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.

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.
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 unfailing 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.

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

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

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. Pears in winter
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*
   Found in Central Asia
   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).

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.
11 Cotonerote Cotonerote laxteus

Found in China

A common garden shrub, this cotonerote 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. ‘Spunch domestica tree. Biggest and finest example discovered. Rare’. (Dr Owen Johnson, The Tree Register 2004)

13 Perry’s Holly Ilex perryi

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 Perry, 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.