

# Sunningdale Park Tree Trail

Sunningdale Park contains over 10,000 trees of various ages and species. This impressive diversity of both native and non-native trees is largely thanks to planting by successive estate managers since the 1700s, although some trees date back even further.



This circular tree trail has been designed to highlight a range of notable species around the park. Before the description of each tree on the next page is a What.3.Words app location giving you the position on the main path network from where you can see the trees described. Please note, the trees themselves are not physically labelled.

# Sunningdale Park Tree Trail

## 1 - False acacia

(*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

**W3W: afford.vouch.worker**

At the path junction is a false acacia, also known as black locust. Native to North America, this member of the pea family has deeply grooved bark, sharp spines and highly fragrant white flowers in early summer.

## 2 - Common lime

(*Tilia x europaea*)

**W3W: afford.vouch.worker**

Out in the large meadow opposite the false acacia is a magnificent common lime. A native hybrid of large-leaved and small-leaved limes, they are distinguished by heart-shaped leaves and sweet-smelling summer flowers that are loved by bees and other pollinators.

## 3 - Holly

(*Ilex aquifolium*)

**W3W: calms.prop.handle**

The woodland at Sunningdale Park has lots of holly trees but the ones on this corner are particularly large and impressive. One of the most easily recognisable British trees, hollies can adjust the spikiness of their leaves in response to nibbling animals such as deer. Thanks to its hard, heavy quality (it is so dense that it does not float), holly wood is often used to make walking sticks.

## 4 - Beech

(*Fagus sylvatica*)

**W3W: abode.alarm.splice**

Known as the queen of trees, majestic beech trees support a wide range of wildlife including orchids, fungi and a variety of moth species. Distinguished by their smooth, grey bark which often has eye-shaped markings, they produce spiky nuts, known as mast, that were once used to feed pigs. Beech wood is used to make furniture and was traditionally burnt to smoke herring.

## 5 - Scots pine

(*Pinus sylvestris*)

**W3W: noise.fork.lost**

On the corner you'll find one of the park's several Scots pines, the only native British pine species. Covered year-round in evergreen needle-like leaves, wind-pollinated flowers develop into pine cones which can be dried and used as kindling for fires. Pine needles have antiseptic qualities and are also high in vitamin C.

## 6 - Pedunculate oak

(*Quercus robur*)

**W3W: goal.flame.shaky**

Round the corner, at the top of the meadow, you will find a large oak tree, one of several in the park that are over 100 years old. Pedunculate (English) oaks support more species than any other native British tree, playing host to hundreds of insects, providing bats and birds with roosting points and supplying a range of mammals with a valuable food source.

## 7 - Turkey oak

(*Quercus cerris*)

**W3W: pest.flute.long**

At the top of the path leading up from the pond, you will find a Turkey oak, a non-native relative to the previous tree that was introduced to the UK in the 1700s. Distinguished by their hairy-looking buds and acorn cups along with orange fissures in their bark. Fast growing and drought tolerant but their wood is not as hard wearing as that of native oak species.

## 8 - Chilean pine

(*Araucaria araucana*)

**W3W: fakes.motor.covers**

Looking down into the meadow from the path, you will see the distinctive, spiky limbs of a Chilean pine, better known as the Monkey Puzzle. This species has been around for 200 million years, and similar to holly, its spine-like needles acted as protection from ancient grazing animals. Look out for its green and gold pine cones which take two to three years to ripen before releasing large seeds beloved by squirrels and jays.

## 9 - Sweet chestnut

(*Castanea sativa*)

**W3W: woof.orchestra.slug**

Next to the path in the north-west corner of the park sits a spectacular sweet chestnut thought to have been planted in the days of Henry VIII making it over 500 years old. Loved by the Romans and possibly introduced to the UK by them, the prickly husks of sweet chestnut give us a classic winter treat. Sweet chestnut wood is versatile and is often used to make fencing, including around the Sunningdale Park car park.

## 10 - Sycamore

(*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

**W3W: keep.canny.paying**

On the other side of the path to the sweet chestnut, you will find one of only a few sycamores in the park. Distinguished by their helicopter-like seeds and five-pointed leaves which are similar to other close relatives in the maple genus, they provide an important food source for several moth species. Sycamore wood is excellent for carving and in Wales it is used to make love spoons.

## 11 - Giant sequoia

(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)

**W3W: over.winner.wider**

Towering over most of the trees in Sunningdale Park are several giant sequoias, also known as giant redwoods, one can be seen to the left of the path here. Brought to the UK from the United States in the mid 1800s these mammoth trees were popular in Victorian gardens. They can live for over 3000 years and are excellent at storing carbon from the atmosphere.

## 12 - Aspen

(*Populus tremula*)

**W3W: joins.storms.combining**

Opposite the walled garden, to the right of the path lies a collection of aspen trees. Distinguished by their quaking, rippling leaves which sound like rushing water when the wind blows through them. In Greek mythology, a crown made of aspen leaves was said to give its wearer the power to visit and return from the Underworld safely.

## 13 - White poplar

(*Populus alba*)

**W3W: home.sunk.solar**

Round the corner, on the right hand side of the path leading up to the pond lies a grove of white poplar. Identifying features include, knobbly twigs, leaves with woolly white undersides and fluffy, cotton-like seeds from the female trees in late summer. The bark is used in medicine thanks to its antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties.

