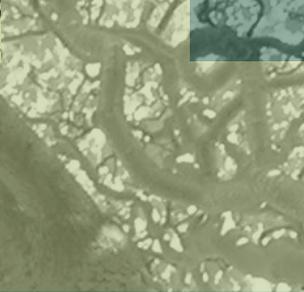


# Dundee's Tree & Woodland Heritage



# A Green City



The banks of the Dighty Burn

## Introduction

This short publication aims to make residents and visitors more aware of Dundee's rich arboricultural heritage. Trees and woods provide a unique living legacy, reflecting the evolution of the City over the centuries.

A visit to some of the sites listed will provide glimpses into the history of Dundee, and an introduction to some colourful characters from the past; merchants, heroes, explorers, revolutionaries, industrialists and everyday people. Every location has its own part to play in making Dundee's special sense of place.

There can be few cities in the world which can boast their own unique form of tree. Dundee is privileged in this respect to have the Camperdown Elm, now widely grown around the world as a cultivar. This, along with the rest of Dundee's rich green legacy, is something of which Dundonians should be justifiably proud.

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Perth Road

Aconites



Pink campion



# Early History of Dundee's Trees

## The Clearance of the Wildwood

Prior to the medieval period, Dundee, like much of lowland Scotland, was well forested with broadleaved species including oak, ash and wych elm. Pine, birch, rowan and aspen would also have been found in the surrounding uplands. By the 18th Century many of these forests had already been cleared for agriculture, and timber used for the development of Scotland's fast growing towns.

## Timber Scarcity

Writing in his 1775 travelogue, 'Journey to the Western Isles of Scotland', Dr Samuel Johnson noted *A tree might be a show in Scotland, as a horse in Venice*. During the medieval period in Scotland, most buildings were still made using a timber frame construction, requiring significant quantities of wood which could not be met by depleted local supplies. Large timbers, particularly recycled ships masts, were particularly prized for construction purposes. One such redundant mast was reputedly incorporated into the structure of Gardyne's Land, one of Dundee's oldest buildings.



Gardyne's Land

## Estate Woodlands

Some of Dundee's finest trees and woods are remnants of old estate policies, which predate much of the later industrial expansion of the City. Of these remnants, Balgay Hill forms the most prominent remaining feature on Dundee's skyline.

Mature parkland trees can also be found in other parts of the City, including the grounds of Ninewells Hospital, these once forming a part of the adjoining Invergowrie House Estate. The original native species were often supplemented in later plantings with exotic specimens brought back by Scottish plant collectors from far flung parts of the Empire.

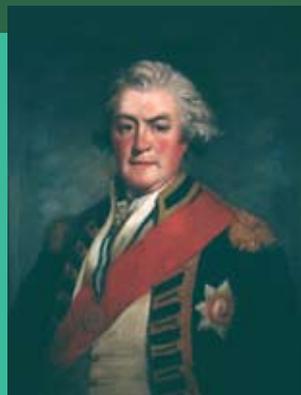
Because of their strong associations with the landed classes, estate trees

sometimes became the target of deliberate acts of vandalism. Revolutionary fervour reached its peak in Dundee in 1793 when an angry mob forced the Lord Provost to dance around the

so-called 'Tree of Liberty' in the town centre.



Studio of Hoppner, from the collection of Dundee City Council, Leisure & Communities



Admiral Adam Duncan



Maple

The most striking and best known of Dundee's great estates is Camperdown Country Park, named after the battle in which Admiral Adam Duncan defeated the Dutch Navy in 1797. Dundee's unique form of wych elm, the Camperdown Elm, was first discovered growing wild by estate forester David Taylor. Cultivars



from the original remarkable plant have now been established in private gardens and arboretums around the world.



## Timber Imports

To satisfy the growing demand for timber, importation from abroad became increasingly important as Dundee expanded as a port. Timber generally came from Norway and Sweden, but considerable quantities were also imported from the Caledonian Forest in Aberdeenshire and Strathspey.

Timber for construction of other Scottish cities also came through the busy port of Dundee. Imports included oak joists for Falkland Palace in 1535 and for the construction of Linlithgow. Although the ships belonged to Norway, cargoes were the property of Dundee merchants.

In later years, steamships opened up markets further afield such as the boreal forests of Canada and tropical forests of Honduras.



## Shipbuilding

By 1850 Dundee had acquired a reputation for shipbuilding. The Dundee whalers dominated the world whaling fleets for many years. The best known ship constructed in Dundee was the RSS Discovery built in 1900 and made famous by Scott's Antarctic voyages. Most certainly, like many of the Dundee whalers, the RSS Discovery was constructed with timber imported from the Baltic.

© Dundee Central Library 2002

## The Jute Industry and Victorian Collections

In the 19th Century the textile industry came to dominate the economy of Dundee, with over 11,000 people employed in the industry by 1850. The jute mills required considerable quantities of timber for their construction.

Dundee mill owners such as the Cox Brothers, planted many fine avenues of lime trees, giant redwoods and monkey puzzle trees around their large houses or



so-called 'Jute Palaces', close to the site of Camperdown Works.

The influx of capital to Dundee resulted in the creation of an affluent middle class, who built

large suburban houses in Broughty Ferry and the West End. It became a status symbol for the owners of these properties to plant exotic species of trees.



Wellingtonia



Spruce



Baxter Park

## The City's Parks

The expanding industries of Dundee provided employment for working people, but resulted in overcrowded conditions within the City. New parks or 'pleasure gardens' were required for the City's residents.

Many of the City's parks were donated by leading industrialists and financiers including Caird, Baxter and Dawson. Baxter Park in particular is of interest, having been designed by Sir Joseph Paxton who was also responsible for the design of the Crystal Palace in London.

## Postwar Expansion of the City

The postwar period saw continued expansion of the City, with large local authority housing schemes being

created in areas such as Ardler, Kirkton, Whitfield and Fintry. In some instances, older plantings were retained within developments and these contributed to the tree cover seen today. In other developments such as Menzieshill,

new amenity planting areas and shelter belts were established. These are now starting to come to maturity and create a more pleasant environment for the residents of Dundee.



## Recent History

The post-industrial era has seen many changes within the City of Dundee, with movement away from a manufacturing base to a knowledge-based economy. Areas of the City such as Ardler and Whitfield have been undergoing a transformation through regeneration initiatives.

With these changes there is a renewed emphasis on 'greening' of the City. Woodland areas within Dundee have also been undergoing a renaissance, with a drive to improve their potential as a stress-free resource for health and wellbeing.

Dundee residents are also being encouraged to participate directly through initiatives such as community woodland groups.



## Liff and Ninewells

**Varied and historic sites on the western fringes of the city.**

The grounds of Ninewells Hospital close to the Maggie's Centre, contain one of the finest collection of ancient parkland trees in the Dundee area. These include mature English oaks, sweet chestnuts and walnuts.



Invergowrie House

L-shaped tower-house. The present structure was begun in the early 1600s and then altered in 1837 to its present design. Although there is no parking within the grounds of the hospital, visitors are able to access the parkland area on foot via Tom Macdonald Avenue.

Not far from Ninewells is the small hamlet of Liff. Liff Hospital site has been redeveloped as a residential area and contains mature trees including Atlas cedar, Wellingtonia, western red cedar, Scots pine, yew and holly along with native hardwoods and shrubs. The old hospital grounds are open to the



Liff Hospital



Whitebeam flowers



Ninewells Estate Woodlands

public to walk through, and provide an excellent location to observe red squirrels. These are now the subject of a high-profile conservation campaign.

The nearby Gray Walk provides an attractive outing through adjacent farmland, along a lime-fringed avenue to the old kirk of Benvie. The route passes by the House of Gray, a once opulent country house built by Alex McGill and John Strachan for the 12th Lord Gray in 1716. The house boasts a fine collection of heritage trees in its grounds. From the track, visitors can see two Cedars of Lebanon, Wellingtonia, horse chestnut and a collection of common, red and Turkey oaks.



The House of Gray

The grounds of the Swallow Hotel by the Invergowrie roundabout contain giant redwoods, weeping ash, Douglas fir and yews. There is a woodland trail and a path link to the village of Invergowrie. Adjacent to the hotel is an important wetland site with alder woodland. Interesting wetland plant species including tufted sedge, orchid and celery-leaved buttercup can be found.

# University of Dundee Botanic Garden



Located two miles west of the City Centre.  
Follow signs off Riverside Drive, by Dundee  
Airport.

The University Botanic Garden is a wonderful place to relax, enjoy and learn about plants from all over the world.

The Garden has diverse collections of conifers, broadleaved trees and shrubs, tropical and temperate glasshouses, water gardens and herb gardens.



The site is located in 9.5ha of south-facing, gently sloping land near the banks of the River Tay, and forms a peaceful oasis amid the bustle of the City.

The native plants represent the range of plant associations from mountain to coastal habitats. There are also groupings of plants which demonstrate adaptations for survival, including drought resistance, carnivory, specialised pollination and seed dispersal mechanisms.



Visitors to the Garden can effectively 'walk the world' when they visit the site, which is laid out on a geographical basis. There are separate sections for British native plants, the Americas, Australasian plants and an Asian collection. It seems hard to believe that the site was an empty field containing only one mature tree before the development of the Garden in the 1970s.

After a stroll around the Garden visitors can enjoy a leisurely break in the Garden Coffee Shop.



Parking  
Toilets  
Disabled facilities  
Refreshments

Visit the Garden seven days a week. Contact the Garden for opening times. *Please note there is an admission charge to the Garden but not the Coffee Shop.*  
[www.dundeebotanicgarden.co.uk](http://www.dundeebotanicgarden.co.uk)



Cherry blossom

## Balgay Hill Woods

**Two miles from Dundee City Centre, turn off Perth Road onto Glamis Road. Balgay Park is at the top of the hill.**

Balgay Hill is an elongated hill of just over 60 acres. The Hill was obtained from the Estate of Sir William



Victoria Park

and Lady Scott in 1870, following the passing of an Act of Parliament which allowed town councils to purchase areas of land for public recreation. The Park is a large and diverse area which, along with adjoining Lochee and Victoria Parks, forms a prominent greenspace in the west end of the City. At the same time as the Park was created, part of the Hill was developed into Balgay Cemetery, which includes many historic monuments and gravestones.

The Hill is characterised by mature mixed woodland of beech, oak, ash, sycamore and pine. There are also

yews and wayfaring tree, *Viburnum lantana*. The dense shade provided by the beeches on the northern side of the Hill allows little light to reach the woodland understorey.

The mature conifers at the entrance to the park off Glamis Road were planted by the assembled guests to celebrate the opening of the Park by the Earl of Dalhousie and city officials. The paths on the Hill and a historic cast-iron bridge are being restored to their Victorian splendour.

One of the most remarkable features of the Park is the Mills Observatory, which is the UK's only observatory open to the public on a full-time basis. From the top of the Hill there is a fine panorama over the City of Dundee. The astronomical theme links into the adjoining woodland where there is a Planet Trail laid out close to the Observatory buildings.



Mills Observatory

Balgay Hill



## Menzieshill and South Road Park

**Within a residential area close to Ninewells Hospital to the west of Dundee providing a fine outlook over the City.**

Whilst there is nothing remarkable about Menzieshill for visitors, the area does provide an interesting illustration of how trees and woods can soften the urban landscape.

Urban woodlands help to make our towns and cities attractive and greener places to live and work. The



softening effect of trees reduces the impact of housing development, provides shade in the summer and shelter from winter storms. Trees also attract wildlife to the town, providing a source of pollen and berries for insects

and birds throughout the year. Trees have the added benefit of absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> and can help in the fight against climate change.

The Menzieshill area boasts a number of small plantations and shelterbelts which provide many of the above benefits for local residents. These trees were planted during the 1970s and include Scots pine, larch and cherry. There are also belts of shrubs which include colourful cotoneaster and hawthorns. In addition, within the development, there are also some notable silver birches, identifiable from their delicate cascading branches.

The South Road Park is a large area of amenity parkland on the north side of Menzieshill, which is much valued as a public open space. Paths criss-cross the Park, providing good opportunities for healthy walks and fine views.

Dundee City Council, in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland, have been undertaking a series of improvements to the City's trees and woods funded by the WIAT (Woods in and Around Towns) initiative.



South Road Park

Recent research shows that maintaining attractive trees and greenspace has considerable benefits for the health and wellbeing of urban residents.



Menzieshill 'multis'

## Camperdown Country Park

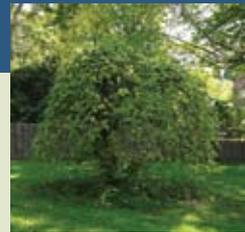
Four miles from Dundee City Centre  
off the A923 Coupar Angus Road.

Camperdown Country Park is named after the Battle of Camperdown in which Admiral Adam Duncan defeated the Dutch Navy in 1797. As thanks for saving the country from Napoleon and his Dutch allies, the King made Admiral Duncan a Viscount. Camperdown House was built in the 1820s for Admiral Duncan's son Robert, the 1st Earl of Camperdown. The mature trees seen in the parkland today were planted by the 1st Earl's forester, David Taylor.

Mr Taylor supervised the planting of the woodlands, scattered trees and avenues around Camperdown, as well as several areas of exotic trees. In total there are over 100 individual tree species found within the Park. These include many fine oaks, elms, weeping ashes, sycamore and beeches. Because these trees are grown in open parkland, they develop their characteristic spreading

form. The northern and western perimeter of the Park incorporates larger areas of mature woodland including beech and mixed broadleaves.

The arboretum between the Camperdown Wildlife Centre and the Camperdown Mansion House contains a mixture of exotic and more familiar trees.



Camperdown Elm



Camperdown House

Her Ladyship's Walk is a pinetum made up of unusual evergreen specimen trees, including Wellingtonia, Douglas fir, monkey puzzle, Monterey pine, Bhutan pine, Cedar of Lebanon and different types of hollies.



Lime Avenue

The main driveway into Camperdown follows an avenue of lime trees which were established after the Battle of Waterloo. These provide a dramatic gateway into the Park which is particularly beautiful in autumn.

The most famous tree within the Park is however the Camperdown Elm, *Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii', a unique weeping form of wych elm. The original tree was first recorded in the Park in 1835 and has survived the ravages of time. It is now the source of similar trees grown around the world.



Copper Beech



Mandarin duck



Muscovy duck



Red squirrel



Woodland walkers

Camperdown Country Park is important for wildlife including red squirrels and elusive roe deer. The duck pond attracts many native and exotic water birds. Teal, Mandarin and the exotic Muscovy ducks can all be seen.

## Templeton Woods

**Four miles from Dundee City Centre  
off the A923 Coupar Angus Road.**

Templeton Woods were originally part of the Camperdown Estate. Like Camperdown Park, the Woods were planted in the 19th Century by David Taylor the head forester of the 1st Earl of Camperdown. Since the original planting, the Woods have evolved considerably and include a diverse range of species including oak, beech, rowan, silver birch and exotic conifers from the Americas, such as Douglas fir, grand fir and western hemlock.

The Woods provide a home for a great variety of wildlife including great spotted woodpeckers, buzzards, jays and smaller woodland birds such as tree creepers, chaffinches and long-tailed tits. Watch quietly in the woodland and you might be lucky enough to glimpse an elusive red squirrel scurrying through the tree tops.

Small pockets of ancient birch woodland, which predate the plantations, contain native wildflowers including woodsorrel, woodruff and wild hyacinth. Autumn is a great time to find a variety of fungus in the Woods, including puff balls, sulphur tufts and russulas.

Templeton Woods have recently been improved for visitors, with upgraded paths and new visitor facilities provided. By the main car park there is a small interpretive centre which provides a base for ranger-led walks throughout the year. A woodland arts trail has recently been established and walkers can see carved wooden totems and tile mosaics. Visitors can make their own woodland music on the giant wooden xylophone hidden deep in the forest.



Timber harvest



## Clatto Country Park

**Four miles from Dundee City Centre, off Dalmahoy Drive.**

Clatto Country Park is an area of mixed habitats including woodlands, open parkland and The Clatto Reservoir. The diverse matrix of habitats includes species-rich meadows and wetlands. These support a number of interesting species such as greater knapweed, greater spearwort and yellow flag iris.

The woodland areas include Baldragon Woods, a naturally regenerating woodland of ash, silver birch and rowan. Much of the Baldragon Woodland area takes on the form of a coppice, suggesting a previous history of ongoing management. The understorey is diverse and includes some heathland species in the more open areas.

The plantation woods also include Scots pine, larch, spruce, beech and oak. These were originally established to provide a windbreak, following the construction of the Clatto Reservoir. Recently, two new areas of woodland have been established with a WIAT (Woods in and around Towns) grant from Forestry Commission Scotland. These include 'The Admiral Duncan Wood' planted by local school children in 2005, to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

There are a number of walks around Clatto including routes around the Reservoir and Baldragon Woods. Further routes link to the adjoining Templeton Woods and into the Angus countryside.

Red squirrel



The Old Clatto Reservoir is used for watersports during the summer months. A variety of species of wildfowl including geese and swans are to be seen using the site throughout the year.



Wych elm



## Lansdowne and Foggyley

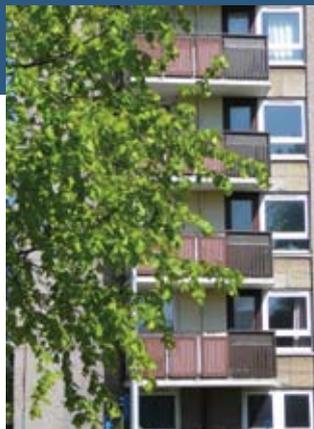
**Off the Coupar Angus and Harefield Road close to the urban village of Lochee.**

The area between Harefield Road, Coupar Angus Road and the Dunsinane Industrial Estate shows a remarkable collection of well-preserved heritage trees, including extensive avenues of lime, monkey puzzles and giant redwoods.

The Cox Brothers, Dundee jute barons, built large houses at Clement Park, Foggyley and Beechwood. These formed an original designed landscape, the remnants of which we can still see today set amid later postwar housing developments. The 'Jute Palaces', as they came to be known, were developed in close proximity to Camperdown Works in nearby Lochee. Clement Park was used in more recent years as a hostel for the Salvation Army, but is now being redeveloped.

In the mid-20th Century, the area was used for construction of local authority housing, resulting in the development of the present street layout. However, many of the original trees were retained, creating the 'leafy' suburb feel that characterises the area today.

Nearby Dryburgh Gardens and Lansdowne Grove also contain beautiful and varied trees including Cedar of Lebanon, weeping ash, Wellingtonia, horse chestnut and Camperdown elm. It is possible that this is a westward extension of the designed landscape created by the Cox Brothers.



An avenue of lime trees



Wellingtonia

## City Centre and The Howff

### An easy walk from Dundee City Centre

The Howff is a historic graveyard in the city of Dundee, boasting a collection of unique and ghostly heritage trees. The location was originally a meeting place used by the nine trades of Dundee. The site was gifted to the people of Dundee in 1564 by Mary Queen of Scots, and was later to be used as a graveyard for three hundred years. Many stones show the symbols associated with the ancient trades in the City.

The heritage trees have unique and tortured forms which blend well into the setting of the graveyard. The Camperdown elms *Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii' which were originally introduced from nearby Camperdown Park have contorted, spiralling branches and reach out in all directions. The elms have deeply fissured bark and simple leaves. These should be distinguished from the other species of elm, *Ulmus glabra horizontalis*. On the west side of the Howff are equally characterful weeping ashes.

In medieval times rock doves were kept and bred as a source of fresh meat at the Howff. They have now been replaced by more common feral pigeons and herring gulls.

The City Centre contains other notable trees including an impressive London Plane in West Bell Street (by the Abertay University Library). This was originally planted in the southeast corner of the 'new' cemetery. The site was later developed, but some of the old gravestones can still be seen further along the east side of the



Weeping elm in the Howff



New planting - Abertay University Library

boundary wall, towards the North Marketgait end. There are also old limes within the grounds of Dundee High School (visible from the street) and a weeping ash in Albert Square.

Weeping ash in the Howff



## Dundee Law

### An energetic hill climb accessible from Dundee City Centre.

Dundee Law, like Balgay Hill, marks the site of a volcanic tube or vent which was blocked by lava as it hardened beneath the ground. During glaciations, powerful ice sheets removed the surrounding sandstones to leave the Law as an isolated feature on the Dundee skyline.

The area around the Law includes some pine woodland dating back to the 1970s in addition to older plantings of birch, rowan and sycamore. The main attraction of the Law, however, is the fine vantage point it affords over the surrounding countryside to Fife, Angus, Perthshire and beyond.



Path near the Law summit

An appreciation of Dundee's trees and woodlands can also be gained from the Law with all the City's parks and woodlands being visible. Particularly prominent is the wooded summit of Balgay Hill and the green expanse of Templeton Woods and Camperdown Country Park. Looking across the Tay to the southeast, the eye is led towards Tentsmuir Forest which forms a recreational haven along the Fife coast. This extensive area is managed by the Forestry Commission Scotland.

View south towards the Tay



Parking  
Picnic area  
Historic interest  
Visitor information

Visit at any time of day. There are some short walks around the Law and information and interpretation about the development of the City.

## Dudhope Park and Constitution Street

Easily reached by walking northwest from the City Centre.

The tiny winding streets to the west of Constitution Road, including Constitution Terrace, Union Terrace, Prospect Place and Laurel Bank, possess fascinating heritage trees including the bizarre and contorted forms of Camperdown elms and weeping ashes.

During the Victorian era it was considered highly fashionable for the aspiring middle class to possess exotic specimen trees. Almost every household along these streets seems to possess some piece of arboricultural heritage.



Dudhope Terrace and Somerville Place also exhibit some fine examples of these fashionable trees.

Dudhope Castle is one of Dundee's historic treasures and has, over the years, had a variety of uses including factory, military barracks, hospital, museum and offices. In front of the house is an attractive garden using a layout of box hedging.

The adjoining Dudhope Park was bought by Dundee Council in 1890 to protect the area from proposed developments. The pedestrian entrance to the Park off Lochee Road boasts a good example of weeping elm *Ulmus glabra horizontalis*. Landscaping of the Park was largely confined to the steeper slopes, leaving



large grassy swathes for public enjoyment. Trees in the Park include a London Plane close to the main lodge and an avenue of horse chestnuts. A Skateboard Park has been recently constructed in Dudhope Park;

a good place to see informal acrobatics and daredevil stunts in a green setting.



Dudhope Skatepark



Wych elm



Grafted Camperdown elm

## Perth Road Area

To the west of the City Centre close to Dundee's academic and cultural quarter.

The Perth Road area features many historic and unusual trees. One modest specimen with an turbulent history is the 'Tree of Liberty'. The original plant was dug up from a garden where Dundee College of Art now stands, in 1793 by an excited mob, eager to celebrate the overthrow of the French monarchy and the creation of the French Republic. The uprooted tree was temporarily put in the ground close to the City's ancient market cross. The reluctant Lord Provost Riddoch was then made to dance around the tree whilst being subjected to the ridicule and taunts of the mob.



The latest 'Tree of Liberty'

The original tree was later replanted on the same spot but has long since died. Several replacements have been established over the years to keep the tradition alive. The present tree is a young ash and it is hoped that revolutionary zeal will be suspended to allow this symbolic tree to grow to maturity. An information plaque can now be seen outside the college commemorating the turbulent and troubled history of this beleaguered plant.

Other trees along the Perth Road include a fine Corstorphine plane, outside the University-owned Bonar Hall. There are also two weeping ashes which lend dignity and refinement to this part of the town.

Historic interest

As always, enjoy discovering Dundee's heritage trees but please respect the privacy of local residents.



St Peter's Free Church of Scotland, Perth Road

Outside the nearby St Andrews Cathedral is a small weeping elm which has survived the rigours of urban life, while close by in the grounds of the Clydesdale Bank, (once the home of Provost Riddoch) are a couple of attractive oaks.



Corstorphine plane and weeping ash outside the Bonar Hall

*Below*  
Weeping ash near Roseangle

The myriad of small residential streets off the Perth Road reveal fascinating secrets to the amateur tree detective. The area around Roseangle and Magdalene Place is worth a look, with gems such as Camperdown elms, weeping ash and eucalyptus. A particularly fine holm oak can be seen in front of the Medical Centre off Roseangle.

Further west along the Perth Road at the West Park Conference Centre unusual species including walnut and a rare oak-leaved hornbeam can be found.



## Baxter Park and Stobswell

**Two miles northeast of Dundee City Centre.  
Access off Pitkerro Road.**

Baxter Park is significant in the history of the development of urban parks in Britain, and contains some interesting heritage trees. The Park was the inspiration of Sir David Baxter, a Dundee textile owner, who purchased 36 acres of “pleasure ground” for the people of Dundee. Baxter commissioned Sir Joseph Paxton, said to be one of the greatest Victorian Park Designers, to undertake the design work in the Park.

Notable trees include the champion tree cotoneaster, *Cotoneaster frigidus*, which has been officially recognised as the largest of its kind. Other champion trees include a Camperdown elm which is the tallest of its kind, and a wych elm, *Ulmus glabra 'exoniensis'* which has the largest girth of its kind. Another type of elm, the purple twigged elm, is both the tallest and

largest girthed specimen of this tree recorded in the UK. Close to the play area, there is a rare but fragile example of a weeping oak, which is now sadly supported by wire braces.



Weeping elm at Baxter Park

The Park has recently been the subject of a major regeneration project, which restored the site to its former Victorian splendour. Included in this is the reinstatement of the Pavilion and creation of a new base for the Park’s Urban Rangers.



Tree cotoneaster



Copper beech

The neighbouring residential area of

Stobswell contains fine trees within private gardens, including giant redwoods, limes and weeping elms.

The grounds of Morgan Academy also contain some mature tree specimens. *Please note the school grounds are not open to the public.*



Weeping oak

## Dawson Park and Arbroath Road



Cherry blossom



Grey poplar in Dawson Park

### A number of sites close to the Arbroath Road in the eastern suburbs of Dundee.

The leafy suburbs of eastern Dundee provide opportunities to see some unusual species. Dawson Park provides an attractive setting for tree-spotting. The fine avenue of cherry trees along the Park's main path is best appreciated in the spring when spectacular displays of blossom welcome more settled days. Other groups of trees within the Park include western red cedar, Scots pines and mixed hardwood plantations. There are also Norway spruce and Corsican pine.

The New Duntrune Demonstration Garden within the Park was established in 2006 to showcase the latest developments in gardening. A variety of events and practical workshops run there throughout the year for the public.

Further east along Arbroath Road are a number of attractive areas of urban greenspace. The Eastern Cemetery is a good place to see conifers, elms and walnuts.



Cherry avenue at Dawson Park

The nearby residential streets of Albany Road and Strathern Road include many fine trees in large private gardens. A walk along these streets will reveal exotic specimens of western red cedar, beech, lime and oak.

The grounds of Dundee College and the area of Craigiebarns (off Strathern Road) include small patches of native woodland with mature oaks, ash, birch

and Scots pine, with an understorey of holly. Beech and sycamore also occur. The area around the sports grounds incorporates more recent planting of Scots pine and larch.



Hawthorn

Historic interest  
Parking  
Disabled facilities

Visit during daylight hours but please check for opening times of the New Duntrune Demonstration Garden. Please respect the privacy of local residents in these areas.

# Broughty Ferry and Barnhill

## Reres Hill and Forthill Area

Access Reres Hill from Monifieth Road to the east of Broughty Ferry. Forthill can be easily accessed by walking north from the centre of Broughty Ferry.

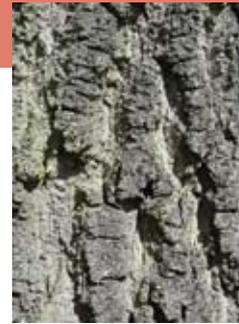
Reres Hill acts as a good viewpoint, providing vistas out across the Tay Estuary and surrounding countryside. Located just outside the town centre of Broughty Ferry, Reres Hill is an area of mature deciduous and coniferous woodland surrounding a small hill. The south side of the hill is mainly short grass with Scots pine, oak, sycamore and beech on the higher slopes. The

woods are also of interest for the unusual variety of fungi which appear in the autumn.

Artists and poets have worked with local children to create artworks for the site, including three carved seats, in the shape of 'blown leaves'.

The leafy residential streets of Broughty Ferry incorporate noteworthy examples of heritage trees. The town developed during the Victorian era as a seaside resort and residential suburb for Dundee's elite, who built their fine villas on the Forthill above the town.

The gardens in Camphill Road particularly, include fine examples of western red cedar, weeping ash and weeping elms. Other introductions include



Red oak bark



Holm oak, Camphill Road

Mediterranean holm oak, eucalyptus from Australasia and Wellingtonia from California. Chilean monkey puzzles, walnut and yews can also be seen.

The Barnhill Rock Garden is also worth a visit and has a number of species, including a notable *Cupressus macrocarpa*.



Reres Hill woods

*Cupressus macrocarpa*



Entrance to Reres Park

## Balmossie to the Seven Arches Viaduct

**An attractive green walk along the Dighty Burn and accessible from Balgillo Road.**

The Dighty Valley from North Balmossie Street forms an attractive green corridor to the south towards the Seven Arches Viaduct. The wooded den includes mature, semi-natural ash woodlands on the steep slope above the northern side of the burn. These woods include an understorey of holly and are home to many small birds, including blue tits, great tits and tree creepers. Species found include beech and sycamore which have slowly encroached over the years. The dense canopy allows little light to penetrate to ground level, consequently restricting the development of understorey vegetation.

On the other side of the Dighty Burn, small plantation areas comprise wetland species such as alder and willow. There are also some plantations of Norway spruce.

A well-developed understorey comprises woodland-edge species such as guelder rose, dog rose, elder, hawthorn and blackthorn. These provide an excellent source of food for wild birds, including goldfinch and yellowhammer, as well as providing ground-cover for nesting. The dense carpet of ivy provides a food source for insects during the winter, and helps to sustain wild bird populations and small mammals through the cold dark months.

Further up the slopes on the west bank, plantations include alder, birch, wild cherry and ground-cover



Spring flowers at the site of Panmurefield Bleachworks

shrubs. These help to screen the river corridor from surrounding housing developments and provide a feeling of seclusion. Further down the valley you can pass under the viaduct and through a series of attractive open meadows and small woodland plantations. Look out for dramatic displays of cowslips during the spring.

Not all trees found in this location are quite as they first appear. By the Water Treatment Works you may see one particular species not commonly observed. Before reaching for the ID book it's worth considering you may be looking at a mobile phone mast in designer leafy clothing!



Guelder rose



Mobile phone mast masquerading as a tree

The Seven Arches Viaduct



# North & North East of the City

## Den O' Mains and Caird Park

Access to the Park is from Claverhouse Road off the A90 Dundee to Forfar Road.

Den O' Mains forms an attractive wooded walk within Caird Park. The Park was donated by Sir James Caird, a local jute baron and part-time philanthropist. Caird turned out to be one of the City's most successful entrepreneurs. He made a substantial fortune, and also gifted the Caird Hall, which dominates City Square, to the people of Dundee.

The Den O' Mains is located in a sheltered small valley on the north side of the Park where two artificial ponds have been linked by the Gelly Burn. The woodland includes planted blocks of broadleaved and coniferous trees. Species include sessile oak, elm, birch, rowan, pine and ash. Grey alder and willow also occur in some of the damper areas and on the islands within the pond. Patches of wetland occur in both ponds and interesting species such as the pendulous sedge and the greater spearwort can be found.

*Rhododendron ponticum* has spread extensively throughout much of the area. This plant is highly invasive and over time can restrict the growth of other species, requiring ongoing management to limit its impact.

Common oak

Yew tree at Mains Cemetery



Poplar



Mains Castle

Caird Park is an ideal location for active recreation and walking, with three golf courses, an athletics track and winter sports pitches. The historic Mains Castle and cemetery on the site of Mains Church are also worthy of attention.

Over the Claverhouse Road, the Trottick Ponds Local Nature Reserve also provides a setting for a walk or for simply watching wildlife. Close to the Ponds once stood the castle of Viscount Claverhouse or 'Bonnie Dundee', famous for his part in leading the Jacobite army to victory at Killiecrankie.

Black poplar at Trottick Ponds



Oak leaves



## Whitfield and Middleton Community Woodland

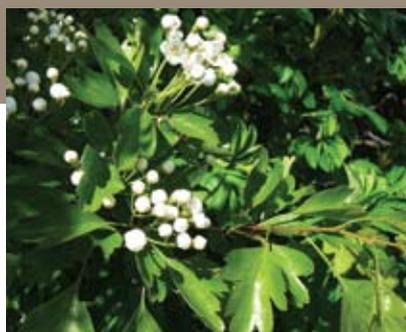
Seven miles from Dundee City Centre,  
off Duntrune Road.

The young trees in the fields near to Braeview Academy and the Vale of Duntrune are part of Middleton Wood, Dundee's Community Woodland. Tree planting started in 1993 with the help of local schools.

Middleton Community Woodland provides multiple benefits for the people of the Whitfield area. These include provision of a haven for wildlife and a network of trails for walkers. The Woodland is also used on occasion by local schools for nature study and biology classes.

The Woodland has recently been considerably extended beyond its original dimensions, thanks to funding through Forestry Commission Scotland's 'Woods in and Around Towns' Initiative. A feature of the planting is the large number of shrubby woodland-edge plants such as guelder rose, hawthorn and blackthorn. These provide a valuable food source for birds such as gold finches and yellowhammers, and also an important habitat for nesting.

Woodland Group was established to take forward the work of management and maintenance. Help is always



Hawthorn in flower

appreciated from those who can assist with the practical work days. Activities include tree planting events, fun days and clean-ups.

Full details of activity days can be found on the website at [www.middletonwoods.org.uk](http://www.middletonwoods.org.uk)

Middleton Woods



Parking  
Picnic area  
Visitor information

Middleton Community Woodland is open to the public at all times and a small car park can be accessed from Duntrune Road.  
[www.middletonwoods.org.uk](http://www.middletonwoods.org.uk)

## Further Reading

**Discovering Dundee  
The Story of a City**

Andrew Murray Scott  
© Mercat Press 2001  
ISBN 13: 978 0901824912

**Dundee: Names,  
People and Places**

David Dorward  
© Mercat Press 2001  
ISBN 13: 978 1873644799

**Dundee: A Short History**

Norman Watson  
© Black and White Publishing 2006  
ISBN 13: 978 1845021153

**Heritage Trees of Scotland** Donald Rodger, Jon Stokes and James Ogilvie

© Forestry Commission Scotland 2006  
ISBN 13: 978 0904853063

**People and Woods  
in Scotland: A History**

T C Smout  
© Edinburgh University Press 2003  
ISBN 13: 978 0748617005

**The Trees of Britain  
and Northern Europe**

Alan Mitchell and John Wilkinson  
© Collins 2006  
ISBN 13: 978 0713672381

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(Photos: front cover, p22)





### Western City and Approaches

- 1 Liff and Ninewells
- 2 University of Dundee Botanic Garden
- 3 Balgay Hill Woods
- 4 Menzieshill and South Road Park

### Camperdown and Clatto Area

- 5 Camperdown Country Park
- 6 Templeton Woods
- 7 Clatto Country Park
- 8 Lansdowne and Foggyley

### City Centre Area

- 9 The Howff and City Centre
- 10 Dundee Law
- 11 Dudhope Park and Constitution Street
- 12 Perth Road Area

### East of the City

- 13 Baxter Park and Stobsmuir
- 14 Dawson Park and Arbroath Road

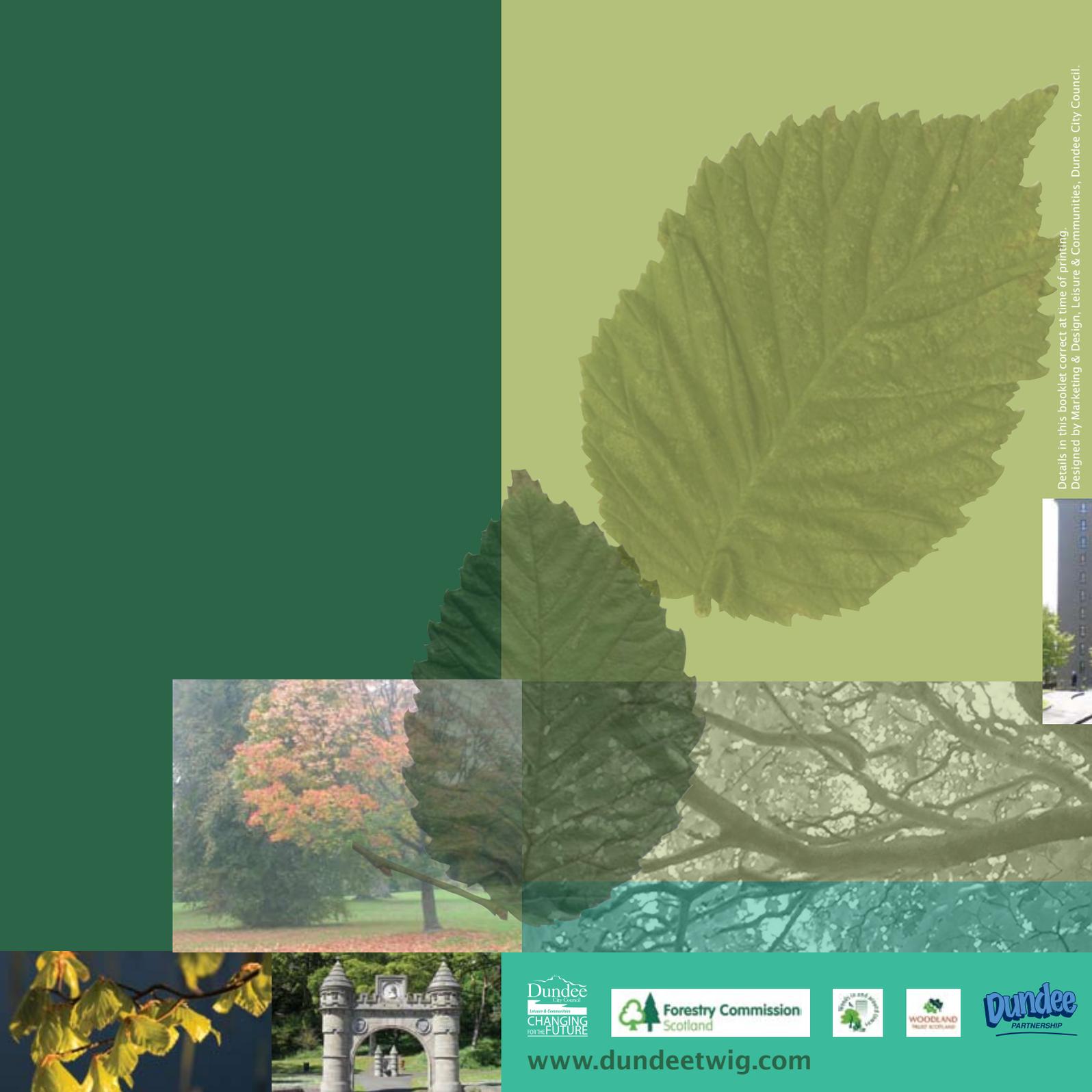
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[www.dundeetwig.com](http://www.dundeetwig.com)