

1. The English Elms at Sandpit Field

The 2 Elms, standing here next to a Poplar tree, are prominent on the Swanage seafront skyline. They have twisted and grown into an unusual shape caused by the exposed nature of the site. Most Elms are dying when they are 20-30 years old, due to the Dutch Elm disease that hit the UK in the 1970's.



2. The Holm oaks at Sandpit Field

Originating from the Mediterranean, Holm oaks, often known as evergreen oaks, were planted in England for winter greenery, with many examples around Swanage. Note the similarities between the leaves of Holm and our native holly.



3. A Hawthorn on De Moulham Road

This poor hawthorn is one of the last street trees in Swanage, hanging on tenaciously. As a native hedge tree, it produces the abundant white 'May' blossom and supports hundreds of insect species and other wildlife.



4. The Horse Chestnut at Beach Gardens.

This magnificent tree stands out in this area for its sheer size, its girth measuring 4.5m, which could make it at least 150 years old, pre-dating the gardens and the houses in the area as seen in photos of 100 years ago. It is a living link to past land use as it is found on the line of an old field boundary.



Map from Dorset Explorer, Dorset Council. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database 2022

This trail has been compiled by the volunteers of Greening Swanage group, part of Sustainable Swanage, with the help and expertise of Mark Bauer, photography, Sally Maltby design, Nikki Lardner, tree signs. Supported by Swanage Town Council' We would love to hear from you with your suggestions of special trees and stories or old photographs of the trees, get in touch greeningswanage@gmail.com'

5. The large Monterey Cypress in Beach Gardens.

The Monterey Cypress is found naturally on the Californian coast due to its tolerance of salt winds. When Swanage Town Council acquired this area in the 1930's, it planted a good variety of trees, including this impressive large cypress, probably to withstand the Atlantic salt winds.



6. Winston Churchill Tree

This Coast Redwood was planted in 1965 in honour of Winston Churchill. It is a familiar feature to locals and popular for its unusual shape and character.



7. Ancient willow tree in King Georges Park

This is likely to be one of the oldest trees in Swanage. This native White Willow is almost 5.5m in girth and classed as an Ancient tree, which means it is old, relative to others of the same species. There are many beautiful specimens in this park, which are common in wetlands. Willow species have a compound in their bark, often used in the past to relieve pain symptoms.



8. The Poplars in King George's Fields

The line of poplars, bordering the railway embankment, are Lombardy poplars, planted for their upright shape and fast growing habit. They are pollarded every few years, a common practice for urban trees, which means the top branches are cut back, preventing the trees from becoming top heavy, and promoting fresh new growth.



9. The Monterey cypress in Northbrook cemetery

Monterey cypress were introduced to UK in 1838 and became a popular tree for planting in cemeteries due to its faster growth rate than native evergreens. This cemetery was opened in 1856 so this very impressive *Cypressus macrocarpa* is possibly over 150 years old.



10. The Yews in Northbrook cemetery

Yews are among the longest lived trees in Europe and are very common in churchyards. Most of the yews here including these 2 impressive sized trees are Irish yews, thought to be a mutant form derived from our familiar common yew. It was first discovered in Ireland in 18th century.'



Some notable

TREES OF SWANAGE

A tree trail



Trees are essential for life, they combat climate change, support wildlife and add beauty to our world. They are important in our culture, history, diet and spiritual wellbeing. Follow our tree trail to discover more about our local trees. We would love to know your facts, stories and thoughts on local trees.