

Elmore Park Tree Trail



Elmore Park, Rugeley, Staffordshire WS15 2DQ

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History of the park



Elmore Park was originally part of the Hagley Hall Estate and dates back to the 14th century. Land in Rugeley was passed to the de Thomenhorn family who were granted the office of the keeper for the Royal Forest of Cannock.

The office became associated with the sub-manor of Hagley. Thomas de Thomenhorn built the original Hagley Hall in 1392. The hall comprised of a chapel, kitchen, two barns, a brewery, stable, ox stall gatehouse and a drawbridge - as the hall was located on the island in the middle of Elmore Park. In 1636 a new Hagley Hall was built by Sir Richard Watson. In the 18th Century, Hagley Hall was refurbished, remodelled and extended further. In the 1930s the hall was demolished.





Benefits of trees



Trees in any location help to benefit the local community. Trees are such an important part of our everyday life and some of the main benefits are to our health and wellbeing.

Trees are the main filters to change carbon dioxide into oxygen and they help to reduce stress and illness levels. Trees also help in climate change by absorbing some harmful gases, they reduce extreme temperatures and create community focal points. Trees can even help to increase property values and change the aesthetic look of an area. They also help to provide habitats and homes for much of our wildlife.

In autumn and winter the look of the tree will change and this can create fantastic leaf and floral displays, which mark the changing seasons for local communities.





Enjoy feeding the waterfowl at the lake, but please help us control and look after the waterfowl by remembering:

- If possible feed uncooked seeds or grain (but not rice) as these have the most nutritional value for waterfowl and importantly will not foul the water.
- The other most suitable foods are: mixed corn and wheat (not bread) and purpose manufactured duck pellets.
- Only feed as much food as the birds can eat at any one time. Uneaten food encourages rats and mice.
- Dispose of all bags used to bring food to the park in the litterbins provided or take them home with you.
- Waterfowl are wildlife, they are not domesticated and they do not depend on us to feed them.
- Duck pellets and food can be bought from most local pet shops in Rugeley and elsewhere.

For your own safety no swimming or fishing is allowed in the lake.





Tree Trail



Enjoy the range of trees that can be found in the park

- 1
- 2 Redwood - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* >
- 3 Common Yew - *Taxus baccata* >
- 4 False Acacia - *Robinia pseudoacacia* >
- 5 Sweet Gum - *Liquidambar styraciflua* >
- 6 Maidenhair Tree - *Ginkgo biloba* >
- 7 Red or Green Ash - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* >
- 8 Italian Alder - *Alnus cordata* >
- 9 Indian Bean tree - *Catalpa bignonioides* >
- 10 Small Leaved Lime - *Tilia cordata* >
- 11 Black Mulberry - *Morus nigra* >
- 12 Austrian Pine - *Pinus nigra* >
- 13 English Oak - *Quercus robur* >
- 14 Castellated Sweet Chestnut - *Castanea sativa* >
- 15 Swamp Cypress - *Taxodium distichum* >
- 16 Corkscrew (or Contorted Willow - *Salix matsudana 'tortuosa'*) >
- 17 Deodar Cedar - *Cedrus deodara* >
- 18 Red Oak - *Quercus rubra* >
- 19 Horse Chestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum* >
- 20 Service Tree - *Sorbus domestica* >



Map not to scale



1 Monkey Puzzle tree - *Araucaria araucana*

Large evergreen conifer native in Chile. The foliage is large thick dark green uniform prickly leaf-like scales. The main trunk of the tree is grey in colour and marked with rings formed from old branch scars. Later in life the base of the trunk has a similar look to the feet of elephants. The name comes from the English explorer who brought the tree back and thought it would be a puzzle for monkeys to climb!



[Wordsearch puzzle >](#)



2 Redwood - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

This is a large deciduous conifer tree, originally from China. The tree was recently rediscovered in 1941. Before then the only records of it were from fossils. The tree loses its leaves in the winter months. The leaves turn a beautiful red colour before falling. The main stem also has cracked and peeling bark on older trees.



[Maths activity >](#)



3 Common Yew - *Taxus baccata*

This is a medium evergreen long lived tree native to the British Isles. The leaves are very small and run along the branch in lines. The berries are bright red but the seeds are poisonous. They are often planted in churchyards and in gardens as ornamental trees. These are some of our oldest living trees and can grow for more than a thousand years.



[Colouring activity >](#)



4 **False Acacia - *Robinia pseudoacacia***

Deciduous tree from the United States. The tree has white flowers with a sweet fragrance which open in June. Each flower develops into a pod that can remain all winter. The bark of the tree is dark brown with deeply furrowed and crossing ridges. Its timber resists decay so is used in furniture production.



[Grasshopper activity >](#)



5 Sweet Gum - *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Large deciduous tree from the United States. The tree produces both male and female flowers and will then produce small seeds with soft spikes. The leaves have five to seven lobes with a long stem. In autumn the leaves turn a deep red to purple and orange in colour. Bark is heavily ridged even when young.



[Colouring activity >](#)



6 Maidenhair Tree - *Ginkgo biloba*

Large deciduous tree originally from China. The genus is thought to be the oldest in existence. Fossils of the same leaf have been found from 200 million years ago during the Jurassic period. The leaf is fan shaped in two lobes. It is thought that this could be the first tree to cross between the older conifer species and the newly emerging broadleaf species.



[Colouring activity >](#)

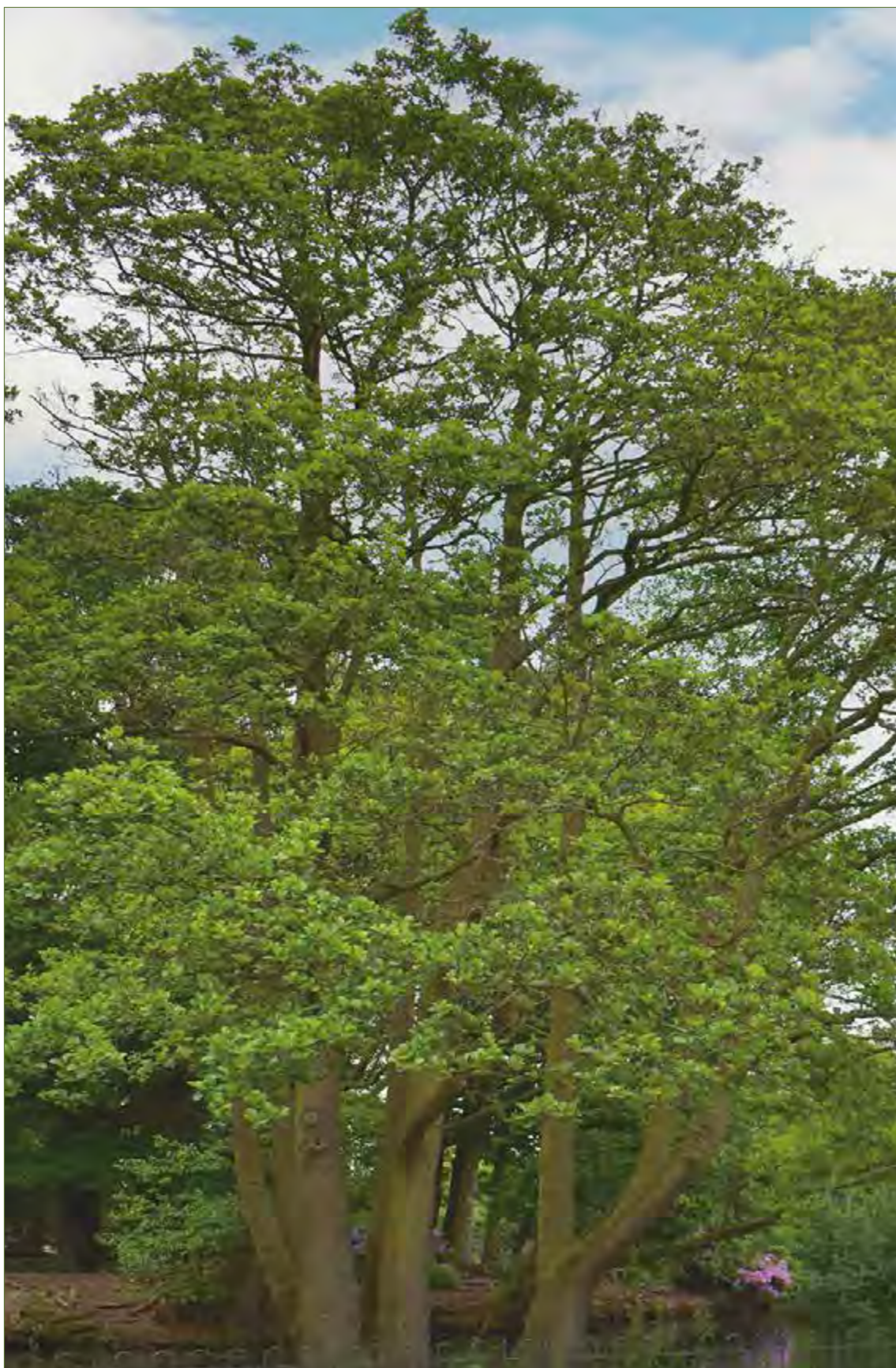


7 Red or Green Ash - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*

Medium sized broad leaved deciduous tree from North America. The tree is very similar to the Common Ash. However the main difference is that the buds on this tree are brown instead of black and slightly furry. The bark in older trees can also have a red tinge in the ridges.



[Colouring activity >](#)



8 Italian Alder - *Alnus cordata*

Deciduous large tree originally from Italy. The tree has both male and female catkins and these can easily be seen in the winter months, with the female catkins being more rounded in shape. These go on to produce cone like fruits. Good tree for wet soils.



[Bee activity >](#)



9 Indian Bean tree - *Catalpa bignonioides*

A large deciduous broad leaved tree introduced from eastern United States in 1726. The tree produces large and in some cases slightly heart shaped leaves. The flowers are in groups and white in colour. The seeds are in very long seed bean like pods and can be up to 40cm in length.



[Colouring activity >](#)



10 Small leaved Lime - *Tilia cordata*

Large deciduous broad leaved tree native to Britain and often found in ancient woodlands. This tree was planted enmass by the Victorians. The bark is smooth in youth and over time will develop ridges. The seeds will turn golden yellow and stand out against the leaves which are green above and pale underneath.



[Colouring activity >](#)



11 Black Mulberry - *Morus nigra*

Medium sized deciduous broad leaved tree. The fruit is edible but usually used to make jams and wine. The leaves have serrated edges and are always heart shaped. Leaves are eaten by silk worms but rarely seen in the UK.



[Nursery rhyme activity >](#)



12 Austrian Pine - *Pinus nigra*

Black pine is triangular when young, becoming flat-topped with age. The bark is rough and grey-brown to black in colour and the branches are dense. Twigs are yellowish-brown and ridged. It is a fast-growing tree, gaining 30 - 60cm per year, and can live to over 500 years old.



[Colouring activity >](#)



13 English Oak - *Quercus robur*

A large deciduous tree. The Oak is one of the oldest trees in Britain and has an iconic leaf shape. The nuts or 'acorns' are a great source of food for many animals. As the tree grows for such a long time - maybe up to 800 years or more. The Oak trees in this park are very young in comparison and could last for another 600 to 700 years!



[Acorn activity >](#)



14 Castellated Dead Tree - top like a castle

This tree died and we have castellated the top for bats to roost in at night. All bat species are protected by UK law because numbers have significantly declined over the last few decades. This drop in population is due to the loss of roosts, habitat, flight lines and their food (insects).

[Colouring activity >](#)



15 Swamp Cypress - *Taxodium distichum*

A large tree native to southern United States. The tree sheds its needles in winter after turning a dull orange colour. The bark is reddish with ridged or peeling fibres. Due to its habitat of living in or near swamps, the tree has adapted and produces knees along the roots. These will pop up above the natural waterline to help the tree breath.



[Swamp monster activity >](#)



16 Corkscrew (or Contorted Willow - *Salix matsudana* 'tortuosa')

A fast-growing medium-sized deciduous tree that grows upright, with narrow, twisted leaves. Branches and shoots are strongly contorted. In the spring the flowers are tiny yellowish catkins, male and female usually on separate plants.



[Colouring activity >](#)



17 Deodar Cedar - *Cedrus deodara*

Very large evergreen conifer tree native to Himalaya. This can in some instances grow to around 75m tall! The leaves are needle-like, and the branches often hang down. The tree when mature has a dominating grand aspect often seen as a specimen tree in stately homes.



[Colouring activity >](#)

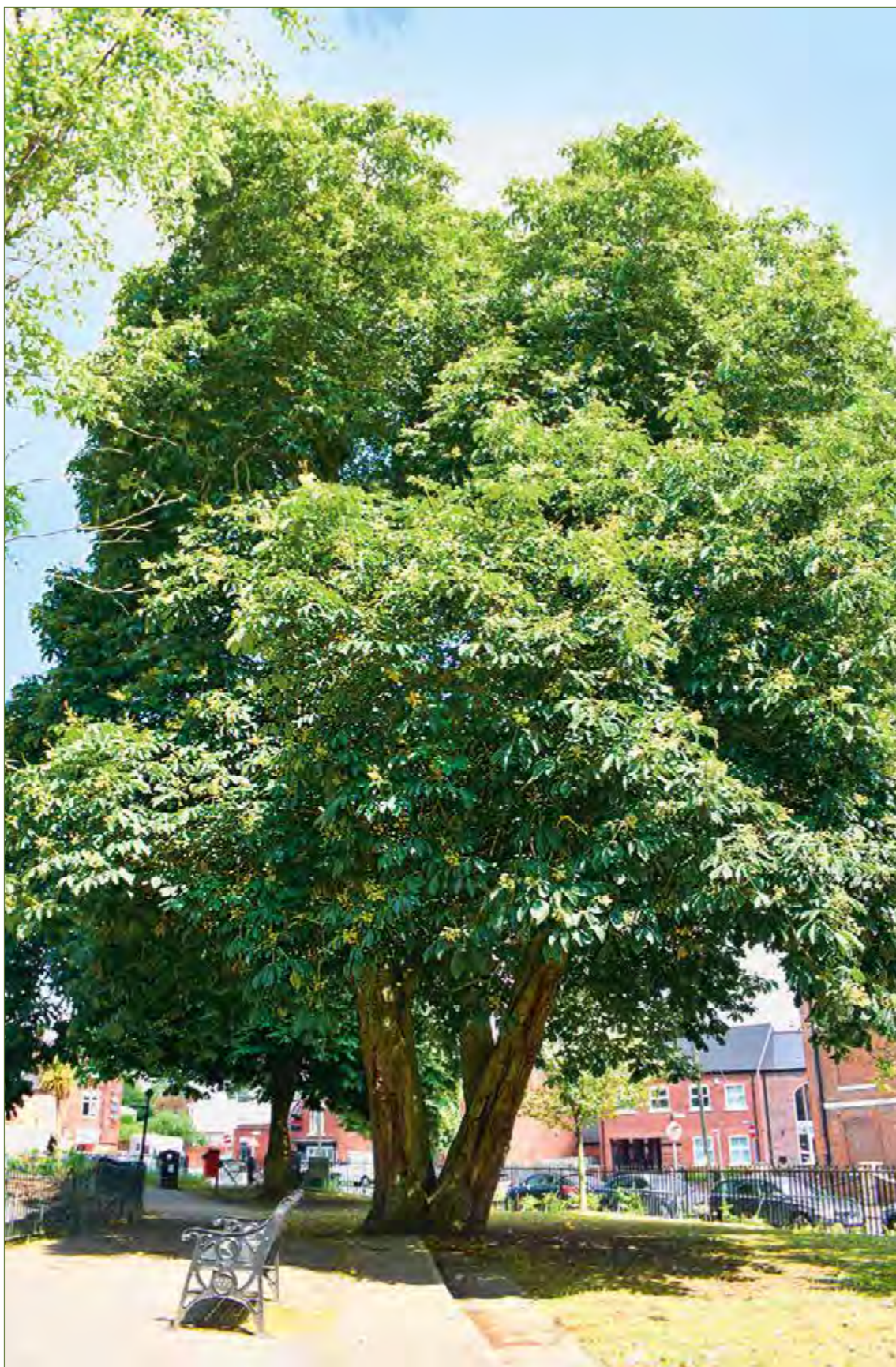


18 Red Oak - *Quercus rubra*

Medium deciduous tree from east America. The tree also produces acorns but these take two years to mature and fall. The leaves are up to 22cm in length - with 3 - 5 lobes either side and turn bright yellow in the first three weeks of opening. The leaves will then turn deep red in autumn.



[Colouring activity >](#)



19 Horse Chestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum*

Large rounded deciduous tree. The foliage is in leaflets of seven, but sometimes five. These are grouped together to create the main leaf with a long stalk. The seeds of the tree are in a strong prickly shell to protect them. You will know the seeds well - they are so hard that they are used by children to play conkers.



[Conker activity >](#)



20 Service Tree - *Sorbus domestica*

Medium deciduous broad-leaved tree. The fruit is pear or apple shaped and is edible but very sour. It is best left to become over-ripe or frosted. It is also used in the production of beer. The bark is dark brown, orange and scaly when old with flowers in May produced in panicles.



[Colouring activity >](#)

Why not visit other parks and open spaces in Cannock Chase District

- Ravenhill Park, Rugeley
- Cannock Park, Cannock
- Hednesford Park, Hednesford
- Heath Hayes Park, Heath Hayes
- Cannock Chase - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Chase Heritage Trail - 10 mile trail across the District
- Castle Ring, Cannock Wood - Historical Stone Age site
- Local Nature Reserves at
 - Mill Green & Hawks Green, Cannock
 - Hednesford Hills, Hednesford
 - Hazelslade, Rawnsley



**TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE WITH THE
CANNOCK CHASE CAN APP AND GAIN POINTS
AND REWARDS FOR YOUR EFFORTS!**

Scan the **QR codes** on each board located around
the park and find out more about each tree.

Collect all the **QR codes** to
complete the challenge!



Download the
Cannock Chase Can App for FREE





This document can also be provided in **large print**
on request to **Cannock Chase Council** on **01543 462621**.

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