



Forde Park & Courtenay Park Tree Trail and History

A history of Courtenay Park

Following the arrival of the South Devon Railway in 1846, William Courtenay, Earl of Devon, planned to develop land to the west of the railway station into a park. The site comprised of three fields, one for turnips and two for pasture.

The original park laid out in 1854 was enclosed by iron railings with ornate gates at the entrances. It is believed that the fishpond was constructed at the same time.



Courtenay Park in 1865, 11 years after it was created

Newton Abbot Urban District Council bought the park from the Earl of Devon in 1897, and to this day it remains in the ownership of the local authority.

Around 1909, a flag pole was erected at the present location and two cannons were placed either side of it. The cannons can now be found at St Leonard's Tower in the town centre.

On formation of Newton Abbot Bowling Club in 1911 the bowling green was laid out. Around the same time the construction of the bandstand commenced, which included a changing room and store underneath.

A park constable was responsible for security within the park and locked the gates at night. This service ceased at the onset of the Second World War in 1939, when all the ornamental railings and gates were removed to make metal items such as ammunition. Bomb shelters were constructed within the park and one still exists adjacent to the bowling club.

During the 1970's a lay-by for the bus stop was created, which meant alterations to that area of the Park were necessary. A limestone retaining wall was constructed and the flowerbeds known as the 'sunray beds' and the carpet bed were created.

A raised sensory garden and an old air raid shelter adjacent to the former lodge at the north end of the site were demolished in the mid 1980's. A replacement sensory garden and a water feature were constructed near the fishpond in 1993.

Recent developments include the addition of a teen shelter in 2007, a sustainable garden in 2009 and a refurbished play area and sensory garden in 2010.

Tree Trail quiz

1) Some of the trees on the trail can be found in both Parks. Can you find which ones they are?

2) Evergreen trees keep their leaves all year round, unlike deciduous trees that lose their leaves every autumn. Which five trees on the trail are evergreen?

3) Native trees are species considered to have been in Britain since the ice age 10,000 years ago but before the English Channel formed 8,500 years ago. Can you discover which two trees on the trail are native? You may need a book or the internet to help you.

Contact Teignbridge
Green Spaces Team

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about your local green spaces please let us know.

Teignbridge District Council

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Six trees to see in Courtenay Park

1



Name: Horse Chestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*
From: Greece and Albania
Fact: Using conkers for gaming started around 1848 before that children used snail shells or hazel nuts.

2



Name: Dawn Redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
From: Central China
Fact: One of the few deciduous conifers first found as a fossil and thought to have been extinct, but was then seen growing in China in the 1940s!

3



Name: Maidenhair Tree, *Ginkgo biloba*
From: China
Fact: Called the 'silver apricot' in Chinese, a Ginkgo growing in China is thought to be 3000 years old.

4



Name: Blue Atlas cedar, *Cedrus atlantica f. glauca*
From: Atlas Mountains in North Africa
Fact: In North Africa forests of Atlas cedar provide a home for Barbary Apes.

5

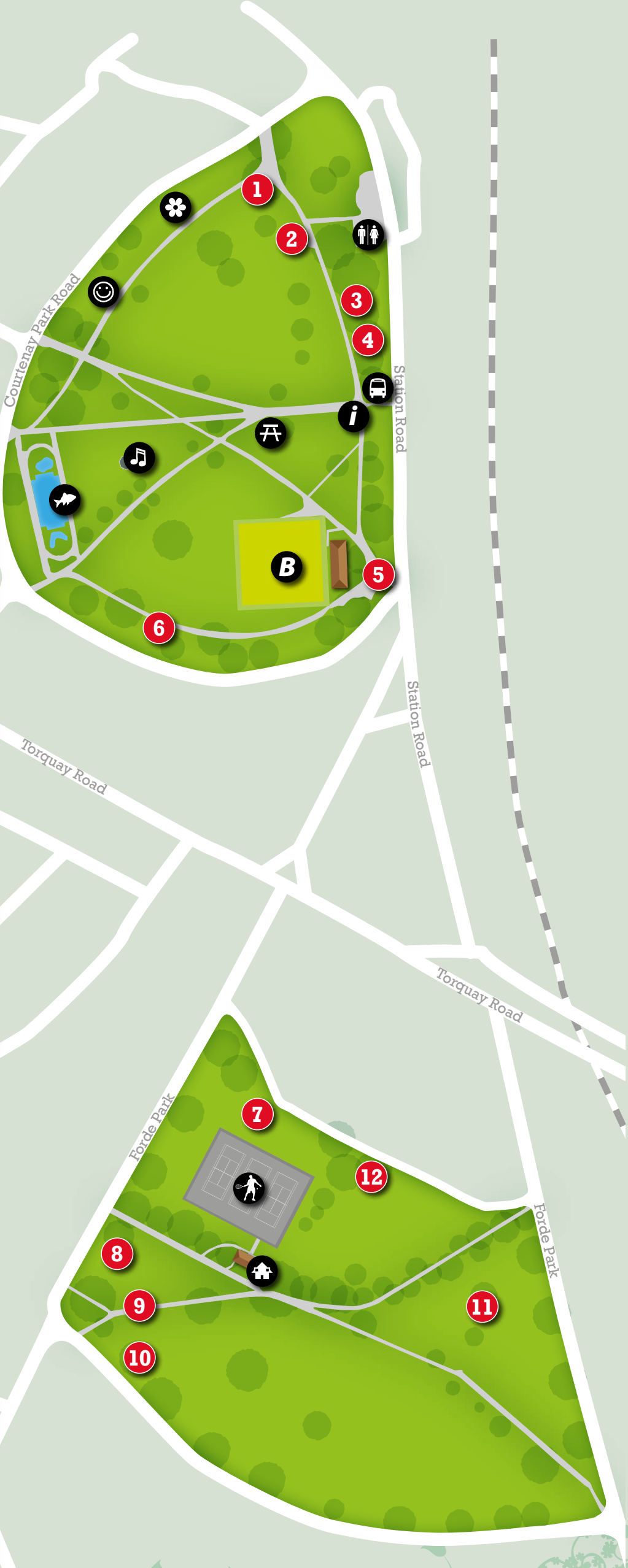


Name: Yew, *Taxus baccata*
From: Europe, N. Africa
Fact: Both elastic and beautiful, Yew is regarded as the perfect wood for making longbows.

6



Name: Chusan Palm, *Trachycarpus fortunei*
From: Central China
Fact: This palm is named after Chusan Island where it was seen by botanist Robert Fortune being grown for making ropes and sacks.



Six trees to see in Forde Park

7



Name: Sweet Gum, *Liquidamber styraciflua*
From: Eastern USA and Mexico
Fact: The pleasant smelling gum is used in adhesives, perfumes and incense.

8



Name: Lucombe Oak, *Quercus x hispanica 'Lucombeana'*
From: Exeter, Devon
Fact: Around 1760 William Lucombe noticed that Turkey oak and Cork oak could cross to create the new Lucombe Oak

9



Name: Sweet Chestnut, *Castanea sativa*
From: S Europe, N. Africa
Fact: As well as giving us chestnuts for 'roasting on an open fire' the Chestnut's durable wood is used to make fencing, barrels and walking sticks

10



Name: English Oak, *Quercus rober*
From: Europe
Fact: Because it used take up to 2,000 one hundred and fifty year old oak trees to make a single wooden ship, even the Tudors were worried about deforestation

11

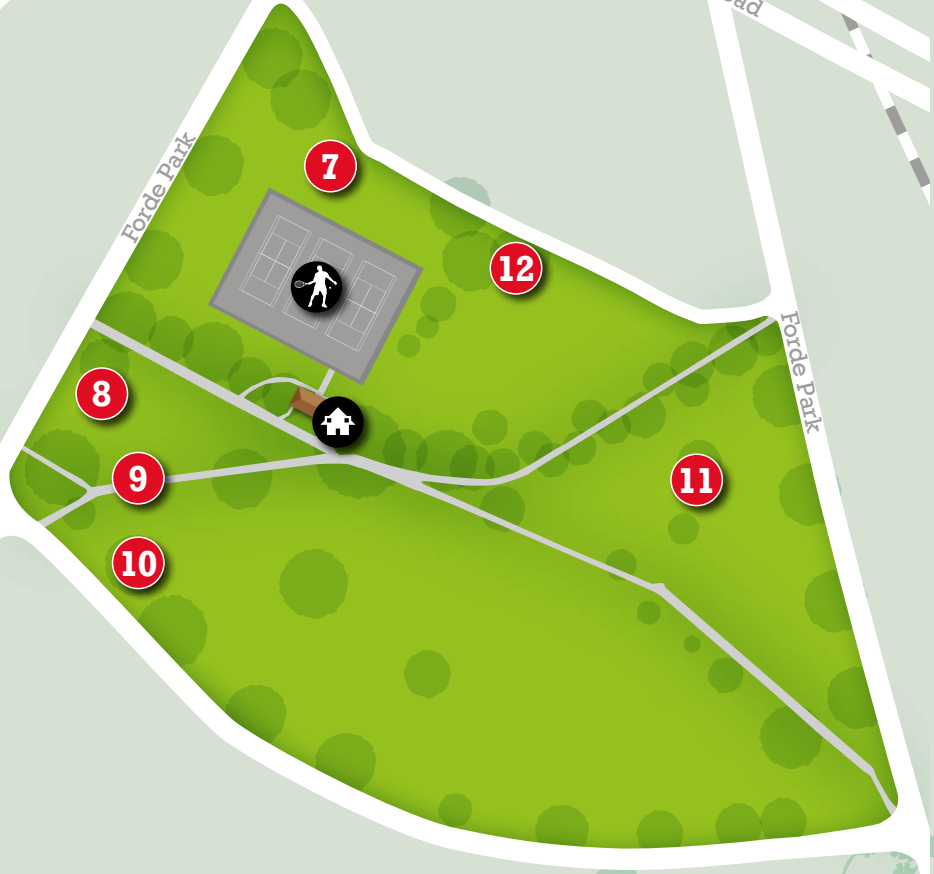


Name: Giant Redwood or *Wellingtonia, Sequoiadendron giganteum*
From: USA
Fact: The largest one known is 3,200 years old, 84m high, and 31m around the trunk at ground level, they're huge

12



Name: Common Lime, *Tilia x europaea*
From: Europe
Fact: The fine-grained wood is used for making pianos and rope; the name coming from the German word 'linde' meaning rope



Facilities



Information



Toilets



Community Pavillion



Educational Garden



Picnic



Bus Stop



Bandstand



Free Tennis



Play area



Pond



Bowling