

About the Park:

Once a private landscaped garden, Dunorlan Park is now a historically important and much-loved public park – it is listed as Grade II on English Heritage's register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Totalling approximately 31 hectares and containing a 6-acre lake, the original grounds were landscaped in the 1860's by the famous Victorian landscape architect Robert Marnock for Henry Reed, the wealthy Tasmanian businessman who owned the estate and the now-demolished mansion house that once overlooked it.

The extensive meadow areas were added to the Park in 1996. Spacious and elegant Dunorlan Park with its magnificent views, boating lake and modern facilities is a special place to visit and enjoy. In 2003/4 the Park was awarded £2.1 million by Heritage Lottery Fund and underwent a major restoration for a total of £2.8 million.

As part of the renovation project, a wide range of herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees were planted to reinforce and augment the existing Victorian planting in the park.

For more information on Dunorlan Park, its management, restoration and current projects please contact Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on **01892 554031**, e-mail **parks@tunbridgewells.gov.uk** or visit the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council website **www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/dunorlan**

Acknowledgements:

The following organisations work in close partnership with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to manage the park to high standards, to conserve its historical and natural heritage and to promote the Park as a great place to visit and be involved in:



Heritage
Lottery Fund

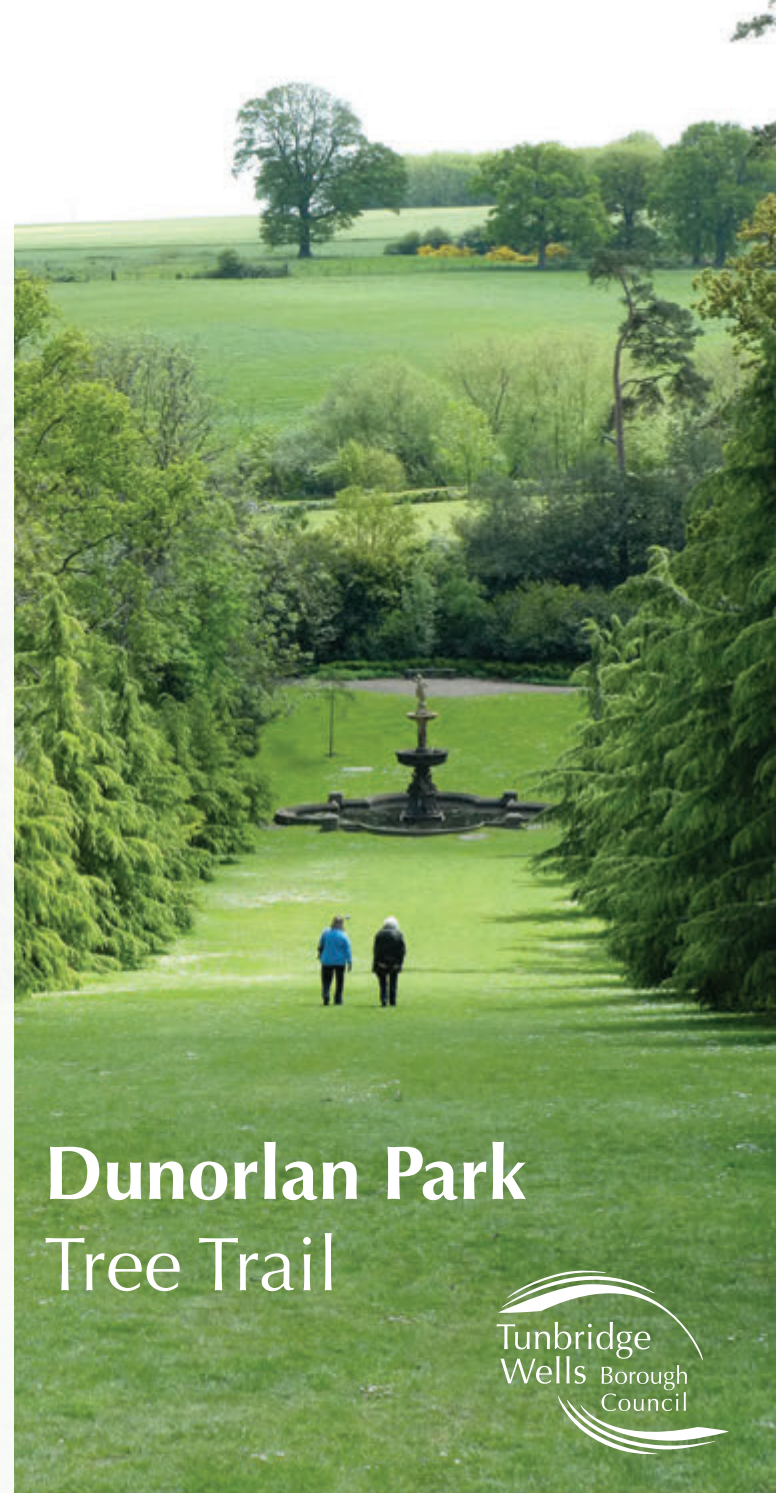
Green Heritage Site



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS IN BLOOM

Special thanks to Philip Clarkson – Webb
and Tony Ewins

If you require this information in large
print or any other format, please
contact us on **01892 526121**



Dunorlan Park Tree Trail





Pembury Road
Car Park



Café



Grecian Temple



Fountain



Boathouse



Halls Hole Road
Car Park

Significant Trees of Dunorlan Park

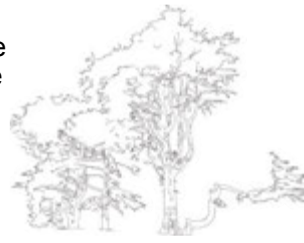
1. Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

This beautiful old Hornbeam with low spreading branches lies near Pembury Road car park. Hornbeam is native to south England and generally when it is used as hedging it retains dried up leaves throughout the winter, providing shelter, roosting, nesting and foraging opportunities for birds and small mammals. The name hornbeam comes from the hardness of its timber - 'horn' means 'hard' and 'beam' was the name for a tree in old English.



2. Deodar *Cedrus Cedrus deodara*

Continuing into the park and taking path to the left, a line of majestic Cedars can be seen on the left. Native to the Himalayan region, Deodar Cedar was introduced to Britain in 1831 and soon became a favourite as an ornamental tree in large gardens and parks. The trees here originally lined the drive from Pembury Road to the Dunorlan House mansion.



3. Incense Cedar *Calocedrus decurrens*

On the left side of the path just before the terrace steps, there is a magnificent Incense Cedar, county champion in girth measuring 437cm in 2005. At the opposite end of the terrace other Incense Cedar can be seen. These trees, introduced from western North America in 1853, were also part of the original planting by Robert Marnock.



4. Common Yew *Taxus baccata*

Next to the terrace, there is an ancient Yew, thought to be the oldest tree in the Park. The Yew has amazing layered branches which, with their own roots, help to rejuvenate the old tree. Drooping branches of the Yew make it a favourite climbing tree for small children! Yews are native to Britain, densely branching and long living evergreen trees. All parts of the tree contain taxane alkaloids and are poisonous, with the exception of the bright red arils. The clippings from yew hedges are used to extract the chemotherapy drugs.



5. Greek Fir *Abies cephalonica*

Following the path towards the Grecian Temple, The Greek Fir can be seen. It grows just outside the Park near the north-east corner, but it is a significant feature of the park's landscape. The Fir is the county champion for its girth (measuring 732 cm in 1995) but also has a remarkable spread.



6. Deodar Cedars – Avenue - *Cedrus deodara*

Continue towards the Fountain, walking down the recently planted avenue of Cedars. In Victorian times the original avenue linking the Grecian temple to the Fountain was planted by Robert Marnock with alternate Deodar Cedars and Douglas Firs. In 2004 the Cedar Avenue was replanted with 48 Cedars.



7. Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*

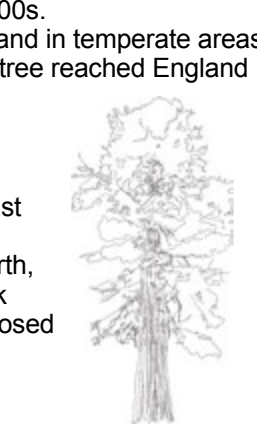
Half way up the Cedar avenue, take the rockery path to the right and notice a magnificent Scots Pine to the left. The Pine is listed as a county champion in girth, measuring 349cm in 2005. Scots Pines are native to Europe and Asia and are easily identified by their combination of fairly short, blue-green needles and orange-red bark. Scots Pine is one of only three conifer trees native to UK, others being Common Yew and Common Juniper.

Mind the steep path!



8. Japanese Maple *Acer palmatum*

Just next to the Scots Pine, there is a fine example of Japanese Maple, with wide spreading branches and beautiful deep red leaves. It grows near the edge of the rockery, which is mostly compromised of 'manufactured' rock called Pulhamite, invented by James Pulham in mid 1800s. Japanese Maple has been cultivated in Japan for centuries and in temperate areas around the world since the 1800s. The first specimen of the tree reached England in 1820. **Mind the steep path over the rockery edge!**



9. Coast redwood *Sequoia sempervirens*

Coming down the rockery, where the paths meet, a fine Coast Redwood can be seen on the right. Originating in northern California, this species includes the tallest living trees on Earth, reaching up to 379 feet in height. The bark can be quite thick and fibrous, with a bright red-brown colour when freshly exposed (hence the name redwood).



10. Western Hemlock *Tsuga heterophylla*

Following the path to the Cascade, to the left there is a noteworthy Western Hemlock. It was introduced to Britain in the 19th century by plant hunter David Douglas, and is now one of the most common conifers found in the UK. Queen Victoria regarded this tree so highly for its timber that she requested its name was changed to *Tsuga albertiana*, in honour of her husband, Albert. This change was only temporary and its original name, *T. heterophylla*, is now used.



11. Blue Atlas Cedar *Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'*

Right next to the Hemlock grows a fine Blue Atlas Cedar. Native to Atlas Mountains region, it has a distinguished blue tinge on its foliage. It was introduced into this country by Lord Somers in 1841.



12. Weeping Willow *Salix babylonica 'Pendula'*

Continuing along the path by the lake, a group of Weeping Willows can be found just by the edge of the lake. The Weeping Willow, with its strongly drooping branches, was thought to have spread from China along ancient trade routes; then introduced into England from northern Syria in 1730. There are more than 400 varieties of weeping willows; they cross with one another so easily that new varieties constantly spring up, both in nature and in cultivation.



13. Common Alder *Alnus glutinosa*

Following the path around the lake, there is a Common Alder tree. Alder is native to most of Europe and it is a pioneer species, along with Silver Birch, colonising derelict land. It thrives in wet locations where its association with the bacterium *Frankia alni* enables it to 'fix' nitrogen and to grow in poor quality soils. It has short-stalked rounded leaves and separate male and female flowers. Male catkins are yellow and pendulous, while the female catkins are green and oval-shaped. Once pollinated by wind, the female catkins gradually become woody and appear as tiny, cone-like fruits in winter. Seeds are dispersed by wind and water.



14. Bullace *Prunus domestica subsp. Insititia*

Crossing the bridge by the upper pond, an ancient Bullace can be seen on the left. It is believed to be one of original trees of Dunorlan estate. The Bullace is a variety of plum, with fruit having a rather acid flavour until fully ripe. As well as being used for making various fruit preserves, they were also traditionally used to make fruit wine, and a bullace pie was reported to be one of the usual centrepieces of a 19th-century harvest home supper in the south of England.



15. Cypress Oak *Quercus robur 'Fastigiata'*

Continuing up the path alongside the lake there is a fine example of the Cypress Oak, a county champion in height measuring 22m in 2005. The Fastigiata cultivar grows to a large imposing tree with a narrow columnar habit and was originally propagated from an upright tree that was found in central Europe.



16. Turkey Oak *Quercus cerris*

Continuing alongside the lake, pass the Boat House and take the path turning sharp to the left. Note a massive Turkey Oak. Turkey Oak is a deciduous broadleaf tree native to south-eastern Europe and Asia Minor. It was introduced to the UK as an ornamental tree in 1735 from the Balkans. It can be told apart from native oaks by its 'hairy' acorn cups, which look like they are covered in a dense coating of moss, and by its narrower leaves.

17. Copper Beech *Fagus sylvatica 'Atropurpurea'*

This deciduous tree with an elegant smooth grey bark grows opposite the Turkey Oak, on the right side of the path. It is widely grown as an ornamental tree for its distinctive purple leaves. As a cultivar it has no natural range, but shares many characteristics with common beech. Copper Beech trees can be propagated by grafting to maintain the colour of the leaves. On this particular tree you can notice old graft line on the bottom of the trunk.



18. English Oak *Quercus robur*

Following the path up towards the café, notice a magnificent English Oak to the right. There are many robust native English Oaks in the park, some are along the lines of old field boundary hedgerows. It is the most common tree species in the UK, especially in southern and central British deciduous woodland. In England, the English Oak has assumed the status of a national emblem. Oak trees provide a habitat rich in biodiversity; they support more life forms than any other native trees.



Did you know?

- Dunorlan Park contains about 730 single trees of all ages and sizes. Some of them are native British species, other have been introduced from other parts of the world and planted during the creation of the Victorian gardens by Robert Marnock. Some of the originally planted trees are still present in the Park.
- All trees in the Park are maintained in accordance with best practice according to recommendations of the Arboricultural Association, to keep them healthy and safe.
- You can donate a tree or a shrub to be planted in Dunorlan Park. The Head Gardener will be pleased to help you choose what type of tree or shrub to plant. The exact location of your donated tree will be agreed with you and your wishes will be taken into account whenever possible.