

The trees of Tiverton

Welcome to JP Associates' Tiverton Town Tree Trail, designed to introduce you to our amazing trees and help you understand and appreciate the vital roles they play, not only in making our town a more attractive place in which to live and work but also in keeping us healthier and happier.

Urban trees are, of course, essential for the environment but they also help to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities (see opposite). Every day they silently perform miracles while we pass by without giving them a second thought.

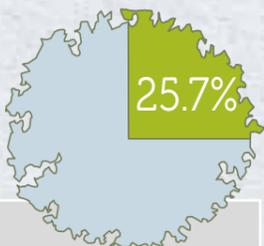
So, take a stroll through our historic town and we will introduce you to a few of our favourites, and direct you to some of Tiverton's loveliest green open spaces.

Map your own town trees with Curio

What are the threats to urban trees?

Curious tree tales of Tiverton

Tiverton's canopy cover is 25.7% (using i-Tree software)



About JP Associates

We are a firm of arboricultural consultants based in St Peter Street, one of the most historic parts of Tiverton. We provide consultancy and project management services in trees & development, land & habitat and arboriculture across the south of the UK for clients including national housebuilders, local authorities, schools and homeowners.

Using our knowledge of trees and how they benefit towns, we wanted to produce something for locals and visitors alike to help spread the word about urban trees.

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Why do we need urban trees?

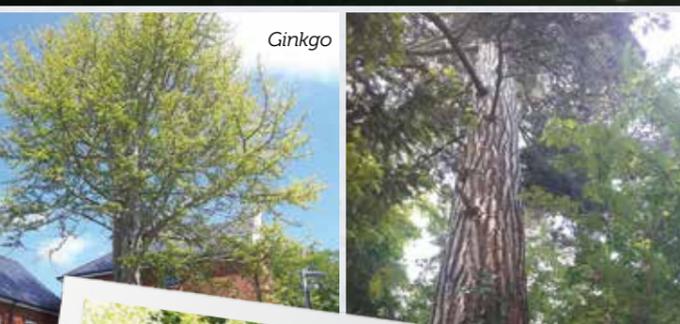
You may be surprised at some of the facts and figures about trees in towns and cities. Here are a few questions to get you thinking (answers below):

- 1 How much carbon dioxide (CO2) can a mature town tree absorb each year?
- 2 Which common town trees absorb pollutants in their bark?
- 3 On a hot day, how much cooler is it likely to be in the shade of a tree?
- 4 How do trees help reduce the risk of urban flooding?
- 5 The presence of broadleaved trees in a neighbourhood can raise house values – by how much?
- 6 Can you identify three ways in which town trees can help improve our health?
- 7 How many species of invertebrates do you think a mature oak tree might support?

- Answers**
- 1 Around 22kg
 - 2 Plane trees – they then shed their bark. (You will find some along Phoenix Lane)
 - 3 Urban trees can lower the surface temperature within the greenspace by as much as 20°C, thus cooling the air by 2-8°C
 - 4 By rainfall interception, reducing the volume and rate of run-off. Up to 15% of rainfall can be caught in a tree's canopy, some of which will evaporate. Any unpaved ground around a tree will also absorb water
 - 5 By 5-18% depending on the size of trees (bigger is better)
 - 6 By lowering air pollutants: encouraging outdoor pursuits; improving mood/lowering blood pressure
 - 7 Up to 5,000 different species!



Westex Recreation Ground



Ginkgo

Above: Corsican Pine



Hornbeam

Below: Tiverton Castle



WELLBROOK ST

Want to learn more and get involved with trees? Here are some ideas to get you started.

Charter for Trees Woods and People

Led by The Woodland Trust, the Charter marks the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest. Sign it and add your voice: why are trees important? treecharter.uk

Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG)

A UK-wide group of professionals and organisations working at government and local planning level to raise the profile of town trees. www.tdag.org.uk

Observatree

Help to spot new pest and disease threats to UK trees by taking part in this collaborative project. www.observatree.org.uk

Ancient Tree Forum (ATF)

Join your local group to learn more about these amazing organisms. www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk

Woodland Trust

Become a nature detective! Lots of children's activities and downloads. www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives

Tiverton Town Tree Trail leaflet produced by JP Associates. With thanks to Amy Dugard, Mid Devon District Council; volunteers at Tiverton's Museum of Mid Devon Life; and all contributors from Tiverton's many town attractions.



JP Associates

Arboriculture | Trees & Development | Land & Habitat

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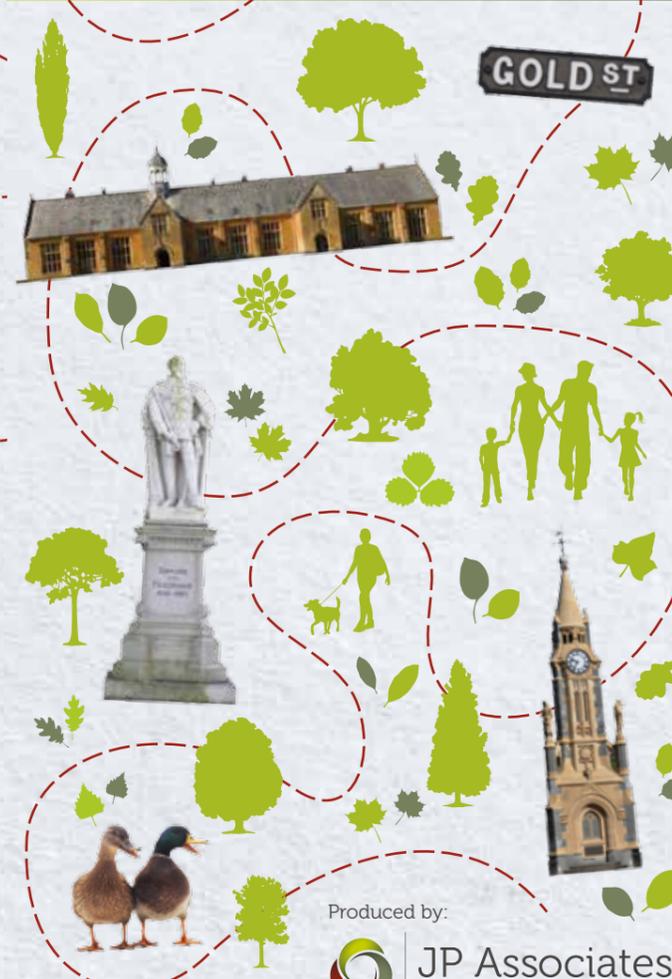
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Tiverton Tree Trail

Stroll around Tiverton Town and discover its beautiful trees

GOLD ST



Produced by:



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1 Yew

Completed in 1730, St George's Chapel is one of Devon's finest Georgian churches, designed by Wren master carpenter John James. Its **Yew** was planted in 1796 and is unusual for being tall and slender rather than wider spread. Some of the oldest trees in the world are Yews, living to well over 1,000 years. All parts of Yew trees are poisonous to humans, except the red fleshy part of the berry (although the seed inside is toxic).



Above: Yew

4 The Magnolias of St Peter Street

Best appreciated in the spring and early summer, these exotic trees – outside the Methodist Church and private houses opposite – brighten the street with their pale pink and cream sculptural flowers. **Magnolias** have been around for approximately 95 million years – before the appearance of bees. Their flowers originally attracted beetles for pollination and have adapted over time to become bee-friendly.



Right: Magnolia

6 Scots Pine

This lovely evergreen frames Tiverton Castle, one of the town's most ancient historic buildings dating back to 1106. Its grounds, including a walled garden, contain many large trees as well as some **Medlar**, **Quince** and **Crabapple** trees. The only truly native UK pine – and the national tree of Scotland – the **Scots Pine** can live up to 700 years and can reach around 35 metres in height. This one is around 70 years old, so still a youngster. Scots Pine timber is one of the strongest softwoods available and is used in the manufacture of telegraph poles. Other uses include rope made from the inner bark, tar from the roots and a dye from the cones.



Left: Lucombe Oak bark

7 People's Park

People's Park, opened in 1888, is home to many tree species with some impressive pines on your left as you enter the park. Look for the giant, straight **Corsican Pine** at the end of the row, with its pale bark scales. Follow the path along the railings past mature **Oaks**, **Sweet Chestnuts**, **Limes** and **Pines** and at the old stone drinking fountain, loop back round to the right by a large multi-stemmed **Western Red Cedar**. On your left bordering the road see if you can spot a semi-evergreen **Lucombe Oak** with its distinctive cork bark (see above), named after William Lucombe who hybridised the species in Exeter in 1762. Did you know there are more than 100 types of oak? As you head towards the main gate look for a mature **Monterey Pine** with a cable partially buried in its bark at the base (trees 'eat' many strange objects).

2 Vista of trees from Exe Bridge

This view shows just how well-canopied Tiverton is. The low-lying, smaller trees along the riverbank by the Heathcoat Fabrics factory contrast with the tall **Lombardy Poplars** on the left. Soft and pliable, Poplar wood is used for making matches and the classic Camembert cheese boxes. The **Weeping Willows** on both banks are fast-growing and very thirsty, ideal for waterside locations. Salicin, a compound found in the bark of all Willow species, is where we get aspirin from. Spot the distinctive horizontal branches of the **Cedar of Lebanon** in the distance.

Right: Leyland Cypress

3 Westexe Recreation Ground

This elegant late-Victorian park contains a wealth of mature trees – to the left of the main gate look for a **fastigiata** (upright) **Hornbeam** with its distinctive 'ace of spades' shape. To the right of the gate is a venerable **Beech** with significant root buttresses that looks as if it has 'slumped'. Follow the path to the right past a towering **Turkey Oak** in the corner, at around 28m, and past old **Limes** and **Horse Chestnuts** (good conker territory) framing the bandstand. Bear right towards the pond past a pair of



Deciduous Redwoods. As you near the pond you'll reach a large **Red Oak** (named for its striking autumnal colour); a little further along the path is an impressive example of a fully-grown **Leyland Cypress**.

5 The trees of St Peter's Churchyard

There are many beautiful trees surrounding this historic church, founded in the 11th century. Take a wander through the gate by the large Yew, planted around 1700, and bear right along the cobbled path between the clipped **Irish Yews** where you'll pass a fine **Purple Leaf Beech** on the corner by the road (spot the horizontal 'stretch marks' on its trunk, made as the tree has grown). Next to that, a small **Liquidamber** packs a big punch with its autumn colours. There are many kinds of pines and firs: look out for the silvery, blue-green needles of the ornamental **Blue Atlas Cedar** and next to that a lovely example of a **Weeping Beech**.

And more...

You can extend the trail up to the Grand Western Canal for a lovely tree-lined walk out of the town along the towpath. Look out for the huge oaks if you get as far as Watton and Whipcott Bridges. Or you can make the journey on the Tiverton Canal Company's horse-drawn barge, the last of its kind in the South West.

www.tivertoncanal.co.uk

An appreciation of Tiverton's trees wouldn't be complete without a visit to Knightshayes, the National Trust property just outside the town. Its impressive tree collection contains one of the UK's national champion (tallest or largest trunk girth) **Turkey Oaks** and many other notable trees.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knightshayes

8 Ginkgo

Often referred to as a living fossil, the **Ginkgo** was around in the same form 350 million years ago. A relic from the Permian Period, it is the only remaining living species in the division Ginkgophyta. This important tree was planted outside Tiverton's old hospital around 120 years ago but is now surrounded by new housing. It was protected and monitored during demolition and construction and will hopefully continue to thrive alongside the houses. Ginkgo leaves contain ginkgolides which are used in medicine to improve blood circulation to the brain.



Right: Ginkgo

