

Cleethorpes Boating Lake Tree Trail

1



Lombardy-Poplar *Populus nigra* 'Italica'

Because of their narrow, upright form they are often planted in long lines along field margins and roadsides to form windbreaks. Typical, slender Lombardy-poplars are all males whilst the females are of the scarce sub-species 'Gigantea' which have a broader form.

2



Laburnum *Laburnum anagyroides*

In June, its copious yellow, fragrant, pea-like flowers hang in pendulous racemes which develop into dark brown seed pods that persist until they twist and snap open to reveal the pea-like seeds inside. But these seeds aren't edible, in fact they're very poisonous!

3



Hybrid Black-Poplar *Populus x Canadensis*

A hybrid between the Black-Poplar, the most endangered native timber tree in Britain, and the related Cottonwood of N. America. All Poplars are dioecious which means that the whole tree is either female or male. The leaves are quite large and triangular in shape. Can you find the other three trees in the park?

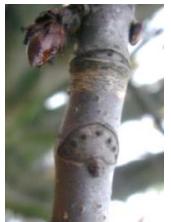
4



Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Versatile and adapting to almost all conditions, it is particularly tolerant of sea spray and is resistant to pollution, and they can live for 400 years! After pollination by wind and insects the female flowers develop into winged fruits called samaras, or more commonly 'helicopters'.

5



Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*

It produces candle-like flower spikes in May and each individual pollinated flower on the spike will turn into a brown shiny conker. When the leaves fall they leave behind a scar on the twig which resembles a horseshoe with nail holes and the conkers were fed to horses with breathing problems which is thought to be where the common name derives from!

6



Austrian Pine *Pinus nigra ssp. nigra*

Austrian pines have two needles in a bunch, which are stiffer and thicker than those of the Corsican pine, a similar tree that can be found in the park. On each scale of the cone it has a tiny spine.

7



Sessile oak *Quercus petraea*

Oak trees support more wildlife than any other native trees, providing a habitat for over 280 species of insect which are food for birds and other predators. The bark provides a habitat for mosses and lichens, and cavities for nesting birds and roosting bats.

8



Crab Apple *Malus sylvestris*

An ancestor of the cultivated apple, its sweetly scented spring blossom provides an important source of early pollen and nectar, particularly for bees, and after pollination the small crab apple fruits are eaten by birds and mammals which all disperse the seeds.

9



Copper Beech *Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea'

A natural variant of the Common Beech, its unmistakable leaf colour results from a mutation present in around 1 in 1000 seeds which makes new leaves red and older leaves a deep purple.

10



Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*

A native tree, the flowers are highly scented and, after insect pollination, develop into berries called 'haws'. It supports over 300 insects and the haws are eaten by our migrating birds.

11



Sea-buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides*

A native to the coast of Eastern England that's used in the sand dunes next to the park to help stabilise the dune system. It produces orange berries in the autumn that are eaten by our many winter migrant birds.

12



Fruit Trees

There are several cultivated varieties of fruit trees that have sprouted up around the park but they still hold value for wildlife with nectar rich blossom in the spring and fruit for hungry foragers from autumn onwards.

13



Goat Willow *Salix caprea*

A native willow with oval leaves, called Pussy Willow because its silky grey buds bear a fanciful resemblance to cats' paws. This is an important species ecologically for a large number of insects, some are specific to this tree species.

14



White weeping willow *Salix x sepulcralis*

The true weeping willow is from China and is very rare in Europe, but hybrids with crack willow and white willow are common. The weeping forms in the park are hybrids with white willow. They have yellow, drooping shoots rather than brown. The leaves are also longer.

15



White willow *Salix alba*

This willow can appear to be white due to the white silky hairs that can appear on both sides of its narrow, lanceolate leaves. It can be distinguished from the hybrid white weeping willow by its brown twigs whilst the twigs of the weeping variety are golden yellow.

16



Smooth-leaved Elm *Ulmus minor* var. *minor*

Elms are identified by the asymmetric base of the leaf. Although highly susceptible to Dutch elm disease, the smooth-leaved elm is showing some resistance because it is better at reproducing from seed than the other elms, and therefore produces more genetic variation.

17



Silver Birch *Betula pendula*

Distinguished by its white bark, the silver birch improves the soil by taking on otherwise inaccessible nutrients deep in the ground with its very deep roots. These nutrients become part of the tree which are recycled when the leaves fall.

18



Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*

A native but now rarely found growing wild. Their leaves have a white felt on the underside and it has white blossom in May which turns in to red berries which lures in Waxwings and Fieldfares who find them irresistible. The common name comes from the white felt of the leaves and *beam* is the Saxon word for tree.

19



Holly *Ilex aquifolium*

They can live for 300 years and can be seen flowering here in October and November, and holly is dioecious meaning that male and female flowers are found on different trees. The male flowers are scented and the female flowers, once pollinated by insects, produce bright red berries throughout winter.

20

**Crack Willow** *Salix fragilis*

One of Britain's largest willows, the Crack willow is found growing by lakes and watercourses. The 'crack' comes from the noise that the branches and twigs make as they fall away.

21

**Wayfaring tree** *Viburnum lantana*

It has silky-haired twigs and leaves which are also hairy underneath. If you look at these hairs through a hand-lens you will see that they are star-shaped and not round!

24

**White poplar** *Populus alba*

The undersides of the leaves are covered in a dense white felt the trunks of older trees patterned with lines of black diamond shaped pores called lenticels, which are 'breathing' pores that allow gas exchange.

25

**Scots Pine** *Pinus sylvestris*

A native to Britain, it also has two needles in a cluster, like the Austrian Pine, but are shorter than the other pine species in the park, and they have a definite twist to them. The bark is orange, and they can live for up to 700 years!

28

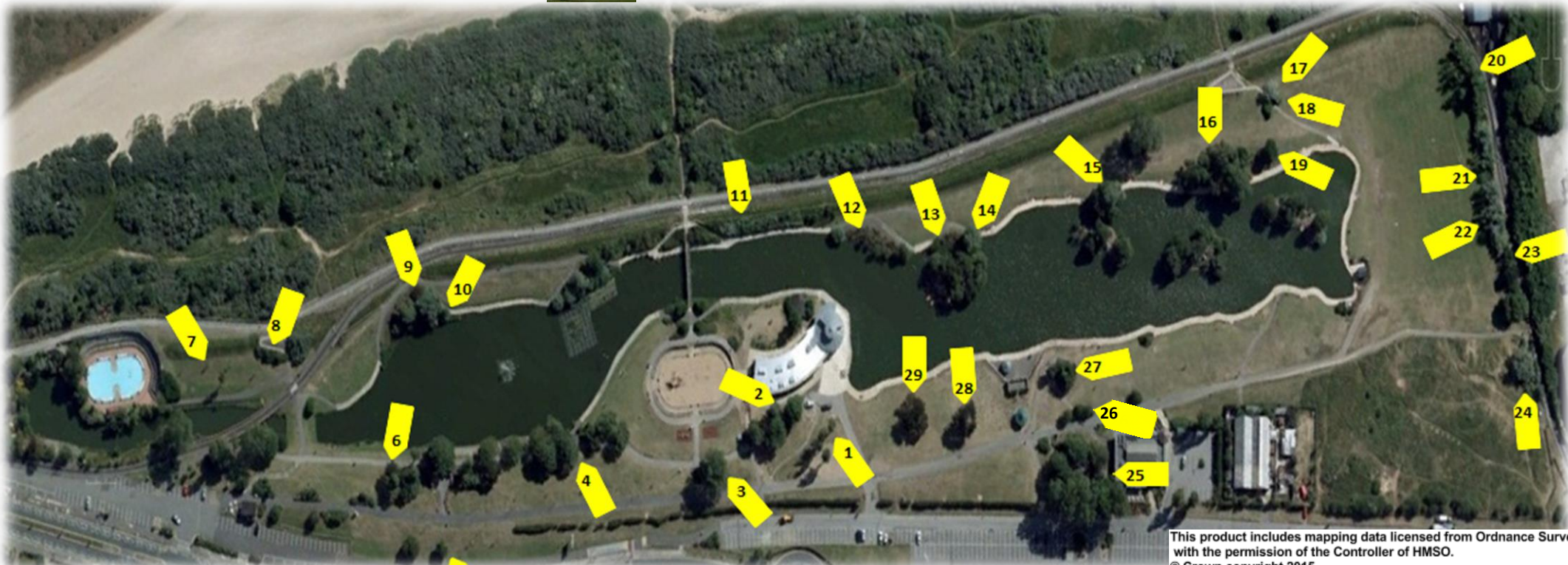
**Corsican Pine** *Pinus nigra ssp. laricio*

It has two needles in a cluster, which are long, flexible and twisted. The branches grow in whorls around the trunk, one whorl per year, so estimating the age of a Corsican Pine is easy! How old do you think it is?

29

**Monterey Pine** *Pinus radiata*

This pine has three needles in a cluster. It's cones are large (about as big as your hand!) and, because the native habitat of this tree is subjected to natural bush fires, the cones only open to release seeds when heated by fire, so they get a head start over other plants after a severe bush fire.



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22

**Blackthorn** *Prunus spinosa*

Its twigs form straight side shoots which develop into thorns, and its fruits (sloes) are round and blue-black in colour. It produces blossom in early spring, often turning whole hedgerows white.

23

**Cotoneaster Tree** *Cotoneaster frigidus*

A semi-evergreen, it thrives in cold climates – so it won't mind those Easterlies blowing in! Creamy white flowers turn into rich, red clusters of berries that are a good winter food source for the birds.

26

**Wild cherry** *Prunus avium*

A native tree, in April it produces white blossom which, after pollination by insects, produce deep red berries – cherries! Look out for its most colourful autumnal display as leaves change from green to yellow to orange to red!

27

**Holm Oak** *Quercus ilex*

Holm oaks are different to other oaks in that they keep their leaves all year. They're ideally situated within the park as they are resistant to salt-spray from the sea. They produce acorns, which are smaller than our native oak acorns.

Now you're back at the
Discovery Centre!

Why not have a sit down
in the Lakeside Café and
enjoy a cup of coffee and
slice of cake!

