Elm
*Ulmus* ‘Sapporo autumn gold’

This type of elm is a hybrid between a Siberian and a Japanese elm, bred to be resistant to Dutch elm disease.

Look up through the canopy to see the distinctive "herring-bone" arrangement of the twigs.

Walk back up to the path behind you and down towards the zebra crossing. Take the third path on your left before the crossing and walk through the avenue of lime trees.

**Small-leaved lime**
*Tilia cordata*

The Latin name “cordata” means heart-shaped and refers to the leaf shape.

Look for the pale green, sweet-smelling flowers in July. Once pollinated, they turn into small, hard round fruits.

Cross over the roads back onto the grassy area in front of Christ Church. Here you will see two hornbeams on your left.

**Hornbeam**
*Carpinus betulus*

Although this tree species closely resembles the beech, it has more rippled bark and comes into leaf much earlier. The leaves are also more ribbed and are edged with double teeth.

We hope you enjoyed your walk! Visit again throughout the year to see how the trees change with seasons.

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**Introduction**

The area that this trail covers, Christ Church Green and the Promenade, are actually part of Clifton Down. For centuries, people grazed sheep and cattle on the Downs, creating a landscape of short turf, bracken and hawthorn trees. As grazing began to decline in the 19th Century, the rural landscape began to change. The Downs took on a park-like character. Some of the specimen trees began to be planted and this part of the Downs became popular for recreation.

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**Route information**

The complete trail takes around 1 hour. It is 2.2 km (1.4 miles) long.

**Safety**

At certain points on the trail you will need to cross roads. Please take care, especially if you have children with you.

Some sections of the trail can be muddy and slippery after it has rained.

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**How to get here**

By bus: There are a number of services that have stops along the route of the trail. For further information visit www.traveline.info or call Traveline on 0871 2002233.

By Train: The nearest train station is Clifton Down Station. For further information contact National Rail enquiries on 03457 484950 or visit www.traveline.info

By Road: Use the map below.
The map overleaf shows our suggested route around the Downs. The trail is marked on the map with an arrowed line. Each tree on the trail has a numbered disc on it to help with identification (except for Tree 14). Please note that some of the trees (eg. Tree 13 and 14) are on private property. We ask that you respect this and only view the trees from the pavement.

We hope you enjoy your walk!

Where to begin?

Not to be missed is the plaque on Proctor’s Fountain. It commemorates the coronation of Edward VII. Look closely at the leaves of the holly on your right. This evergreen conifer is a variety of black pine. It produces 8cm (3") cones and has very dark green, distinctively twisted, paired needles. Its straight, tall trunk makes it ideal for using as telegraph poles.

With the road on your left, continue towards the top of this triangle of grass.

Turk oak
Quercus cerris
A native of southern Europe and south west Asia, this species was introduced to the UK in 1735. It is a handsome, fast growing tree but its timber is of little value as it cracks and warps easily during seasoning.

Notice the dark green, deeply lobed, leathery leaves. Look out for whiskers or "stipules" at the end of the twigs. The scents take two years to mature and sit in "merry" cups.

Walk towards the top of the triangle. Cross over the road to the "To Bristol 2" milestone. Take the diagonal right path. Continue for approximately 100m. On your right is a horse chestnut tree. (Wheelchair users please follow the diversion).

Horse chestnut
Aesculus hippocastanum
This species was brought here in the 16th century from the Balkans. Why is it called a horse chestnut? Chestnuts were once fed to horses as a stimulant and to make their coats shine.

Sticky buds in spring open to produce large five to seven-angled leaves on a stiff green stem. From April to mid-May look out for the upright white flower "pales", known as "candles". In September look for the chestnuts or "lancets".

Head towards the children’s play area, crossing over the road. On either side of the path you will see several sycamore trees. (Wheelchair users please follow the diversion).

Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus
These particular trees are thought to have grown up amongst Brunel’s building materials, stored here during the construction of the Clifton Suspension Bridge (1831 - 1864). Their insect pollinated flowers make them a really important source of pollen and nectar for bees. In spring, small pale green flowers hang in clusters. Fertilised flowers develop into orangish red or "helicopters" that spin away from the parent tree when ripe. In autumn, there may be distinctive black "spots" on the leaves.

Sycamores are a type of maple, or Acer. In Latin, Acer means "sharp", as maple wood was good for making spears.

Turn right up this path to its junction with the road. On your left, opposite the signpost to the Observatory, is the...