

Beech trees have been used for centuries for their wood, specifically in making furniture. The Chiltern Hills in Buckinghamshire are home to huge beech forests and in the past, chair-makers, also known as 'bodgers', actually worked in the woods themselves. In 1887 a group of sport-minded furniture makers from High Wycombe, then the centre of the industry, founded the Wycombe Wanderers Football Club. To this day, the team's nickname is 'The Chairboys'.

1 Beech *Fagus sylvatica*

Follow the green arrows to find your way



Langley Park is home to a fantastic variety of trees with year-round interest. Follow this trail on a beautiful 2 km (1.25 mile) walk through the parkland. On your way discover some fascinating facts about Langley Park's magnificent trees. To find your way, use the trail map enclosed, follow the green arrow markers on site and look out for the tree name plaques next to each tree featured along the trail.

As you enter Kings Wood, look out for a pair of larch trees on your right. Larch trees have been grown en masse since the 18th century for timber, due to their strong, weatherproof wood. They grow exceptionally quickly and can be felled for timber after just 40 years. The timber is used to make staircases, fencing and wall panelling.

3 Larch *Larix decidua*

As you walk along the woodland boundary, you will see that it is mainly made up of oak and silver birch trees; a typical example of natural tree regeneration on acid soil.

This ancient yew is said to be over 1200 years old, making it the oldest living tree in Langley Park. Every part of a yew tree is poisonous, apart from its bright red arils. The arils are the fleshy, berry-like seed caps enjoyed by birds. These arils are used as a laxative and a diuretic, and the leaves are used to produce a drug which inhibits cancer cell growth, called taxol.

2 Yew *Taxus baccata*

As you come out of Kings Wood, there is a small clump of aspen trees on your left. Aspen trees are also known as the common, quaking or trembling aspen. Watch as the leaves tremble in the breeze. This was said to represent grief or guilt, with some local lore claiming the guilt stemmed from the wood of the tree being used to form Christ's cross. The trembling is actually caused by the extremely flattened long leaf stalks, known as petioles.

5 Aspen *Populus tremula*

The Sweet Chestnut is best known for its edible nuts. These nuts are shed in October and are encased in a prickly outer layer, known as a husk, designed to deter squirrels and other seed predators from getting to the brown nuts within. These nuts are used by confectioners, eaten roasted and ground to make flour.

4 Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*



Langley Park

Timberland Tree Trail



11 An English oak with a history of pollarding

12 An avenue of maple trees



Address: Langley Park, Billet Lane, Wexham, South Bucks, SL0 0LS.

Langley Park is located off the A412 Uxbridge Road between Slough and Uxbridge. (signposted off A412).

Contact Details

The Countryside Centre, Black Park Country Park, Black Park Road, Wexham, Bucks SL3 6DS.

Telephone: 01753 511 060

24hr emergency telephone number: 07734 734 337

Email: countryparks@buckscc.gov.uk

Websites: www.buckscc.gov.uk and www.friendsoflangleypark.co.uk

11 English Oak *Quercus robur*

This ancient oak tree has a history of pollarding – you can tell this by its very short, wide trunk. Pollarding is the practice of removing all the branches higher up on the tree to stimulate the growth of new, smaller shoots for commercial use, like fuel and timber. Trees on woodland boundaries were also often pollarded to provide distinctive markers.

On average, an oak tree spends a third of its life growing, a third of its life resting, and a third of its life dying.

12 Silver Maple *Acer Saccharinum*

The silver maple produces a sap so rich in sugar that in its North American homeland it is exploited commercially to produce both syrup and refined sugar. Levels of sap produced increase greatly in the spring when energy is required to produce the new leaves and shoots. Traditionally, incisions are made in the bark in February and collecting tubes are inserted, extracting sap daily for about six weeks, until the sugar levels of the sap drop.



Thank you to Timberland UK for sponsoring this trail



Produced by Fitzpatrick Woolmer Creative - 0800 130 3630



A 2km (1.25 mile) circular walk around Langley Park's magnificent trees



Trees in the Arboretum



6 Deodar cedar 7 The leaning Bhutan pine 8 Swamp cypress in spring 9 California Bay Laurel 10 Avenue of Giant Sequoia trees

Key

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Grass Path | Bridleway | Information |
| Country Park Boundary | Public Footpath | Dog Waste Bin |
| Timberland Tree Trail | Private Property | Picnic Area |
| Primary Route (accessible) | Toilets | Parking |
| | Refreshments | |

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6 Deodar *Cedrus deodara*

The deodar is a type of cedar and is the national tree of Pakistan. The name deodar comes from the Sanskrit word 'devdar' which means 'timber of the gods'. It is regarded in India as a symbol of fruitfulness and durability.

7 Bhutan Pine *Pinus wallichiana*

A native tree in the Himalayas, the Bhutan pine is an elegant large tree. It traditionally grows at high altitudes in mountain valleys, which may help to explain why it grows at an angle. Oil extracted from its roots was once used as an insect repellent in rice fields before modern chemicals superseded it. Today it is a commercial source of turpentine.

8 Swamp Cypress *Taxodium distichum*

The swamp cypress thrives where it is wetter and warmer. Where the roots of the swamp cypress are submerged or in waterlogged ground, the tree will grow roots above ground known as 'knees' or pneumatophores. These knobby roots act as snorkels by carrying supplies of air to the underground roots which may be starved of oxygen.

9 California Bay Laurel *Umbellularia californica*

The California bay leaf has been used in the past by Native Americans as a cure for headaches, toothaches, stomach aches, earaches, colds and sore throats. However, today the volatile oils in the leaves are known to cause headaches when used in excess, giving it the nickname 'The Headache Tree'.

10 Giant Sequoia *Sequoiadendron giganteum*

Natural bush fires are essential for the reproduction of this tree to take place. The giant sequoia's bark is fire resistant so the tree is left unharmed, while the other plant life around it is cleared. This is a prerequisite for seedlings to grow, helped along by a layer of ash as a seedbed. The heat from the fire also starts the process as it causes the cones to open, dispersing its seeds on the wind.

Langley Park Country Park

Tree Trail

2km / 1.25 miles

