

# Trees of Pittencrieff Park



## Pittencrieff PARK

From ancient native woodland to exotic and rare species, Pittencrieff Park is home to over 100 types of tree.

Why not follow the park's tree trail and discover more about the living giants found here?



# Trees in Pittencrieff Park

Within the park there are large areas of ancient woodland, smaller areas of mixed woodland and a huge variety of both native and exotic species from around the world that have been planted throughout the parkland.

There are approximately 117 different tree species and more than 1300 individual trees here in Pittencrieff Park!



**Deciduous:**  
trees that lose their leaves in autumn and then produce new leaves in spring

**Native:**  
trees that can be found growing naturally and have done so for millions of years



The Lower Glen (the areas surrounding the Tower Burn) is home to the largest expanse of woodland. This is semi-natural ancient woodland which is home to native species such as lime, ash and yew as well as being home to a variety of wildlife including birds such as Treecreepers and Grey Wagtails.

Smaller areas of woodland can be found close to the Louise Carnegie Gates and also the Nethertown entrance to the park.

## Some tree terms explained!



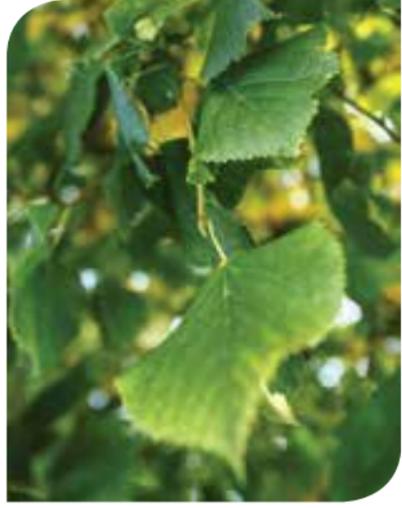
**Coniferous:** trees that may also be referred to as 'evergreen' as they usually keep their leaves throughout the year

**Ornamental/ exotic:** trees from other parts of the world which would be unlikely to have colonised otherwise

You can find out more about Britain's trees from the Woodland Trust: online at [www.british-trees.com](http://www.british-trees.com)

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## Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*)



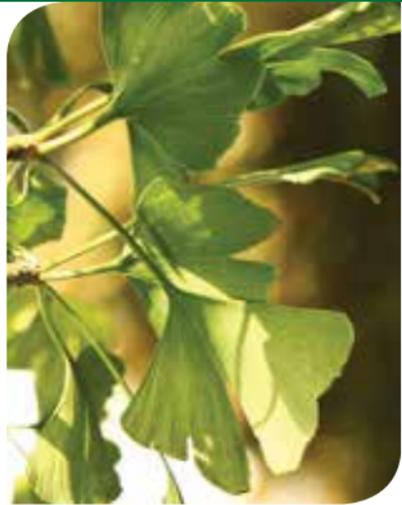
The small-leaved Lime is a deciduous tree producing 'heart' shaped leaves each spring. It is native throughout Europe and Asia and can grow to over 30m. Where it occurs naturally, it is an indicator of ancient woodland. It is a popular tree with honey bees as well as being a herbal remedy and having anti-inflammatory properties used to treat a range of respiratory ailments. It is often used in wood carving and can be seen in many church altars.

Here in the park it is found throughout the lower glen but has also been planted as an avenue leading from the Louise Carnegie Gates to the Andrew Carnegie Statue.

*ID Tag: 1168*

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## Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)



Also known as maidenhair tree, the Ginkgo is a living fossil. This unique tree species has no close living relatives and is an endangered species that is native to China.

It is used in food and medicines as it is said to enhance memory, improve blood flow and prevent cell damage by free radicals. It is being tested in the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis and Dementia.

See the Park's Ginkgo immediately outside the Laird's Garden on the east side.

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## Larch, European (*Larix decidua*)



The Larch is confusingly referred to as a deciduous coniferous tree!

Whilst the needle like leaves give a coniferous appearance, they change colour and fall from the tree in autumn along with other deciduous species.

The Park's Larch was probably planted around 1610AD when Pittencrieff House was built making it more than 400 years old!

Go to the lawn in front of Pittencrieff House to see our ancient larch tree.

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## Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)



The Elder is a smaller tree growing to around 10m and is often the first tree to produce leaves in spring.

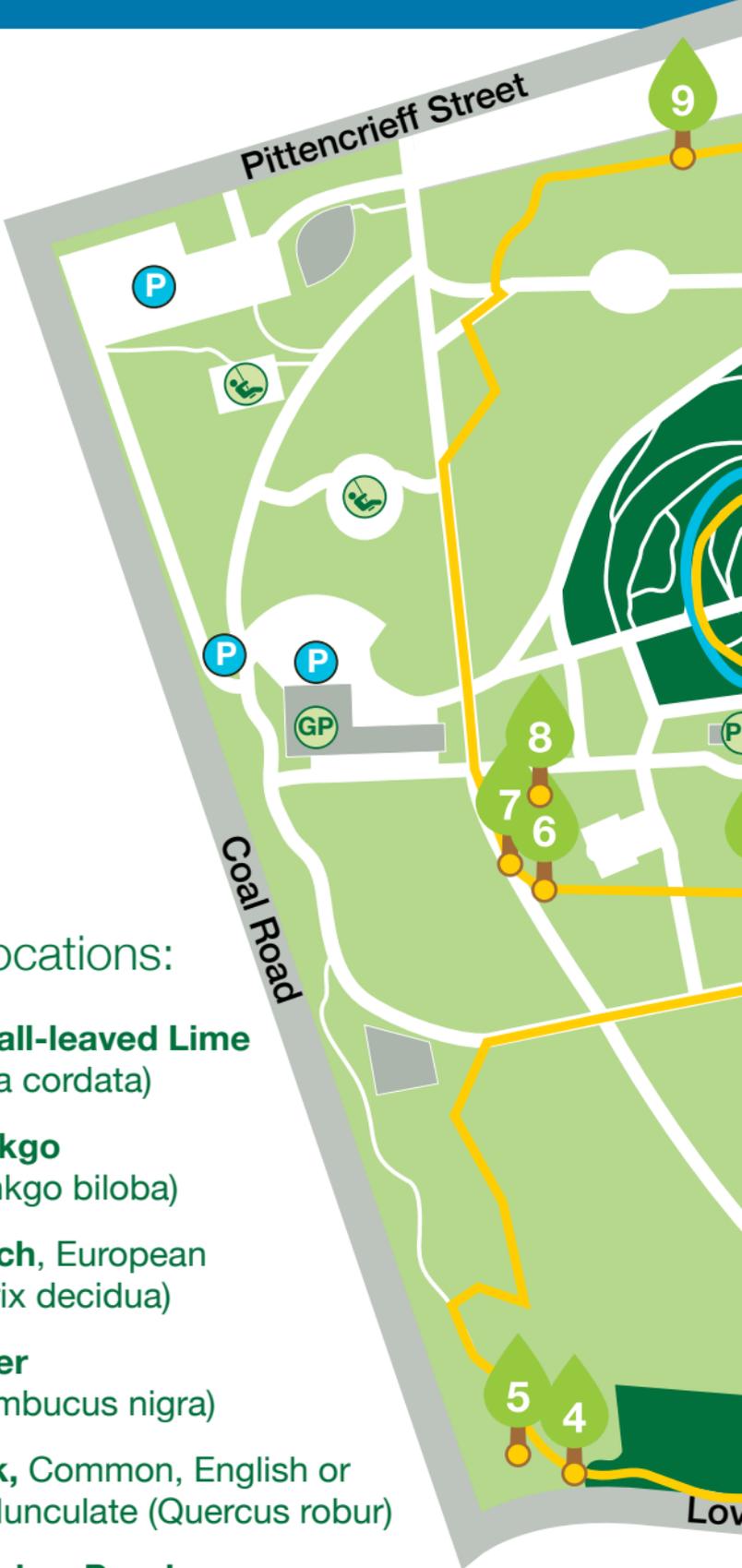
Dark purple bunches of berries are produced in autumn but are not safe for humans to eat when raw. These berries can be used to make elderberry wine, the flowers to make elderflower cordial and other parts including the leaves for making medicinal teas and remedies.

The Elder is also used to produce yellow, green blue, purple, grey and black dye used in the making of Harris Tweed.

According to folklore the Elder can ward off evil spirits and bring good luck!

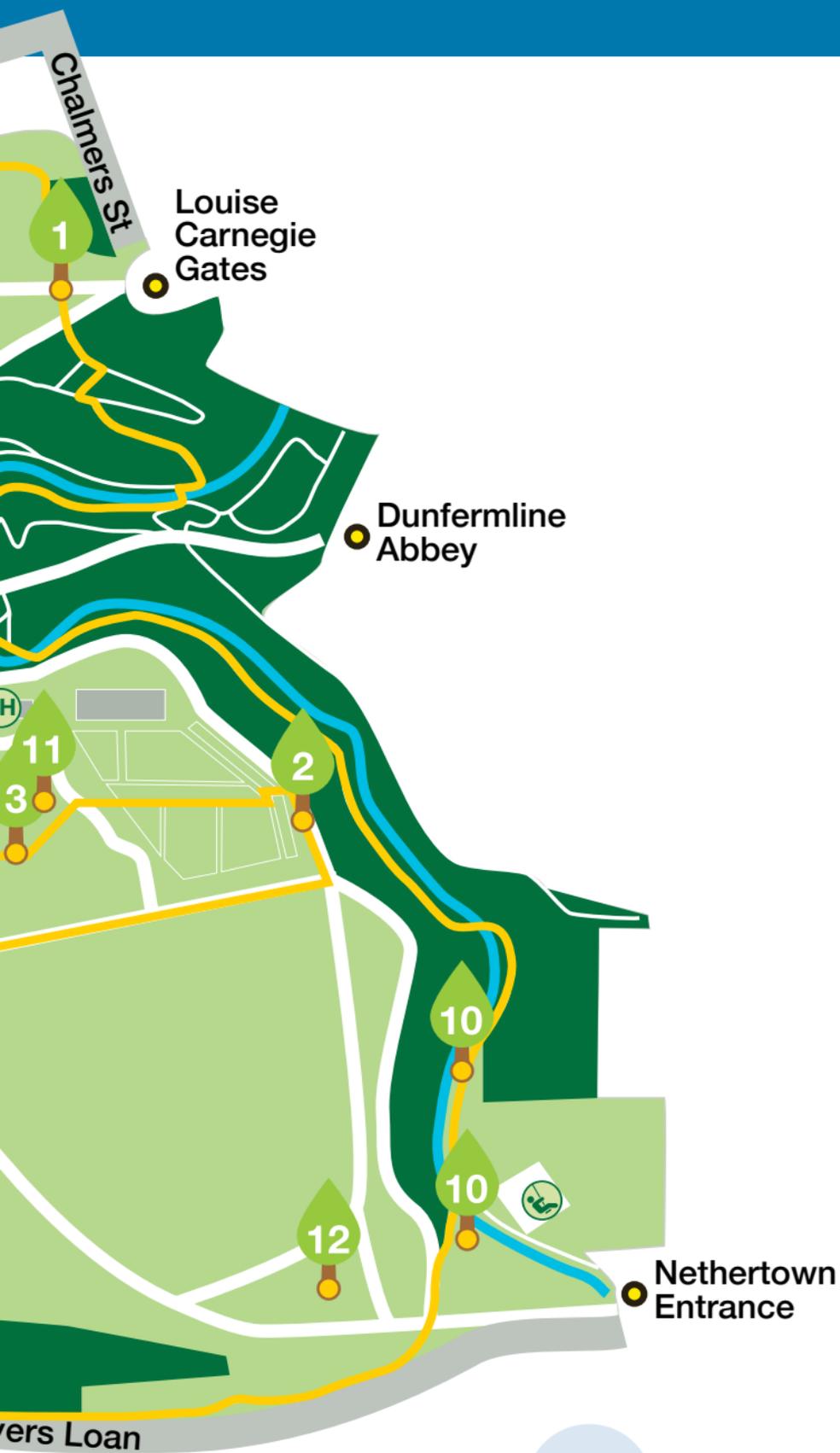
Within the park Elder trees can be seen in the south woodland and the woodland around the Dovecot.

# Tree trail



## Tree locations:

- 1 **Small-leaved Lime**  
(*Tilia cordata*)
- 2 **Ginkgo**  
(*Ginkgo biloba*)
- 3 **Larch, European**  
(*Larix decidua*)
- 4 **Elder**  
(*Sambucus nigra*)
- 5 **Oak, Common, English or Pedunculate** (*Quercus robur*)
- 6 **Monkey Puzzle**  
(*Araucaria araucana*)
- 7 **Yew**  
(*Taxus baccata*)
- 8 **Giant Redwood of California or Giant Sequoia or Wellingtonia**  
(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)
- 9 **Ash**  
(*Fraxinus excelsior*)
- 10 **Horse Chestnut**  
(*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
- 11 **Antarctic or Southern Beech**  
(*Nothofagus antarctica*)
- 12 **Scots Pine**  
(*Pinus sylvestris*)



-  GP Glen Pavilion
-  PH Pittencrieff House
-  Playparks
-  Parking

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## Oak, Common, English or Pedunculate (*Quercus robur*)



The Oak tree produces distinctive lobed leaves in spring and acorns in autumn. Oak trees commonly live for around 500 years, can stand up to 30m tall and measure 12m around the trunk!

The wood is used for shipbuilding, furniture, construction, wine and whisky barrels as well as for smoking fish and game.

The Oak is an important species for biodiversity as it can support more than 400 other species including lichens, fungi, insects, birds and mammals!

Within the park you will see Oak trees in the south woodland and the woodland around the Dovecot.

*ID Tag: 1283*

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## Monkey Puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*)



The Monkey Puzzle is an evergreen species native to Chile and Argentina. It is listed as an endangered species and the name 'Monkey Puzzle' reportedly comes from a chance remark when it was first planted in Britain that "...it would take a monkey to climb that!"

Head to the group of trees to the south of the Pavilion and Pittencrieff House to spot the only Monkey Puzzle tree in the park.

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## Yew (*Taxus baccata*)



The Yew is a coniferous tree that keeps its leaves (or needles) all year round.

It flowers in early spring and produces red berries in autumn. The leaves and berries are highly toxic to humans but an important food source for birds - particularly as winter approaches and all other food sources are disappearing.

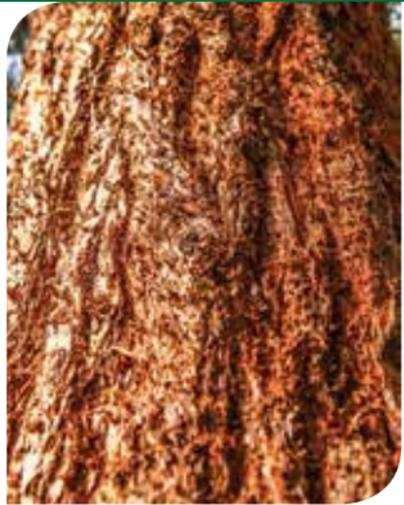
The wood is used in furniture making and archers bows.

Yews are often associated with graveyards possibly because they mark pagan centres and churches have been built later, to keep cattle out and because this tree is thought to protect the dead.

*ID Tag: 1262, 1296 & 1301*

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## Giant Redwood of California or Giant Sequoia or Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)



The Giant Redwood occurs naturally only in groves on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. These are the worlds largest trees by volume with some growing up to 85 metres tall and 8 metres across. The oldest recorded specimen was at least 3,500 years old.

The thick bark of this tree (90 cm) is spongy and provides excellent fire protection. Reproduction is difficult as the seeds require very high temperatures to germinate and then wet conditions to continue growth.

Wood from this tree is brittle and is therefore unsuitable for use in construction or shipbuilding.

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## Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)



The Ash is often one of the last tree species to come into leaf and one of the first to drop its leaves in autumn. It has 'hoof' like black buds and fruits of the ash tree are known as keys which remain long after the leaves have been dropped.

It is a large tree that can stand at up to 40m high. Its wood is used for furniture, shepherds crooks, tools, wheels and shinty sticks. Mythology describes Ash as a 'tree of life' with healing powers and as a source of magic and mystery!

Within the park you will spot Ash trees near the play areas, in the woodland around the Dovecot and in the woodland to the south of the sloping lawns.

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## Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)



Introduced to Scotland in the 16th century but now one of our best recognised species.

It produces large, 5-7 lobed leaves in spring and tough, brown, shiny chestnuts in autumn (also known as conkers).

Conkers were historically used for the treatment of horse ailments but in more recent times provide much entertainment in the playing of a game of "conkers".

The blossoms (spikes of flowers standing 20 cm tall) inspired "Chestnut Sundays" in the early 1900's where people would gather to see the blossom and picnic.

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## Antarctic or Southern Beech (*Nothofagus antarctica*)



The Southern Beech is a deciduous tree, native to Chile and Argentina. It can reach 25m tall. The leaves are oval with crinkly edges that are irregularly and minutely toothed. It produces fruits which are contained in a capsule.

Its occurrence on Hoste Island in the Pacific Ocean earns it the distinction of being the southernmost tree on Earth!

See the Park's Southern Beech on the lawn area in front of Pittencrieff House.

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## Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)



The Scots Pine is the most widely distributed conifer in the world, with a natural range from the Arctic Circle to southern Spain.

The Scots pine forests in Scotland are unique and distinct from those found elsewhere because of the absence of any other native conifers.

The trees can grow to 36m tall and in a good season a mature tree can produce 3000 cones!



## Pittencrieff Park restoration project

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund with match support from the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust and Fife Council, a £1.6 million transformation to return this much loved green space to its former glory began in Autumn 2012.

Producing this tree trail of the park for people to enjoy is part of this project.

