



Forestry Commission
England

Follow our trail at Waterdale, LIVIA

...to discover more about
the trees in our woods.
Find out why they are here,
and the value they have
for wildlife and timber.

Forest Enterprise
England manages around

20%

of the country's
woodland

Turn over
to find
out more
about these trees

Be a Tree Explorer

Walking trail



Common ash
Fraxinus excelsior



Silver birch
Betula pendula



Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus



Hazel
Corylus avellana



English oak
Quercus robur



Wild cherry
Prunus avium



Start / Finish

Entrance

Buckley Lane

Prestwich Hospital

River Inwell



Woods are special places

not only for wildlife
but for us all to enjoy...

With over 70 million visitors a year, we are committed to making our forests special places for wildlife to live, for people to enjoy and for business to thrive.

A budding industry

We are planting an ever more diverse range of tree species, grown from carefully selected seeds that are better able to cope with our changing climate. This helps to increase the availability of different types of food and nectars available to wildlife.

ForestXplorer

Get free on the go information about your woodland with added **Twitter** and **Facebook** feeds. Get your photos featured in the app using **Instagram #sitename**

Find out more at:
forestry.gov.uk/mobileapp

1 Wild cherry

Prunus avium



- Cherry leaves are large, light green elliptical leaves around 6-15cm long. They grow alternately along the twig.
- Wild cherry trees are common in woodlands where birds often spread seeds in their droppings. So it is often found in lowland woods around oak trees.
- Cherry wood is richly coloured and can be highly polished making it popular in cabinet work, furniture and turning.

4 Ash

Fraxinus excelsior



- Ash has compound leaves instead of single leaves. These are in pairs with an odd one on the end. They are lanced shaped with slightly toothed edges.
- Ash wood is very strong and elastic. It is said that an ash joint can bear more weight than any other type of wood.
- Ash is a great source of firewood. Its Latin name '*Fraxinus*' means firelight.
- The main threat to ash trees is Chalara dieback; a disease that causes trees to lose their leaves and the crown to die back, usually resulting in their death. One way to help combat the spread is by restricting the movement of ash plants and seeds into and within the UK.

2 English oak

Quercus robur



- The oak tree has long irregular and deep lobed green leaves. They grow alternately along the twig.
- Oak trees can live for 500 years, and reach a height of 30m.
- The oak has always been held in high esteem. The Druids worshipped and practised their rites in oak groves.
- There are a number of non-native oaks in the UK including holm, red and turkey oak. The only other native is the sessile oak.
- Oak trees provide a rich habitat for wildlife and support more life forms than any other native trees.

5 Silver birch

Betula pendula



- Silver birch leaves are triangular in shape with rounded corners at the base of the leaf.
- The leaves grow alternately along the twig.
- Birch is a popular garden tree as it only grows to 15m in height.
- Silver birch wood is of little commercial value in Britain because the trees do not grow as large as they do in other parts of Europe.
- Birch seeds itself freely, and is often the first species to grow on freshly cleared ground.

Be a **Tree Explorer**

Walking trail

3 Hazel

Corylus avellana



- Hazel leaves are almost perfectly round with a narrow pointed tip. They are double-toothed and have short stalks.
- Hazel was grown in the UK for large-scale nut production until the early 1900s. Cultivated varieties (known as cob-nuts) are still grown in Kent, but most of our hazelnuts are now imported.
- If left, the hazel tree can grow for 80 years, but if coppiced, they can grow for over 100 years. Coppicing involves cutting the tree back to a 'stool' at ground level, to encourage straight stems to grow.

6 Sycamore

Acer pseudoplatanus



- The sycamore has large, dark green leaves with 5 distinct ragged lobes.
- The sycamore was introduced to the UK in the 17th century.
- Sycamore is particularly tolerant of 'sea spray' and is planted to offer shade and shelter along the coast. It is also tolerant of pollution and is often planted in towns and cities.
- It is highly valued for making violins and for veneers. In Wales, sycamore trees were used in the traditional craft of making 'love spoons.'
- One sycamore tree can produce 10,000+ winged seeds.