Walk 4 Trendlewood Park Tree Trail

Summary

Trendlewood Park contains a wide range of tree species, most are native trees that have appeared naturally over time while others, particularly the non-native trees, have been planted in the park. The tree trail highlights a selection of fifteen tree species in the park.

The trail is a pleasant walk, the description given below is numbered, starting at one, and goes in a clockwise direction, however, the trail can be joined at any point and walked in any direction. The trail uses both public rights of way and permissive paths within the park. Part of the walk uses Nowhere Lane, which hosts both a bridleway and a public footpath, to connect two areas of the park. Nowhere Lane passes through private land, please do not wonder off the path in those areas. At each tree on the trail text and a map giving directions to the next tree is provided for walking the trail in a clockwise direction.

Please note that some parts of the trail are not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchair users in wet weather.

Walk Information

Distance: 2 km (1.25 miles), Gradients: gentle mostly level, Surfaces: hard surfaces and unsurfaced.

How To Get There

By Car: Park in Chelvey Rise, or any nearby street. Always be considerate of the residents, do not obstruct their access.

By Bus: Use the X7 bus and alight at the Bibury Close or Winchcombe Close Bus Stops.

By Train: Walk northwards from Nailsea and Backwell Railway Station along Station Road passing Backwell Lake, up the hill and turn right into Trendlewood Way. Avening Close is the first turning on the left. Distance from the station 1 km.

Safety

We want you to enjoy your walk in Trendlewood Community Park and the park is very safe. However, you should be aware of the potential hazards you may encounter on your journey.

<u>Trip and Fall Hazards</u>

Some paths are unsurfaced and can become muddy and slippery during and after damp weather.

Some paths are uneven with small rocks protruding through them.

Some paths have roots breaking through them.

<u>Risk of Drowning</u>

Do not enter areas of water.

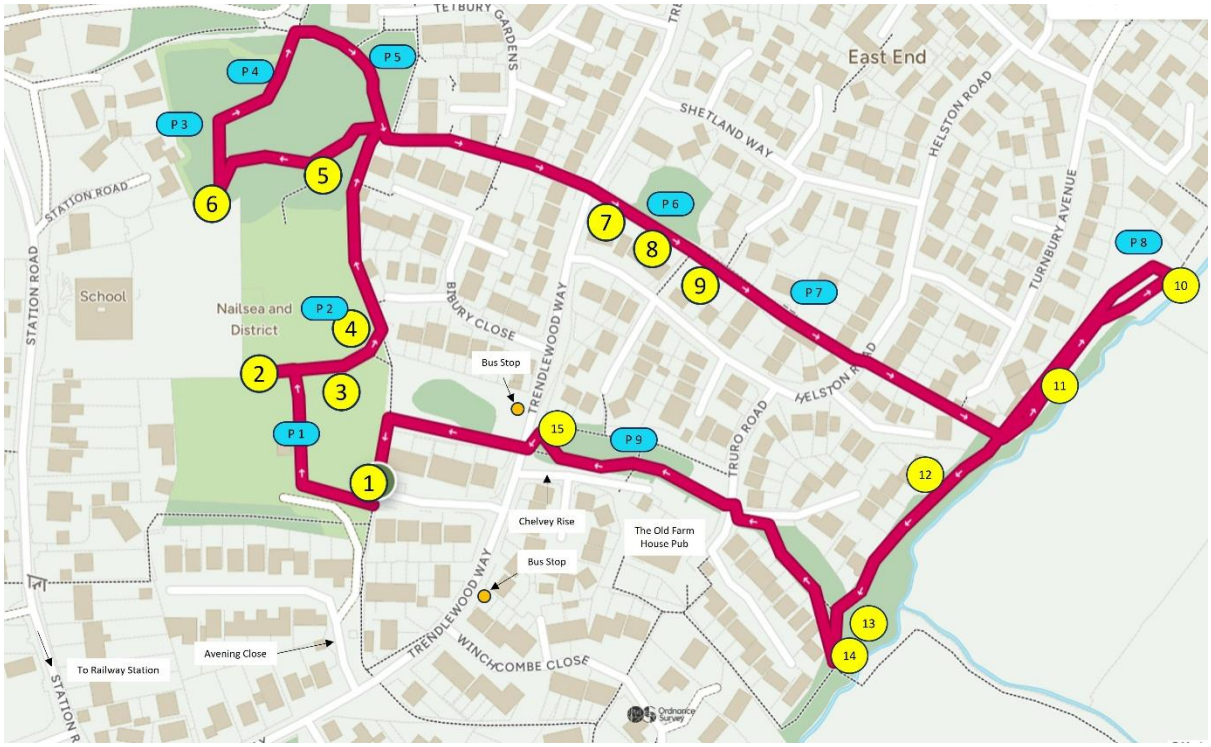
The areas of water in the park are typically shallow and often dry out during droughts. However, in periods of extended wet weather they can fill to depths of 2m or more. The bottoms are very muddy and present a risk to children who could get trapped.

Falling Trees

Do not enter the wooded areas during high winds.

There is a potential risk from falling branches and trees. The history of quarrying can result in poor root holding.

The Route



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The Route

The trail is shown in red on the maps. The yellow circles refer to trees on the trail; there is a sign post near each tree to help you identify it. The blue ovals are other points of interest along the route. The description below starts at tree number 1, but you can start at any point on the route.

In the text below information about the trees is written in black normal font, the route of the trail is described in purple italic font with supporting local maps of the immediate area.

Details about the points of interest along the trail are written in blue italic font.

Tree 1 – WILD CHERRY (*Prunus avium*) can grow up to 30 metres tall and live for 60 years. It is often found on the edge of woodlands and in hedgerows. It has a reddish-brown shiny bark and green oval leaves which are toothed and have pointed tips. In the autumn the leaves turn orange and deep crimson.

During the spring the tree produces clusters of white flowers that attract bees. In the summer, the tree bears red cherries that are eaten by birds and mammals.

Birds and mammals help distribute the seeds but the Wild Cherry can propagate itself through root suckers.



Wild Cherry (Prunus avium) in Trendlewood Park

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Trail

From this tree cross the grass towards the Croquet Club gates, turn right and follow the park side boundary of Croquet Club.

When you reach the line of tall trees turn left and go to Tree 2 which is near a green bench alongside the children's climbing frame.



Point of Interest 1 – Orchard *As you follow the Croquet Club boundary you walk through a small orchard towards the line of tall trees. The orchard has been planted by the Friends of Trendlewood Park. It has a range of apple, pear and plum fruit trees, you can help yourself to the fruit in the autumn. The larger trees in the orchard are non-native, ornamental, Turkish Hazel trees. There are also some self-set oak trees in the orchard.*

Tree 2 – MONTEREY CYPRESS (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) is a coniferous tree that grows to 40 metres tall. It is native to California where it is found naturally on the coast of central California. This species of tree is a relic of the ice age, the natural range of the species in modern times is confined to two small Californian populations. There are, however, many examples that have been cultivated by humans such as the tree in front of you. Monterey cypress prefers damper climates.

Young saplings have needles which change to scaled leaves on more mature trees. Leaf colour is a bright green and they give off a citrus like scent. The cones are spherical, 4 cm in diameter and take two years to ripen. Young cones are green, turning brown when ripe.

These trees can live up to 300 years. They are closely related to Leyland cypress, which shares many of its characteristics. The growth rate of the Monterey cypress is less aggressive than its Leyland cypress cousin.



The Monterey cypress (Hesperocyparis macrocarpa) in Trendlewood Park

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Trail

From this tree turn around and head down the slope towards the next tree trail sign which will be on your right.



Tree 3 - WESTERN RED CEDAR (*Thuja plicata*) is a tall evergreen tree, native to North America but widely planted in the UK. It can reach over 60 metres in ideal conditions and some trees may live for a thousand years. Its rich, reddish-brown bark peels in vertical strips, and its glossy, scale-like leaves release a pineapple scent when crushed. The tree is valued for its durable, fragrant, timber used in fencing, cladding, and furniture. Western red cedar grows quickly and is often grown as hedges.



Western Red Cedar (Thuja plicata) on Trendlewood Park

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Trail

From this tree continue down the slope passing the pond and follow the path to the left as it slopes upwards. The tree trail sign for the next tree will be on your left. The park's flag pole and notice board are further up the other branch of the footpath.

Tree 4 - CRACK WILLOW (*Salix fragilis*) is a tall, up to 25 metres, fast-growing tree often found in wet places, it is sometimes used to stabilise the banks of rivers and streams. Its brittle branches break easily with a loud crack giving the tree its name. They often grow by rivers as broken branches float away but are able to take root wherever they become lodged on a bank.

The bark is dark brown-grey and develops deep fissures with age. The bark on young branches are a yellow green colour. The leaves are green long, slender and oval. They are a darker green on the upper surface and pale green on the underside.

The Crack willow flowers in May, the colour of the catkins identified the sex of the tree – male catkins are yellow while female catkins are green. Caterpillars of a number of moth species feed on the leaves. In early Spring, the catkins provide nectar and pollen for bees and other insects. Our tree has been pollarded to reduce the weight it has to support.



Crack willow, Salix fragilis

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Point of Interest 2 – Restored Pond *In front you, as you look at the Crack willow, is an ephemeral pond that has been restored by the Friends of Trendlewood Park. In wet weather the pond fills and the Crack willow can be completely surround by water. In dry weather the pond reduces and for a few weeks in the summer it can completely dry out; hence it being an ephemeral pond.*

The pond is on the site of an old cattle pond used when this area was a dairy farm before the development of the Trendlewood housing estates.

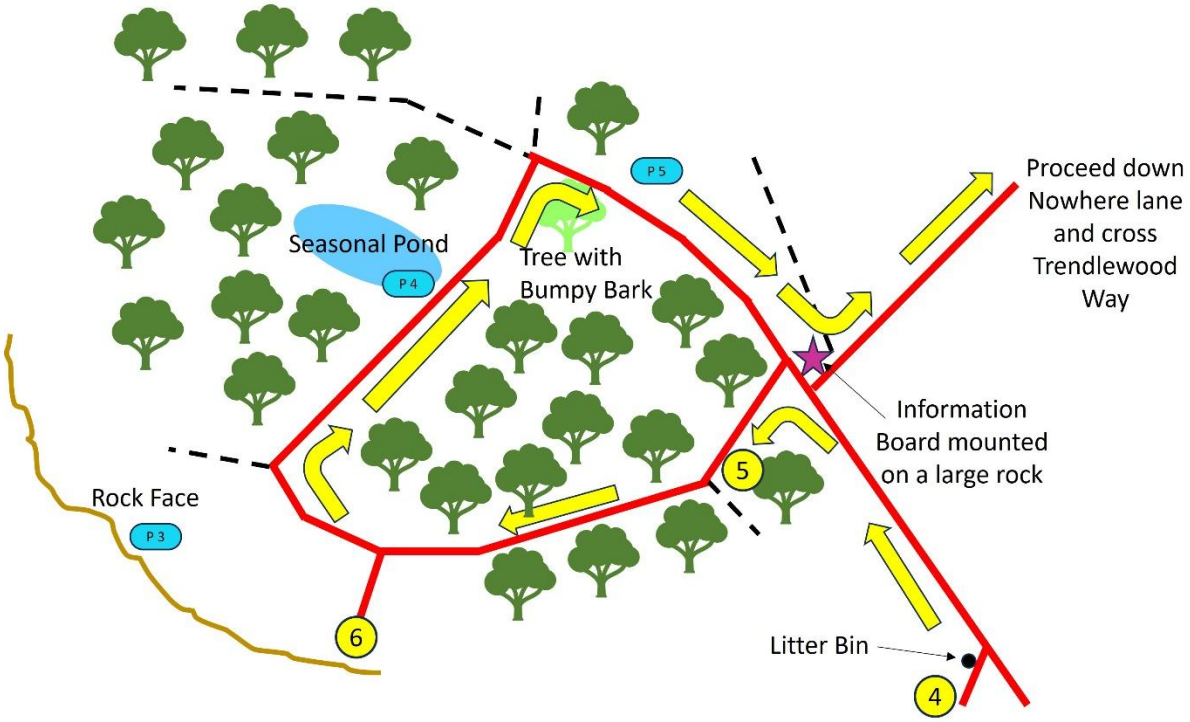
Many small branches collected during the pollarding of the Crack willow have been planted around the pond to create hedging.

The pond is fed in winter months by a spring that rises next to the oak tree on your right. Excess water from the pond is diverted under the footpath to the small gully close to the park notice board and flag pole on the opposite side of the footpath. In very wet conditions the area can be overwhelmed and the footpath floods.

The cattle pond had been filled in. By restoring the pond, it is hoped that amphibians and aquatic plants will return to this area of the park.

Trail

From tree 4 follow the path up the incline turning left by the litter bin and walk towards Nowhere Wood. Go straight across the footpath junction leaving the notice board mounted on the rock to your right. Take the next left turn and follow the path keeping a lookout for the next tree trail sign which will be on the left.



Tree 5 - Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is a native British evergreen with spiny leaves and red berries, which are food for birds and mammals in winter. It is traditionally used in Christmas decorations. The Holly can grow to 15 metres in height and live for 300 years. The bark is smooth. The leaves are shiny dark green with sharp prickles on the edges.

Holly remains an enduring symbol of seasonal renewal and cultural heritage in Britain.



Holly, Ilex aquifolium

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Trail

From tree 5 follow the path around the bend to the right and down through the gully into the old quarry. As ground flattens out the quarry rock face will be seen in front of you. Turn into the open area on the left where the next tree trail sign can be found.

Tree 6 - Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is a graceful broadleaf tree known for its smooth grey bark and dense canopy. It can grow up to 40 metres tall. In spring, its fresh green leaves emerge, turning golden or copper in autumn, often staying on younger trees through winter.

Beech trees support a range of wildlife, including birds, fungi, and insects. The tree produces small, triangular nuts eaten by animals. Beech wood is prized for furniture and flooring.

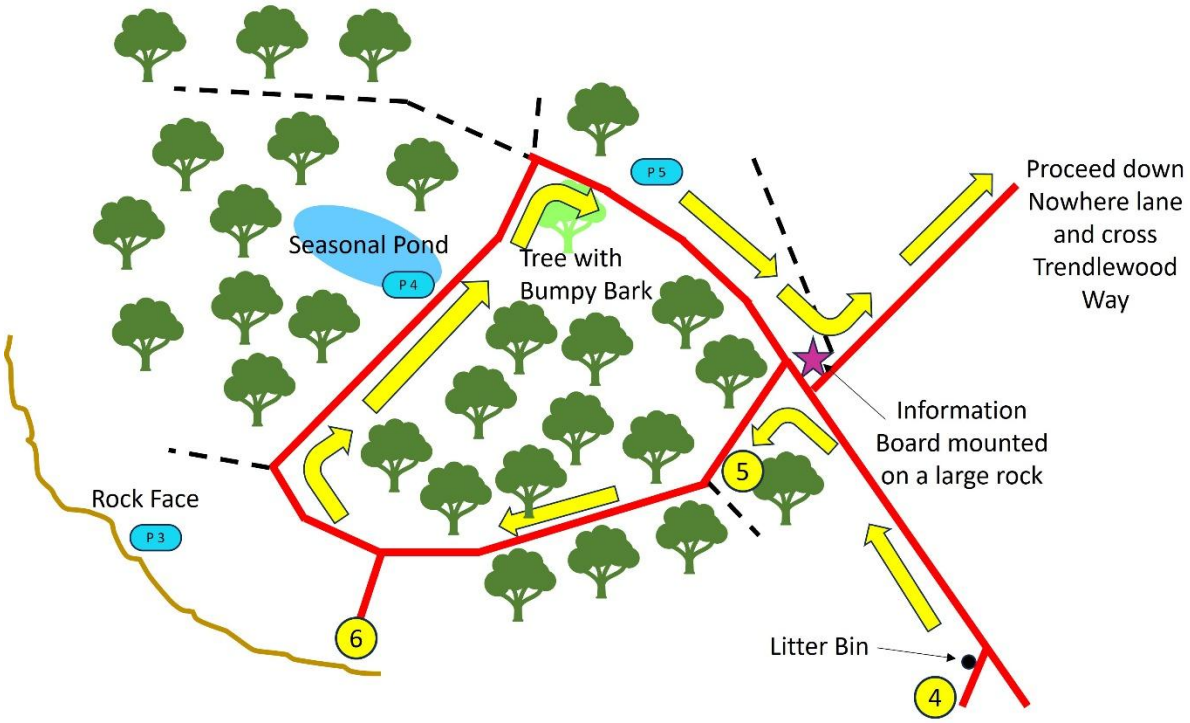


Beech, (Fagus sylvaticia) on Trendlewood Park.

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Trail

From tree 6 retrace your steps back to the main footpath walking parallel to the rock face before turning right and following the path as it rises upwards. At the top of the incline turn right and walk along the main path back to the information board mounted on a large rock. This time turn left and leave the park following Nowhere Lane out of the woods through the housing estate before crossing Trendlewood Way and going down the gravel drive way.



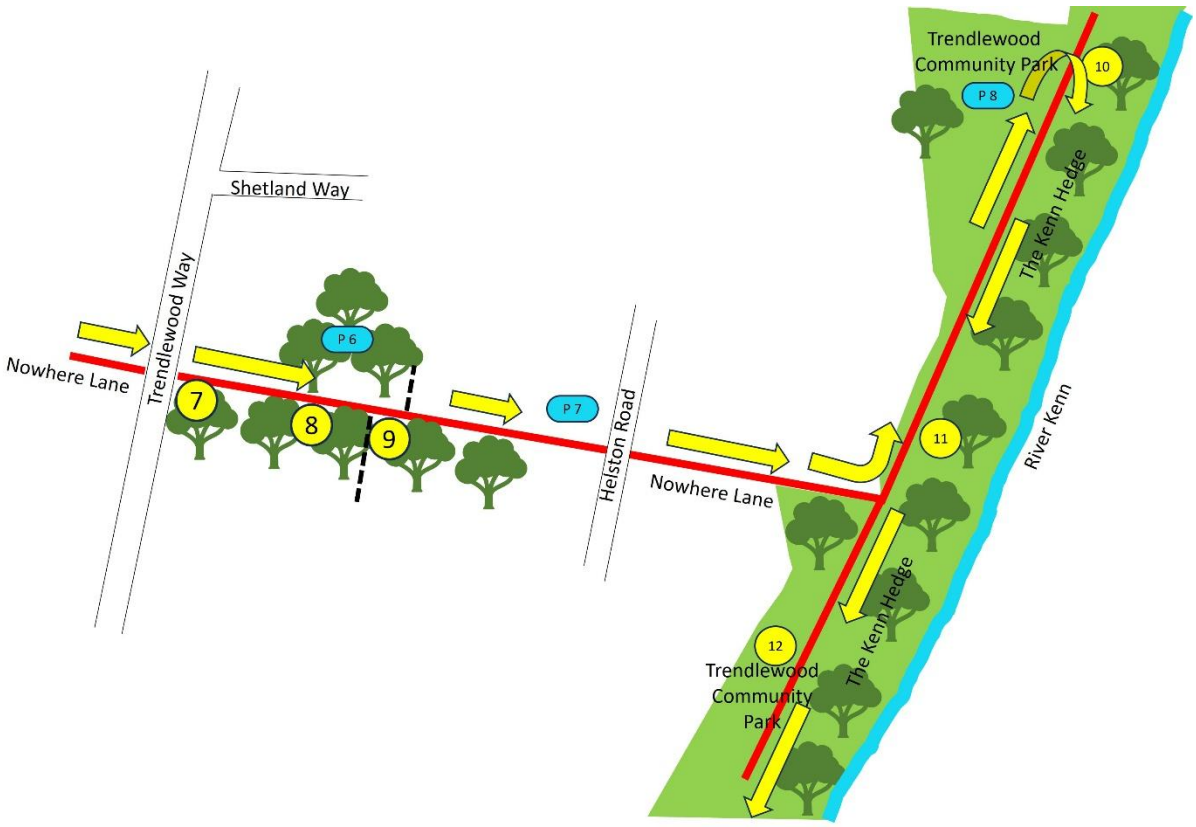
Point of Interest 3 – RI GS *The rock face in the quarry has been designed as a RIGS, a Regionally Important Geological Site. This RIGS is part of the local Downend Formation which includes the Nailsea Coal Field. The rock in front of you is Pennant Sandstone which was deposited by a river carrying sand eroded from mountain about 300 million years ago. It is possible to deduce from the strata that the river was flowing from the south east.*

Point of Interest 4 – Seasonal Pond *The Seasonal Pond is another ephemeral pond in the park. This one is in the remains of a quarry excavation and appears to intercept the local water table which leads to it filling during periods of wet weather. The base of the pond is covered in deep mud, you are advised not to explore it. When very full the water depth can exceed 2m.*

Point of Interest 5 – Felled Area *Ash trees were in the area to the left of the main path and were felled in 2025 due to Ash Dieback disease. The licence for the felling states that the area must be allow to naturally regenerate during the first seven years, i.e. until 2032.*

Trail

After crossing Trendlewood Way follow the gravel drive, which is part of Nowhere Lane. This is a public right of way but it crosses private land, please do not stray off the path. Immediately after crossing Trendlewood Way there is a tree trail sign on the righthand side of the path, this is tree 7. The next two tree trail sign posts are also in the right further down the path.



Tree 7 - Lime spp (Tilia spp) This lime tree with its small leaves is a native British tree valued for its heart-shaped leaves, fragrant summer flowers, and support for pollinators. Once common in ancient woodlands, it is often planted in parks and avenues.

Lime wood is light and finely textured. It is soft which makes it easy to work and it is popular for carving and furniture making.



A Lime tree with small leaves on the bridleway.

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Trail

A short distance along Nowhere Lane is the next tree trail sign on the right.

Tree 8 - Sweet Chestnut (Castanea sativa) was introduced to Britain by the Romans, the Sweet chestnut thrives in southern woodlands. These trees can grow up to 35 metres tall and live for 700 years. It has brownish grey bark and long, toothed pointed green leaves. Renowned for its twisting trunks and spiky fruits, it provides durable timber and edible nuts, that feed a wide range of woodland animals and birds.



A sweet chestnut tree on the Bridleway.

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Point of Interest 6 – The wooded mound *The mound, on which trees have naturally self-set, is a spoil heap from the former East End coal mine.*

Trail

A short distance along Nowhere Lane is the next tree trail sign is also on the right.

Tree 9 - Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) is a broadleaf tree that can grow to 35 metres tall and live for 400 years. The bark is dark pink-grey and smooth when young, but becomes cracked and develops small plates with age – these can be seen on the specimen in front of you. The leaves have five lobes.

It is a hardy and fast-growing tree, providing valuable habitat for lichens, insects, and birds. Aphids are often found eating the sugar-rich honeydew made by its leaves.

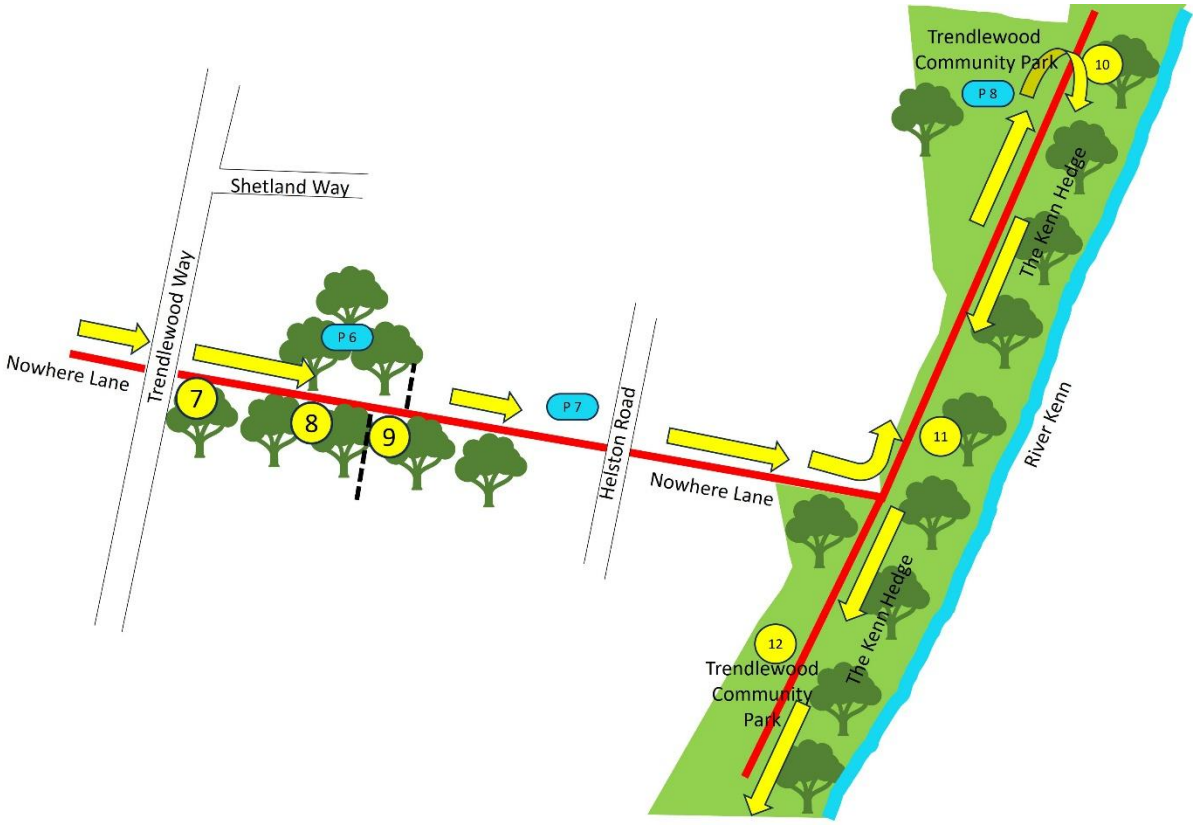


The Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) tree on the Bridleway.

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Trail

Continue on down the lane passing East End House. Cross Helston Road and continue straight on. At the end of Nowhere Lane you re-enter the park. Turn left and follow the Kenn Hedge until you reach the second tree trail sign (ignore the first one, we will come back to it) by a wider triangular area of grass just before the path goes through the hedge row.



Point of Interest 7 – East End House *This is a grade 2 listed 17th century building. It was probably associated with the coal mine. Note the steps on the dry-stone wall in front of the house. These were used for mounting and dismounting from horses.*

Point of Interest 8 – Kenn Hedge and Amenity Grass *Running parallel to the infant River Kenn is a nationally important hedge known as the Kenn Hedge. This hedge is managed for the benefit of wildlife. The dense, uncut, hedge with trees and shrubs of varying heights and ages is ideal for insects which in turn attract mammals, birds and especially bats. The Kenn Hedge is a hunting ground and navigation corridor for several species of bat.*

The triangular area of amenity grass is allowed to go uncut for several months each year to encourage wild flowers and insects. The shape of this area is from the historic field system that existed before the housing estate was developed. At one time this field was an apple orchard.

10 - Field maple (Acer campestre) is Britain's only native maple, found in hedgerows and woodlands. Field maples can grow to 20 metres tall and live for up to 350 years. It has light brown, flaky, bark and five lobed small, shiny, dark green leaves. The seeds are winged, which allows the wind to disperse them more widely.

Valued for its golden autumn leaves and tolerance of diverse soils, it supports insects like aphids and the rare maple moth. Its dense growth offers shelter for birds.



The Field maple (Acer campestre) at Kenn Hedge.

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Trail

At the Field maple turn around and retrace your route along the Kenn Hedge. Before you get back to the end of Nowhere Lane there is tree trail sign on your left, you probably noticed it when you were going the other way.

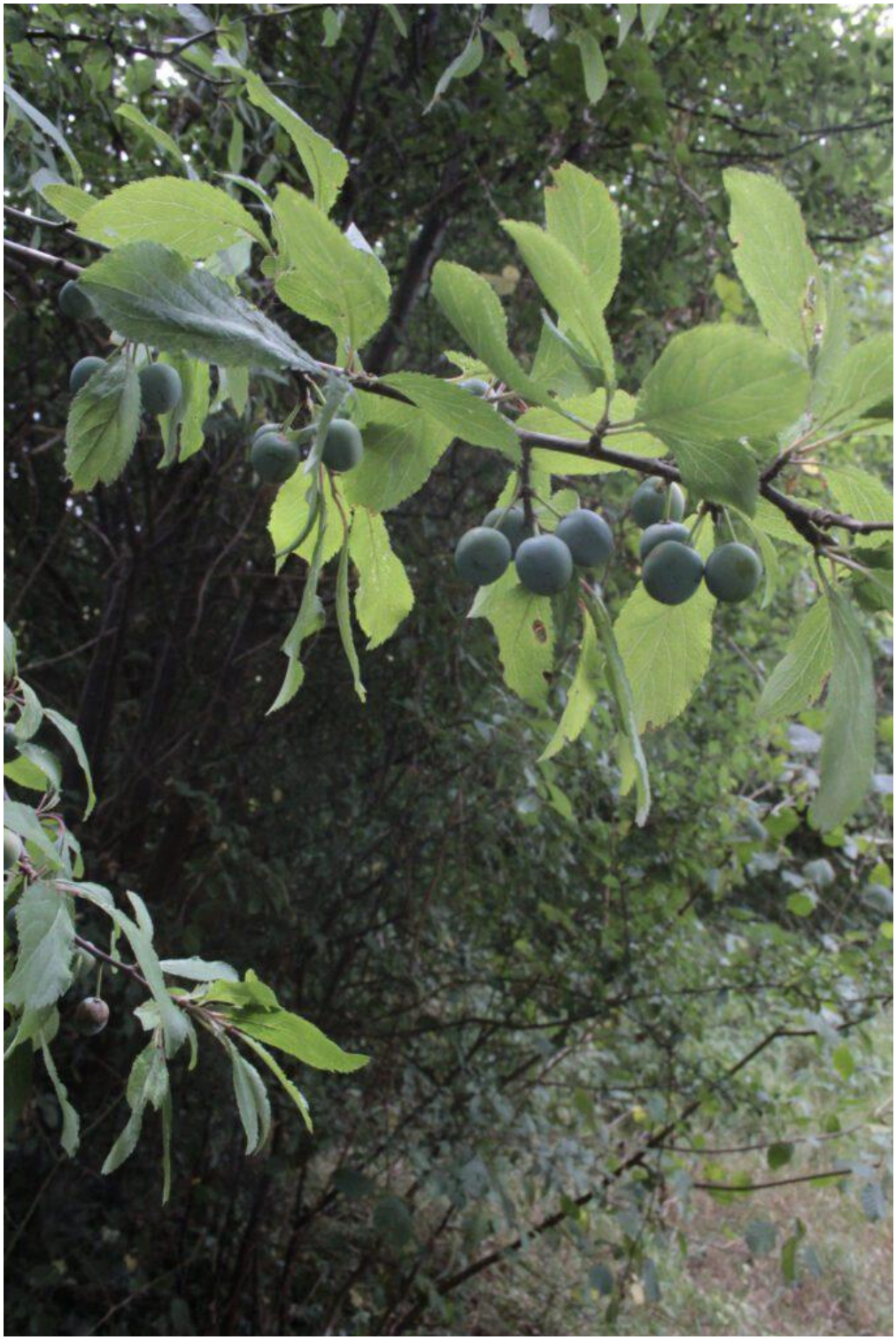
11 - Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa) is a dense spiny shrub native to Britain, often forming thickets and hedgerows. It offers nesting cover for birds and mammals. Blackthorn flowers in early spring with brilliant white blossoms that provide vital nectar for pollinators. Its fruits are called sloes, which feed birds and mammals in autumn.

Blackthorns can grow to about 7 metres and live for up to 100 years. The bark is dark brown and smooth. Leaves are green, toothed and oval shaped with a pointed end. The sloes are about 1cm in diameter, green turning to black as they mature.



A Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa) tree in the Kenn Hedge.

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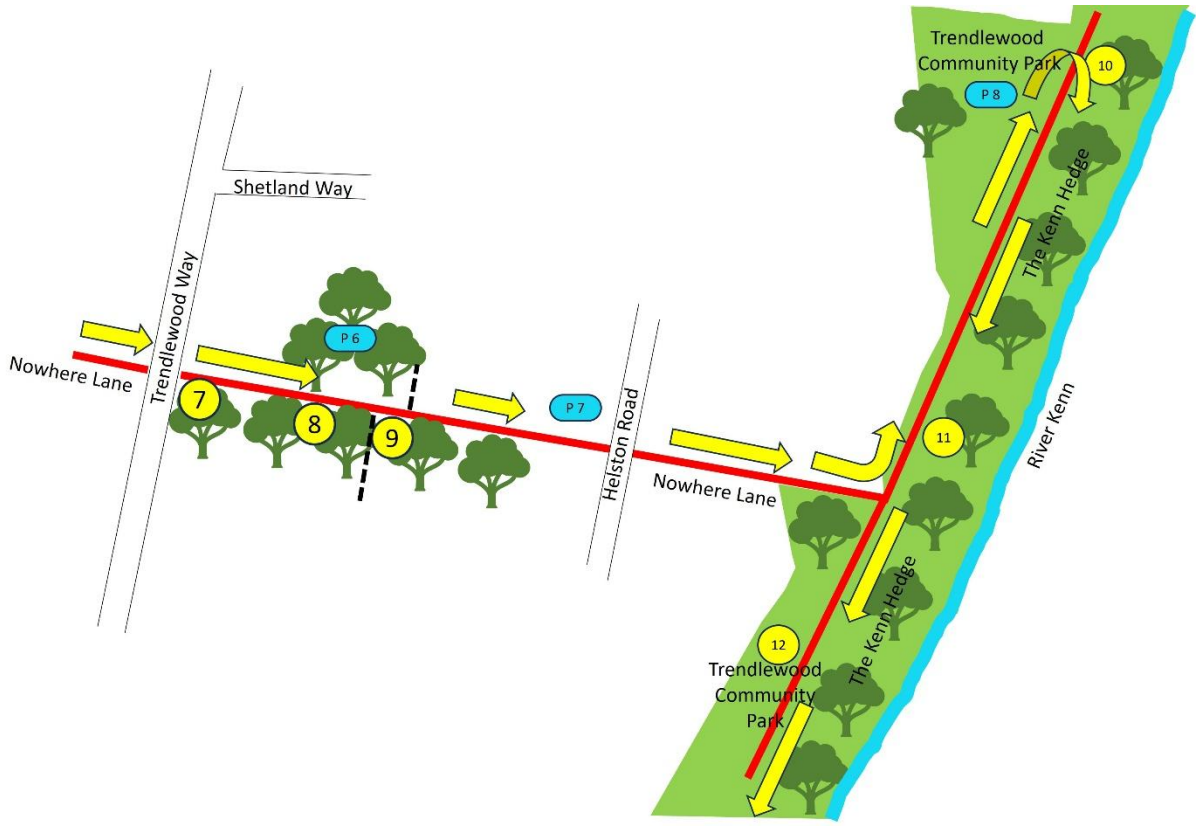


Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa) Sloes.

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Trail

Continue straight on keeping the Kenn Hedge to your left. Pass the end of Nowhere Lane and keep going straight on. There are a few trees on your right, a tree trail sign will appear on the right side of the path.



12 - Silver birch (Betula pendula) is a graceful, fast-growing native tree with distinctive white bark and delicate leaves. Its white bark often sheds as thin layers. It pioneers open and disturbed areas, improving soil for other species.

These trees can grow to 30 metres in height and can live for up to 100 years, but often have shorter lives of around 50 years. The leaves are light green, small and oval shaped with toothed edges.



Silver birch (Betula pendula) tree in Trendlewood Park.

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Trail

Continue straight on keeping the Kenn Hedge to your left. At the junction of the footpaths, by the park information board, turn left (ignoring tree trail sign – number 14 on the map) and walk towards the footbridge. A little way further down is another tree trail sign on the left , number 13 on the map, before you get to the footbridge. After looking at the tree retrace your route to the footpath junction and look at the other tree, number 14 on the map.



13 - Hazel (Corylus avellana) is a native British shrub enjoyed for its catkins and edible nuts. It was grown for its role in traditional hedge-making and coppicing. Its catkins provide pollen for early spring bees, while its dense growth offers shelter for birds and dormice.

Hazel can grow to 12 metres tall and live for 80 years, but if coppiced and many in the park have been, hazels can live for hundreds of years.



Hazel (Corylus avellana) in Trendlewood Park.

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14 - Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) is a tall, up to 35 metres, native tree vital to British woodlands that can live for up to 400 years. Its open canopy allows light to reach the woodland floor, encouraging the growth of plants and animals. Ash supports numerous lichens, insects, and birds. Traditionally valued for strong timber, it now faces threats from Ash Dieback disease, impacting woodland health and biodiversity.

The bark is a pale brown to grey which develops fissures as the tree ages. The leaves are of a compound nature with 6 to 12 opposite pairs of smaller light green oval leaves.

Many of the Ash trees in the park have been infected by Ash Dieback disease. This has resulted in the council having to fell, for safety reasons, a large number of the Ash trees in the park.



Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) tree on Trendlewood Park.

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Trail

Now follow the path away from the footbridge turning left at the information board and walk up to Truro Road. Cross the road and follow the path past The Old Farmhouse pub. Walk alongside Chelvey Rise, to the right is the final sign post of the tree trail.



Point of Interest 9 – Shallow Valley *The shallow valley here was formed by a stream which is now buried. The head waters of the stream would have come, in part, from the what is now the restored pond. It is likely that East End Farm House (now the public house) was built here due to the access to this water.*

15 – English oak (Quercus robur) is a long-lived (600 to over 1,000 years) native tree central to British woodlands. It supports more wildlife than any other UK tree, hosting insects, birds, and fungi. Its acorns feed mammals, and its strong timber has been used for houses and ship building. A powerful symbol of endurance in Britain's natural and cultural heritage.

English oak trees can grow to be 40 metres tall, has a silvery-brown bark which is rugged and becomes deeply fissured in older trees. The green leaves are distinctive, being long with four to five deep lobes with smooth edges.



English oak (Quercus robur) on Chelvey Rise, Nailsea.

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Trail

After looking at the tree, cross Trendlewood Way and follow the unsurfaced path into the park. When you reach the tarmac path in the park turn left to get back to tree 1, the Wild Cherry.

