

Important trees in Hillingdon

Hillingdon and Cowley

Atlantic Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*)

Vine Lane, Hillingdon

Age: 150+ years

Native to: North Africa

TPO: TPO 78a



This mature Atlantic Cedar is located in the gardens of the privately owned Cedar House in Hillingdon. A native of North Africa, this species of tree has been widely used in this country to enhance parks and gardens with its majestic form.

Although at approximately 24m high and 22m across it is not the largest tree of its type in the borough, it makes up for this by being such a prominent landmark tree that can easily be seen from quite a distance away, especially along Uxbridge Road.

It bears the scars of having lost several large limbs over the course of its long life, but is protected for future generations under a tree preservation order.

London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*)

Cowley Recreation Ground, Cowley

Age: 100 to 120 years

Native to: Southern Europe



This mature London Plane is at the entrance to Cowley House Recreation Ground. This type of tree possibly originated in Spain in the 17th Century as a cross between the Oriental Plane and the American Plane. It was widely planted in London as it proved to be extremely tolerant of pollution due in part to its flaking bark.

Out of the many, large, impressive trees in this park, this is the tree that greets you as you drive in and is easily visible from the main road. It is one of the largest Plane trees that the council maintains.



Hayes

Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*)

Cranford Park Countryside Park, Hayes

Age: 100 to 200+ years

Native to: Mediterranean region, Asia



This Cedar of Lebanon species is another veteran tree of the borough. It is located in Cranford Countryside Park and is west of the main car park. It is native to the mountainous Mediterranean region and Asia.

This tree has an impressive circumference of approximately 6.8m, which is considered to be its best feature, and has many characteristics of a veteran tree including decaying wood in the crown and hollowing branches. It also has large major horizontal limbs which contribute to its large crown spread.

Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*)

St Peters Way, Hayes

Age: 100 to 150+ years

Native to: Mediterranean region, Asia

TPO: TPO 26



This mature Cedar of Lebanon tree is located on privately owned land adjacent to St. Peter and St. Paul's Church Hall, in St. Peter's Way, Harlington. This species is native to the mountains of the Mediterranean region and can be found in North West Jordan and Western Syria.

It is a historically significant and symbolic tree. This species of tree is considered historically to represent incorruptibility and eternal life. It was introduced to Britain in 1638.

This tree is impressive for its height which at 18m can be clearly seen from the M4 motorway. This beautiful tree has a high amenity value and is protected under Tree Preservation Order No. 26 (TPO 26)

'Domesday' Oak (*Quercus robur*)

Cranford Park, Hayes

Age: 500 to 550 years

Native to: Britain



This veteran English Oak is located in Green Flag awarded Cranford Park in Hayes. The oak tree is native to Britain and Europe where its timber was widely used for major ship building.

This tree is considered to be the oldest tree in Cranford Park, and it has a number of characteristics associated with veteran trees, including the hollowing of the trunk and branches.

The trunk is so hollow in fact that it is more or less only supported on two sides without any supporting wood in between. It is given extra support with some wooden posts which have been installed.

Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)

Cranford Park Countryside Park, Hayes

Age: 300 to 350+ years

Native to: Southern Europe and Asia



This veteran Sweet Chestnut is located in Cranford Countryside Park and is just to the south of the main car park, a few hundred metres away. This species is native to Southern Europe and Asia, and was introduced to Britain by the Romans for its edible nuts which are traditionally roasted.

This tree is a registered veteran tree with the Woodland Trust and has a number of associated characteristics, most notably its significant girth size at almost 6m.

Eastcote and Ruislip

Dove Tree (*Davidia involucrata*)

Eastcote House Gardens, Eastcote

Age: 50+ years

Native to: Western China



This unusual tree is located close to the walled garden in Eastcote House gardens. It is a deciduous and unusual broadleaf tree.

Sometime also known as the Ghost tree or Handkerchief tree, it produces large flowers and white bracts in late May to early June. On a breezy day, the bracts flutter in the wind like white doves or pinched handkerchiefs, hence the English names for this tree.

The fruit is a very hard nut about 3cm long surrounded by a green husk about 4cm long by 3cm wide, hanging on a 10cm stalk. The nut contains three to six seeds.

English Oak (*Quercus robur*)

Poor's Field, Ruislip

Age: 100 years

Native to: Britain



Although this oak tree is not especially old or imposing, it is striking because of the shape it has formed over time. The bio-mechanics, or body language that this tree displays says much about the need for maturing trees to adapt to their environment in order to survive.

The tree displays all sorts of features, such as historical limb losses; significant, almost horizontal lean to its crown; fire damage; stem hollowing; dead wood; and holes in its stem. Because the tree still retains volumes of live wood in its crown it is able to lay down new wood and respond well to these issues.

Walk into Poor's Field from the Reservoir Road entrance. After passing through the first small field keep to your right and after about 100 paces the tree is on your right, close to the fence and the new lido car park beyond.

English Oak (*Quercus robur*)

St Lawrence Drive, Eastcote

Age: 300 to 400 years

Native to: Britain



This is a fine example of a veteran English Oak. The tree is growing on the grassed island in St Lawrence Drive, Eastcote. This oak tree is characterised by massive lateral limbs that spread out across the grass and over the adjoining road.

From 0.5m to 1m from the ground the tree appears to have developed a swelling around the stem, this is probably as a result of the downward pressure of the weight of the tree where wood fibres are buckling; as a result the tree is forming a 'lifebelt' from bulge wood and attempting to counter the forces of gravity.

Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*)

Eastcote House Gardens, Eastcote

Age: 150+ years

Native to: South-eastern Europe and Asia Minor



This tree is a good example of a mature Turkey oak. The tree is located close to the southern entrance to Eastcote House Gardens. Although Turkey oak was present in the British Isles before the previous ice age, about 12,000 years ago, this tree species was reintroduced back to the British Isles in the eighteenth century.

This particular specimen has a tall, straight trunk and is a good example of this introduced species. Leaves from this tree are distinctively rough, while the bark fissures (the spaces between the bark plates) are often streaked orange.

Trees in Harefield and Northwood

Common Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)

Bayhurst Wood, Harefield

Age: 200 to 300 years

Native to: British Isles



This mature pollarded Hornbeam is native to the British Isles, and Bayhurst Wood (part of the Ruislip Woods) has an abundance of them.

Although many of the hornbeams found in Ruislip Woods are coppiced (the trees are cut on a 20 year rotation at stump level), this particular individual has been repeatedly cut at about 2m, and has subsequently developed a massive head or 'knuckle' from which new shoots regularly grow. When trees are cut at a height that stops browsing animals from eating the new growth the management technique is called pollarding.

Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodar*)

Gateway Close, Northwood

Age: 150 years

Native to: The Himalayas

TPO: TPO 104



This beautiful mature Deodar Cedar is estimated to be about 150 years old, and towers over the properties that surround it that were built decades after it was planted. The tree is situated on privately-owned land at Gateway Close, Northwood, but is freely visible to the public. This species is native to the Himalayas but was introduced into Britain during the 1830s.

The tree is protected by Tree Preservation Order No. 104 (TPO 104), which was made in 1972 at about the same time the estate was developed. The TPO has clearly been very successful in protecting this fine tree from harm.

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

Gravel Pits, off Copse Wood Way, Northwood

Age: 200 to 300 years

Native to: Central, eastern and Southern Europe



This mature multi-stemmed Sycamore is growing besides a small path within the Gravel Pits. Access to the tree is straightforward: park at the top of Copse Wood Way and walk across the grassed picnic area and the tree is close to the path. What is remarkable about this Sycamore tree is the extent of the root plate that supports the vast bulk of the six stems that makes up this large tree.

The Gravel Pits is a small wooded open space in Northwood, south of Rickmansworth Road, and are the worked out remains of gravel and sand extraction pits that were operated hundreds of years ago. Sand and gravel would have been transported from here to Ruislip via small lanes and across Poor's Field, adjacent to Copse Wood and Ruislip Lido.

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

Park Lodge Farm, Harefield

Age: 500+ years

Native to: Central, eastern and Southern Europe



This veteran Sycamore is located on the U31 Public Right of Way - about 90m north of the nearby Park Lodge Farm building. It is a deciduous broadleaf tree, probably introduced to the British Isles in the Middle Ages, where it is now a naturalised species.

The tree is made up of several large stems and is probably an outgrown coppice (a traditional method of woodland management which takes advantage of the fact that many trees make new growth from the stump or roots if cut down). It is probably the largest and oldest Sycamore in the borough.

Up until about 10 years ago, the tree's basal area reached across to the 'stump' that can be seen to the left of the main stem in the photograph, so was truly an enormous tree. Even now, the remaining part of the stem has a girth of about 6m. It is estimated that, had the entire stem been present, it would have measured about 9m in girth.