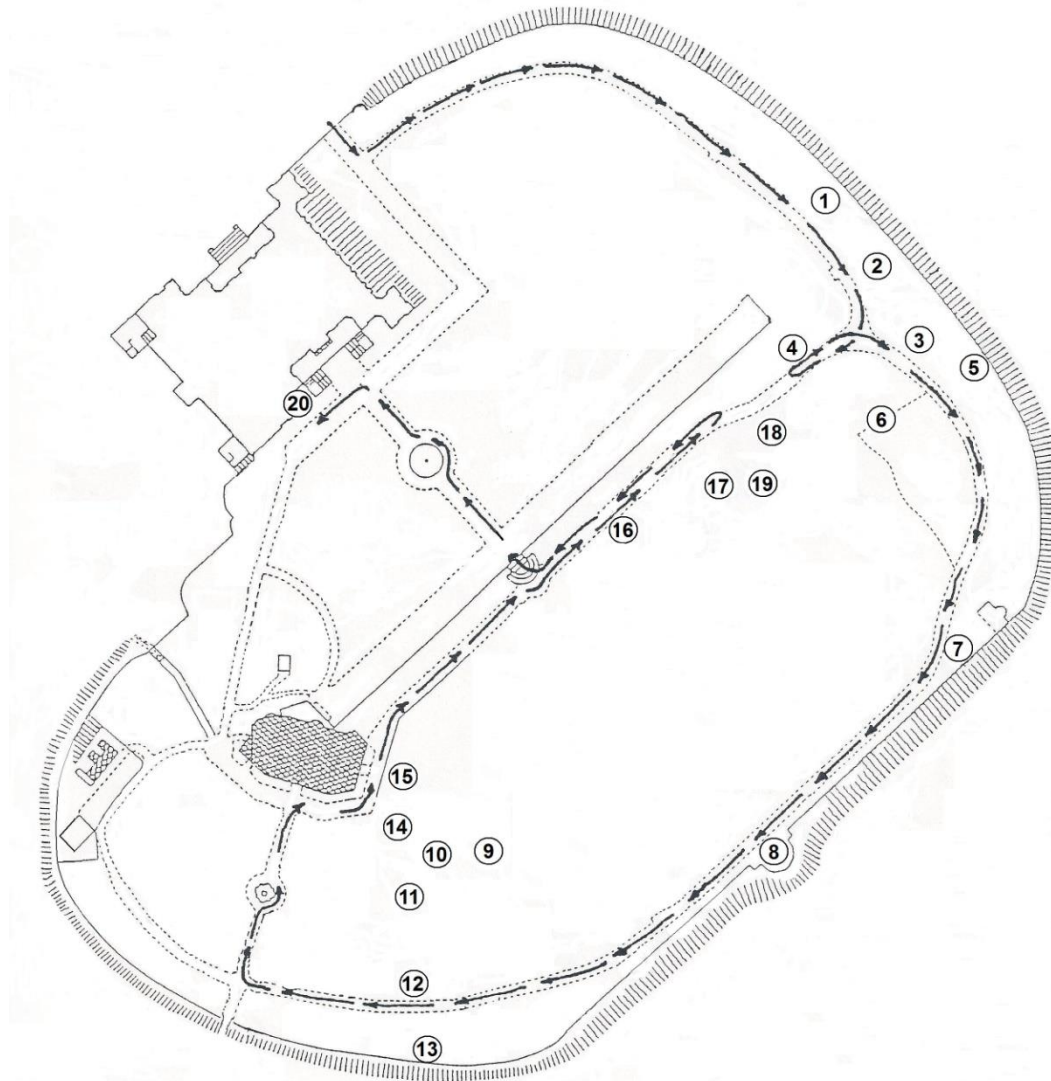


## Tree Walk No. 2

14th July 2016

Graham Pearce



## FRIENDS OF WOLLATON PARK TREE WALK No. 2 — 14TH JULY 2016

### 1. **Blue Colorado Spruce**, *Picea pungens*

The species, first introduced from Southern USA around 1862, is nowadays largely replaced by a range of cultivars grafted on Norway Spruce (*P. abies*) rootstock. It is aptly named for the hard and sharp (pungent) points to the needles.

### 2. **Turner's Oak**, *Quercus x turneri* 'Pseudoturneri' (County Champion)

A hybrid of Common Oak (*Q. robur*) and Holm Oak (*Q. ilex*) that arose in a London nursery pre-1776. In the shrubbery opposite can be found a Lucombe Oak, *Quercus x hispanica* 'Lucombeana', a hybrid of Turkey Oak (*Q. cerris*) and Cork Oak (*Q. suber*), created at an Exeter nursery around 1762.

### 3. **Fern-leaved Beech**, *Fagus sylvatica* var. *heterophylla* 'Aspleniifolia'

Cut-leaved Beech. A good example of this mutation known in horticulture since 1804. It is a chimera, with an inner core of Common Beech and an outer layer of tissues producing the characteristically deeply divided leaves. Any damage to the outer bark allows regrowth from the inside, so sprouting a normal, reverted branch, as can be found here.

### 4. **Incense Cedar**, *Calocedrus decurrens*

From Western North America, 1853. The densely columnar habit, scented foliage and small, vase-shaped cones are distinctive. Within this conifer group are several cultivars of Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), also first grown in Britain in the 1850s and now exceedingly common in gardens.

### 5. **Weymouth Pine**, *Pinus strobus*

Eastern White Pine. Eastern North America, most probably first introduced to Britain by navigator and explorer Captain George Weymouth in 1605. An uncommon, 5-needle pine with soft foliage and large, curved cones.

### 6. **Tulip Tree**, *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Eastern North America, around 1650. A primitive species, related to the magnolias, it has uniquely shaped leaves that colour deep yellow in autumn. The flowers, borne in mid-summer, resemble multi-coloured tulips.



### 7. **Cedar of Lebanon**, *Cedrus libani*

Middle East, early 17<sup>th</sup> century, but most seen nowadays, as here, date from the early 1800s. A true cedar, with rosettes of foliage on older shoots, and a diagnostic, level branching pattern.

### 8. **Tree of Heaven**, *Ailanthus altissima* (County Champion)

One of the first trees introduced from China when it arrived at Chelsea Physic Garden in 1751. Easily recognised by the large, late-flushing, pinnate leaves, lower leaflets bearing prominent oil glands. Flower plumes of female trees are less smelly than those of the males, and produce attractive, winged fruits.

### 9. **Henry's Maple**, *Acer henryi* (County Champion)

Central China, 1903. This small, slow-growing species is probably Wollaton Park's rarest tree. The delicate yellow catkins of this male plant appear in mid-spring as the trifoliolate leaves unfold.



### 10. **Pagoda Tree**, *Styphnolobium japonicum*

Scholar's Tree. China, Korea, introduced from Japan in 1753. Readily identified from the green shoots and finely pointed leaflets. After 30 years, trees may flower in autumn following a hot summer.

### 11. **False Acacia**, *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Black Locust. One of the first North American trees introduced to Europe, to France in 1601. Leaflets have a notched tip with a minute bristle and the shoots bear spines in pairs.

### 12. **Persian Ironwood**, *Parrotia persica*

Iran, 1840. Noted for its winter flowering and the flaking bark, rather like that of London Plane, as well as excellent autumn colour. Often, as here, growing wider than tall, with low branches.

### 13. **Erman's Birch**, *Betula ermanii*

Widespread over a large area of Eastern Asia, including Japan, from where it was introduced in 1890. Though variable, typical features include the dense foliage and whitish bark with pinkish or golden patches, peeling in horizontal strips.

### 14. **Dawn Redwood**, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Known only as an extinct, fossil tree until its discovery in 1941, the species came as seed to Britain from China in 1948. It is a deciduous conifer, turning golden before the leaves fall in autumn. The straight single stem is weirdly fluted and has spongy, reddish bark.

### 15. **Swamp Cypress**, *Taxodium distichum*

Southern USA, around 1640. Another deciduous conifer, with alternately arranged leaves, a feature which helps to distinguish it from the otherwise very similar Dawn Redwood. This tree thrives where wet but copes equally well with dry soils too and is generally long-lived.

### 16. **Nootka Cypress**, *Xanthocyparis nootkatensis* (County Champion)

North-western North America, around 1853. This species is one parent (with California's Monterey Cypress, *Cupressus macrocarpa*) of the intergeneric hybrid known as Leyland Cypress (x *Cuprocyparis leylandii*). The drooping curtains of foliage and the curved spines on the cones aid identification.

### 17. **Box Elder**, *Acer negundo*

Ash-leaved Maple. Very widespread in North America, cultivated in Britain since 1688. The wood is white, like Box, and the leaves have 3 to 5 or more leaflets, like Elder or Ash. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century there was a row of one of the variegated forms down the centre of the Lower Terrace here.

### 18. **Sweet Gum**, *Liquidambar styraciflua*

South-eastern USA, 1681. Easily mistaken for a maple (*Acer*) but the leaves are alternately arranged rather than in opposite pairs. It has exceptionally varied and long-lasting autumn colours and the upright habit makes it a popular tree for street planting. In the timber trade it is known as Satinwood or Satin Walnut.

### 19. **Indian Bean**, *Catalpa bignonioides* (County Champion)

South-eastern USA, 1726. Notable for its very large leaves and spikes of white flowers in summer, followed by long bean-like pods. On the Upper Terrace, near the Hall, there is a Hybrid Bean Tree, *Catalpa x erubescens*, a cross of the Indian Bean and the Chinese Yellow Catalpa (*C. ovata*), raised in America in 1874 and cuttings were first sent to England in 1891.

### 20. **Dove Tree**, *Davidia involucrata*

Ghost Tree, Pocket Handkerchief Tree. China, 1897. Most distinctive in May when in good years it produces a fine display of flowers with its trademark of large, hanging, white bracts, which attract pollinating insects, mainly bees. A younger tree on the Lower Terrace has just begun to flower in recent years.

