

How to find the Tree Trail

The Peasholm Glen Tree Trail lies in Scarborough's Peasholm Park, a very popular spot for visitors. With its boating lake, cafés, occasional concerts and famous sea and air battle re-enactments, there is plenty to enjoy in the park before or after you take the Tree Trail itself.



Scarborough Tourist Information Centres

Brunswick Shopping Centre

Westborough
Scarborough
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Tel: 01723 383636

Email: TourismBureau@scarborough.gov.uk

Web: www.discoveryyorkshirecoast.com

Harbourside Tourist Information Centre

Sandside
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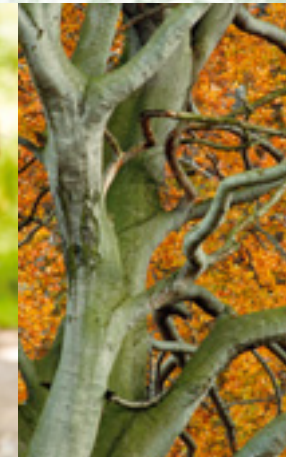
Great trees in Scarborough

If you have enjoyed the Peasholm Glen Tree Trail, you may like to visit Manor Road and Dean Road Cemetery at the top of the Glen. There are many great and interesting trees here, including another Champion Tree – the widest Swedish Whitebeam *Sorbus intermedia* in the country. Scarborough's other parks and gardens, such as South Cliff, Woodlands Ravine and Valley Gardens, also host a rich heritage of trees for you to explore.



A Treasure Trove of Trees

Your Guide to the Peasholm Glen Tree Trail



Welcome to the Peasholm Glen Tree Trail

'One of the richest and most diverse tree populations of any English town'. That's how a tree expert from the National Tree Register described Scarborough's unique collection of trees, many of which are to be found in Peasholm Glen, part of Scarborough's famous Peasholm Park.

All of the trees here are special in their own way, but 29 of them are very special indeed – and these are the ones you'll find numbered as you explore the delights of the Tree Trail.

You'll discover species from China and America, from Japan and Iran and from Europe as well as not one, but two examples of a tree once thought to be extinct – Dickson's Golden Elm. And there are no fewer than five Champion Trees – the largest or tallest examples of their kind in Britain, and

worthy of inclusion in the National Tree Register (www.tree-register.org).

The rare and the exotic, the beautiful and the slightly bizarre (the wing-nut, the handkerchief, and the cucumber tree are all to be found here) lie waiting for you in this unique collection, testament to the unflinching care of generations of Parks Superintendents.

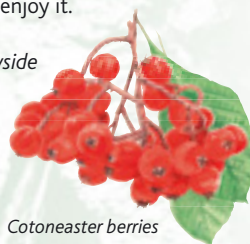
The Tree Trail takes around an hour to complete and is wheelchair-friendly, although some sections of the path are steep. The path hugs the stream, with its pretty cascades, and ends as you pass under the

impressive Glen Bridge to arrive at the Lily Pond. Whatever the season, there is always plenty to see. From the fresh, vibrant colours of spring foliage and flowers through to the full leaf of summer, from the glorious shades of autumn to the delicate tracery of winter branches, the Glen is ever-changing.

Trees are the oldest living organisms on earth. The oldest known are the Bristlecone pines of California at 4,500 years old, and there are some yew trees in Britain that may be a similar age. There are around 80,000 different species of tree worldwide, from the small arctic willows a couple of inches tall to the giant redwoods of California, over 300ft high. They are vital for producing oxygen and regulating the world's climate – the trees in Peasholm Park and Glen produce enough oxygen for nearly 500 people. They are also an important part of the landscape in both towns and countryside – imagine the park with no trees!

Peasholm Glen is a haven for an irreplaceable treasure trove of magnificent specimens. The people of Scarborough are privileged to be the custodians of this very special place – and its thousands of visitors are also privileged to be able to enjoy it.

To contact Parks and Countryside Services during office hours please call 01723 374079. Out of hours call the Park Rangers on 07967 465290. www.scarborough.gov.uk



Cotoneaster berries



The Tulip Tree



Flower and leaf



Flower bud



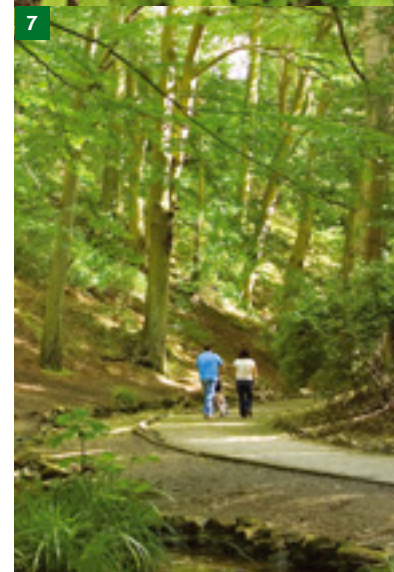
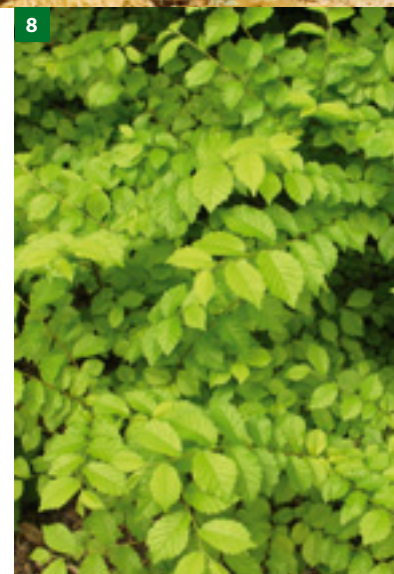
Seed

Please help us to care for this special place

- Take your litter home or use the bins provided
- Keep dogs on leads and please clean up after them
- Do not disturb the wildlife
- Do not feed bread to the ducks – it is not good for their health

Would you like to join the Peasholm Park Friends?

New members are always welcome – for more membership information and further details about the Tree Trail, visit www.peasholmpark.com



- 1 The London Plane
- 2 Speckled Wood butterfly
- 3 The Black Italian Poplar
- 4 The Variegated Beech
- 5 The Nootka Cypress
- 6 The bark of the Black Italian Poplar
- 7 Peasholm Glen in summer
- 8 Dickson's Golden Elm

THE TREE TRAIL

The trail starts at the interpretation panel at the top of the small ponds above the lake. Simply follow the numbered posts from 1 to 29.

● 1 Red Oak *Quercus rubra*

Found in Eastern North America

Named because of its spectacular autumn colour, especially when grown on acid soils. Its seeds were once part of the staple diet of some Native American peoples. There are around 600 species of oak in the world, widely distributed throughout the northern hemisphere, including two species native to Britain. The common oak, *Quercus robur*, is particularly important for wildlife; 284 species of insect have been recorded living on it, compared to 15 on the introduced sycamore.



● 2 Cappadocian Maple *Acer cappadocicum*

Caucasus mountains and West Asia to the Himalayas

This large tree has leaves which emerge red in spring, turn bright green in summer, finally becoming butter-yellow in autumn. Introduced to Britain in 1838, there are several Cappadocian maples in Peasholm Glen. The tree has a sticky, milky white sap.

● 3 Ash *Fraxinus* (unknown species)

Widely distributed across the temperate world

There are around 65 species of ash and the identity of this tree is as yet unknown. Ashes are very hardy trees, thriving in exposed and polluted environments, in almost any soil. They have pinnate leaves (several leaflets arranged on either side of a central stalk) and are often the last to leaf in spring and the first to fall in autumn. Their timber is very strong and durable, often used for tool handles, hockey sticks and ladders.

● 4 Black Mulberry *Morus nigra*

Found in West Asia

A very long lived tree – gnarled and leaning old trees can often be found in parks and historic gardens. It produces edible and tasty fruits in summer that look like raspberries. In 1608 King James I declared that 'every Englishman should cultivate a mulberry tree', with the aim of establishing a British silk industry. However, instead of planting the white mulberry *Morus alba* that silk worms feed on, most people planted the black mulberry. Some of these trees still survive today.

● 5 Chusan Palm *Trachycarpus fortunei*

Found in Central China

One of the few palms reliably hardy in this country, it is also known as the Chinese windmill palm. The trunk is covered with fibres, hairs and the stalks of old leaves, previously shed. There are nearly 3,000 species of palm in the world, all of which are monocotyledons, meaning they have a single leaf emerging from the seed, unlike most plants we grow that emerge with two leaves (dicotyledon).



Cross the bridge and the Arolla Pine is on your left – turn right to continue on the trail.

● 6 Arolla Pine *Pinus cembra*

Found in the mountains of Central Europe and North Asia

This tree has a strict formal shape and is very slow growing. Unlike most conifers, the cones rarely open on the tree to release the seeds. The cones either rot or the seeds are released by birds and squirrels breaking them open.

● 7 London Plane *Platanus x hispanica*

A hybrid of the Buttonwood from North America and the Oriental Plane from South East Europe, first recorded around 1663. This is a large and majestic tree which is common in parks, streets and cities thanks to its tolerance of atmospheric pollution. The bark flakes off creating attractive patterns and the round fruits hang from the tree like bristly Christmas baubles.

● 8 Cucumber Tree *Magnolia acuminata*

Found in Eastern United States and South East Canada

The tree gets its name from the unusual cucumber-shaped fruits. Its flowers are similar to its distant cousin, the tulip tree (tree 19 on the Tree Trail). It is sometimes called the mountain magnolia, because in America it grows at altitudes of up to 4,000ft, higher than any mountain in England.

Tree Key

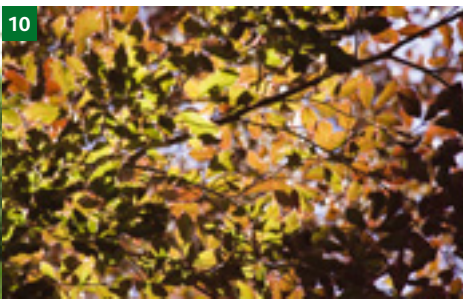
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|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Red Oak | 16 Black Italian Poplar |
| 2 Cappadocian Maple | 17 Honey Locust |
| 3 Ash | 18 Eastern Hornbeam |
| 4 Black Mulberry | 19 Tulip Tree |
| 5 Chusan Palm | 20 Amur Cork Tree |
| 6 Arolla Pine | 21 New Year's Green |
| 7 London Plane | 22 Tree of Heaven |
| 8 Cucumber Tree | 23 Oriental Thorn |
| 9 False Acacia | 24 Variegated Beech |
| 10 Hairy Birch | 25 Cotoneaster |
| 11 Cotoneaster | 26 Nootka Cypress |
| 12 Caucasian Alder | 27 Chusan Palm |
| 13 Perry's Holly | 28 Handkerchief Tree |
| 14 Caucasian Wing-nut | 29 Dickson's Golden Elm |
| 15 Gutta-percha Tree | ● Champion Tree |



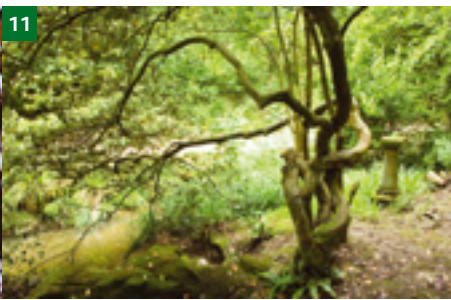
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10



11



● **9 False Acacia** *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Found in Eastern United States

A tree belonging to the pea family, the false acacia is very tolerant of pollution and hot, dry conditions. It was one of the first American trees to reach Europe, introduced to France in 1601, and is now widely naturalised across Europe. This tree was planted as part of the Tree Trail project to replace the original tree that was felled for safety reasons. As the tree matures, the bark develops deep ridges and furrows and the tree forms an attractive irregular shape.

● **10 Hairy Birch** *Betula pubescens*

Found in Europe and North Asia

One of our two native birches, the hairy birch thrives in a wide variety of conditions, particularly damp soils, and has a less weeping shape than the silver birch. The birches are pioneer trees, the first species to colonise new land. They are very hardy and grow as far north as the Arctic. This tree contains what look like large birds' nests in the branches. These are in fact dense bunches of short twiggy growth caused by the fungus *Taphrina betulina*, and are commonly called 'Witches' Brooms'.

When you reach the fork in the path, take the right-hand path for a very short detour to view trees 11, 12 and 13.

● **11 Cotoneaster** *Cotoneaster lacteus*

Found in China

A common garden shrub, this cotoneaster has grown to the proportions of a tree, though not as large as another specimen further along the Tree Trail. In autumn, it bears small red berries that usually last until after Christmas.

● **12 Caucasian Alder** *Champion Tree* *Alnus subcordata*

Found in Caucasus and North Iran

The alders are related to birches and are particularly fond of damp situations. Introduced into Britain in 1838, the Caucasian alder has particularly interesting bark and bright green heart-shaped leaves.

'Superb domed tree. Biggest and finest example discovered. Rare.' (Dr Owen Johnson, *The Tree Register* 2004)

● **13 Perny's Holly** *Ilex pernyi*

Found in Central and Western China

A holly with a spiny leaf of an unusual shape compared to the common holly, but similar bright red berries. It is named after French missionary, Paul Perny, who discovered the tree in 1858. Hollies are dioecious, meaning each plant is either male or female.

Retrace your steps to the fork and continue on the main path up the Glen.

● **14 Caucasian Wing-nut** *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*

Found in Caucasus and North Iran

A member of the walnut family, the Latin name *fraxinifolia* means 'leaves like an ash tree'. The common name refers to the winged nuts that hang in ribbons up to 50cm long. The tree readily produces suckers from its roots, which are the young trees you can see around the base of the tree. The wing-nut is monoecious, meaning both the male and female flowers are on the same plant.

At the next fork in the path, keep to the right, up a slight rise.

● **15 Gutta-percha Tree** *Eucommia ulmoides*

Never found growing in the wild but long cultivated in China for use in herbal medicine.

This is the only hardy tree known to produce rubber; it contains latex in the leaves and bark. It is a monotypic genus and the only member of the family *Eucommiaceae*, although it is believed to be related to the elms, hence '*ulmoides*'.

● **16 Black Italian Poplar** *Champion Tree*

Populus x canadensis 'Serotina'

A hybrid of the American cottonwood and European black poplar, thought to have originated in France in the 18th century, the cultivar 'Serotina' is a particularly vigorous variety

At approximately 120ft tall, this is thought to be the tallest tree in the whole Borough. It is certainly the tallest example of a Black Italian Poplar in Britain and is therefore a Champion Tree. The Poplars are some of the fastest growing trees and the light wood is often used for making matches.

'Huge tree. The tallest example at 120ft.' (Dr Owen Johnson, *The Tree Register* 2004)

● **17 Honey Locust** *Gleditsia triacanthos*

Found in Central and Eastern United States

This tree has attractive and delicate leaves, but its branches are armed with fierce spikes. The name '*triacanthos*' means 'three-thorned'. It is sometimes called the sweet locust because of the sweet edible flesh that surrounds the seeds, which are contained in dark brown pods that hang from the tree in late summer.

● **18 Eastern Hornbeam** *Carpinus orientalis*

Found in South East Europe, South West Asia and Caucasus

A dense, small tree that enjoys hot and dry environments, it was common on the battlefields of the Crimean war. Hornbeam has extremely hard, white, close-grained wood, good for firewood, cogwheels and butchers' chopping blocks. In autumn, the nuts are attractive to birds.

● **19 Tulip Tree** *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Found in Eastern North America

This is one of the largest and fastest growing of all deciduous trees, with unusually shaped leaves that turn a lovely butter-yellow in autumn. The tree belongs to the magnolia family and the yellow-green tulip shaped flowers appear in summer, but usually at the top of the tree out of sight. Although native to North America, fossil records show it grew in Europe before the last Ice Age.

● **20 Amur Cork Tree** *Phellodendron amurense*

Found in North East Asia

This tree earns its name from the corky bark on older trees. It has bright green pinnate leaves up to 30cm long. The wood is heavy, hard, strong and close-grained, so it is useful for furniture making. The tree belongs to the *Rutaceae* family, which also contains citrus fruit and the herb, rue.

● **21 New Year's Green** *Daphniphyllum macropodum*

Found in China and Japan

An evergreen shrub or small tree it has rhododendron-like leaves but much more inconspicuous, pungent smelling flowers. The wood is good for turning and carving and is red in colour. In Japan, it is used as an ornament for the New Year to celebrate the good relationship of the old and new generations. The Japanese name for the tree, yuzuri-ha, means 'old leaf replaced by a new leaf in the succeeding season'.

● **22 Tree of Heaven** *Ailanthus altissima*

Found in Northern China

Large and fast-growing tree, called the 'sky scraping tree' in China. It is often seen in towns and cities, as it is tolerant of atmospheric pollution and adaptable to many conditions. Produces suckers, often some distance from the trunk, which can cause problems in streets. The male tree produces foul smelling flowers that can cause nausea and headaches.

● **23 Oriental Thorn** *Crataegus laciniata*

Found in South West Asia

An Oriental relative of our native hawthorn introduced to Western Europe in 1810. It has spectacular white flowers in early summer, followed by large red berries, or haws, in autumn. Unlike many hawthorns it very rarely has thorns. Hawthorns belong to the *Rosaceae* family, one of the most commonly grown plant families containing, amongst others, roses, cherries, apples, and cotoneaster. They are some of the toughest and most hardy trees.

● **24 Variegated Beech** *Fagus sylvatica* 'Tricolor'

One of many cultivars of the native beech tree, it forms a large and noble tree often growing to a great size and age. This variety has leaves of green, pink, purple and cream, seen at their best in spring and early summer. The name beech comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'bec', which gave rise to the word book, because early European manuscripts were written on tablets of beech wood.

● **25 Cotoneaster** *Champion Tree* *Cotoneaster lacteus*

This example is even larger than the cotoneaster earlier on the Tree Trail and takes the claim of Britain's Champion Tree for this species. *'The most tree-like example found for a Cotoneaster species.'* (Dr Owen Johnson, *The Tree Register* 2004)

At this point, keep on the main path and marvel as you pass beneath the impressive Glen Bridge – one of the first single-span, pre-stressed concrete bridges in Britain.

● **26 Nootka Cypress** *Champion Tree*

Chamaecyparis nootkatensis 'Glauca'

Found in Western North America

Large conical tree with attractive drooping branches with an upward sweep towards the tip. The nootka cypress is the male parent of the much maligned leylandii. The female parent is the Monterey cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa*, a tree common in Peasholm Glen.

'Distinctly blue. The tallest and very rare.' (Dr Owen Johnson, *The Tree Register* 2004)

● **27 Chusan Palm** *Trachycarpus fortunei*

See tree number 5.

● **28 Handkerchief Tree** *Davidia involucrata* var. *vilmoriniana*

Found in Central and West China

One of the most spectacular trees in the Glen when in flower, this tree gets its name from the white flower bracts (modified leaves that look like flower petals) that hang from the tree in early summer. It is also known as the dove tree or ghost tree. Like the gutta-percha tree, there is only one species of *Davidia* in the whole family *Davidiaceae*.

● **29 Dickson's Golden Elm** *Champion Tree*

Ulmus minor 'Dicksonii'

A variety of the field elm, a tree common across Europe, North Africa and South West Asia

Slow growing with bright golden-yellow leaves, this tree was thought to be extinct until re-discovered here in 2004. The Tree Trail project aims to propagate these trees and re-distribute them around the country, including to the original Dickson's nursery in Chester. Elms were common across Britain until Dutch Elm Disease swept across the country in the 1970s. The disease is caused by a fungus that is carried by elm barkbeetles and blocks the vessels in the trunk that carry water from the roots. Its name merely refers to the early research work carried out in Holland; it did not originate there. *'... believed to have become extinct with the last-known tree dying of Dutch Elm Disease a few years ago.'* (Dr Owen Johnson, *The Tree Register* 2004)

The Lily Pond marks the end of the Tree Trail. You may like to extend your walk by visiting Manor Road and Dean Road Cemetery at the top of the Glen.

12



13



14



15



- 9 A guided walk along the Tree Trail
- 10 Variegated Beech
- 11 Cotoneaster
- 12 Nuthatch
- 13 Red Oak
- 14 Common Beech
- 15 Cascades on the stream