

**Tree 1: Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)**

The ginkgo is a deciduous tree. The leaves are fan-shaped and turn a beautiful golden colour in autumn. It is native to China and was introduced to Britain in 1754. Ginkgos are the sole survivors of an ancient group of trees which dominated tree life 200 million years ago and so would have been dinosaur food! This tree is still semi mature.

**Tree 2: 'Balsam Spire' Poplar (*Populus trichocarpa x balsamifera*)**

The balsam spire poplar is an artificial hybrid of the western and eastern balsam poplar. In spring the tree's buds exude a honey-like, sweet-smelling substance which pervades the surrounding air. Poplars grow quickly and are therefore used in commercial forestry. Their light, soft wood is used for making cardboard boxes, matches and paper.

**Tree 3: Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*)**

The paperbark maple is a small, deciduous tree which is native to central China and was introduced to Britain in 1901. The bark is a distinctive chestnut-brown which peels away in papery layers. The leaves are made up of three leaflets which turn a brilliant red and orange in autumn.

**Tree 4: Dawyck Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Dawyck')**

The Dawyck beech is a large, deciduous tree which originated in Dawyck, Scotland in the 1880s. It has a columnar habit, smooth grey bark and elliptical leaves which colour well in autumn. Beech wood is an ideal material for furniture. This individual is less than 25 years old.

**Tree 5: American or Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)**

The black walnut is a large, deciduous tree native to North America. It is a broad-crowned tree with dark grey, ridged and furrowed bark. The leaves are fragrant and the walnuts are edible although difficult to extract from their shells! The wood is valued in furniture for its good colour and ability to take a high polish.

**Tree 6: Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)**

The liquidambar is a deciduous tree native to America. The name is an allusion to the species' aromatic resin. Pick a leaf, crush it and take in the fragrance! Leaves are maple-like and take on an intense autumnal colour.

**Tree 7: Yew (*Taxus baccata*)**

The yew is a medium-sized, bushy evergreen tree which is native to Britain. Yews can grow to be as wide as they are tall and unlike most trees are either male or female. Female trees are identifiable by their conspicuous red berries. Yews can live for more than 1000 years! This tree is quite young as it was planted when the park was laid out in the 1890s.

**Tree 8: Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)**

The red oak is a fast-growing, deciduous tree which is native to North America. It has a spreading crown and large-lobed leaves which are famous for turning a spectacular autumn red. It is highly valued for its timber which is used for furniture. This tree could grow to five times its current size!

**Tree 9: Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*)**

The holm oak is native to the Mediterranean and was introduced to Britain in the 1500s. It takes its name from the old word for holly, as the young leaves are spiny. With age they become a leathery dark green with a pale underside. There are two holm oaks here. On the older one evidence of metal banding and concrete can be seen. Using concrete and metal work was once considered good tree management for old and vulnerable trees.

**Tree 10: California Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)**

The California incense cedar is actually a member of the cypress family and is native to North America. It is an evergreen conifer which has a slim, columnar shape. The name of this tree comes from the cedar-like smell of the wood. The leaves and resin are also fragrant.



**Tree 11: Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*)**

The cedar of Lebanon is a majestic evergreen conifer which is recognisable for its tiered habit. A native to the Mediterranean and Asia Minor (it even appears on the Lebanese flag), it was introduced to Britain as long ago as 1638. Many of these trees were planted in parks and gardens by the landscape gardener Capability Brown. This tree was planted when the park was laid out.



**Tree 12: London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*)**

The London plane is a magnificent, large, deciduous tree with beautiful camouflage-patterned bark and maple-like leaves. It was introduced around the middle of the 17th century. It is an excellent urban tree as it is hardy and resilient to pollution. It makes up more than 50% of all street trees in London!



**Tree 13: Yellow Buckeye Chestnut (*Aesculus flava*)**

The yellow buckeye chestnut is a large, deciduous tree native to eastern North America. Leaves are divided in 5-7 leaflets and flowers are yellow in late spring. It is resistant to some of the pests and diseases currently having a detrimental impact on the horse chestnut throughout Britain, therefore you might see more planted in the future.



**Tree 14: Weeping Silver Lime (*Tilia tomentosa 'Petiolaris'*)**

The weeping silver lime is a statuesque, deciduous tree. It is native to eastern Europe and was introduced to Britain in 1767. It has drooping branches and heart-shaped dark green leaves which are whitish silvery underneath. Bees love these trees; however, the nectar is intoxicating to them! This tree has been recognised as one of the best examples of its species in the UK by the Champion Tree Register!



*The Entrance to Pittville Lawn around 1913*

**History of Pittville Lawn**

The area covered in this walk is within the original Pittville Estate, which was laid out in the mid-1820s. It was one of two 'pleasure gardens', south of the lake, with Evesham Road to the west and 'Walks and Rides' (now Pittville Lawn) to the east. Many of the trees and shrubs you see now were probably planted in the 1890s, when the estate passed into public ownership.



**CHELtenham**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Tree Section: 01242 264262

General Park Enquires: 01242 250019

Tourist Information Centre: 01242 522878

Website: [www.cheltenham.gov.uk](http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk)

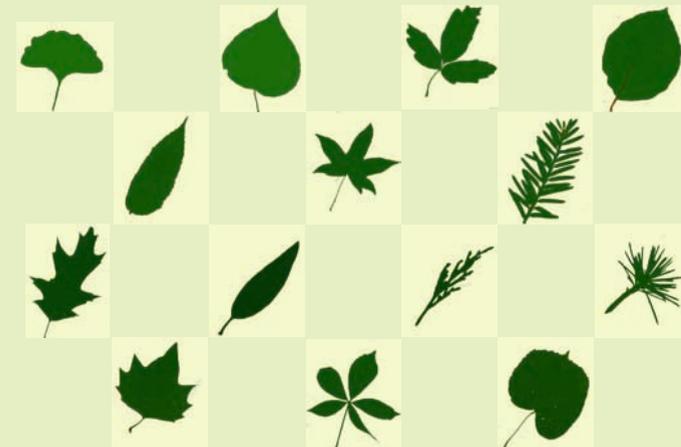
All information contained in this leaflet was correct at time of printing.

Cheltenham Borough Council reserves the right to make any changes it deems necessary.

This walk can also be viewed on the Friends of Pittville website: [www.friendsofpittville.org](http://www.friendsofpittville.org)

# Pittville Lawn

## Self guided tree walk



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