

## The Arboretum at Stansted Park *An arboretum is a collection of trees*

At the front of the House, the pattern made by the three drives converging at the house is called the 'Goose-foot'. It was first cut through the park and forest in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century when the new house was built here.



Across the South Lawn, the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bessborough's favourite tree was the large **Cedar** visible from his library. He gave the house and grounds to the public.



Just before the entry to the arboretum are three **Tulip trees** planted in the 1952 in memory of George Ponsonby, d.1951

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century an Arboretum was first planted here. Some of its large evergreens and dark beech trees still survive.



In contrast, the modern planting concentrates on trees with interesting flowers, fruit, foliage or bark, to give year-round interest, such as the **Paperbark Maple**, and that will flourish on our chalk soil.



Specimen trees are labelled, and some are planted as commemorative trees.



In the Arboretum, beside the walled garden gate is the dramatic shape of a **cedar** which died and has been cut back and left as a wildlife habitat

Opposite are two **Giant Redwoods**, some of the largest in Sussex. Can you decide which one has the larger girth?



The stone erected to mark the gift of the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl is opposite a small **American Rowan** planted in his memory by the Duke of Gloucester in 1999

**A Foxglove tree**, part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century planting, is slow-growing and has very warp resistant wood used to make musical instruments in Japan.



Beside the gates is an **Australian Shining Gum** tree, only 16 years old.



Across the railway on the left is a **Dawn Redwood**, a deciduous conifer rediscovered in the wild in the 1941 and previously known only as a fossil.



The very large **cedar** opposite may be part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Park planting and is now a nest site for kestrels. Can you see where the nest might be?



Beside the circular Well-head Garden is a tall **Redwood** planted in 1965 to mark the death of Sir Winston Churchill.



Across the railway a circular route continues through an area being restored. Going anti-clockwise, some very old **apple trees and some large Victorian trees** remain in this area.



Opposite the Railway Station is a North American **Indian Bean tree**, which has scented flowers and long thin seed pods.

A wildlife pond surrounded by a wild bog-garden has been installed at the west end of this path, and beyond it is the Lime Walk. The flowers and grasses here are left to go to seed naturally.



The **avenue** of large-leaved **Limes** was planted to replace an avenue of elm trees that were lost to Dutch Elm disease. There are still young elm trees in the hedgerow that can survive until they are attacked by the Dutch Elm beetle as they reach maturity.

The east end of the avenue is planted with a row of Kentish Cob trees.



*Turning back towards the House, and across the railway track, the east side of the Arboretum opens on to good views of the surrounding park and farm land.*

Overlooking the parkland, is a **Turkish Hazel** much larger than the two nearby native hazels and used in the USA as a tree hardy enough for city planting. It can grow to 70 feet. A North American native **Kentucky Coffee** tree is planted close by.



Three true **firs** are nearby: each has characteristic cones that stand upright on the branches: The Noble Fir, a North American giant; the Colorado White Fir, and the Caucasian (Nordmann) fir, prized as a Christmas tree with non-dropping needles.

The group of small **oak seedlings** have grown from acorns planted by jays or squirrels. This demonstrates how rough grassland can be reclaimed by trees if untended.



The small **Monkey Puzzle**, a favourite Victorian tree, will grow to a great height and is one of a few only conifer that can be successfully coppiced.

Returning towards the house, notice a number of new **commemorative trees** that have been planted just before the new yew hedge to replace a very old cedar tree that died and was removed.



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