



# JOHN LEIGH PARK TREE TRAIL

 Distance: 0.7 miles / 1.2 km  Allow 20 mins



## WALK TRAFFORD

This walk is one of several exciting routes designed to help you explore some of Trafford's most beautiful countryside and parks on foot.

Get to know your local park and venture on a journey of discovery through its rich tree heritage. This park has been at the heart of Altrincham since its creation in 1917 and offers something for everyone. Enjoy the serenity of this sloping parkland, visit pets corner, play on the sports courts, or simply explore the heritage of its trees as you follow the path around.





## START POINTS

**Oldfield Road, WA14 4UF**

**Hartley Road, WA14 4AZ**

## TREES OF INTEREST



### 1 Dawn redwood:

Discovered only in 1941, this tree is critically endangered in its native home of China. It can easily be grown from cuttings, and has a beautifully-twisted trunk which made it instantly popular in European parks



### 2 Black walnut:

This tree gets its name from its stong, dark timber and the heavily ridged bark of younger trees. It originates from the USA and was traditionally used by Native Americans as a mosquito repellent. Can you find two other black walnuts in the park?



### 3 Hornbeam:

Hornbeam means 'hard tree' in old English. The timber is extremely difficult to work and was traditionally used to make windmill and watermill cogs.



### 4 English oak:

This heritage tree is approximately 250 years old and would have been here when Oldfield Hall was standing. Although the tree has sustained some damage, oaks can live up to 1000 years. Look out for the next generation of oaks on either side of this tree.



### 5 Fern-leaved beech:

This cultivar appears to have been part of Oldfield Hall which was demolished in 1916. It's deeply serrated leaves give it a feathery beauty; however, 'chimaera' genetics mean injured branches

produce leaves which closely resemble that of common beech.



### 6 Japanese maple:

This graceful tree is the result of hundreds of years of Japanese cultivation. It's celebrated by park visitors for its foliage which is at its most colourful and vibrant in autumn.



### 7 Horse chestnut:

The scar left on twigs left by falling leaves resembles that of an inverted horse shoe and is thought to have contributed to the trees name. Introduced in the 17th century, conkers were widely used in horse-medicines and shampoos.



### 8 Holly:

Look out for young trees which are spikey to protect them from foraging animals. Leaves on older trees and higher up have smooth edges.



### 9 Common lime:

These magnificent trees denote the entrance to the park from Hartley Road. Limes have beautiful heart-shaped leaves and were planted as ornamental trees across Trafford. The bark and wood have many uses including rope and piano keys.



### 10 Sweet chestnut:

Sweet chestnuts were introduced by the Romans. The nut casings are sometimes confused with horse chestnuts, but are much pricklier. In the 1970s, a local vendor used to sell roasted nuts under this tree.

[WWW.HERITAGETREES.ORG.UK](http://WWW.HERITAGETREES.ORG.UK)

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