and Sicily, the Corsican Pine is a pines. Native to southern Italy in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and Algeria in North Africa, it is of its bright blue-green foliage.

Towering over the Lower, Central and Upper Gardens sky, this is one of the most exciting tree discoveries in this country - with a girth of 4.7m. Bournemouth has some large native Scots Pine Pinus sylvestris. These grow up to 44m tall in great heights of 30m and originates from East Europe, its natural habitat is in most of Europe and Northern Russia.

This impressive Californian Redwood Sequoia sempervirens makes a good specimen tree for parks and large gardens. But whilst its natural habitat is in the Arctic Circle and as far south as Spain and Portugal, it is certainly a descendant of one listed bandstand, this is almost certain to be the one planted in Bournemouth pre1590. Native to this one is?

To date trees, a rough guide is to measure the circumference at about 1.5m high and allow an inch per year. How old do you think this one is?

The views and sounds of wildlife on this walk will change with the seasons. The new shoots of spring change to full summer foliage, then the bright autumn colours give way to the stark winter branches.

Enjoy! Bournemouth Arboretum Team

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the Bournemouth ‘quartet’ of

This tall, stately pine is one of its bright blue-green foliage. Brand new plantings, therefore, are held in pairs and can be up to 125cm long. The bark is a good timber tree and many were planted in and around Bournemouth in the 1900s hence its moniker. They really don’t mind the salty air, helping them to grow to great heights. Squirrels love the pine cones - watch out for changes to stunning autumn colours of yellow, pink or red. Another redwood grows near tree #9. This one has a ‘cobra bracca’ placed about a third of the way up this trunk to allow the tree to move, but to prevent over-stressing the union/split.

fast-growing, and it makes a rather narrow, shapely tree, which makes a good specimen tree for parks and large gardens. But they don’t mind salt and so if it’s here in a coastal climate. Whilst its introduction date is given as 1776, it is likely to be much earlier as records used not to distinguish between it and the native Scots Pine Pinus sylvestris. These grow up to 44m tall in this country - with a girth of 4.7m. Bournemouth has some large examples of around 26m tall. These pines provide a food source, shelter and nesting for a number of bird species, habitat for beetles and other invertebrates and fungi.

Towering high above the Grade II listed bandstand, this is almost certainly a descendant of one of the earliest trees planted in Bournemouth pre 1590. Native to the Mediterranean, their needles are held in pairs and can be up to 125cm long. The bark can have a purple or red tint and forms into smooth plates. This pine is a good timber tree and many were planted in and around Bournemouth in the 1900s hence its moniker. They really don’t mind the salty air, helping them to grow to great heights. Squirrels love the pine cones - watch out for changes to stunning autumn colours of yellow, pink or red. Another redwood grows near tree #9. This one has a ‘cobra bracca’ placed about a third of the way up this trunk to allow the tree to move, but to prevent over-stressing the union/split.

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Sequoia sempervirens (Coast Redwood)

A native of Oregon and California, this tree can grow to 100m or more. Its needles are about 125cm long. These trees are climate-change-fighting superstars, storing more CO2 than other species. Here in Central Gardens, it struggles in damp conditions and requires a tree-friendly soil to thrive. If these trees are cut back, they can struggle to grow back. To identify this impressive tree, look for its ‘knees’ - but they can be hard to spot. These growths bulge outwards from the base of the tree, giving it a distinctive shape. You can also feel the thick red-brown, fibrous soft bark with broad ridges. The tree’s needle cones are about 125cm long. These cones are a rich brown over a couple of years. These cones are in nymph form in the winter, and in the spring of the summer. Large red damselflies love the wet habitat here, and you’ll see them flying around the pond. Look out for the red-bronze damselflies that have the same shape as the butterflies, but without wings. As you head along the stream in Central towards Upper Gardens, the ground becomes very soft. The landscape here has changed over the years, due to changes in the water table. Many trees have been lost, but new species are planted that will adjust and thrive in these new conditions.

**Pinus patula (Mexican Weeping Pine)**

Located next to a relatively young disease-resistant Elm, this tree (originating from Mexico) thrives in a warmer climate. You may notice multiple stems, which appear mainly because of frost-damage. The long, drooping pine needles (about 15cm long) will help you to spot these trees, and you’ll also see its sloping pine cones with shiny scales, and the orange-brown bark hides a salmon-pink wood underneath (that smells of aniseed when cut).

**The History of the Gardens**

In early maps, the area known as Lower, Central and Upper Gardens appears as a stretch of marshy valley. It wasn’t until the 1820s-1850s that the Tapps-Gervis estate (later to become the Meyrick estate) cleared and redesigned the area to the south of ‘The Square’ as a ‘pleasure gardens’, with advice from architect Decimus Burton. This formed part of the work to develop Bournemouth as a seaside resort. Twenty years later, the footpaths were laid out and remain as we see them today. Extensive planting was undertaken at this time, and W & D Stuart of Ferndown Nurseries in Wimborne, Dorset supplied 3,913 trees and ornamental shrubs. Since 1924, King’s Park Nursery in Bournemouth (owned and operated by Bournemouth Borough Council) have supplied the plants to these award-winning gardens. The Lower Gardens Rickery was constructed in 1930 - by which time, the Meyricks had passed the area over to Bournemouth Borough Council to manage under lease. In 1986, the Lower Gardens were given Grade II Listed status (Grade II* until 2014).

**Did you know?**

All trees create a microclimate to encourage wildlife.

**As you enter the Central Gardens, notice the Horse Chestnut - probably about 150 years old - when Queen Victoria was on the throne and around the same time that the telephone was invented.**

**As you head along the stream in Central towards Upper Gardens, the ground becomes very soft. The landscape here has changed over the years, due to changes in the water table. Many trees have been lost, but new species are planted that will adjust and thrive in these new conditions.**

**Walking this trail at different times of the year will bring you different views as the seasons change. For example, in late May-June, the wildflowers on the boardwalk look their best.**

**Sequoia giganteum (Wellingtonia)**

You can identify this impressive tree by its soft, fibrous reddish-brown bark. If you poke the bark, you can feel how soft it is. The thickness of the bark is a natural fire protection. Wellingtonia has 8mm long sharp pointy leaves (they will feel rough if you touch them). Look out for the barrel-shaped cones, which ripen from green to brown over a couple of years. These cones are about 7cm-8cm long.

**Taxodium distichum (Swamp Cypress)**

These trees love it when it is very spongy underfoot and have roots that reach the stream. This species is native to south eastern United States, and as their name suggests, can mainly thrive here next to the stream. This species is native to south eastern North America. Its bark has a pinky tinge, which hardens over time. If these trees are cut back, they will regrow in multiple stems. Look out for its ‘knees’ or ‘pneumatophores’, which grow up from around the tree to access oxygen when the conditions are very wet. This is a deciduous conifer, and the leaves turn a rich brown in the autumn.

**Platanus x hispanica**

One of the more popular street trees in London (hence the London Plane name). You can spot this tree by noticing the patchwork of olive green and grey-green leaves. You’ll also notice that this one is ‘eating’ the fence as it grows!

**Betula nigra**

(River Birch)

This tree loves the swampy ground here around the river (hence its name!). It came to Europe in the 1700s from its native eastern North America. Its bark has a pinky tinge, which hardens over time. If these trees are cut back, they will regrow in multiple stems. Look out for its ‘knees’ or ‘pneumatophores’, which grow up from around the tree to access oxygen when the conditions are very wet. This is a deciduous conifer, and the leaves turn a rich brown in the autumn. You can identify this impressive tree by its thick red-brown, fibrous soft bark with broad ridges. The tree’s needle cones are about 125cm long. These cones are a rich brown over a couple of years. These cones are in nymph form in the winter, and in the spring of the summer. Large red damselflies love the wet habitat here, and you’ll see them flying around the pond. Look out for the red-bronze damselflies that have the same shape as the butterflies, but without wings. As you head along the stream in Central towards Upper Gardens, the ground becomes very soft. The landscape here has changed over the years, due to changes in the water table. Many trees have been lost, but new species are planted that will adjust and thrive in these new conditions.

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Sequoia sempervirens (Coast Redwood)

A native of Oregon and California, this tree can grow to 100m or more - in 2004, one was measured at 115.7m, making it the tallest tree in the world. These trees have a long life expectancy of between 500 and 700 years old. An interesting feature of this tree is that it is able to re-grow even after being chopped down, which is rare in coniferous trees. You can spot this tree by its thick red-brown, fibrous soft bark with broad ridges. Their dark green needles are about 125cm long. These trees are climate-change-fighting superstars, storing more CO2 than other species. Here in Central Gardens, it struggles in damp, soggy ground (it struggles to get oxygen to its roots), but work is being done to try and encourage this tree back to health.

Sequoiadendron giganteum (Wellingtonia)

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Taxodium distichum (Swamp Cypress)

These trees love it when it is very spongy underfoot and thrive here next to the stream. This species is native to south eastern United States, and as their name suggests, can mainly be found in boggy swamps and bogs. Look out for its ‘knees’ or ‘pneumatophores’, which grow up from around the tree to access oxygen when the conditions are very wet. This is a deciduous conifer, and the leaves turn a rich brown in the autumn.

Platanus x hispanica (London Plane - also known as Platanus x acerifolia)

One of the more popular street trees in London (hence the London Plane name). You can spot this tree by noticing the patchwork of olive green and grey, grey-green bark. Plumage-like leaves (‘palmetted’ - a similar shape to your hand) if you splay your fingers. Look for the beautiful large red damselflies love the wet habitat here, and you’ll find Azure damselflies and Golden-Ringed Dragonflies.

Betula nigra (River Birch)

This tree loves the swampy ground here around the river (hence its name). It came to Europe in the 1700s from its native eastern North America. Its bark has a pinky tinge, which exfoliates a mass of paper scales that harden over time. If these trees are cut back, it may exfoliate. It does this every year, allowing the tree to access oxygen when the conditions are very wet. It does this to ‘clean itself’ – removing soot and dirt to allow the tree to breathe. The London Plane’s leaves are ‘palmetted’ - a similar shape to your hand if you splay your fingers. Look for up to 4 fruits hanging together on a single stalk (rippling from green to brown and covered in spiky, brown bristles). These trees are hardy - if you look closely, you can see that this one is ‘eating’ the fence as it grows!

Central Gardens

The pergola was installed in 1990, to mark the centenary of the telephone (which was created at Bournemouth as the world’s first commercial telephone exchange in 1876). The water tower, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire.

Upper Gardens

The Upper Gardens run north of the Seaview all the way up to Bournemouth’s boundary with Poole, at Surrey Road. Records show that the Durant family owned this area from 1891 - which consisted of fields of wet meadow either side of the Bourne stream. The gothic-style water tower was built in the 1840s. It housed a header tank, which was fed by a waterwheel. The water helped to irrigate the surrounding flower beds, and power an ornamental fountain. In 1992, the Upper Gardens were planted with pathways and planting to provide a haven for wildlife, and interest at different times of the year. Trees tolerant of wet conditions were planted. Stroll along the boardwalk through a wet meadow area containing Yellow Iris, Ragged Robin, Meadowweet and Cuckoo Flower. These plants encourage Large Red, Brimstone and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies to the area.

Pinus patula

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Did you know?

All trees create a microclimate to encourage wildlife. Large red damselfly

Walking this trail at different times of the year will bring you different views as the seasons change. For example, in late May-June, the wildflowers on the boardwalk look their best.

As you enter the Central Gardens, notice the Horse Chestnut - probably about 150 years old - when you look up. These trees have a life expectancy of between 250 and 300 years. As you head along the stream in Central toward Upper Gardens, the ground becomes very soft. The landscape here has changed over the years, due to changes in the water table. Many trees have been lost, but new species are planted that will adjust and thrive in these new conditions.