Welcome to the Kilbroney Tree Trail.

Trees mark the seasons, inspire us with their beauty in the landscape and even provide us with the air we breathe.

They are the longest living organism on the planet and have provided homes for countless living creatures for many thousands of years. The diversity of life that a tree can sustain is incredible ! For example, the oak species can sustain 284 species of insect, providing an excellent food source for birds. The acorns also provide a nutritious meal for squirrels and jays, to name but a few.
In addition to supplying us with wood for buildings, furniture and heat, they also supply us with everyday products that we often take for granted such as fruits, spices, medicine and paper. Kilbroney Park hosts a great variety of species, some of which are native, however others have been brought from different parts of the world, thanks to the families that lived in the demesne, dating back to the early 1700s

Former Residents of Kilbroney Park

Ross Family: 1700 -1850.
Mr Robert Ross came to Rostrevor in the early 1700s and built the Lodge in the meadow in 1716. The Ross family planted most of the meadow's non-native trees. His descendant, David Ross, was father to Major General Robert Ross (1766-1814), who captured Washington. He led an army of almost 5000 men that destroyed many of the public buildings, including the White House, in 1814.

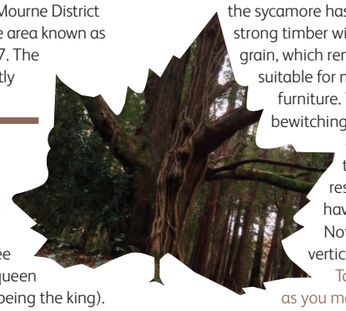
Colonel Roxburgh: 1850 -1863.
The Old Roxboro House Hotel was named after him, as was Roxborough Place, Rostrevor.

Albert Stratford George Canning: 1863 – 1919.
ASG Canning was a famous writer and his friend, Charles Dickens, is believed to have visited the lodge. He planted most of the trees in the arboretum, as well as keeping rare animals and an aviary.

Bowes-Lyon Family: 1919 – 1978.
In 1916 the estate passed to Canning's cousin, Major Lyon, who leased out the estate until his death. It then passed to his daughter, Marianne Lyon (second cousin of the Queen Mother, 1900-2002, who stayed at the lodge in 1937 with her 11 year old daughter, now Queen Elizabeth II).

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council: 1978 – Current Day.
The former Newry & Mourne District Council purchased the area known as 'the meadow' in 1977. The lodge was subsequently demolished in 1980.

1: BEECH *Fagus sylvatica*
These 3 magnificent trees are European in origin (planted c. 1870). The beech tree is considered as the queen of timbers (with oak being the king). Beech wood tablets were used for writing before the invention of paper, due to the bark being extremely thin and easily scarred. In modern languages, the word book is often a derivative of the word for beech tree (eg in German book is buch, whilst buche means beech tree).
Turn into the right on a narrow, steep path. WARNING - CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN AS THIS PATH IS RELATIVELY STEEP AND MAY BE UNEVEN OR MUDDY UNDERFOOT, WITH NORMAL FOREST HAZARDS EG EXPOSED TREE ROOTS. The next tree is located in the clearing by an old boundary wall.



2: SYCAMORE *Acer pseudoplatanus*
Originating from central Europe, the sycamore has a hard and strong timber with a fine grain, which renders it suitable for making furniture. This bewitching tree, which dates back to the Ross residency, may have self-seeded. Note the unusual vertical lines of ivy.
Take care as you make your way back down to the forest road.

3: CALIFORNIAN COAST REDWOOD *Sequoia sempervirens*
On your right, you will see a circular grove of 12 young redwoods, surrounded by conifers. Redwoods are the tallest trees in the world and they can grow to an amazing height (the tallest has been recorded at 115.7m). Their average life span is 500-700 years however some live for more than 2000 years. These trees were planted by Albert Canning around 1880-90.
Walk north on the little path and after 10m you will reach the former boundary wall/ditch of the Canning estate. The next trees are left and right of this path.

4: GIANT FIR *Abies grandis*
These 2 giant fir trees were also planted by Albert Canning, marking the northern boundary of his parkland area. They are native to western North America and exhibit fast growth in poor quality soils.
Take care when crossing the road. Follow the woodland path along the smaller caravan site. Take the first right along the site's highest level, then right again (over the stream), then immediately left onto the woodland path. Continue until you meet the Fairy Glen Path and turn left.

5: SESSILE OAK (MULTI STEM) *Quercus petraea*
This wonderful tree has an outstanding girth of 8.1 metres and is in good health. Its girth would suggest it is c. 500 years old. Unlike the English oak, the acorns are carried on the outer twigs (sessile). Could this multi stem tree be the result of a squirrel's hoard of acorns, buried centuries ago, before the Ross family took up residence ? This national tree of Ireland, which can live to 1000 years, is the emblem of the Woodland Trust.
When you come to the wall, turn in to the left and follow the track up the hill to the meadow. On your right, by the wall, are 300 new trees that have been planted by the school children of Rostrevor and Killowen (October 2016).

6: HOLM OAK *Quercus ilex*
Woodland Trust's Tree of The Year Winner 2016 - 'Old Homer'
Sometimes referred to as the 'holly oak', this Mediterranean tree is c. 200 years old and has a typical snakeskin bark. Holm oak timber is incredibly hard and strong. This award winning tree is very distinct as its Evergreen and because of its 45° lean, making it an easy tree to climb. It's little wonder that the people of Rostrevor hold it so dearly as it has been climbed by generations of local families. It also provides a great venue for music sessions during the Fiddlers Green festival.

7: LARCH *Larix decidua*
This European conifer (c. 130 years old) loses its foliage in winter to conserve energy and protect its limbs from the wind however the small oval cones stay on the trees and can remain here for many years. Its timber is rough and waterproof, which makes it perfect for the construction of boats.

8: HORSE CHESTNUT *Aesculus hippocastanum*
The horse chestnut tree is native to the Balkan peninsula. The leaf stalks leave a scar on the twig when they fall, which resembles an inverted horse shoe with nail holes. The seeds (or conkers) are contained within a spiky green case. This tree is c. 165 years old. Extracts from the leaves and fruits are used in herbal remedies as they have anti-inflammatory properties.

9: TURKEY OAK *Quercus cerris*
This is probably the most photographed tree in the park and provides a perfect location for a romantic summer picnic. This ornamental tree, which is over 200 years old, is perfectly formed and originates from south eastern Europe and Asia Minor. It produces a distinct hairy acorn cup. Its timber quality is not as good as native oak. .

10: SWEET OR SPANISH CHESTNUT *Castanea sativa*
It is thought that this species was originally introduced to the British Isles by the Romans. The chestnuts can be ground into flour or roasted and used in recipes. The elongated leaf of the sweet chestnut tree is one of the longest in Britain. This is the only tree of its kind in Kilbroney Park.
Make your way back across the parkland again, across the central path and continue towards the path that leads to the small car park.

11: CEDAR OF LEBANON *Cedrus libani*
This ornamental tree features on the Lebanese emblem and national flag. It has a very distinct shape and can grow up to 35 metres. Its wood has insect repellent properties. Some locals refer to this as the 'ballerina tree'.
Proceed onwards in the direction of the small car park. Turn left at the first clearing.

12: YEW *Taxus baccata*
Planted by the Ross family, the yew is probably the most long lived tree in northern Europe. The foliage and seed coat of the yew are highly toxic. Yews can live for 400-600 years however 'Britain's Oldest Tree' is an ancient yew located in a Welsh Churchyard - it is believed to be over 5000 years old !
Turn back and take the path in the clearing, to your right (before the small car park). The next tree is on the right. car park). The next tree is on the right.

13: GIANT FIR *Abies grandis*
This enormous conifer originates from the American Pacific north west and can grow up to 75 metres. Its bark has medical properties and its soft timber is used in paper and construction.
The next tree is on the right hand side of the trail, opposite the 4 thrones.

14: DOUGLAS FIR *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
Named after the Scottish botanist, David Douglas, this tree is native to north America. It can grow to 60-75m and live for over 1000 years. This Douglas fir is 1 of 9 that were planted by Albert Canning, marking the northern perimeter of his arboretum. Douglas fir timber has many uses eg cladding, furniture making, beams and flooring.

Back onto the trail, turn left and retrace your steps for about 30m. Then turn left, past the Citadels, heading towards the road. When you arrive at the road, the next tree is located on the right.

15: MONTEREY CYPRESS *Cupressus macrocarpa*
The monterey cypress is another ornamental tree which originates from the Californian coast and is one of the parents of the popular leyland cypress. Its colourful wood is often used in wood turning. Two of these trees were planted to frame the site of 'The Old Lodge'.

16: CHILEAN PINE *Araucaria araucana*
Commonly known as the monkey puzzle, this tree is the national tree of Chile. It is possibly the earth's oldest living tree species and it thrives in altitudes of up to 4000 metres in the Andes, withstanding cold and wet conditions. Note its almost topperless trunk and prickly green, triangular leaves. This is one of 8 in the park.

TAKE CARE AS THERE MAY BE PASSING VEHICLES. In late spring, the forest floor here is transformed to a beautiful carpet of bluebells. Turn left into the laneway with the barrier and continue for 10m (look to your right).

17: MONTEREY PINE *Pinus radiata*
This 200 year old tree is a fast growing softwood and is tolerant to sea winds, making it perfect for coastal areas. Native to California, it has a deep fissured bark. Note how its heavy limbs are growing towards the south for the sun.
Retrace your steps, turning right at the staggered barrier, just past the 'Tree People'. Follow this central path of the Marnia Trail until the Beavers' House.

18 - HOLM OAK *Quercus ilex*
This second holm oak enjoys a well sheltered location and, unlike 'Old Homer', it is vertical and perfectly formed. Fallen acorns have resulted in offspring from this tree growing around the clearing's northern edge.

19: GIANT SEQUOIA *Sequoiadendron giganteum*
This huge redwood tree, which originates in California, is still in its infancy at approximately 150 years old (the oldest known tree was 3500 years old!). A second one is less obvious, hidden in the overgrowth behind. It has a soft, thick bark to protect it from forest fires. Record trees have been measured at 95 metres tall and with a diameter of 9 metres. The sequoia wellingtonia is the largest single tree in the world.
Congratulations - You have now completed the Kilbroney Tree Trail !

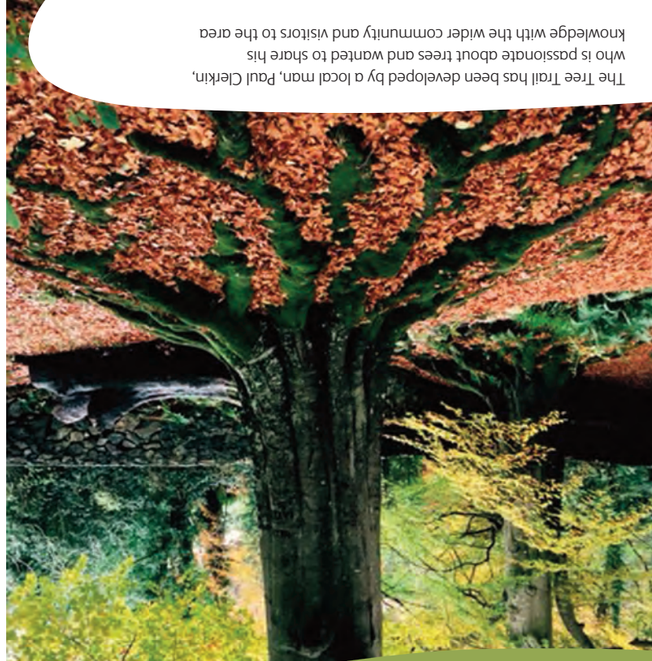
"But I remember more dearly autumn afternoons in bottoms that lay intensely silent under old great trees"

C S Lewis

Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership
Supported by The National Lottery® through the Heritage Lottery Fund
Heritage lottery fund

THE TREE TRAIL
KILBRONEY PARK ROSTREVOR

Rostrevor Ancient Oakwood
Rostrevor oakwood occupies an area of 16.63 hectares. It's tall, mature canopy is dominated by oak with a well developed under storey of hazel and the occasional holly. It enjoys a drier climate than most other old sessile oakwoods in Northern Ireland. It is a National Nature Reserve (NNR) as well as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Plants that are scarce in Northern Ireland can be seen at this location - examples include toothwort (lathraea squamaria), bird's nest orchid (neottia nidus-avis) and wood fescue (festuca altissima). The present woodland is possibly derived from uninterrupted regeneration of felling in the 1730s, thus it is regarded as **ancient**.



mournelive.com
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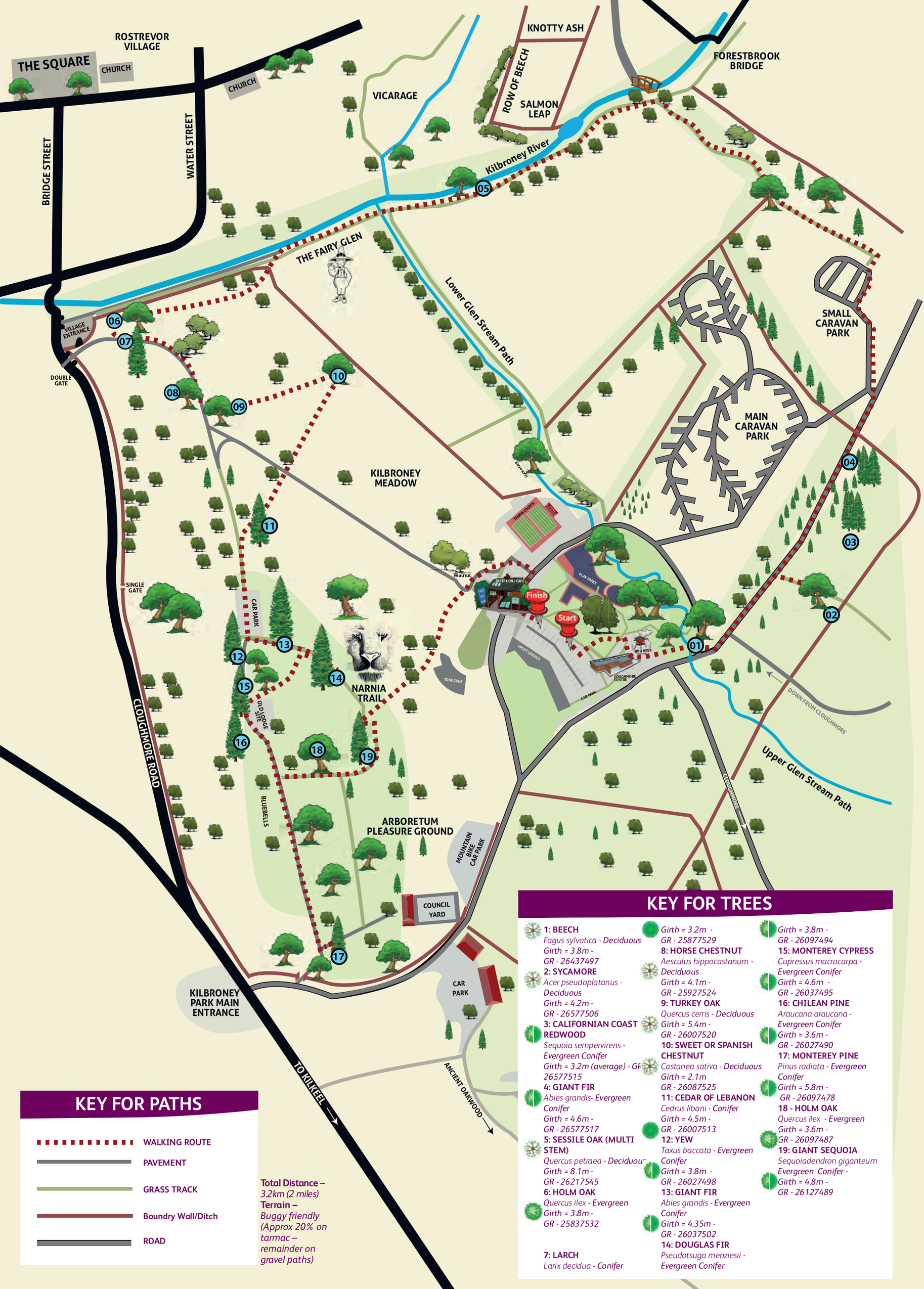
Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
An Roinn Cosanta Timpeallachta agus Talamhantais
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

The Tree Trail has been developed by a local man, Paul Clerkin, who is passionate about trees and wanted to share his knowledge with the wider community and visitors to the area



KEY FOR PATHS

- WALKING ROUTE
- PAVEMENT
- GRASS TRACK
- Boundry Wall/Ditch
- ROAD

Total Distance – *3.2km (2 miles)*
Terrain – *Buggy friendly (Approx 20% on tarmac – remainder on gravel paths)*

KEY FOR TREES

1: BEECH
Fagus sylvatica - Deciduous
Girth = 3.8m -
GR - 26437497

2: SYCAMORE
Acer pseudoplatanus - Deciduous
Girth = 4.2m -
GR - 26577506

3: CALIFORNIAN COAST REDWOOD
Sequoia sempervirens - Evergreen Conifer
Girth = 3.2m (average) - GR 26577515

4: GIANT FIR
Abies grandis- Evergreen Conifer
Girth = 4.6m -
GR - 26577517

5: SESSILE OAK (MULTI STEM)
Quercus petraea - Deciduous
Girth = 8.1m -
GR - 26217545

6: HOLM OAK
Quercus ilex - Evergreen
Girth = 3.8m -
GR - 25837532

7: LARCH
Larix decidua - Conifer
Girth = 3.2m -
GR - 25877529

8: HORSE CHESTNUT
Aesculus hippocastanum - Deciduous
Girth = 4.1m -
GR - 25927524

9: TURKEY OAK
Quercus cerris - Deciduous
Girth = 5.4m -
GR - 26007520

10: SWEET OR SPANISH CHESTNUT
Castanea sativa - Deciduous
Girth = 2.1m
GR - 26087525

11: CEDAR OF LEBANON
Cedrus libani - Conifer
Girth = 4.5m -
GR - 26007513

12: YEW
Taxus baccata - Evergreen Conifer
Girth = 3.8m -
GR - 26027498

13: GIANT FIR
Abies grandis - Evergreen Conifer
Girth = 4.35m -
GR - 26037502

14: DOUGLAS FIR
Pseudotsuga menziesii - Evergreen Conifer
Girth = 3.8m -
GR - 26097494

15: MONTEREY CYPRESS
Cupressus macrocarpa - Evergreen Conifer
Girth = 4.6m -
GR - 26037495

16: CHILEAN PINE
Araucaria araucana - Evergreen Conifer
Girth = 3.6m -
GR - 26027490

17: MONTEREY PINE
Pinus radiata - Evergreen Conifer
Girth = 5.8m -
GR - 26097478

18 - HOLM OAK
Quercus ilex - Evergreen
Girth = 3.6m -
GR - 26097487

19: GIANT SEQUOIA
Sequoiadendron giganteum Evergreen Conifer -
Girth = 4.8m -
GR - 26127489