



## Kearsney Abbey Map



## Kearsney Abbey Tree Trail

Here are just nine of our favourite trees Kearsney Abbey. There are many more fascinating trees around the rest of the park, and in Russell Gardens over the road, just waiting to be found.

Look up! Look underneath! Touch them! Take photos and post on social media.

Like the mini drawings? Find the artist on Instagram: [@wendysmithbotanical](https://www.instagram.com/wendysmithbotanical).

We hope you enjoy the nine trees to be found on this short walk around Kearsney Abbey!

The first tree, the Indian Bean tree, is close to the café and then the trail follows a roughly semi-circular route around the park as shown on the map above, trees one to nine. With so many great trees at Kearsney, We found it very difficult to choose just nine!

The park is very safe, but do watch out for occasionally slippery ground in wet conditions, and mind where you step to avoid any trips or falls. Please use the parks safely and responsibly and come back to Kearsney Parks again soon!

### 1. Indian Bean Tree.

*Catalpa bignonioides*

You will notice its twisty trunk. The leaves are large heart-shaped. In summer the tree has pretty pale flowers. Look for the long pod-like fruit. It is from America so why is it called 'Indian'?



### 2. Field Maple.

*Acer campestre*

This tree is beautiful in the autumn when the leaves turn butter-yellow before they fall. Search for its fruits, in pairs with wings that look a bit like propellers - throw one up to see it spin! This tree is native and great for wildlife.



### 3. The Cedar of Lebanon.

*Cedrus libani*

This one tree is thought to be one of the biggest and oldest Lebanon Cedars in the whole country. The trunk alone measures nearly 10 metres around its base! In the 1740s every grand house wanted one. A stately conifer, the needle-like leaves are arranged in "rings". Can you see any of the large solid cones?



### 4. Western Red Cedar.

*Thuja plicata*

This American conifer has small scale-like leaves. Look for tiny upright cones like fairy wine glasses. The wood was traditionally used by First Nations for canoes and totem poles and the bark helped make tough clothing. Stand underneath! Crush some leaves in your hand. What do they smell like?



### 5. Italian Alder.

*Alnus cordata*

This is the tallest Italian Alder in Kent. Can you see any of the long male catkins? They open in February to pollinate the small female catkins which then develop into "cones" that turn from green to brown. Can you carefully shake any seeds out of the old brown cones onto your palm? Birds like Siskins depend on them in winter!



### 6. Copper Beech.

*Fagus sylvatica purpurea*

Look at those roots! Can you feel the rather smooth bark? Are there any of the spiky Beech fruit cases on the ground? The nuts found inside when fresh are called "Beech mast".

Squirrels and birds love to eat them. Beech is the queen of British trees where Oak is king.



### 7. Lucombe Oak.

*Quercus x hispanica*

This rare semi-evergreen oak was first found by William Lucombe at his nursery near Exeter about 260 years ago. It is a hybrid between the Cork and the Turkey Oak. Feel the bark! William cut down the original tree for his coffin, but lived so long, until he was 102, that wood from another Lucombe Oak had to be used!



### 8. Hop Hornbeam.

*Ostrya carpinifolia*

This neat European tree in the Hornbeam family has papery clusters of fruits like the fruit of hop plants used to flavour beer. Can you feel how gentle and soft they are? This is an attractive small ornamental tree, but rarely planted. Yet another lovely tree for Kearsney Abbey!



### 9. Tulip Tree.

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

This imposing large tree is from North America - stand back to see how tall this "young" tree is - European colonists found forests with trees 3 times as tall as this!

The flowers resemble tulip flowers. The leaves have unique "split" tips. Can you find any on the ground? Look for the seedheads as shown.

