



TREE TRAIL

TAKE A WALK TO DISCOVER THE INCREDIBLE
TREES





Introduction

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council is pleased to introduce The Tree Trail, a celebration of the beautiful trees in Great Chart and Singleton. We invite you to explore the trail, enjoy its natural beauty, and learn more about the trees in our area. Each tree features an information board with detailed insights. The circular trail starts at Singleton Environment Centre—enjoy your adventure!

Route Information

The entire route covers approximately 3 km and usually takes about 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete.

Safety:

- **Be cautious when crossing roads at specific points along the trail, especially if you are accompanied by children.**
- **Parts of the trail may be muddy and slippery.**

Visitors with wheelchairs and pushchairs

On the whole, the route is flat with no significant slopes or stiles. Some of the route is on tarmac and some is on grass or gravel. Some areas can get muddy after rainfall.

The nearest public toilets are in Singleton Environment Centre and Singleton Village Hall.

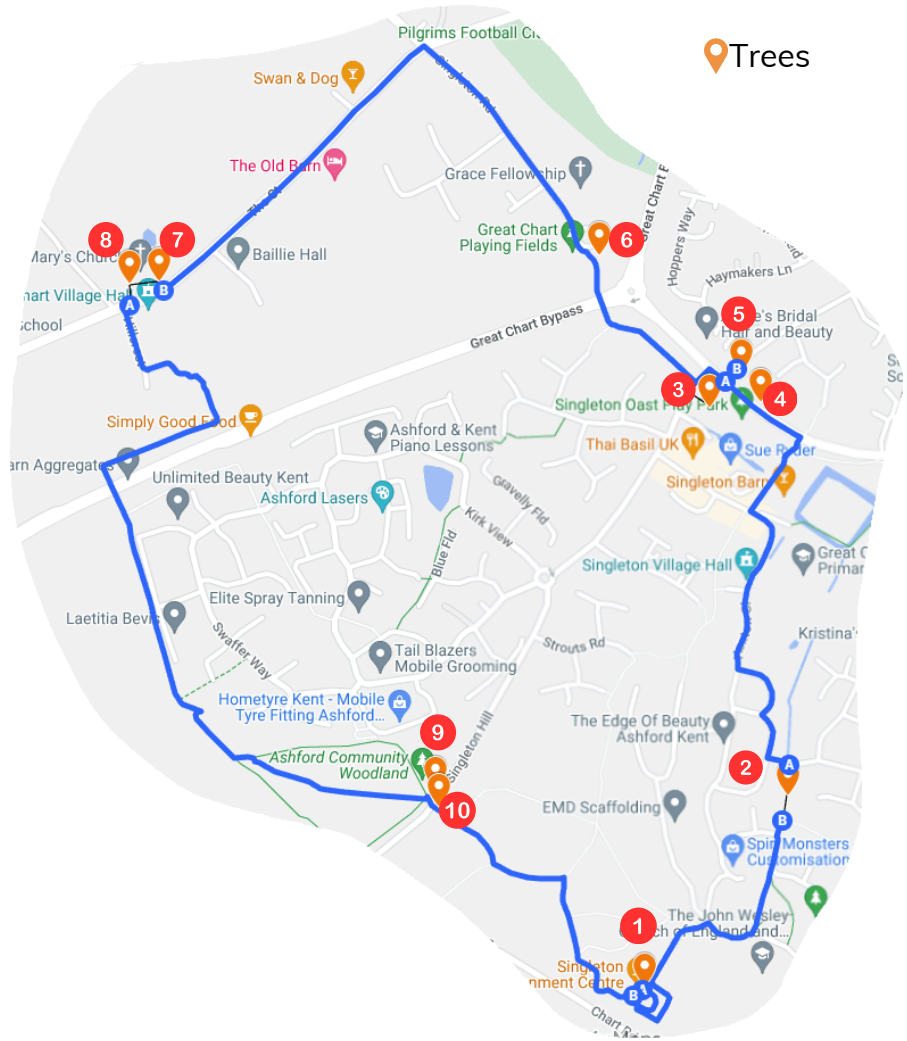
To follow the route in a wheelchair or with a buggy please start at Singleton Environment Centre with tree 1 and continue with trees 9 & 10. From there we recommend to follow the route from tree 2 to 8.





Follow the blue line on the map for directions starting at Singleton Environment Centre.

 Trees





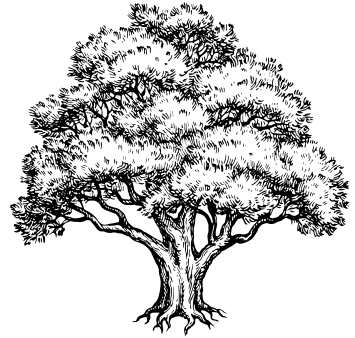
The route



The suggested route around the trail starts from Singleton Environment Centre, where a Yew tree was planted on May 21st, 2016, to celebrate the work of the Kent Heritage Tree project which inspired the Tree Trail. The Yew tree is at the top of the fruit path by the canopy.

1 Yew Tree (*Taxus baccata*)

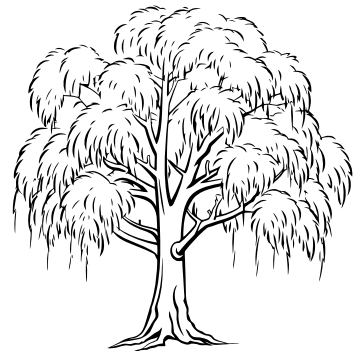
Did you know? Unlike many other conifers, the common yew does not actually bear its seeds in a cone. Instead, each seed is enclosed in a red, fleshy, berry-like structure known as an aril which is open at the tip.



2 White Willow (*Salix Alba*)

From Singleton Environment Centre leave through the car park, turn right towards Cuckoo Park and turn left at the park straight down to Lodge Close. The road veers to the left but take the footpath ahead of you. Follow the path around to the right and then immediately turn left. Carefully cross Harvest Way and follow the path; the tree will be on your left.

Did you know? Like most willows, the white willow is found growing in wet ground such as on the banks of rivers and streams. Traditionally, willows were used to relieve pain associated with headaches and toothache.



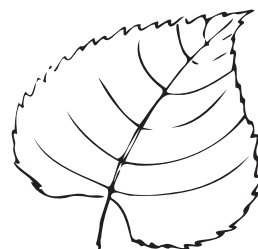


3 Common Lime (*Tilia x euroaea*)

Follow the path, cross over the footbridge over the stream towards Singleton Village Hall. By the hall, turn right down Hoxton Close and turn right by the Singleton Barn heading towards Tithe Barn Lane. At the traffic light turn left, walk along Tithe Barn Lane towards Singleton Hill, you will find the next tree in Oast Play Park on your left.

Approximately 19 limes lead from the park up to Singleton Manor. The park is now owned by Ashford Borough Council.

Sadly 5 trees are missing on the north east side.



4 London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*)

From Oast Play Park cross over Tithe Barn Lane at the traffic lights where you will find a row of London Planes. You will note that some look older than others and they might have been planted when the area was developed. Did you find any acorns or conkers while there?

Did you know? The London plane tree is one of the most important species in inner London? The bark breaks away in large flakes to dispel pollutants, hence the tree's ability to cope with high levels of air pollution and the reason for the trunk's camouflage pattern.





5 Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

Head towards Bucksford Lane. At the T junction look to your right and you will see the Common Ash.

The middle of the tree has been boarded up as the tree became hollow and unsafe. The tree was a key landmark amongst the residents when the area was developed. Did you know the young green, immature seeds of ash are edible and have also been used in herbal medicine?



6 Oak Tree (*Quercus robur*)

From the Ash tree head back to Tithe Barn Lane and across to Singleton Hill. By the Singleton village sign, cross Singleton Hill and take the path towards Great Chart. Continue on the path until you get to the underpass. After going through the underpass you will see the young oak tree on your right, opposite Great Chart Play park.

Did you know? Acorn is the fruit of the tree and contains one seed. Oaks can live to over 1000 years old. That means they can sustain wildlife for centuries.

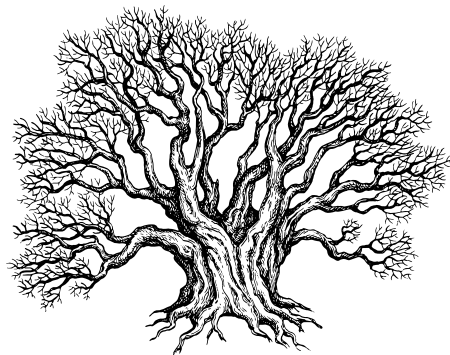




7 Common Yew (***Taxus baccata***)

From the Oak tree walk down Singleton Road. When you reach the crossroad, turn left and walk up The Street, past the Swan and Dog until you see the church on the hill. In the churchyard, there are two notable Yew trees.

Did you know? Yew timber is incredibly strong and durable. Traditionally, the wood was used in turnery and to make long bows and tool handles.

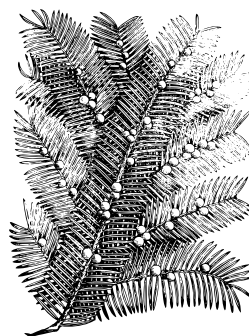


8 Irish Yew (***Taxus Baccata 'Fastigiata'***)

The second Yew tree in the churchyard is an Irish Yew tree, in front of the church.

Did you know? Irish Yew prefers to grow in well-drained soil and can often be found in church yards.

The flowers of the yew tree are pollinated by wind and develop into succulent red fruits with a naked seed inside.





9

Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)

From the church head down to Hillcrest, bear left towards the garages and then right by the allotments (please note this section of the route is not wheelchair friendly), follow the path with the bypass on your left, take the footbridge over the bypass and continue along the footpath with houses on your left and fields on your right. Enter the woodland and when you reach the large rocks, turn left. Soon you will come to a fork, here take the right-hand fork and keep following the main path until you arrive at the exit of Fox Wood.

Did you know? Field maples can grow to 20 metres and live for up to 350 years. As with all maple trees, the sap of the field maple can be used to make maple syrup.



10

Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

Cross Singleton Hill, please take extra care as visibility is limited. By the gate, you will see a multistemmed Hores Chestnut tree with at least 15 stems. It was recently reduced about three meters in height, but was previously much taller.

Did you know? Deer and other mammals eat the conkers. The leaf stalks leave a scar on the twig when they fall, which resembles an inverted horseshoe with nail holes.





We hope you enjoyed the trail and learning about the trees. We'd love to hear your feedback—please feel free to email us at

theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

We're pleased to announce that we're planning to extend the tree trail and include additional routes for you to explore!

