



Short Route/**Yellow Route**

The aim of this guide is to take you round the Arboretum pointing out trees and shrubs of particular interest. Many areas of the Arboretum are under planted with spring bulbs, notably snowdrops, bluebells and daffodils. Please take care not to step on them as they emerge.

The first part is the same for both routes, marked with red and yellow posts (e.g. RY post 1). The Long route/ Red route takes between 1 hour and 1 hour 30 minutes to complete. The Short route/Yellow route takes between 45 minutes to one hour.

From the entrance **RY post 1** walk straight ahead. You will see on your left one of the Arboretum's many interesting trees – the large, spreading Ostrya carpinifolia (Hop Hornbeam). This produces green catkins in spring followed by creamy brown hop-like flowers: hence its name. Look at its label which shows the Latin name, the common name and the family to which it belongs. You will find labels on nearly all the specimen trees. These will help you learn about which trees grow well here, and may be suitable for your garden, and they will help you learn the names of trees and shrubs.

Continue forward to **RY post 2** at the large, cone shaped Fastigate Oak (Quercus robur fastigiata). It is intriguing to think that this tree has been bred from our English Oak to have this ornamental shape.

From **RY post 2** go left through the pines, taking the left fork, to reach **RY post 3**. This brings you to the Glebe Lawn where you can also find the Snake Bark Maple (Acer rufinerve) and next to it a large Mahonia japonica, an evergreen shrub which produces clusters of scented yellow flowers in winter, and a fine specimen of Cornus kousa. In the spring this has pink-white bracts followed in autumn by inedible strawberry-like fruits. To the right of RY Post 3 is a large birch (Betula populifolia) with white or silvery bark. This is one of the few remaining trees planted by the Glebe Lawn to commemorate the silver wedding anniversary of Sir Bernard and Lady Lovell. Additional planting to replace those lost will be carried out by our volunteers over the next couple of years.

Walk across the lawn to RY post 4 then turn right into Knight's Avenue (Named to commemorate Sir Bernard's Knighthood in 1961). Pass the lake and seat at **RY post 5**. Please note that the lake needs relining and does not look at its best and is due for restoration. From here you can see Reith Avenue, planted with Red Twigged Limes (Tilia platyphyllos rubra) on your left, stretching down the far side of the lake. This was planted to celebrate the Reith Lectures that Sir Bernard gave for the BBC in 1958. At the far side of the lake you can see the Swamp Cypress (Taxodium distichum), a deciduous conifer. Also in the woods, to the left of Reith Avenue, you can find the Oriental Plane (Platanus orientalis). In our Arboretum this is known as the Hippocratic Tree and there is a notice by it explaining its history and why it is given this name.

Continue down Knight's Avenue on the right-hand side of the lake to the end. Look left to see two magnificent Veteran Oaks. Over 300 years old, these are an important host for saproxylic invertebrates which are dependent on dead or decaying wood at some stage of their life cycle.

Carry on to **RY post 6** where there is a large leaved Dogwood (Cornus walteri). Here the Yellow route continues, departing from the Red route.

Leaving the first part where the routes are combined, continue the Yellow route by following the posts marked yellow (eg Y post 7).

Leave the Red route here and continue right (with Campanow and the view over the Dane Valley being further down on your left). Walk across into an area known as Broomfield where **Y post 7** can be found. This area contains Enkianthus and Cercis chinensis 'Avondale'.

Continue on this path to **Y post 8**. You will pass several interesting trees including a Cornus controversa (Giant dogwood). Of note are two Malus (Crab Apple) and a Metasequoia glyptostroboides (Dawn Redwood), a deciduous conifer which was discovered in 1948 as a "living fossil".

Pass between the conifers and you emerge on a broad avenue. In front of you is another section of Broomfield with interesting trees such as a Quercus bicolor, an evergreen American oak positioned behind Acer davidii Rosalie (one of the snake bark maples).

Turn right down the broad avenue. Before arriving at Post 9 you may notice a recent clearing where several Lawson's Cypress have been removed. This work was carried out to enable the Cercis siliquastrum (Judas Tree) to develop without being suppressed by the adjacent conifers. Continue to **Y post 9** which is positioned opposite a seat. Also opposite the seat is a collection of Yakushimanum hybrid rhododendrons and a Kolkwitzia amabilis (Beauty Bush) whose drooping branches are clothed with masses of bell-shaped pink flowers with yellow throats in May/June.

On the right of the seat, as you face it, is a Ginkgo biloba, described as a living fossil. It is the only living species in the order of Ginkgoales, whose ancestor first appeared over 290 million years ago. By its side is a Betula lenta (birch) whose leaves turn a golden yellow in autumn.

Continue along the avenue towards the entrance and you will come to **Y post 10**.

Between here and **Y post 11** you pass on your left a notice board and on the right you will see more rhododendrons, a Picea smithiana (a spruce with soft needles and drooping branches) and an Abies veitchii (a fir with stiff bright foliage which turns lustrous green later in the year).

At the interpretation board turn hard left, almost back on yourself, to see a mature Champion Heptacodium miconoides. (7 Suns Flower of Zhejiang), which has white flowers in the autumn, and nearby a Cercidiphyllum japonica (Katsura tree) whose leaves give off a toffee scent. Continue straight ahead and close by to the right is a Lindera obtusifolia whose heart shaped leaves turn bronze in autumn and are accompanied by pink fruits. Turn back towards the main avenue again.

At **Y post 11** the area to the left is named Franklin after the award of the Benjamin Franklin Medal to Sir Bernard by the Royal Society of Arts in 1980.

In this section you can find Betula (birch) and Acer (maple). Acer palmatum Sango – kaku is a fine example of a Japanese Maple. It has young red twigs and attractive yellow autumn colour

Continue to the entrance/exit.

Kindly return this guide to its box by the notice board at the entrance.

Thank you for visiting.

