



**DARLEY
PARK**

TREE TRAIL

 inderby.org.uk/parks  



Derby City Council



DARLEY PARK



Darley Park now occupies the site of an Augustinian priory established in 1137 and dedicated to St Helena. The land was bought by the Evans', a family of local mill owners, in the early 1800s, where they built a large red brick mansion (demolished in 1962).

The grounds were originally laid out in a parkland style with areas of woodland, avenues, shrubberies and formal gardens. Some of the naturally growing native trees* such as oak, elm and beech were probably retained and incorporated into the Evans' new landscape.

(*Native trees are those species that grow naturally without man's intervention. In Britain, this occurred as trees spread from the continent of Europe at the end of the last ice age.)

The Victorians were great collectors of trees and the Evans' were no exception. Darley Park now contains a wide variety of trees and shrubs from all over the world. Some trees possibly pre date the Evans' landscaping and some have been planted since the park was owned and managed by Derby City Council.

The land was eventually donated to the Derby Corporation, and the Duke of Kent officially opened the park in June 1931, planting a cedar tree to commemorate the event (tree 14).

The numbered posts along the tree trail match the numbers in this leaflet; the trail is approximately 1km (0.62 miles) and should take about an hour.

The hard surfaced paths are suitable for independent wheelchair users, but the area through the woodland is not.



1 Walnut

Juglans regia

A tree from sunnier climates - the walnut is native to southern Europe and was likely brought to the UK by the Romans. This specimen is over 100 years old. In autumn the nuts can be seen with their green husks, but most are taken by the local squirrels.



2 Sessile Oak

Quercus petraea

The UK has two species of native oak, the sessile and pedunculate. The sessile oak does not have a stalk on the acorn and is naturally found in more mountainous area of the UK. It tends to be a taller, statelier tree than the squat, spreading pedunculate oak.

3 Deodar Cedar

Cedrus deodara

Is native to the western Himalayas where it can grow to over 70m. It was introduced to Britain in 1831. The foliage, timber and cones are all strongly aromatic - a feature that was used by cabinetmakers to deter clothes moths. The tips of the branches droop, which distinguishes it from the better known Cedar of Lebanon.

4 Turner's Oak

Quercus x turneri 'Pseudoturneri'

This interesting tree is a hybrid between the common oak and the holm oak. It is semi-evergreen, and was raised in a nursery in Essex by Mr Turner in the 1780's.

5 Paperbark Maple

Acer griseum

This is probably the best tree for any small garden as it has all year round attraction. Its beautiful papery bark is very tactile, the leaves are delicate in the summer and the autumn colours are superb. The only drawback is its slow growth taking 10 years or more to grow to 2 meters. It is native to China and was introduced to the UK in 1901.

6 Ornamental Sycamore

Acer pseudoplatanus

The common sycamore is often unpopular with gardeners due to its winged seeds which freely sprout all over the garden. This form of sycamore has bright pink leaves that appear almost white in the spring. The sycamore in Darley Park is a particularly good example of the variety, being almost triangular in shape.



7 Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum

These well-known garden trees with their palm shaped leaves will thrive in a lightly shaded position where they are sheltered from cold wind and frost. The autumn colours are yellow, red, and crimson.



8 Black Mulberry

Morus nigra

This small tree is often considered a 'bush' - hence the famous children's song. However, it is definitely a tree as it has a single stem at ground level. The fruits are delicious when found in the early autumn, but beware as they can stain clothes and skin! The leaves of the Mulberry are the staple diet of silkworms.



9 Maidenhair Tree

Ginkgo biloba 'Fastigiata'

Native to China, this tree has been found in fossils dating back 270 million years. It was introduced to the UK in the 1750's and one planted at Kew Gardens in 1762 is still growing healthily. Trees are either male or female - the female has strong smelling fruit so is less widely grown. This specimen has a columnar, upright habit.



10 Hinoki Cypress

Chamaecyparis obtusa

This tree is native to Japan and was introduced into Britain in 1861. It is an important timber tree in its home country. This example is a slow growing, bushier form.

11 Western Hemlock

Tsuga heterophylla

A native of the Pacific coast of America growing from California to Alaska, in Britain it grows fast and so is used as a timber tree in the wetter west. It was introduced to Britain in 1851 and already there are trees over 50 meters tall. It is an elegant tree with a drooping tip and white bands on the underside of the needles.

View Point 1

Narrow-leaved ash and Park View

Here you can see the view point from the now demolished Darley Hall, which looks over the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site. The landscape characteristics of Darley Park can be dated back to 1709, when the estate was purchased by William Woolley. There is a conservation management plan for Darley Park which can be found on the Derby Parks website. The 20th century addition in the foreground of your view is a Weeping Narrow-Leafed Ash. Popular with children and adults alike, its distinctive form creates an igloo shape, providing play, shelter and a hiding place.

12 Cappadocian Maple

Acer cappadocicum

The maple originates from central Asia through to the Himalayas. It suckers rather profusely and so is best grown in a lawn where the suckers can be regularly mown off. It is a common tree in Derby being planted in many streets, parks and gardens. Its main feature is the butter yellow autumn colour.



13 Copper Beech

Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'

The purple leaves of this large stately tree are a common sight in large gardens throughout Britain. The tree is usually grafted and the union between rootstock and scion can often be seen even in maturity.

14 Blue Atlas Cedar

Cedrus atlantica var. *glauca*

This tree is native to the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and Algeria. The blue form is more common than the true form and its blue green needles are a common sight everywhere from large parks to small suburban gardens. Unfortunately, they tend to be rather fragile and branches can be easily blown off in exposed conditions. This particular tree was planted by Prince George, the Duke of Kent, in 1931 and photographs of the occasion can be found at the Darley Park Drive Entrance.

15 Dawn Redwood

Metasequoia glyptostroboides

This coniferous tree is deciduous, turning brick red in autumn. It is from China, and in the west was thought extinct, being known only from fossil record, until a tree was found in central China in 1941. Seed arrived in the UK in 1948 and already trees are over 30 metres tall. It is very vigorous when grown in damp soil and can be distinguished from the swamp cypress (a deciduous conifer from the USA) by having the leaves held opposite each other on the twig.

16 Purple Norway Maple

Acer platanoides 'Schwedleri'

This is a purple leaved form of the Norway maple which is native to central and northern Europe. This specimen is the largest in the UK and after holding its copper coloured leaves all summer briefly turns orange and gold in autumn.

17 Fernleaf Beech

Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'

This, like the copper beech, is a cultivated form of the native beech; both trees are usually propagated by grafting. It has deeply cut leaves that almost look like oak. Occasional branches have normal beech leaves.

18 Scots Pine

Pinus sylvestris

Mature trees grow to 35m and can live for up to 700 years. The bark is a scaly orange-brown, which develops plates and fissures with age, and the twigs are green-brown and hairless. The needle-like leaves are blue-green and slightly twisted, and grow in pairs on short side shoots. Scots pine is monoecious, meaning both male and female flowers grow on the same tree. Male flowers comprise clusters of yellow anthers at the base of shoots. Female flowers are small, red-purple and globular, and grow at the tips of new shoots.



19 Wollemi Pine

Wollemia nobilis

This pine was only known through fossil records until the Australian species *Wollemia nobilis* was discovered in 1994. The Wollemi pine is classified as critically endangered, and is legally protected in Australia. *Wollemia nobilis* is an evergreen tree reaching 25-40m tall. The bark is very distinctive, dark brown and knobby, quoted as resembling Coco Pops breakfast cereal. The tree coppices readily, and most specimens are multiple-trunked or appear as clumps of trunks thought to derive from old coppice growth, with some consisting of up to 100 stems of differing sizes.

20 Liquid Amber

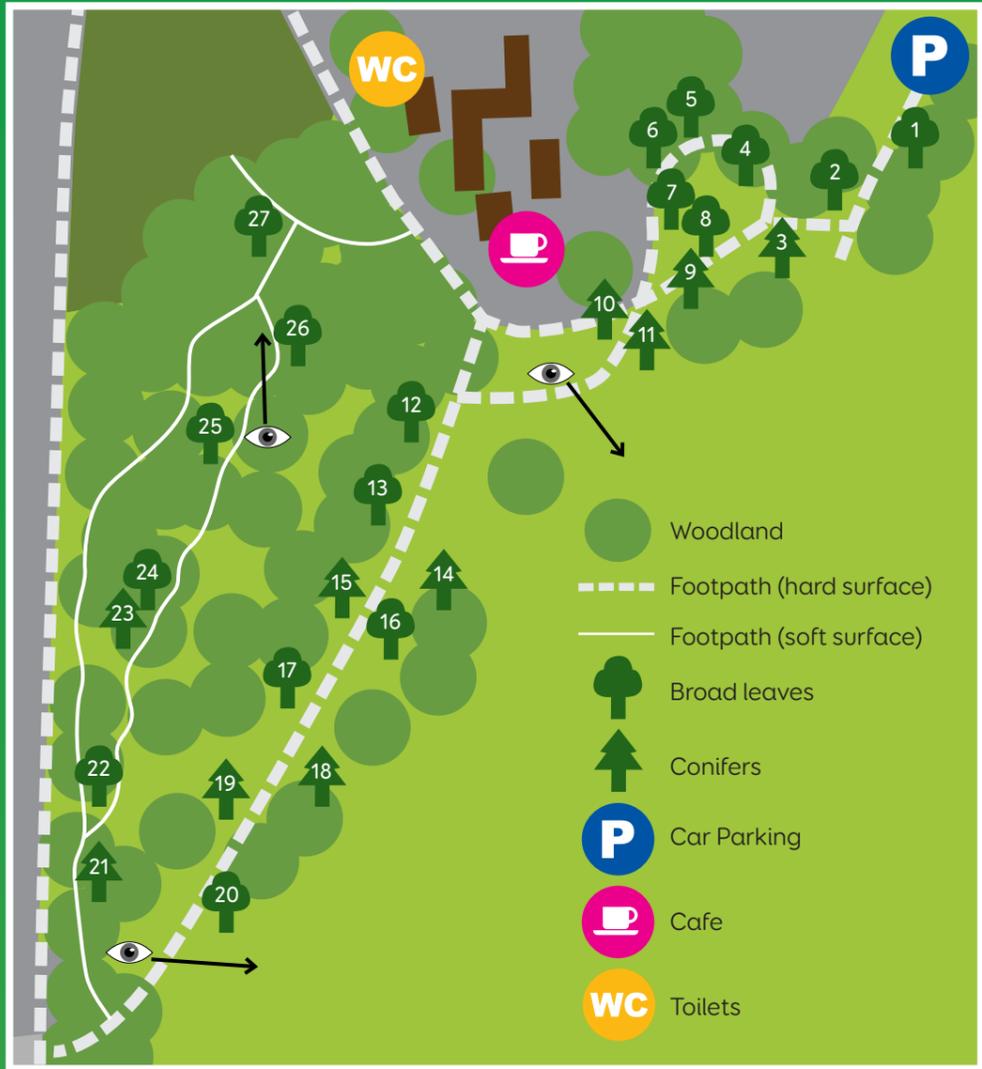
Liquidambar styraciflua

The liquid amber tree is a highly appreciated ornamental cultivar, characterized by attractive fall foliage, sweet sap, and prickly seedpods. It can be included as a specimen tree or in a garden border to protect your privacy. As the name signifies, liquid amber is remarkable for its sweet tasting resinous sap. Hence, it is also commonly known as American sweet gum tree. Its leaves are very similar to maple leaves, in terms of their shape and autumn foliage colour, and both these trees are adapted to similar growing conditions. These often confuse homeowners while including landscaping trees in the garden.

View Point 2

Looking in from Darley Park Drive

Here you can see the perfectly formed natural amphitheatre of Darley Park. The spectacular oak trees throughout the park are a classic design feature of an 18th century landscape providing points of reference and framing views. The decorative balustrade is the outfall of a section of Markeaton Brook which is culverted from Markeaton Park underneath the suburban estate of Darley Abbey.



21 Giant Redwood or Wellingtonia

Sequoiadendron giganteum

This tree grows in small groves on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada in California and is the biggest tree in the world (not the tallest, that record is held by the coastal redwood at 112 meters!). The giant redwood can be over 9 meters in diameter and more than 85 meters tall. At that size, they are estimated to be over 2,500 years old. Giant redwoods in this country are only babies - the earliest known planting in the UK was in 1853. This coincides with the death of the Duke of Wellington, hence it's common name, Wellingtonia. The name Sequoia comes from a Cherokee chief.

22 Pedunculate or Common Oak

Quercus robur

The best known and most loved tree in Britain? The pedunculate oak differs from the sessile oak by having the acorns on stalks (peduncles) and a stouter, squatter form. The oak is home to hundreds of different species of insects and associated birds or mammals. They can grow up to 40m tall and form a broad and spreading crown with sturdy branches beneath. Old trees like this one could be over 200 years old with another 500 or so years of life ahead of them.



23 Japanese Red Cedar

Cryptomeria japonica

This tree is native to both China and Japan where it is an important timber tree. In the UK it is relatively uncommon. It is a large evergreen tree which can reach up to 70m in height, and can reach trunk diameters of 4m. It serves as the national tree of Japan and is often planted around shrines and temples. It is notable for its red bark which gives it its common name.

24 Dove or Pocket Handkerchief

Davidia involucrata

This tree is best known for its bracts (leaf like structures), which cover the flowers in late spring and look like handkerchiefs have been tied to the branches. It is native to China and was discovered by a French missionary Pere David who discovered many different species of plants in the 19th century.



25 Baobab Plane

Planatus orientalis

This Baobab plane tree is distinctive due to its bulbous, knobby trunks. This tree may be a clone of the London plane, but has also been referred to as Oriental plane, and some confusion remains as to what to call this species. Most recent advice from the National History Museum Identification Service notes this type as the Baobab plane and says the unusual growth of the trunk may be the result of a viral infection, though this is uncertain. This species is a hybrid of our popular London plane, *Platanus x hispanica*, which were introduced to many large urban areas due to their high tolerance to pollution levels.

View Point 3

Yew Plantation

Here stands one of many yew (*Taxus baccata*) trees planted within the park. The yew was admired by ancient peoples, who viewed its ability to stay green throughout the winter as magical. The wood of the yew is springy, and has a long history of use as a material for bows. Yew wood is also known for its durability.

26 Veteran Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna

The Hawthorn, also known as the May-tree due to its flowering period, is the only British plant named after the month in which it blooms. Mature trees, such as this veteran specimen, can reach a height of 15m and are characterised by their dense, thorny habit, though they can grow as a small tree with a single stem. The bark is brown-grey, knotted and fissured, and twigs are slender and brown and covered in thorns. It often hybridises with the UK's other native hawthorn, Midland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). Both species are similar and can be hard to tell apart.

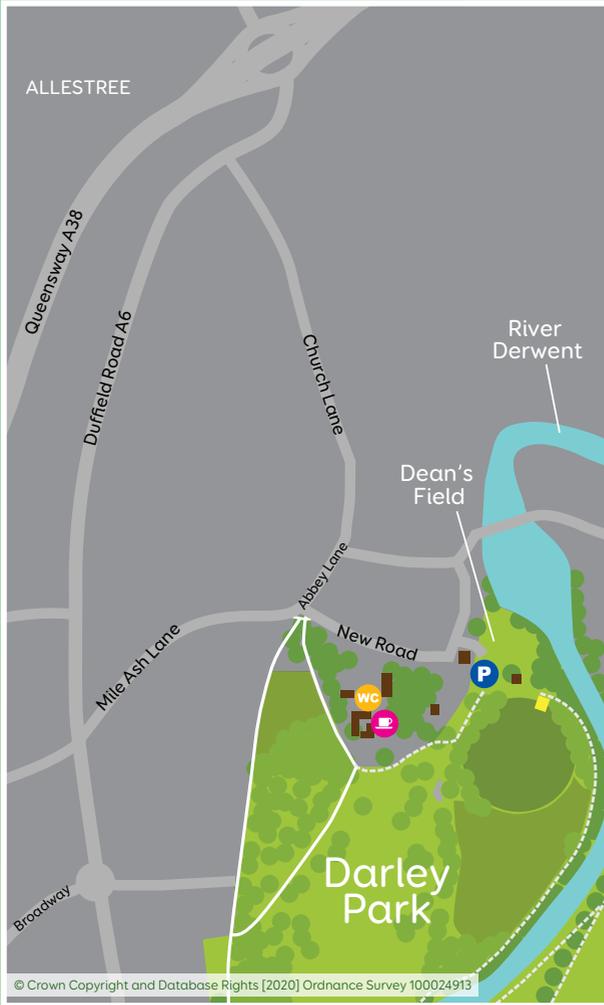


27 Sweet Chestnut

Castanea sativa

Many People would think this tree is native to Britain, but the Romans probably brought it here. It is well known for its spiny cased edible fruit that only ripens after a hot summer. They can grow very large with beautiful spiralling bark and trunks over 4 meters wide.

How to find Darley Park



The tree trail starts from the Car Park at Dean's Field **P** and takes you on a wonderful walk through our woodland, finishing at the cafe **☕**.

For bus services, ring the Traveline on **0871 200 22 33** or visit their website **travelineeastmidlands.co.uk**

Further information

During office hours, please telephone the Tree Advice Line on **03332006981** or email **trees@derby.gov.uk**. For urgent tree problems out of office hours please contact **01332 256060**.

If you would like to become involved in caring for Darley's parks and open spaces, please contact **01332 640789** or email **parksadmin@derby.gov.uk**

