

13 Dawn Redwood

Just a few metres to the right of the upright beech (towards the hedge direction), is this conical shaped deciduous conifer. A native of SW China, This tree was thought to exist only as a fossil until a live tree was discovered in 1941.

14 Cypress oak

Walk onwards and you will see a tall upright candle shaped tree which is actually an oak! It was originally propagated from a single tree found in central Europe.

15 Avenue of limes

To your left stretches a beautiful avenue of mature limes. Move forward towards the top exit of the Park.



16 Thatched cottage

Ahead of you is a thatched cottage thought to have dated back to the 1700s. This is a relic of the hamlet of Harmour, named after an estate of that name. Note how this has been shortened to "Armour" in the surrounding roads. Proceed left, then turn right into Lower Armour Road, left into Armour Road ahead, and go forwards.

17 Victoria Recreation ground limes

This land, formerly used by the Poors Trustees to help the very poor, was given over to become a recreation ground in 1897 as part of the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The Lime trees surrounding it were planted in that year. Turn left down Kentwood Hill.

18 Gypsy Lane trees

As you continue down Kentwood Hill you will see the tall mature oak and sycamores along Gypsy Lane on your right. This road acts as a nature corridor for wildlife to move between Arthur Newbury and McIlroy Parks and in 2016 the whole road was given a protection order.

19 Kentwood House

This site is mentioned in the Domesday Book and the manor of Kentwood was built in 1723, originally held by Reading Abbey. Note the old yew to the right of the site.

20 Deodar Cedar

To your left, on the corner of Armour Hill, note the towering Cedar, a native of the Himalayas introduced to Britain in 1831. It is distinguished from the Cedar of Lebanon, which has level branches, by its drooping branches.

Useful information

How to get there:

By car: Take the Oxford Road out of Reading and there is parking at Tilehurst station.

By bus: Take the 16 bus from Reading and get off at Kentwood roundabout. The station is just ahead of you.

By train: There are regular stopping trains from Reading to Oxford where the first stop is Tilehurst.

Further information on trees:

You can find out more about these tree species online or in Paul Sterry's (2007) *Collins complete Guide to British Trees*, Harper Collins. Look out for Adrian Lawson and Geoff Sawers' book *The Shady Side of Town: Reading's Trees (2017)*, Two Rivers Press.

All information in this leaflet correct at time of publication.

Reading Tree Wardens:

You can find out more about us and forthcoming events by visiting our website at <http://www.readingtreewardens.org.uk> or our Facebook page (Reading Tree Wardens)

Walking time:

One to one and a half hours (undulating terrain with some grassy parkland).

This is one of five urban tree walk leaflets developed by Reading Tree Wardens. The other walks are round Caversham, Coley Park Meadows, Redlands and the Town Centre. You can download them from the Reading Tree Warden website.

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Introduction

Tilehurst has an ancient history. There is early evidence that humans passed through the area in prehistoric times: a flint axe in Norcot Road; a hand axe in Oak Tree Road; a Bronze Age spear. In 1167 records write of a hamlet "Tygelhurst". It remained an area of scattered hamlets surrounded by copses, common land and farms until the Victorian age and the advent of the railway in 1882. It was in this era that most of the trees on our route were planted.

The trail starts at the entrance to Tilehurst Station. Cross at the crossing and turn right. Proceed to the corner of Carlisle Road and pause to take in the avenue of lime trees on Oxford Road.

1 Lime Tree

The small leaved lime, once a dominant woodland tree, is a native of Europe and West Asia. The white and pale yellow flowers are made into lime tea, thought to aid sleep. The lime reproduces mainly by suckers and shoots. Here the avenue makes an elegant lead-in to the town. Turn left into Carlisle Road. On your right you will pass Cleveland Road.

2 New community trees

In a joint project with the Council, residents in Cleveland Road came out in excellent numbers to plant flowering trees and will look after them until they are mature. As you reach Overdown Road crossing your path, look slightly left and upward.

3 Lombardy poplar

These tall trees are natives of Italy and were introduced to Britain in the late 18th century - very popular with the Victorians. Cross the road and keep going forward on the other side.

4 Birch trees

As you enter the other side of Carlisle Road, compare and contrast the small Himalayan Birch on the corner with the Silver Birch further along. Note the gleaming white peeling bark of the smaller tree - stunning in Winter. The taller Silver Birch is a native of Europe, slender and fast growing, with a weeping habit as it ages.



5 False acacia

Pause at the corner of Carlisle Road and look up at the tall tree there. This tree is a native of the USA. In Spring it bears long clusters of white or yellow scented flowers. Turn right into Oak Tree Road.

6 Oak Tree Road

This is one of the most beautiful mature tree lined roads in Reading. The road was developed in 1914, with properties added in the 1920s, 30s and 40s. The oak trees here are aged from about 70 years to 200 years.

7 Arthur Newbery Park

Arthur Newbery, a member of Reading Borough Council, owned a large amount of land in this area and in 1932 gave the town the Park which now bears his name.

8 Avenue of beech

Once you are through the park entrance way, look to your left to see the beautiful beech avenue. The Beech is a native of western and central Europe and one of the last native trees to colonize Britain.

9 Horse chestnut

This is the tree that makes conkers. In Spring, the tree is covered in creamy white panicles of 40-50 white flowers. In August, the trees are infested with a leaf mite caterpillar which takes the moisture out of the leaves, making them prematurely brown. This does not kill the trees but means that they do not have a full season to make sugars from the leaves for the tree to grow.

10 Views to Mapledurham

Be sure to pause on your way up the hill and turn round to catch the magnificent views over to Mapledurham on the other side of the Thames.

11 Blue Atlas Cedar

As you carry on up the hill you will see on your left a Christmas tree shaped tree with a blue tint. This is a native of the Atlas Mountains in North Africa and widely planted as an ornamental tree. Very striking in the Winter landscape.

12 Upright beech

This is an unusual column shaped beech tree discovered in Dawyck, Scotland, in the mid-nineteenth century. It is densely branched but, otherwise, has normal beech leaves, flowers and fruits.

