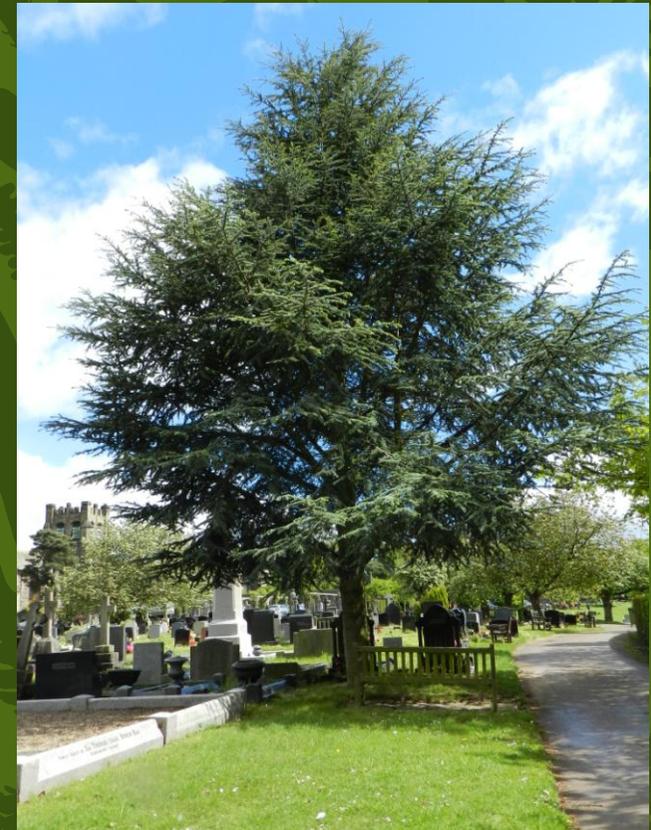


Tree Trail

Wilford Hill Cemetery



There are approximately 700 trees on Wilford Hill Cemetery.

This trail introduces a selection of some fascinating specimens to discover and enjoy.

Wilford Hill Cemetery was first opened in 1919 and the crematorium in 1931. The cemetery covers 19 hectares of land and is mostly surrounded by woodland to the south and agricultural land to the east. The cemetery lies 76 metres above sea level making it an ideal spot for panoramic views of the city and along the 'Trent Valley'.



'This English yew-tree is easily produc'd of the seeds, wash'd and cleans'd from their mucilage, then buried and dry'd in sand a little moist, any time in December'
- John Evelyn (1664).



The trail starts at the main gates next to the main office, then bears right and weaves around most of the cemetery in an anti-clockwise direction.

It passes by features such as the Cooperative Bakery Memorial, Birkin Memorial and the War Memorial.

The route leads through the 'Garden of Rest' and the 'Woodland Walk' and past the crematorium, and concludes at the entrance to the outside car park on Loughborough Road.

For more information on this and other tree trails, please contact Nottingham City Council's Parks and Open Spaces
Service on: 0115 915 2733 or email;
parksandopenspaces@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

1. Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*)

Introduced to Britain from the western Himalayas in 1831 and widely planted in parks and gardens where it can form a stately tree. This broad, conical evergreen is easily identified by its drooping foliage. It produces pleasantly fragrant, timber. These may date from the early 20th century.

2. Purple-leaved Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Pissardii')

This variant of the green-leaved Cherry Plum or Myrobalan Plum was introduced from Iran around 1880. The first tree to flower here from late February, it has pretty white blossom soon followed by the dark foliage.

3. Irish Yew (*Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata')

Differing from the Common Yew by having a more columnar, upright form, all the plants of this form derive from one survivor of two original trees found in County Fermanagh, N. Ireland around 1780.

4. Common Yew (*Taxus baccata*)

The Yew tree is native to Britain and some specimens elsewhere are over 2000 years old. Leaves are poisonous as are the seeds of the berry-like fruit, though it does have some medicinal properties. It is also a favourite wood for medieval longbows. Topiary cones are common here.

5. Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)

Widespread in Continental Europe and first recorded as growing in Britain in Scotland in 1683. The ridged bark and the leaves' pointed lobes help to distinguish it from the Sycamore. Flowers are a useful source of food for bees in spring. Most trees here are purple-leaved varieties.

6. False Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

Introduced from N. America in the early 17th century and also known as the Black Locust, this is a fast-growing deciduous tree that produces fragrant flowers and attractive foliage. It can grow to a height of around 25m. The hard, durable wood is ideal for fencing and shipbuilding.

7. Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) *

This fine old tree is most beautiful in spring with masses of white blossom followed by edible fruits in mid-summer. Natural regeneration is abundant from fallen and bird-dispersed seed as well as from root suckers.

8. Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)

One of the most recognisable native trees in Britain. The striking white bark peels readily and has historically been used as a writing material. In early spring the sap can be collected to make Birch Sap Wine.

9. Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*)

A shrub of ancient hedgerows and woodland edges. In May, it bursts into life and erupts with masses of white blossom. During the autumn and winter, red fruits known as 'haws' appear. It is a rich habitat for all kinds of wildlife. Double-flowered varieties such as this 'Plena' also occur here.

10. Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* Glauca Group)

From the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, the species was introduced to Britain around 1840. This more commonly grown natural variant with bluish colouration is especially tough and tolerates poor conditions. Young trees like this one eventually grow very tall and broad.

11. Blue Colorado Spruce (*Picea pungens* Glauca Group)

This species was first introduced to Britain from the eastern range of the Rocky Mountains in the USA around 1862 but is now largely replaced by a more colourful range of natural variants. It is aptly named for the hard and sharp (pungent) points to the 4-sided needles.

12. Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

Known only as an extinct, fossil tree until its discovery in 1941, this species first came to Britain as seed from south-eastern China in 1948. It is a deciduous conifer growing to a height of 35m and turning golden before the leaves fall in autumn. The reddish bark is an added attraction.

13. Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *nigra*)

Also known as a Black Pine, introduced here in 1835. The trunk typically grows in a non-vertical fashion and the grey-brown cones can grow to 8cm. The related Corsican Pine is grown for timber in forestry plantations.

14. Dwarf Mountain Pine (*Pinus mugo* subsp. *mugo*)

A small, slow-growing, evergreen tree that is native to high altitudes of SE Europe. It was introduced into Britain in 1774. The wind-pollinated female flowers produce nut-brown cones that can be up to 2cm long.

15. Paper-bark Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Also known as the Canoe Birch because the bark was traditionally used by Canadian Indians to make their canoes. It was introduced into the UK around 1750. It is a medium-sized deciduous tree reaching around 20m. The bark is white, flaking in paper-like strips.

16. Japanese Flowering Cherry (*Prunus* 'Shirofugen')

The very last of the Japanese Flowering Cherry varieties to blossom in spring, this is just one of a good collection of these outstanding ornamental trees at Wilford Hill. Other colourful tree-size varieties to be seen here, with masses of white or pink flowers, include, in order of their flowering period, 'Shirotae', 'Tai-haku', 'Ichiyo', 'Kanzan' and 'Shogetsu'.

17. Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

It was introduced to Britain in 1656 from North America. This medium to large deciduous tree reaches heights of over 20m. It is called Red Maple for its red buds, flowers, fruits, and brilliant autumn foliage.

18. Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*)

This tree is native to southern Europe and was introduced to Britain around 1735. It is fast-growing and can reach 35m. Also called the 'Mossy Cup Oak' due to the appearance of shaggy growths on the acorn's cup.

19. Common Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)

A deciduous broadleaf tree that is native to the south of the UK. The name hornbeam derives from the hardness of its timber. The bark is smooth and the leaves turn golden yellow/orange during the autumn.

20. Lucombe Oak (*Quercus x hispanica* 'Lucombeana') *

A cross between Turkey Oak and Cork Oak, this odd hybrid originated in Devon in the 1760s and was named after the Lucombe nursery. It is a tall, wide, semi-evergreen tree, losing more leaves in harsher winters. It produces green flowers in late spring and the trunk has a corky bark.

21. Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)

This tree is native to southern Europe, western Asia and North Africa. It is thought to have been introduced to Britain by the Romans. Female flowers develop into spiny green fruits that split in autumn to release up to 3 edible chestnuts. It is also widely grown for its useful timber.

22. Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*)

This native species was once dominant throughout much of lowland Britain. It has sweet-smelling summer flowers that attract lots of insects looking for nectar. It produces large, winged fruits which are dispersed by the wind. Its wood properties make it one of the best for carving.

23. Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) *

Our native pine, it can grow to 36m. It has short, bluish needles in pairs with distinctively orange bark towards the crown. It is one of the stronger softwoods. Now it is naturally confined to the Caledonian forest, Scotland. This particular splendid tree could well be over a century old.

24. Schmitt's Cherry (*Prunus x schmittii*)

A tall, fast-growing, hybrid cherry that produces pale pink, five-petalled, erect, star-shaped flowers from April to May. It is most remarkable for its polished, red-brown bark that improves with every passing year.

25. Yoshino Cherry (*Prunus x yedoensis*)

Also known as the Tokyo Cherry, this hybrid is highly regarded and widely planted in its homeland of Japan, and around the world. It has grey-brown to dark-brown bark. The flowers wreath the bare branches in early spring, palest pink and developing mauve centres as they age.

26. Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

The well-known 'conker' tree, introduced from the Balkans in the 1600s, is mainly represented here by its sterile, double-flowered variety 'Baumannii', first found in a garden in Geneva around 1820. There is also an avenue of the hybrid Red Horse Chestnut, *Aesculus x carnea*.

27. Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)

This was the last tree species to colonise Britain after the last Ice Age. It is native to southern England and can grow to a height of 40m. Beech nuts are called mast and are contained within a 4-lobed prickly case. Both the Common and the Purple Beech are here in the cemetery.

28. Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

It was introduced to Britain in 1724 from North America. Used for timber and as an ornamental tree. Conspicuous for its very large leaves, the bark is a smooth grey, similar to the Common Beech. Autumn colour in our climate is often a disappointing coffee-brown rather than a true red.

29. Golden Weeping Willow (*Salix x sepulcralis* var. *chrysocoma*)

This is a hybrid of Chinese Weeping Willow and a Golden Willow. It has long, straight, hanging shoots which are green, then (in sun) greyish gold for many years. It looks best beside water but does well in dry soils too.

30. Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

Originally it is native to northwest America, and was introduced into Britain in the mid-1800s. Often confused with Lawson Cypress, it differs in shiny, flat foliage and produces a sweet, aromatic, pineapple scent.

31. Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)

This is native to Oregon and California and was first introduced into the UK by Lawson's Nurseries, Edinburgh, around the mid-1800s. The bright pink male flowers adorn the ends of every shoot in spring and shed pollen in April before falling. Crushed foliage smells of parsley.

32. Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus* 'Watereri')

It is a species native to northern Britain. This most commonly grown variety was raised in Surrey in 1914 and can reach 25m. The crown has an untidy appearance. The long white flower stalks developing in late spring can measure up to 25cm long. Ripe black cherries are bitter to our taste but are especially liked by birds, so soon disappear.

* indicates particularly noteworthy specimens

Acknowledgements: Graham Pearce.