



# BOWHILL

HOUSE & COUNTRY ESTATE



# TREE TRAIL...



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This walk takes you on a trail past some of our finest trees in the grounds and surrounding woodlands of Bowhill House...

- 1 WOLLEMI PINE** *Wollemia nobilis*. One of the world's oldest and rarest trees, the Wollemi Pine was thought to have been extinct for two million years. This specimen was a gift to the 9th Duke of Buccleuch by the European Squirrel Initiative for support given in the conservation of Red Squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*). The scientific name (It.) honours park ranger David Noble who rediscovered the tree in Australia in 1994.
- 2 VILMORIN'S ROWAN** *Sorbus vilmorinii*. This tree was a gift from the Duchess of Buccleuch to the 9th Duke of Buccleuch on their Ruby Wedding anniversary on 10th of January 1993. The rose-red berries change to white flushed pink as winter progresses, that's if the birds haven't noticed them by then!
- 3 DOUGLAS FIR** *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. Was brought to the UK after an expedition to America in the 1820s by Scottish plant collector David Douglas. David's brother John was master of works at Drumlanrig. The Douglas Fir's needles smell of oranges when rubbed, and in mature trees the bark can be easily distinguished from other conifers by the deep vertical fissures in its trunk.
- 4 PAPER-BARK MAPLE** *Acer griseum*. This deciduous tree is very striking due to its peeling, orange-brown bark, with the leaves turning shades of red and orange in the autumn months. Native to central China it was first introduced to the UK in 1901 and has become a popular ornamental tree for gardens.
- 5 PAPER-BARK BIRCH** *Betula papyrifera*. This tree is also commonly known as the Canoe Birch, it is the American cousin to our native Silver Birch and Downy Birch, seen later on this trail. The bark on this tree is slightly whiter than our native birch trees and also peels off the trunk horizontally.
- 6 BLUE ATLAS CEDAR** *Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca*. What distinguishes this cedar from other varieties is the silver-grey appearance of its foliage; this is particularly noticeable when you look at the tree from a distance.



- **Distance:** 1.75 miles
- **Duration:** 1 - 1½ hours
- **Level:** Moderate

**7 ERMAN'S BIRCH** *Betula ermanii*. This tree is very similar to the Paper-bark Birch when mature, with the Erman's Birch having a pinkish-white bark peeling from the trunk allowing you to tell the difference between the two specimens. This tree was used during Homecoming Scotland 2009 at the Clan Gathering where members of the Scott family were able to hang their details from its branches, in order to create a Scott 'family' tree.

**8 WELLINGTONIA** *Sequoiadendron giganteum*. This tree is native to the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California where it can grow up to 7m in diameter. Its soft spongy bark offering protection against fire, this tree can live up to 3,500 years. Looking at the bark you may notice small cup shaped indents; these provide shelter for one of our native birds, the Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*).

**9 GRAND FIR** *Abies grandis*. The name *Abies* is derived from the Latin *abeo* meaning "rise" and refers to the great height attained by some species. Fir is derived from the Old English *furh* or *fyrh* or the Danish *fyr*, meaning "fire", from its use as firewood. The brittle nature of Grand Fir timber renders the timber of limited practical use.

**10 SYCAMORE** *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Despite earlier introduction, this tree only became widely established from around the mid-16th Century. However, since then Sycamore has adopted the colonisation skills of its Roman introducers and large numbers of young saplings can be found growing throughout the woodlands at Bowhill.

**11 SITKA SPRUCE** *Picea sitchensis*. Is a quick growing tree of major importance in forestry for timber and paper production. The tree has a distinctive bark which can be seen to peel off in round flakes as it ages.



**12 COMMON HORNBEAM** *Carpinus betulus*. A native tree to the UK, Hornbeam meaning 'hard tree', the timber being used for chopping blocks and cogwheels. The Hornbeam is very similar looking to the Common Beech, with the Hornbeam's foliage being double-toothed and having a corrugated feel to them. The other significant difference is in the trunk of the trees, with the Hornbeam being twisted or fluting in appearance.





- 13 COMMON BEECH** *Fagus sylvatica*. Planted by Anne Scott, 1st Duchess of Buccleuch, these spectacular trees produce seed known as mast. They are nutritious and rich in oil and are attractive to birds and small mammals including Red Squirrels and Badgers (*Meles meles*). See interpretation board for more information.
- 14 SESSILE OAK** *Quercus petraea*. These trees can support a staggering variety of wildlife, and are habitats in their own right with upwards of 250 species of fauna being recorded in one tree. The word sessile refers to the stalkless nature of the acorns, one way that this species can be distinguished from English Oak (*Quercus robur*).
- 15 SCOTS PINE** *Pinus sylvestris*. This pine is the keystone species of the native Caledonian Pine forest from which all other pines are absent. Important for wildlife, Red Squirrels may be seen here feeding on the pine seeds high up on the tree top.
- 16 COMMON LIME** *Tilia x europaea*. Is a naturally occurring hybrid between Large Leaved and Small Leaved Lime, and is the Lime most likely to be found in parks and gardens. It can be seen here marking the old entrance to the Victorian driveway which led to the front of Bowhill House. The tree shoots readily from its base and have here been incorporated onto the end of the Beech hedge.
- 17 PURPLE LEAVED PLUM** *Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra'. Is one of many cultivars of the Plums and flowers readily in March and April with a beautiful pink blossom. The tree's dark purple fruits are offered somewhat reluctantly and are very bitter to taste.
- 18 SILVER BIRCH** *Betula pendula* and **DOWNY BIRCH** *Betula pubescens*. Both are elegant native trees with Silver Birch (closest to the road) deservedly earning the title of the 'lady of the woods'. Birch has an open canopy with well spaced small leaves that throw dappled light onto the woodland floor. This allows for a rich ground flora, particularly mosses, grasses and flowering plants. As well as the textural differences in the bark of these two trees, close observation reveals the downy nature of the leaf stalks that lends the Downy Birch its name.
- 19 WEYMOUTH PINE** *Pinus strobus*. 'Minima' this specimen is a bonsai version of a rare dwarf variety of the Weymouth Pine, the slender grey-blue needles are soft to touch. This tree has been pruned to the shape you see it in today, and will need continual pruning to maintain the structure.



Below is a list of specimen trees planted in the sunken garden (where tree numbers 16, 17 & 18 can be found) in 2009/10, each tree has a small black plate engraved with the trees Latin name.

- **KOREAN FIR** *Abies koreana*
- **SYCAMORE** *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum'
- **PÈRE DAVID'S MAPLE** *Acer davidii*
- **SMOOTH JAPANESE MAPLE** *Acer palmatum* 'Osakazuki'
- **HIMALAYAN BIRCH** *Betula utilis jacquemontii*
- **INCENSE CEDAR** *Calocedrus decurrens* 'Aureovariegata'
- **BLUE ATLAS CEDAR** *Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca*
- **KATSURA** *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*
- **MIDLAND HAWTHORN** *Crataegus laevigata* 'Paul's Scarlet'
- **SNOW GUM** *Eucalyptus pauciflora* ssp. *niphophila*
- **DAWYCK BEECH** *Fagus sylvatica* 'Dawyck'
- **VOSS'S LABURNUM** *Laburnum x watereri* 'Vossii'
- **SWEET GUM** *Liquidambar styraciflua*
- **TULIP TREE** *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- **PURPLE-LEAVED CRAB** *Malus x moerlandsii* 'Profusion'
- **DAWN REDWOOD** *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
- **PERSIAN IRONWOOD** *Parrotia persica*
- **JAPANESE WHITE PINE** *Pinus parviflora* 'Blue Giant'
- **HOLM OAK** *Quercus ilex*
- **JAPANESE UMBRELLA PINE** *Sciadopitys verticillata*
- **KASHMIR ROWAN** *Sorbus cashmiriana*



This project is supported by Scottish Natural Heritage. Working with Scotland's people to care for our natural heritage.

For more information on waymarked trails, Ranger led activities and educational visits please contact Buccleuch Ranger Service.



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The Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust Registered Charity No: SC014915

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