

THE TREES

8 Giant Redwood

(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)

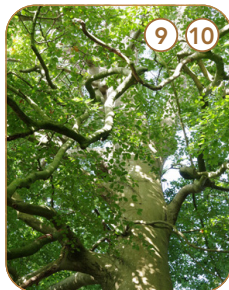
This grand tree which now soars high above the church, may have been planted as a memorial to St. Mary's vicar and benefactor Thomas Lane Fox who died in 1861. Recorded in 2020 as 33.89m (111ft) high, with a girth of 7.31m (24 ft), it is said to be the tallest churchyard tree in Dorset.



9 & 10 Beech

(*Fagus sylvatica*)

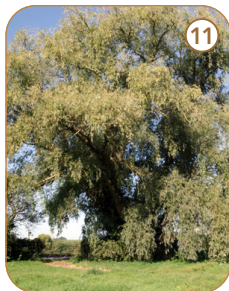
A number of fine beeches border one side of the little lane known as the Coach Road, which connects Church Lane with the bottom of Bridge Street. Much loved for their silvery grey trunks and magnificent spring and autumn foliage, beeches can live for several hundred years.



11 Crack Willow

(*Salix fragilis*)

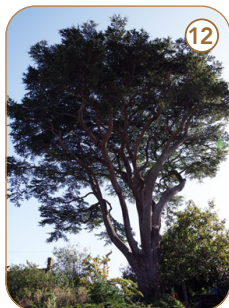
This huge willow, at home here in the water meadow, grows close to the old withy bed that once supplied the town's basket-makers.



12 Cedar of Lebanon

(*Cedrus libani*)

This magnificent cedar has a special claim to fame: it is said to have been growing here before the house was built 350 years ago. If so, it would be one of the oldest cedars of Lebanon in the UK. Its branches were once the nightly roost in summer for a local peacock 'Percy'.



Photos: John Short / Text: Anna Lewington

STURMINSTER NEWTON WALKABOUTS

WALKABOUT 10

Tree Trail

This short walk is just under one mile and guides you round some of Sturminster Newton's central trees.

This is one of a series of circular walks around Sturminster Newton. It will introduce you to 12 of the town's finest trees (10 species). At a gentle pace and allowing time to appreciate each tree, the walk will take about half an hour to complete.

Starting with the young **London Plane** to be found at the corner of the car park next to the town Museum, the route follows Church Street, passing an impressive **Walnut** (in the garden of the 16th Century Church Farm House) and then along Church Lane towards St. Mary's Church. Here, in the peaceful setting of the churchyard, a single **Giant Redwood** (or Wellingtonia) towers over both the church and the surrounding trees, five of which are indicated on the map.

Taking Church Lane again to join the picturesque footpath (the Coach Road) down towards the river, the route passes beneath a row of mature **Beeches** and other trees (in the garden of Beech House) before reaching the old **Willow** by the gate at the side of the water meadow.

Proceeding up Bridge Street, the stately **Cedar of Lebanon** which stands in the garden of The Old Malt House, welcomes walkers back to the centre of the town.

Please remember that some of the trees on this route are situated in private properties, not open to the public, and we would ask you to respect the privacy of the residents.

The Sturminster Newton Walkabouts can be downloaded from www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/walkabouts

Design funded by SNEDS Ltd
<https://sturminster-newton.org.uk>



Sturminster
Newton
Town Council



STURMINSTER NEWTON WALKABOUTS

Tree Trail



TREE TRAIL

A short walk of just under one mile to guide you round some of Sturminster Newton's central trees.

STARTING POINT

Church Street car park,
Sturminster Newton

DISTANCE

just under
1 mile



1 London Plane
(*Platanus x hispanica*)
Valued for their pollution and drought resistance, and popular in London in the 18th and 19th centuries, this tree was planted in the early 2000s. The tallest in Britain (163 ft in 2015) is growing in the grounds of Bryanston School near Blandford.



2 Walnut
(*Juglans regia*)
This fine tree is well known locally for the excellent crop of walnuts it usually produces each year, providing enough to supply the town's nearby fruit and vegetable shop.



3 Common Lime
(*Tilia x europea*)
As street trees, common limes are often pollarded. The mass of sweet-smelling flowers produced by mature individuals like this one in early summer are important nectar sources for bees and have long been used in traditional medicine.



4 & 7 Deodar cedars
(*Cedrus deodara*)
These cedars are native to the western Himalayas, and can be distinguished from other true cedars by their spreading, slightly downswept branches and drooping branch tips. They can reach 230 ft in height and live for over a thousand years.



5 Yew
(*Taxus baccata*)
An offspring of an ancient yew still growing in Surrey, this special tree was planted in 2000 to mark the millennium. Britain has the largest number of ancient yews in Europe, most of which are in churchyards.



6 Sycamore
(*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
One of our commonest street trees, sycamores like this one on the churchyard boundary, are well-known for their vigorous growth and winged seeds which germinate readily. An old West Country tradition was to use their leaves as bases for small cakes baked at Easter or harvest time.

