

OAKES FOLLY TRAIL

Over 100 species of tree from all over the globe can be found in Nowton Park. Read on for some fascinating facts about our favourite trees and park features, and use the map to help you find them.

1 Dawn Redwood – *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Origin: China. This is a deciduous conifer rediscovered in 1944.

2 Common Lime (Lime Avenue)

Origin: Native. The tallest broadleaf tree in Britain, Common Lime trees were often planted in avenues. Unusually, Nowton Park's avenue did not mark the main entrance to the house.

3 Douglas Fir – *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

Origin: North America. This tree was struck by lightning in July 2011 and caught fire about 12 foot up! The tree was left as standing deadwood for the benefit of wildlife.

4 Field Maple – *Acer campestre*

Origin: Native. Britain's only native Maple, the Field Maple's hard, creamy-coloured wood was often used to make bowls and spoons. The trunk is often covered in attractive burrs.

5 Twisted Yew – *Taxus baccata*

Origin: Western, Central and Southern Europe. Yew wood is hard with remarkable elasticity, ideal for making bows, although it would be difficult to find a branch straight enough in this tree!

6 Beech Monolith – *Fagus sylvatica*

Origin: Native. A monolith is a tree with its crown and limbs removed, becoming standing deadwood. Monoliths are excellent habitats, supporting different types of wildlife as they slowly decay.

7 Atlantic Cedar – *Cedrus atlantica*

Origin: Atlas Mountains of Morocco. This is the biggest tree in the park in terms of mass, and is about 140 years old.

8 Coast Redwood – *Sequoia sempervirens*

Origin: North America. This specimen is around 140 years old and the tallest tree in Nowton Park at c.40m (only 1/3 of the height of the tallest living tree in the world, also a Coast Redwood).

9 Hornbeam (The Maze)

In 1992, to commemorate the Oakes family, the general public helped plant 2,500 hornbeam trees, making up over 2 miles of hedging in the shape of an oak tree.

10 The Wolf

Originally located at the base of Bury St Edmunds' Norman Tower, this sculpture was part of the 2015 Wolf Trail celebrating the legend of St Edmund. Crafted from dyed canvas, it looks like wood, from a distance.

11 The Folly

The archway was brought here from St Mary's Church in 1831, the font is believed to have originated from St Peter's Church in Nowton village.

12 Western Red Cedar (Totem Pole) – *Thuja plicata*

Origin: North America. Western Red Cedars were the cornerstone of Native American culture, used to make medicines, canoes and infant cradles among other things! After being struck by lightning, this specimen was carved into a totem pole.

13 Tulip Tree – *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Origin: North America. Named from the Greek 'leiron' (lily and dendron) and the Latin tulipifera (tulip-bearing), the tree bears tulip-like flowers in spring with greenish-white petals.

14 Kentucky Coffee Tree – *Gymnocladus dioica*

Origin: North America. Named from the Greek 'gymno' meaning naked and 'cladus' branch, as the tree is leafless for almost half the year. The seeds were used to make a coffee substitute by early settlers in Kentucky.

15 Southern Beech – *Nothofagus antarctica*

Origin: South America. The Southern Beech is a dense deciduous tree or shrub, and its presence on Hoste Island earns it the distinction of being the southernmost tree on earth. This specimen forms the understory below the Monkey Puzzle Tree.

16 Monkey Puzzle Tree – *Araucaria araucana*

Origin: South America. The national tree of Chile. This tree is closely related to the species found 250 million years ago, a living fossil.

17 Bhutan Pine – *Pinus wallichiana*

Origin: Nepal. Bhutan Pines are one of the few tree species that grow in the UK which have 5 needle bundles. They produce banana-shaped pinecones which are highly decorative and resinous (Bhutan resin is used as a commercial source of turpentine).

18 Indian Bean Tree – *Catalpa bignonioides*

Origin: North America. This specimen is about 100 years old. If you look closely, you can see that it has grown around an old gate!

19 Red Horse-chestnut – *Aesculus x carnea*

Origin: Unknown? The origin of the tree is not known but it is thought to be a 19th Century artificial hybrid. It is a cross between Red Buckeye (*A. Pavia*), a native of the S & E United States and Common Horse Chestnut (*A. Hippocastanum*).

20 Medlar – *Mespilus germanica*

Origin: Southwest Asia. Medlar is a spiny shrub that can grow up to 5m high. The fruit pulp becomes soft and edible after a frost. Medlar Cheese' is an unusual dish similar to lemon curd, made with the fruit pulp, eggs and butter.

21 Judas Tree – *Cercis siliquastrum*

Origin: Western Asia. Legend has it that it was upon this tree that Judas hanged himself after betraying Christ, and that the flowers have been a deep rosy red ever since.

22 Umbrella Pine – *Pinus pinea*

Origin: Southern Europe. The tree will eventually become 20 metres tall with umbrella-shaped crowns and orange-plated bark. It was the first pine tree to be used and cultivated by man with its nuts being harvested for over half a million years.

23 Deodar – *Cedrus deodara*

Origin: Western Himalayas. The name Deodar comes from the Sanskrit word 'Devadārun' which means 'Wood of the Gods'. This specimen is a Victorian planting and is approximately 150 years old.

24 Persian Ironwood – *Parrotia persica*

Origin: Asia. This tree has beautiful autumnal colour, pink/red flowers in early Spring, an attractive peeling bark, and – as its name suggests – very hard timber.

25 Black Mulberry – *Morus nigra*

Origin: Southern Europe. This tree is widely grown for the sweet and sour fruit. It was imported to Britain in the 17th century as a food source for silkworms, but silkworms prefer White Mulberry.

26 Wingnut Tree – *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*

Origin: Eastern Europe. This tree is often planted as a large ornamental with its attractive, drooping seeds. It is a member of the Walnut family and has valuable wood which is often used for wood veneers.

27 Himalayan Birch – *Betula utilis*

Origin: Western Himalayas. This birch has a strikingly white bark, which has been used like paper since ancient times for writing Sanskrit scriptures and texts.

28 Indian Horse Chestnut – *Aesculus indica*

Origin: South-west Himalayas. This species has more delicate leaves and flowers than the European Horse Chestnut. It is more resistant to the Leaf Minor disease and bears smaller conkers, carried in spineless husks.

29 Weeping Willow – *Salix babylonica*

Origin: Western China. Weeping Willows were carried along ancient trade routes in the form of cuttings and baskets. The Weeping Willow by School Pond, is rumoured to be a cutting from Napoleon's tree on St Helena.

30 White Mulberry – *Morus alba*

Origin: North China. White Mulberry's claim to fame is that it is the fastest moving thing in biology: pollen is pushed out of the flower at 350mph!

31 Golden Raintree – *Koelreuteria paniculata*

Origin: Eastern Asia. This deciduous tree has a rounded outline, with spreading and ascending branches. Its yellow flowers, borne in clusters, are used to make black and yellow dyes.

32 Ginkgo (Maidenhair Tree) – *Ginkgo biloba*

Origin: China. The Ginkgo is another living fossil. It has a unique fan-shaped leaf with radiating veins. It adapts well to the urban environment, and is very pollution tolerant: six specimens even survived being within 2km of Hiroshima ground zero.

33 Katsura Tree – *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*

Origin: East Asia. This is a rare forest tree of Japan and China. Its leaves have a soft apricot-orange colour, while its seed pods smell of toffee. It was an important timber tree in Japan.

34 Eucalyptus

Origin: Australia. There are over 700 species of Eucalyptus in the world but only 15 of them occur outside Australia. It has a wide range of uses including the production of coloured dyes, didgeridoos, and of course, essential oils.

35 Meadow Pond

Meadow Pond is rich in aquatic life. The rare Great Crested Newt breeds here and Dragonflies can be seen hunting over the water and meadows over the Summer.

36 Woodhenge

Woodhenge is a man-made mystery, created by former park keepers with large dead Oak in the early 1990s.

37 Wildflower Meadow

This meadow is only cut once a year, after the flowers have had time to set seed. Since the introduction of wildflowers in 1990, the meadow has significantly boosted the numbers of butterflies recorded in the park.

38 The Bee Tree – *Quercus robur*

Origin: Native. The Bee Tree is actually an English Oak and is probably the oldest in the park, around 350 years old. It houses an active bees' nest - so don't get too close!

