



Turn the right-hand page over for more information on trees 12-15.

Map key:



COMMON LIME (*Tilia x europaea*)

The tallest broadleaf tree in most urban areas. This natural hybrid between Large-leaved and Small-leaved Lime has 10cm long, dark green, heart-shaped, soft, lopsided leaves, often with red nail galls, caused by a tiny gall mite. Leaves only have creamy-buff or white hairs on the underside of the leaf between the joints of the veins.



1

SILVER BIRCH (*Betula pendula*)

One of our most recognisable native trees and confused only with the similar Downy Birch which has leaves and stems covered with downy hairs. It is a short-lived (to 60 years) and short (to 15m) species, but widely planted in streets and parks for the beauty of its white bark and small, shiny green leaves.



2

NORWAY MAPLE (*Acer platanoides*)

Introduced to Britain in the 17th century, this long-lived tree grows to 30m, with a broad, rounded crown. The 'helicopter' seeds are called a 'double samara' and are distinguished from Sycamore by being 180° apart compared with 90°. Its winter buds are shiny red-brown and, distinctively, its twigs retain the stems of last year's seeds.



3

BOTTLEBRUSH BUCKEYE (*Aesculus parviflora*)

The only shrubby member of the Horse Chestnut family, it was introduced to Britain from America in the late 18th century. Just 5m tall, it will eventually form a dense thicket up to 6m across. The tree is distinguished from 'conker trees' by having smooth edges to the leaves and by its unmistakable long panicles of small white flowers with protruding stamens. Mistletoe is abundant on many local trees and, very unusually, can be found on this tree.



4

WILD CHERRY/GEAN (*Prunus avium*)

Gean can grow up to 30m. It is one of the first trees to flower in the spring, with a dazzling display of pure white flowers. The main ancestor of the cultivated, edible cherry, Wild Cherry fruits are readily eaten by wildlife and have been found in deposits at 4,000 year old Bronze Age human settlements.



5

6 DAWN REDWOOD (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

(Planted by CKPC 2017)
An ancient, deciduous conifer can grow to 50m. It was abundant in Britain in the Mesozoic period that ended 65 million years ago, when its delicate, olive green foliage was eaten by dinosaurs. This 'Living Fossil' was thought to be extinct until specimens were found in S W China in 1941.



6

7 DOUGLAS FIR (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Wild, coastal Douglas Firs reach 100m tall in North America and can live for 1,000 years. Widely planted for its timber, a 55m Douglas Fir is the tallest tree in Britain. It is distinguished by drooping female cones with persistent, long, three-pointed bracts, the long, soft, flat, blue-green spirally-arranged needles, and highly scented, resin-filled blisters on the young bark.



7

8 TULIP TREE (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Introduced into Britain before 1688, Tulip trees make magnificently shaped specimen trees that can grow to 35m in Britain. The square-ended, saddle-shaped leaves turn a clear, butter-yellow in autumn. Solitary and conspicuous, the cup or tulip-shaped yellowish-green flowers are tinged with orange and emerge in May.



8

COMMON BEECH (*Fagus sylvatica*)

The 'Queen of the Forests' is a large and often monumental deciduous tree (to 40m), with a broad, spreading canopy and a characteristic smooth, thin, grey bark, often with slight horizontal etchings. Its sharply pointed, reddish-brown winter leaf buds produce a dense canopy of wavy-edged, lime-green leaves. The bristly beech nuts are known as 'mast'.



9

ASH TREE (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

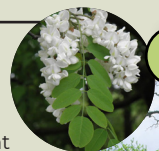
Ash has been one of Britain's most common and valued native trees for thousands of years, but its existence in our countryside is threatened by a Chalara fungus thought likely to kill 95% of Ash trees in Britain and Europe. Tall and graceful in summer, its winter twigs have distinctive black, velvety leaf buds.



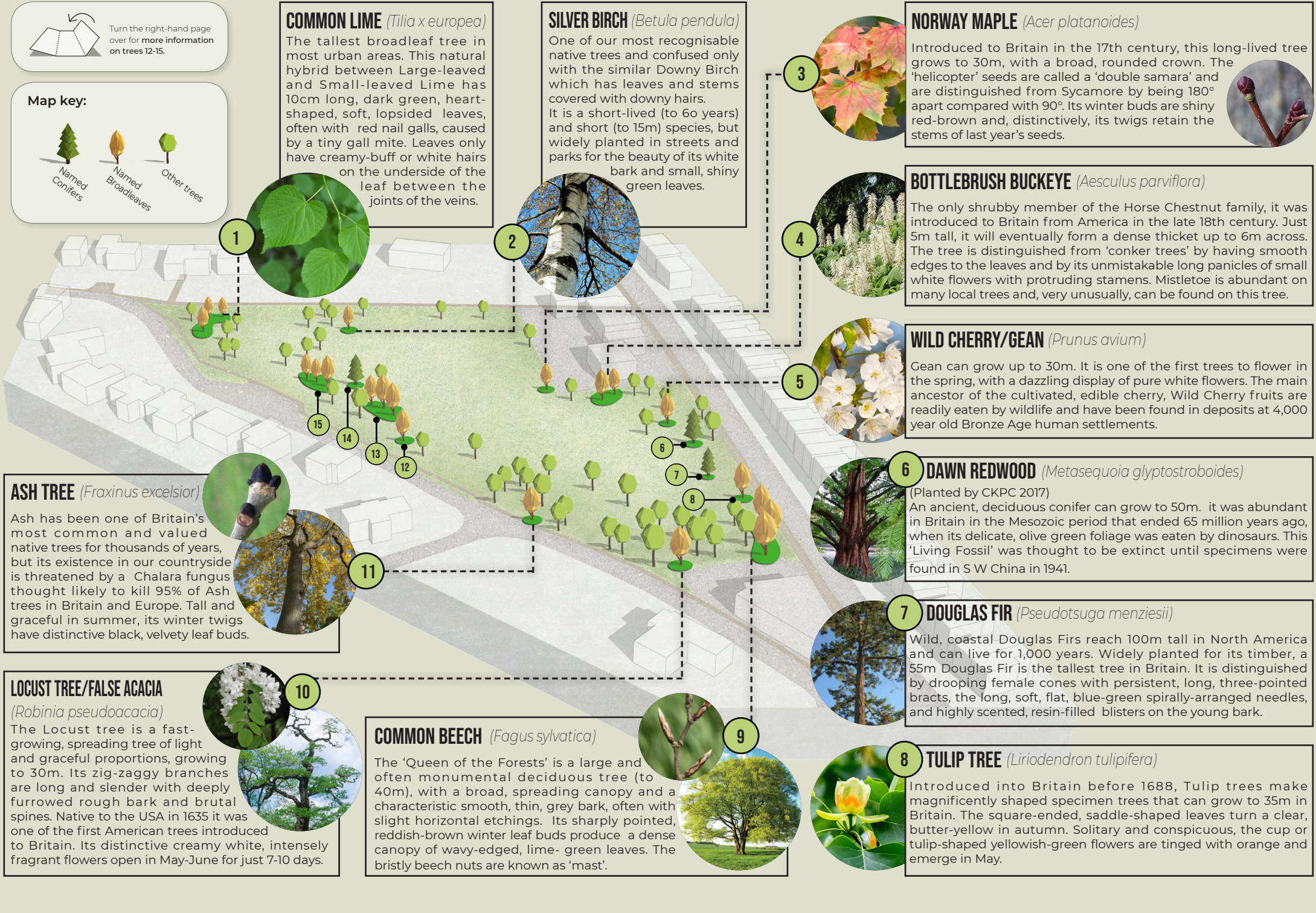
11

LOCUST TREE/FALSE ACACIA

(*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
The Locust tree is a fast-growing, spreading tree of light and graceful proportions, growing to 30m. Its zig-zaggy branches are long and slender with deeply furrowed rough bark and brutal spines. Native to the USA in 1635 it was one of the first American trees introduced to Britain. Its distinctive creamy white, intensely fragrant flowers open in May-June for just 7-10 days.



10



AMERICAN/BLACK WALNUT

(*Juglans nigra*)

(Planted by CKPC in 2017)

This native of North America is a large deciduous tree (to 30m) with a short trunk and large crown. The bark is typically grey-black and deeply furrowed into thin ridges that gives it a diamond shaped pattern, it has long, densely hanging toothed, pinnately compound, with 15 to 23 leaflets. Its leaves have a small terminal leaflet that sometimes is missing, whereas other species always have a larger leaf at the tip.



12

LOMBARDY POPLAR (*Populus nigra* 'Italica')

This very tall, rapidly growing columnar form of Black Poplar was brought to Britain in 1758, having been created from a single male tree in northern Italy in the 17th century. This group of four distinctively shaped 'fastigiate' trees forms an distinctive silhouette in both winter and summer. The crimson male catkins appear before the bright green, ovate leaves open in early spring.



13

GINKGO/MAIDENHAIR TREE (*Ginkgo biloba*)

(Planted by CBC 2020)

The Ginkgo is a unique primitive, deciduous, species of conifer, native to China and first brought here in 1754. Another 'Living Fossil', its leaves are unique in the plant kingdom with their fan shape, central cleft and radiating veins, turning a beautiful saffron yellow colour in autumn.



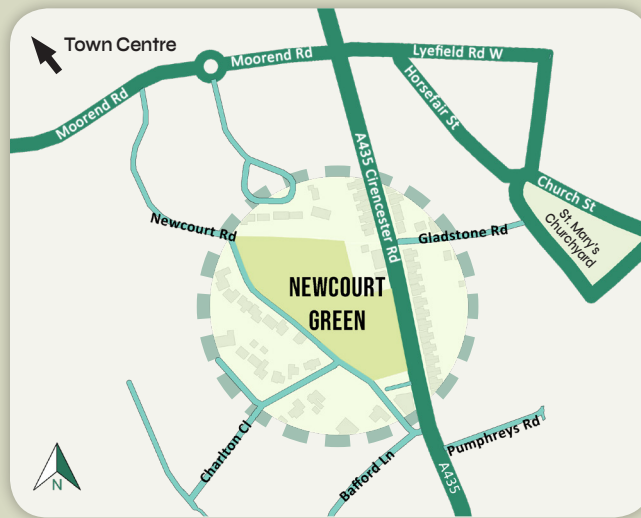
14

BLACK POPLAR VARIETY (*Populus nigra* var.)

Poplars can be very hard to tell apart, and these four trees are no exception as they show characteristics of several hybrid varieties! They are beautiful, tall trees (to 40 m) with a straight trunk and distinctive cracked, grey bark. Look closely at the hairless leaves and see the long, flattened stem and leaf margins with forward pointing teeth. Perhaps the new leaf buds smell of balsam?



15



History of the site

One of Charlton Kings oldest buildings, The Court House was built around 1550 on what is now Newcourt Road. In the early 17th century, cottages were built on the west side of the road, with associated horticultural crops grown across the road on the land that is now Newcourt Green. Newcourt Road was formerly known as Moorend Street and in recent years nicknamed 'Laundry Lane' because of the Diamond (later Paragon) laundry built on the site of the former cottages.

By 1912, the whole area of the Green had become a very large sand quarry some 10 metres deep, but as with other sand quarries in Charlton Kings (Grange Field, The Beeches) when it had been exhausted, it became a rubbish dump for the Charlton Kings Urban District Council. When the dump was closed in the 1960s, it was bought by the Borough Council and restored to a grassy field. That's where our public green spaces have come from!

This self-guided tree trail leaflet joins three others produced by Cheltenham Borough Council for Pittville Park, Pittville Lawn, and Montpellier Gardens and available on the Trees Homepage of Cheltenham Borough Council's Website <https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/67/trees>

CONTACTS:

- Charlton Kings Parish Council: 01242 250087
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- Cheltenham Borough Council: 01242 262626

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES:

- Cheltenham Tree Group: <https://www.facebook.com/Cheltenham-Tree-Group-902726039741175/>
- Woodland Trust: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>
- Royal Horticultural Society: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=170>

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NEWCOURT GREEN

CHARLTON KINGS

SELF GUIDED TREE WALK

Charlton Kings' many trees enhance the beauty of our parish and are good for our well-being. Newcourt Green has both native and introduced, 'exotic' species, and this leaflet helps you to identify them and explains some of their characteristics.



Photo Credit: Doug Cruden



Charlton Kings
Parish Council



CHELTENHAM
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