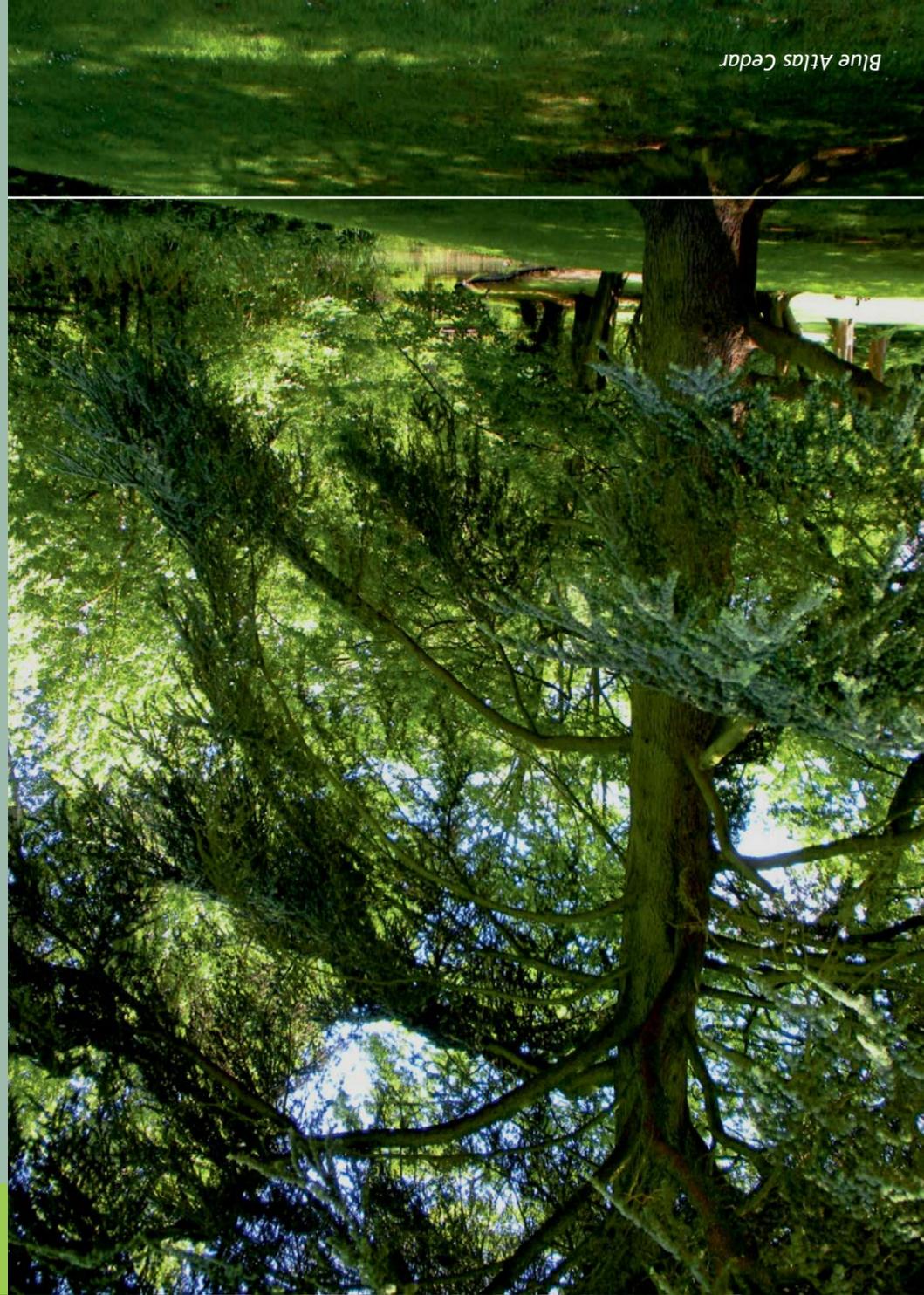




Blue Atlas Cedar

Barnwood Arboretum and Park, one of Gloucester's hidden gems, contains a variety of unusual and old trees, many of which are found nowhere else in Gloucester, thanks largely to extensive planting in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, a local community group, the Friends of Barnwood Arboretum, supported by Gloucester City Council, manages the site for the benefit of nature conservation as well as planting new specimen trees so that future generations can continue to enjoy this special place.

From the Church Lane entrance walk a short distance along the path towards the chapel, then bear left towards a coniferous (evergreen) tree with blue grey needles.



Horse Chestnut

Barnwood Arboretum Tree Trail



Barnwood Arboretum Tree Trail

For more information

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Barnwood Arboretum Tree Trail

1. Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica f. glauca*). This is the blue-grey needled variety, a native of the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and Algeria. It can grow to over 20m, so is not recommended for small gardens! Like all 'true' cedars, they have distinctive, large, barrel shaped cones that sit on the branches and carry most of their leaves (needles) in rosettes on very short, thick side shoots.

2. An unusually planted 'ring' of Pine Trees (*Pinus sp.*). Pines trees are fairly simple to identify as they are the only evergreen trees that have their long leaves (needles), held in bundles of 2, 3 or 5. The pines in this circle have needles in bundles of two.



Circle of pines

If you look carefully, you can see that there is an impostor in the circle. Four of the trees are **Scot's pine** (*Pinus sylvestris*) and one is **Corsican pine** (*Pinus nigra ssp. Laricio*). The Scots pines have reddish brown bark towards the top of the tree. The Corsican pine remains a grey mauve colour all the way up and the needles are longer on the Corsican pine tree.

3. Not all is what it seems with this impressive looking oak. The tree is a **Turkey Oak** (*Quercus cerris*), a native of southern Europe and Turkey. It was first brought to this country in the 18th century and planted commercially as a quicker growing alternative to our native oaks.

However, with its rapid growth rate came a price: the quality of timber is not as good as native oak. The leaves tend to be narrower than English oak and the acorns are held in distinctive mossy cups.



Giant Redwood

4. It's hard to miss this evergreen giant. Easily one of the tallest trees in Gloucester, this is a **Wellingtonia** or **Giant Redwood**. (*Wellingtonia Sequoiadendron giganteum*) These originate in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California and were first planted in Britain in 1853. They can grow to 90m (297ft) in the USA. The tallest British

example is in Scotland, standing 54m (177ft).



Bark detail Giant Redwood

The thick, spongy bark helps to protect the tree from forest fires in its natural setting. There are four Wellingtonias in this part of the Arboretum and two by the chapel. All are over 25m tall.

5 and 6. On either side of the path are two contrasting examples of the **Horse Chestnut** (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). On one side is a gnarled, mature tree with a single main stem and old branches full of holes, which is great for wildlife.



On the other side stands a tall, majestic specimen made up of many main stems from ground level (called multi-stemmed). Easily identified in summer and autumn by their distinctive flowers,



Horse Chestnut leaves

large leaves and 'conkers'. In winter, they can be identified by their large brown, sticky buds.

7. Standing just outside the Arboretum at the end of a garden is Gloucester's finest **Silver Lime** (*Tilia tomentosa*). Its precisely domed shape stands out in winter and during summer it is easily identified by the silvery sheen of the underside of its leaves as the wind stirs

them. In late summer watch out for dazed bees on the ground around the tree -the nectar of the flowers is a narcotic to bees!

Many new and unusual trees have been planted around the Arboretum by the Friends. Trees of note include a young **Sweet Gum Tree** and a **Wollemi Pine** (not a 'true' pine). Planting new and unusual trees is vital for the long term future of the arboretum.

8. Continue along the path to a tree surrounded by a wooden fence. This is Gloucester's oldest **Indian Bean Tree** (*Catalpa bignonioides*). These trees are native to the Southern States of America.

The tree has many distinctive characteristics - large leaves, white flowers in late summer and seeds in 'bean' pods that hang on the tree throughout winter. This venerable example is full of twisting branches with holes and lumps of dead wood - attractive to wildlife.



Indian Bean Tree

The fence is in place to stop people climbing on and wandering close to some of the older branches that could break. The alternative would be to fell the tree, which would be a great shame.

Note the new Indian bean tree planted close by that will grow to replace this veteran tree when it finally declines.

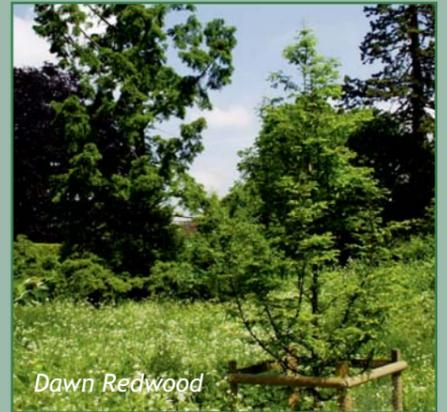
9. Just along the path to the left is a mature **Mulberry Tree** (*Morus nigra*). It is about as big as a mulberry will grow. In summer, it has distinctive large, heart-shaped glossy green leaves and



Mulberry Tree and Giant Redwood

during late July and August, masses of messy, delicious, large blackberry-like fruit!

10. Opposite the Mulberry stands an unusual tree with the form of a church spire. This is a **Dawn Redwood**



Dawn Redwood

(*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), planted in 1952 to commemorate the Queen's Coronation. These trees are conifers but they lose their leaves in the autumn. The delicate leaves are on shoots arranged in opposite pairs on the branches and twigs. The tree was thought to be extinct only to be 'discovered' in a remote part of China in 1941.

11. Enclosed in a fenced-off area is a very rare tree indeed. This is a **Variegated Beech** (*Fagus sylvatica 'Luteovariegata'*). The leaves have pale



Variegated Beech

yellow margins. We suspect that this tree came from Westonbirt Arboretum and is one of a small number in the country. From time to time leaves and even whole branches 'lose' their yellow margins as the tree tries to 'revert' to its natural colour.

12. Close to the stream stands another majestic evergreen tree. This is a **Deodar** (*Cedrus deodara*), another one of the 'true' cedars. Deodars are native to the Himalayas and are sometimes difficult to tell apart from other cedars. Their branches tend to be descending, with drooping tips, whereas atlas cedar have ascending branches.

13. This is a **Swamp Cypress** (*Taxodium distichum*). Like the dawn redwood, it is a deciduous conifer with similar leaves. The key difference is that the leaves are arranged alternately on the branches and twigs, not opposite one another as on the dawn redwood. Sadly, this example was badly damaged in a storm during 2014.