

The Illustrated Tree Trail



Welcome to Mount Edgcumbe Country Park. The park has many aspects that will be of interest to you, but a major feature is the wonderful range of trees. You will notice that many trees have metal tags attached to them. This will not harm the tree, but has helped us record the trees within the Park. So far over 100 different species have been identified.

This trail has been designed to introduce you to 17 interesting tree species within the Country Park. The route followed is 3km (2 miles) long and will take 60-90 minutes. The entire route is suitable for prams or tramper (available for hire at the park), except for a small section, which can be readily by-passed.

Quercus ilex on either side of the old tennis courts. These evergreen trees provide the essential shelter from the sea spray and wind that has allowed the rare and delicate plants to be grown in the gardens.

Keep straight on to the Blockhouse and then around by the side of the Tamar. As Cremyll comes into view there is a lawn on your left and in the middle is the WELLINGTONIA (16) Sequoiadendron giganteum. It was introduced from NW America in 1853 and was named after Wellington who had died the previous year.

The YEW (17) Taxus baccata is to the left by a small building. It is one of the few native evergreens in Britain (others are Holly, Juniper and Scots Pine) and has very elastic wood. The wood was commonly used for hunting spears, bows and arrows and when used as a post will outlast a post of iron. Yew long bows were used at the Battle of Agincourt against the French.

Follow the path on through the Italian Garden, past the Orangery with its Cafe, and back to the start.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk around Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, and that you will return. If you wish for further information about the Park please visit our website www.mountedgcumbe.gov.uk.

-----COUNTRYCODE-----

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Take your litter home.
- Make no unnecessary noise.
- Help to keep all water clean.
- Use gates and styles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
- Fasten all gates.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Keep your dogs under control.

Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, Cremyll, Torpoint PL10 1HZ
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Starting at the Main Entrance to the Park at Cremyll, walk up the Drive but take note of the large tree on the left. The tree is a SYCAMORE (1) with the Latin name *Acer pseudoplatanus*. This tree was introduced by the Romans to Britain. The wood is often used for kitchen implements. Look at the leaves. They often have black spot fungus.

The road continues up the hill with a pond on your right. Between the road and the pond are some LIME trees (2) *Tilia x europaea*. You will identify them by the masses of twigs on the main trunk. The Lime has been a native of Britain for at least 7000 years and the very soft white wood is ideal for carving. In early summer the tree is a mass of highly scented flowers which make a pleasant tea.

The next tree is 50m up the road on the left, a SWEET or SPANISH CHESTNUT (3) *Castanea sativa*, introduced by the Romans as a food tree - the edible chestnut. When younger, these trees are much used for fence posts, hurdles, barrel hoops and charcoal; older trees are used for the manufacture of cabinets.

Carry straight on up the road curling to the left. As you approach a wooden fence on your left, there is a very large SESSILE OAK tree (4) *Quercus petraea* on either side of the road. This is the most common oak in the west and uplands of Britain and has always been an important tree for timber, whilst the bark is used in the tanning of leather.

Follow the road around to the left. About 70m on your right is a large HORSECHESTNUT (5) *Aesculus hippocastanum*. This tree, renowned for conkers was introduced from Greece in the late 16th century. In the spring it can be identified by its large sticky buds.

Carry on walking on the concrete road and take the left fork into the woods. After this point you have a choice of routes.

1. If you have a pram or wish to avoid a steep grassy slope, take the fork to the left and



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continue till the next fork - again go left. When you come to a T-junction, turn sharp left and you are back on the trail at the point marked X in the text and on the map.

2. Take the higher track. To your left is a single TULIP TREE (6) *Liriodendron tulipifera*, so called because of the tulip shaped flowers it bears in the late Spring. It was introduced from America in the 17th century. Its bark produces an extract that is used as a heart stimulant.

Keep on the track and you will notice some massive trees along the right. These are BEECH (7) *Fagus sylvatica* and are probably amongst the oldest trees in the Park, being about 300 years old. The Beech is one of the most important timber trees and is a native of Southern England.

You are now at the top of the Amphitheatre, and through the trees you should be able to see views over Plymouth to Dartmoor.

Walk through the gate in the deer fence (the fence is to keep the wild herd of fallow deer out of the Formal Gardens). Please keep dogs on a lead. Go down the hill towards the Folly (built in 1747 as a ruin). Between you and the Folly are two groups of STONE PINE (8) *Pinus pinea*. This Mediterranean tree was introduced in the 16th century-the seeds when roasted can be eaten like peanuts, they can also be added to stews and ragouts (a traditional Italian dish).

Keeping to the left of the Stone Pines, cross a track. Just below this is a storm damaged SCOTS PINE (9) *Pinus sylvestris*-note the red colour of the branches. Continue down the hill to the double gate in the deer fence on your left.

The large conifer on the left of the gate is a BLUE CEDAR (10) *Cedrus atlantica glauca*. All cedars come from the Mediterranean or the Himalayas and are much used as ornamental trees throughout Britain.



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On your right before the gate is an unusual tree - a MORINDA or WEST HIMALAYAN SPRUCE (11) *Picea smithiana*. This is related to the SITKA SPRUCE (Britain's most common forest tree) and to the Christmas tree or Norway Spruce.

Pass through the gate and follow the path as it gently descends into the Amphitheatre (at this point the detour path joins again at X).

On the inside of the path as it curves to the right is a huge straight red conifer. This is the COASTAL REDWOOD (12) *Sequoia sepervirens* which was introduced to Britain from the west coast of America in 1843. These trees are known to live for thousands of years, and are one of the largest living organisms known on this planet.

The path joins up with the concrete road which you should follow to the left for about 300m. As it turns left there is a small track off to the right and one of the finest trees in the whole of the Park. It is on the left above the path and is one of the largest CORK OAK (13) *Quercus suber* trees in Britain. Planted in the 1770's this tree has needed a great deal of work to hold it together. Cork oaks were introduced from the Mediterranean and only grow in the SW of Britain. In Spain and Portugal the bark is stripped off every 10 years to provide most of the world's supply of cork. The most interesting feature of this tree is that the Cork Oak is grafted onto a Turkey Oak *Quercus cerris* rootstock.

Bare right off the concrete road and follow the path to the coast, turn left passing the drip stone to the trees situated by the benches on the left before the cross roads.

These are ASH (14) *Fraxinus excelsior*. The tree has very distinctive black buds in the Spring, and has a strong flexible wood that is much used for tools and implements.

Follow the coast to the gate into the Formal Gardens. Inside the gate you enter a sheltered green, protected by hedges of ILEX OAK (15)



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