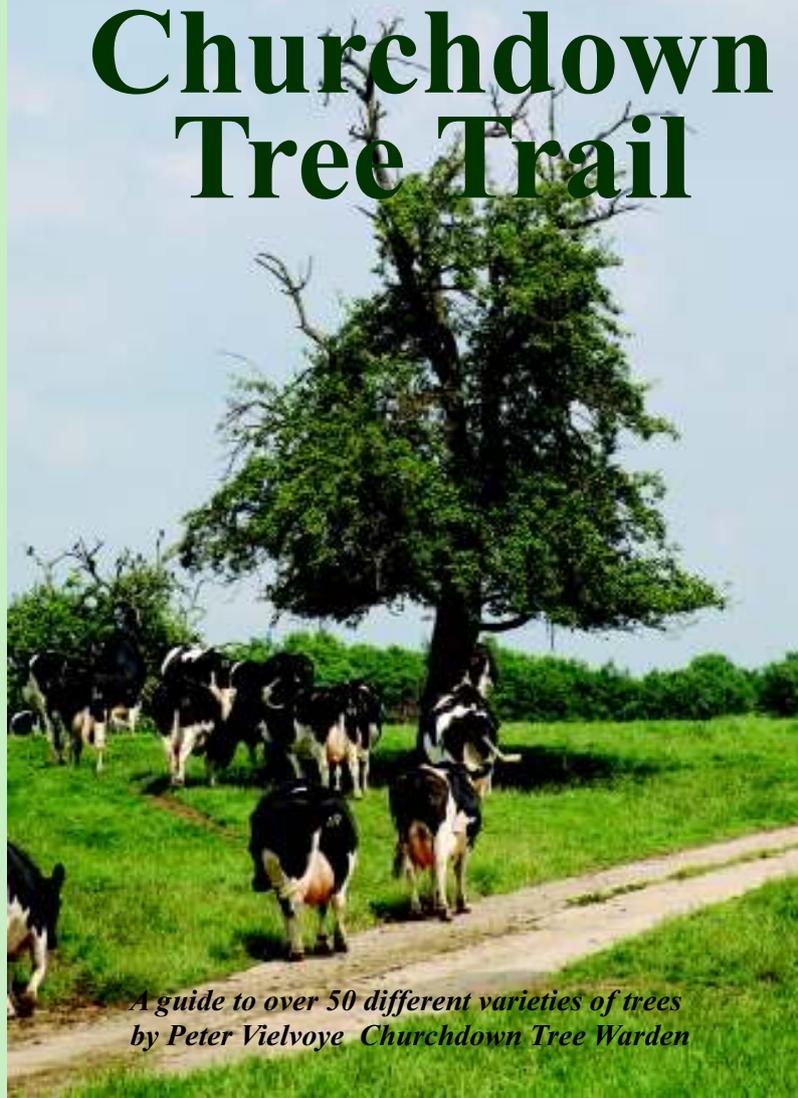


# Churchdown Tree Trail



*A guide to over 50 different varieties of trees by Peter Vielvoye Churchdown Tree Warden*

| No | TREE NAME        | LOCATION & IDENTIFICATION              | POINTS OF INTEREST  |
|----|------------------|--|---|
| 55 | Very old Walnut  | End of road by garage                  | This ancient tree provided the walnut that the young replacement tree grew from.                                  |
| 56 | Hawthorn         | Over stile                             | Look up as you climb the stile for the bright red berries.  |
| 57 | Swamp Cypress    | Left of wide track, small soft needles | Very attractive in autumn when its soft needles turn golden brown before shedding.                                |
| 58 | Beech            | On the right of wide track             | A light-coloured, close-grained timber mostly used for furniture construction and kitchen equipment.              |
| 59 | Yew              | Conifer with dark green, dense foliage | Very poisonous to humans and livestock. The traditional timber for making longbows.                               |
| 60 | Lucombe Oak      | Behind Yew                             | Not so common evergreen oak with dark shiny leaves.   |
| 61 | Weeping Willow   | In the corner of the school field      | Ancient example of this elegant tree.   |
| 62 | Walnut           | School field                           | Prolific nuts from this tree. Timber is prized for furniture making due to its beautifully figured grain.         |
| 63 | Snow Gum         | End of garden on left                  | One of the Eucalyptus varieties, note the white peeling bark and evergreen leaves.                                |
| 64 | Mirabelle Plum   | Corner of school field                 | Spectacular in full fruit, dripping with small yellow plums. Origin is France, where it is used to make plum jam. |
| 65 | Hazel copse      | On the grass bank                      | Mostly found as a hedgerow shrub and bears tasty nuts.  |
| 66 | Field Maple      | Just past the Hazels                   | Ancient tree providing a home for all sorts of wildlife.  |
| 67 | Norway Maple     | Entrance to park                       | The green leaved version of the species seen earlier.   |
| 68 | Cherry           | Park walk                              | Always makes a splendid show of spring blossom.   |
| 69 | English Oaks     | Park walk                              | Look out for oak apples, a marble-size ball mutation of the oak leaf caused by a gall wasp.                       |
| 70 | Field Maple      | Park walk in hedge                     | Large mature hedgerow tree, must have survived from farmland days.  |
| 71 | Weeping Ash      | Turn right up Parton Road              | Worth a short detour to see this unusual Ash tree.  |
| 72 | 6 Corsican Pines | Very tall pines                        | Very similar to Austrian Pine.  |
| 73 | Copper Beech     | Large tree, copper coloured leaves     | <b>TPO</b> Very little vegetation can survive among the leaf litter under the dense canopy of the beech tree.     |
| 74 | Horse Chestnut   | Large spreading tree                   | <b>TPO</b> Look for the large sticky buds in the early spring and shiny red conkers in late summer.               |

**TPO:** Tree Preservation Order.  
TPOs are made by local councils to legally protect specific trees.

### References

Collins Complete Guide to British Trees – Paul Sterry  
Trees in Britain – Roger Phillips

### Acknowledgements

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council  
Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society  
Churchdown Parish Council:  
[www.churchdown-pc.gov.uk](http://www.churchdown-pc.gov.uk)  
Tim Green Photography: [www.timstuff.co.uk](http://www.timstuff.co.uk)  
The Gloucester Tree Wardens



| No  | TREE NAME        | LOCATION & IDENTIFICATION                              | POINTS OF INTEREST  |
|---|------------------|--|---|
| 27  | Deodar           | Growing up over the garage                             | See the new cones standing up along the branches, they take two years to mature before they shed their seeds.   |
| 29  | Sycamore         | Overhanging the road                                   | hapter blades. Traditional timber for rolling pins.   |
| 30  | Robinia Frisia   | Golden yellow leaves                                   | Very popular in the village as an ornamental garden tree.   |
| 31  | False Acacia     | Garden of Sarco  | The last tree to come into leaf in the spring.  |
| 32  | Lime             | Tail tree, largest heart-shaped leaf                   | <b>TPO</b> Very prevalent tree in Churchdown. A fine-grained timber really good for carving.  |
| 33  | Tulip Tree       | Right in school entrance                               | Leaves and flower resemble the shape of a Tulip flower head.  |
| 34  | Rowan            | Left in school entrance                                | Often called Mountain Ash, attractive red berries in the summer.  |
| 35  | Wellingtonia     | Very tall pine tree                                    | <b>TPO</b> Some of the tallest trees in the world are Wellingtonias, some recorded at 110m and 4000 years old. They were only introduced to this country 150 years ago. |
| 36  | Copper Beech     | Large spreading tree with copper leaves                | All trees in the Manor House grounds are under <b>TPOs</b> .  |
| 37  | Sweet Gum        | Five-pointed leaf                                      | This tree provides the timber called salwood.   |
| 38  | Incense Cedar    | Column-shaped tree in churchyard                       | This is the Cedar that traditionally provided the wood for making pencils.  |
| 39  | Thuja            | Thick evergreen  | Extensively used for hedging and as an ornamental tree.   |
| <b>Time for a break at the Bat and Ball Inn.</b>                                      |                  |  |   |
| <b>Built on the site of the Old Elm Inn, supposedly named after a long gone tree.</b> |                  |  |   |
| 40  | Silver Birches   | Two old examples on left and one younger tree on right | As the tree ages the bark develops dark twigs and cracks and loses its silver colour. Birch twigs were used to make the witches besom.                                  |
| 41  | Tulip Tree       | In garden on right                                     | The leaves turn an attractive orange and yellow in the autumn. The timber is known as white wood.   |
| 42  | Spruce           | Behind Beech hedge                                     | Better known in this country as the Christmas tree.   |
| 43  | Horse Chestnut   | The leaves have 5 or 7 broad fingers                   | <b>TPO</b> The nuts are better known as conkers, named after the game of 'conquer'.   |
| 44  | Lime             | Tall tree in hedgerow                                  | <b>TPO</b> Flowers are fragrant but the leaves attract aphids.  |
| 45  | Ash              | 7-13 oval-pointed leaves                               | <b>TPO</b> A springy wood often used for making tool handles.   |
| 46  | Copper Beech     | Left at start of Broadworth Road                       | <b>TPO</b> Well worth the short walk of the main trail to see these two fine trees.   |
| 47  | Wellingtonia     | Is this the tallest tree in Churchdown?                | <b>TPO</b> Has a thick spongy bark that develops deep cracks that attracts birds, particularly Tree Creepers.   |
| 48  | Almond           | On grass bank  | Looks like it needs some TLC. Look for the fruit which velvety green down covering the almond nut.  |
| 49  | Blue Atlas Cedar | Corner of Crafty Lane                                  | Welcome sight on entrance to village. A very attractive tree with a bluish grey foliage.  |
| 50  | Maple            | First on right of Crafty Lane                          | Look close to notice a variegated leaf, unusual in a large, mature tree.  |
| 51  | Ash              | Left side hedgerow                                     | The fruit are single keys that tend to hang in bunches and persist through the winter months. Excellent for firewood.   |
| 52  | English Oak      | Another hedgerow tree                                  | This species is highly important to native wildlife and supports invertebrate life in abundance.  |
| 53  | Oak              | On Green beside Inscobed bench                         | Planted by the late Anne Peniket to commemorate the centenary of Churchdown Council November 1988.  |
| 54  | Young Walnut     | Top side of green                                      | Planted to replace the Walnut lost while under protection of a <b>TPO</b> during construction of the adjacent dwelling.   |

| No | TREE NAME          | LOCATION & IDENTIFICATION                           | POINTS OF INTEREST  |
|----|--------------------|---|---|
| 1  | Community Orchard  | Fenced area below allotments                        | Gloucestershire varieties of Apple, Perry Pear and Plum. For more info contact Ann Smith 01452 855677.                |
| 2  | Austrian Pines     | The Cedars Care Home front fence                    | Tall Austrian Pines can be found all around Churchdown and are thought to have been planted in the 1890s.             |
| 3  | Turkey Oaks        | Either side of gate to the Cedars Care Home         | The leaves are bigger and more deeply lobed than the more common English Oak. The acorns are also more common.        |
| 4  | Weeping Willow     | Down to the ground adjacent to the Cedars Care Home | <b>TPO</b> This tree was protected at the demise of The Chestford Construction Company that used to occupy this site. |
| 5  | Black Poplars      | Stand of 4 tall trees with slender leaves           | These trees like damp conditions and follow the line of the brook. A diamond-shaped leaf.                             |
| 6  | Balsam Poplar      | Adjacent to road                                    | You will need your binoculars to check this out. Has a heart-shaped leaf, a bit lighter than the Black Poplar.        |
| 7  | Norway Maple       | Several line the side of the road                   | Stunning dark red leaves. Planted to commemorate the railway bridge that was widened.                                 |
| 8  | Whitebeam          | Green leaved trees between the Maples               | Planted at the same time as the Maples, often used to line roads as they withstand atmospheric pollution.             |
| 9  | Pear               | Behind the fence, at top of the lane                | Produces good size pears most years. Probably seeded from the remains of a lunch thrown out from a train.             |
| 10 | English Elm        | Behind fence, rough rounded leaf with toothed edge  | As this tree matures it will die from Dutch Elm disease but is being replaced from new suckers growing round it.      |
| 11 | Lombardy Poplars   | Tall, thin trees line the railway                   | Often seen planted close in line to form a screen.  |
| 12 | Apple              | Over the stile in field                             | Plenty of rosy apples on this tree later in the summer.   |
| 13 | Blackthorn         | Along railway bank                                  | Produces the sloes that mix so well with a bottle of Gin.   |
| 14 | Elder              | Along railway bank                                  | Dense, thorny tree with lobed leaves and red berries.   |
| 15 | Elder              | Along railway bank                                  | White flowers and black berries for the home-made wine.   |
| 16 | Dogwood            | Along railway bank                                  | Leaves are oval and pointed with prominent veins.   |
| 17 | English Oak        | Large tree spreading over gateway                   | Lobed leaves on short stalks. Acorns are in scaled cups.  |
| 18 | Field Maple        | Behind fence near a cattle grid                     | Smaller lobed leaf than the Norway Maple, turns a very attractive yellow then reddish brown in the autumn.            |
| 19 | Perry Pear Orchard | In field to the left of the track                   | The remains of a listed ancient Perry Pear Orchard featured on the front cover.                                       |
| 20 | Alder              | On the bank of the brook                            | Mostly found by water and help to protect river banks from erosion. The seeds are in cone-like catkins.               |
| 21 | English Oak        | Left as you enter Brookfield Lane                   | Also known as the Pedunculate Oak, the acorns have long stems.  |
| 22 | Silver Birch       | Opposite school entrance                            | A very abundant tree in Churchdown gardens due to its graceful, pendulous form, white bark with horizontal lines.     |
| 23 | Leyland Cypress    | In school grounds                                   | Much used for hedging, can grow to 30 meters.   |
| 24 | Bird Cherry        | By school green-house, oval leaves                  | Cherries are small black and bitter to taste but are eagerly consumed by birds.                                       |
| 25 | English Oak        | Tymings Court                                       | <b>TPO</b> Must be the largest Oak in Churchdown.   |
| 26 | Holly              | Corner of Sandfield Road                            | Fine, shiny, dark green foliage with very strong prickles.  |

# Churchdown Tree Trail: Routes



## Suggested starting points and car parking

Full Route: Red and Blue 3 hours\*

Start at: Parish Council Office Car Park. Follow the tree numbers along red and blue routes, finishing back at your starting point.

Medium Route: Red 2 hours\*

Start at: Parish Council Office Car Park. Follow the red route all the way back to your starting point.

Short Route: Blue 1 hour\*

Start at: Village Car Park behind Churchdown Club. Walk down to the Bat and Ball Inn and follow the blue route all the way back to your starting point.

\* Approximate time taken to complete route if you stop to study all the trees.

## Ideas for family Tree Trail activities

- Collect a range of leaves, press them in a book and then label and mount them to make a wall hanging.
- Take some crayons and paper to do some bark rubbings.
- Collect some of the seeds from trees and try planting them.
- Collect leaves, berries, nuts and fruit and create a tree collage.
- Take photographs of trees and leaves along the way and make an album.
- Once you have identified a specific tree count how many more you can find on the trail. What is the most common tree in Churchdown?
- Test each other as you go round to see who can identify the most trees. See if you can spot a tree that is not on the tree trail list and then identify it!