of their tolerance to pollution and pruning.

Reigate Priory Park

Tree Trail



PRIORY PARK

Reigate & Banstead
BOROUGH COUNCIL
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Heritage
LOTTERY FUNDED



PRIORY PARK

- 1 Common Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)**
With its bright red berries and famous evergreen leaves this tree is easy to spot •
- 2 Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra* var *maritima*)**
This species of Black pine can be distinguished from the native Scots Pine by the distinctive twist in its needles •
- 3 Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis* *Jacquemontii*)**
Has attractive bright white bark, dark green leaves and yellowy brown catkins in spring •
- 4 Cut Leaved Oak (*Quercus x rosacea* *Filicifolia*)**
There are only 26 of these unusual oaks growing in the UK. Look at their fern like leaves •
- 5 Blue Atlantic Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* *Glauca*)**
A beautiful conifer with striking blue foliage. Earl Somers who owned Reigate Priory planted the first one of these trees in the UK •
- 6 Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)**
Takes its name from its yellow flowers and leaves which appear tulip shaped •
- 7 Wingnut Tree (*Pterocarya fraxinifolia*)**
This very large tree is rarely seen in the UK. It has large catkins in the spring followed in July by 'winged nuts' •
- 8 Judas Tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*)**
Its name comes from links to one of the disciples in Christian history •
- 9 Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)**
Usually seen in the mangrove swamps of the Everglades. It is one of the few deciduous conifers found growing in Britain •

- 10 Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)**
The bark is grey-black and deeply furrowed, the nuts have a stronger taste than the common walnut •
- 11 Chestnut Leaved Oak (*Quercus castaneifolia*)**
These are a rare sight in Britain and are native to Iran. They were introduced to Britain in 1846 •
- 12 Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)**
These can grow to 21m high and have large leaves with pointed lobes •

- 13 Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)**
Arrived in Britain in the 17th Century. The name is said to derive from its use in treating respiratory diseases of horses •
- 14 English Oak (*Quercus robur*)**
Native to the UK Oaks can grow up to 40m high. Their leaves are easy to spot for their lobed shape. A mature oak like this one can absorb around 225 litres of water per day •
- 15 Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*)**
Is instantly recognised by its slender 'weeping' twigs. It was introduced into the UK in 1908 from Germany •



- 16 Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)**
Catkins are one of the first sources of pollen for bees and its wood is used to make electric guitars •
- 17 Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)**
The seeds of the Ash are often known as helicopter seeds as they fall. The park also boasts the second tallest Ash in the UK at 36m see if you can spot it further round the lake •
- 18 Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)**
This tropical looking tree thrives in any position. It is native to China and gets its name from its height •
- 19 Camperdown Elm (*Ulmus glabra* *Camperdownii*)**
Known for their dome shapes you will find two of these here in the hidden garden. They only grow to 2m high •
- 20 Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)**
Small decorative tree native to Japan, China and Korea •
- 21 Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)**
Easy to spot for their distinctive rounded leaves and smooth grey bark •
- 22 Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)**
Recognisable for its long shiny toothed leaves. It was introduced to the UK by the Romans •
- 23 Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)**
Our very own Champion tree being the tallest Hornbeam in the UK (31m) and earns a place in the Tree Register which records Notable and Ancient Trees in Britain and Ireland •
- 24 Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* *purpurea*)**
At its most attractive in spring when the new pinkish young leaves appear - as they mature they turn dark purple •
- 25 Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*)**
A native of Asia Minor and Syria. Introduced to the UK around 1645. They are closely related to Firs and share similar barrel shaped seed cones. Cedar wood is a natural repellent to moths •