

# The Top 10 Trees of the Goring Gap

*Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago – Warren Buffett.*

*Trees are poems the earth writes upon the sky – Kahlil Gibran.*

*Ancient trees are precious. There is little else on Earth that plays host to such a rich community of life within a single living organism – Sir David Attenborough.*

Most of the trees on the trail can be seen from public footpaths or open access land. However, the Oak is on The Swan's property (please be careful of cars in the carpark), the Yew is on The Bull's property. They have both kindly given permission for you to visit their trees.

1



Silver Birches

This trail has been produced by The Friends of Goring Library (FOGL) to support the Library's Summer Reading challenge. For more information please visit the library.

Follow the maps to find all 10 trees. Tick them off as you go, then call into the library and show your leaflet to collect a prize.

Thank you to everyone who nominated a tree. See why they chose their tree in blue

*'The Silver Birch is sometimes called The Lady of the Woods'. In the past the trunk was used to make the pole for maypole dances during Beltane and Mayday festivals. 'They look their best when spring flowers grow around the roots'.*

2



## The Hug

*Even trees need a hug. 'There is a very tall statuesque pine with the branches of a Beech tree wrapped around it - quite like arms. It's fascinating how they both continue happily to grow together'.*

3



## Dead Tree

The only dead tree in the trail. Dead wood is important for minibeasts and imagination. Described as an '*Ewok, Ninja Turtle or an owl*'. What do you see?

Which is your favourite tree?

4



## Tall Pine

*"Wherever they go, and whatever happens to them on the way, in that enchanted place on the top of the forest, a little boy and his bear will always be playing." From Winnie-the-Pooh.*

The enchanted place was a group of Scots Pines on top of a hill in Ashdown Forest '*Great place for a picnic and play in the mazes*'.

5



## Fairy Forest

*'I can't see any fairies, but maybe they can see us. Don't walk on any!'*

6



## The Oak

'If the oak before the ash, then we're in for a splash. If the ash before the oak, then we'll surely have a soak'.

Predicting the weather using trees depending on which come into leaf first. An oak tree produces about 10 million acorns during its lifetime. *'A great tree. I like to hug it. How many people does it take to hug?'*

7



## The Yew

Yew is extraordinarily slow-growing, with some trees estimated to be over 3,000 years old. It's often seen in churchyards as Christians believed its poison protected the dead.

8



Leaf scar



## Horse Chestnut Tree

Horse Chestnuts possibly get their name from the horseshoe shaped leaf scar on their branches. Can you find one?

*'My favourite tree is an aged Horse Chestnut tree living between the cricket pavilion and the bowling green. I discovered this tree during the first lockdown. It is incredibly beautiful in shape. I stand beside the trunk and feel his strength. I call him Titan'.*

*'I collect lots of conkers here in Autumn and use them like marbles'.*

*'Best enjoyed in the Spring when the 'candles' are in bloom and before the inevitable attack by leaf miner insects which turns the leaves of White Horse-chestnuts prematurely brown in Summer/Autumn'.*

9



## Copper Beech

*'My favourite tree is the Copper Beech tree in the graveyard in Goring'.*

Copper Beeches are loved by some and hated by others. What do you think?

10



## London Plane

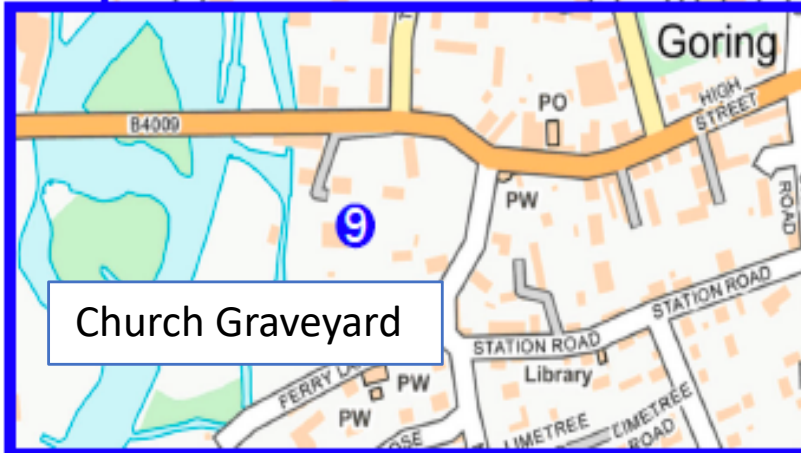
The London Plane tree is the most common street tree in London. Sometimes known as the camouflage tree, these trees can be easily identified by their dappled trunk of various colours. Their bark flakes off and in doing so, sheds pollutants. This is one of the reasons why the tree has thrived in London even though the air is sometimes quite polluted. *'It creates a fantastic entrance to Goring as you come over the river bridges from Streatley'.*



Near Cricket Pavilion

5

To reach Tree 5. Follow a public footpath on your right as you enter Fairfield Road from Reading Road. Follow this narrow path up hill towards Cow Hill. Go through the gate and carry straight on, the Fairy Forest is on your right. Use the map to find Trees 6,7,8,9 and 10



Church Graveyard

9



The Swan

6

Near Cafe

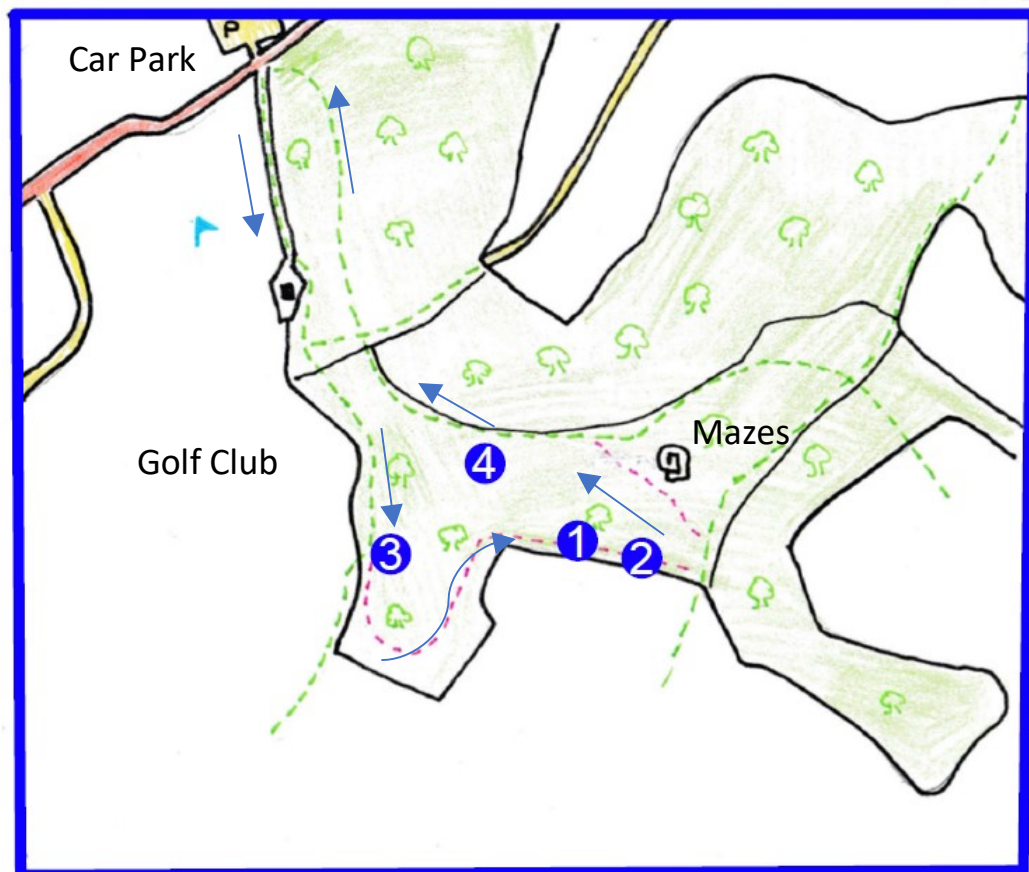
10

The Bull

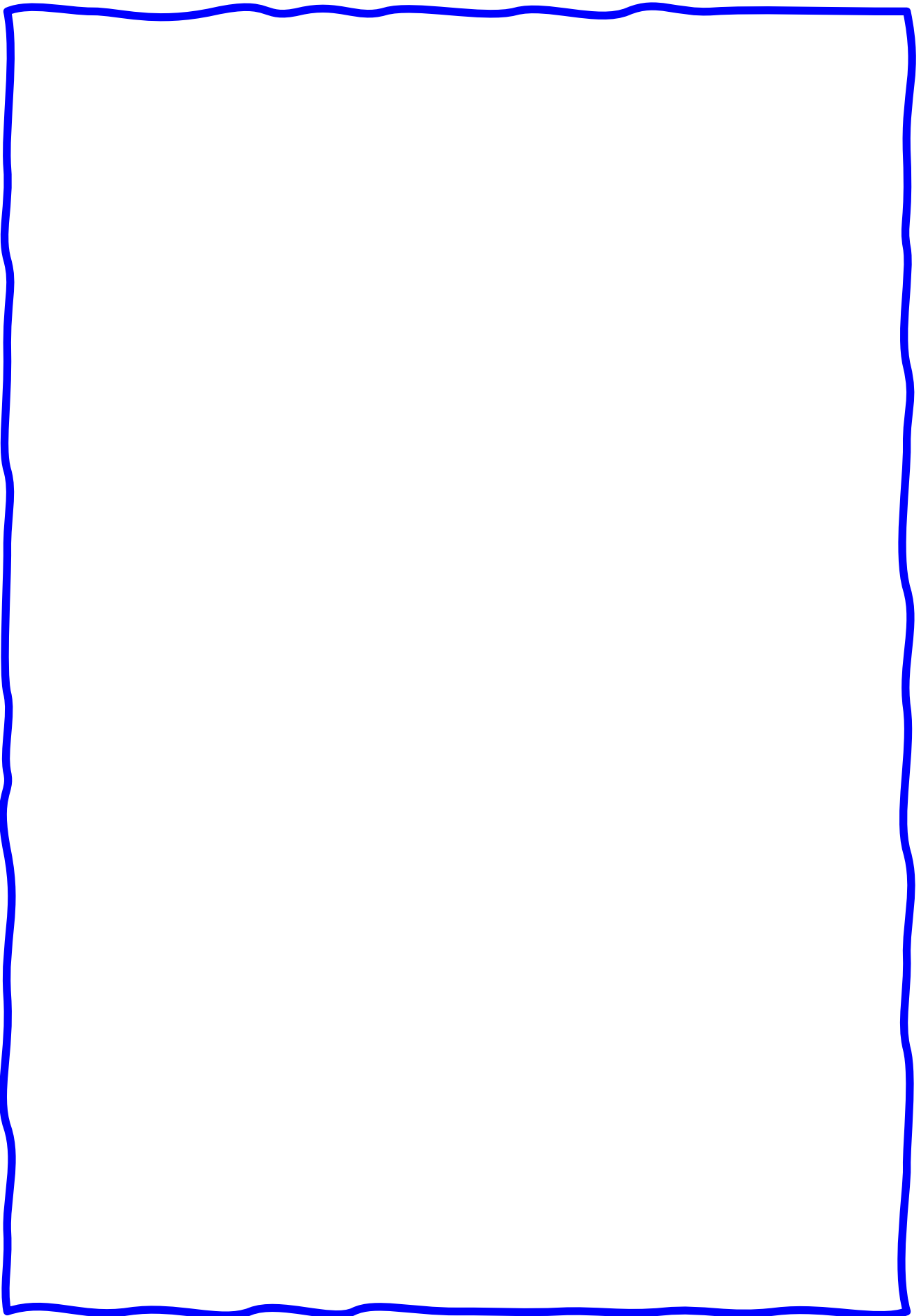
7

## Top 10 Trees – Use the maps to find them

To find trees 1,2,3 and 4, park in the car park at the top of Streatley Hill by Lardon Chase. Cross over the road and turn right along the verge until you reach the gravel drive. Walk up the drive (public footpath) until just before a house and go over a stile on your left. Follow the path through the woods, down a small dip and through a gate. The golf course is on your right. Follow the path around a right hand bend following the golf course and go downhill. Ignore the public footpath sign to your right and carry on down the hill, past number 3. Turn left at the bottom of the hill and wind your way through the woods, on an uphill path. After a bend to your right you will see numbers 1 and 2. Follow the path until you bear left and come out into the open. Go left up between the gorse bushes, past a bench, until you reach the mazes. Then carry straight on until you reach the main path. Turn left and follow this path to number 4 and then dip down a hill and through a gate. Continue uphill on the main track ignoring the path to your right. Soon you will reach the road opposite the car park.



You could add your own favourite tree to the trail, draw a picture of your favourite tree or even write a poem.



## **Seeing The Woods for The Trees.**

**Books which feature trees and woods. All available at Oxfordshire Libraries.**

### **Picture Book**

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

The Giving Tree by Shell Silverstein

The Wild Woods by Simon James

Stuck by Oliver Jeffers

Stick Man by Julia Donaldson

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

### **Junior Fiction**

The Children of the New Forest by Frederick Marryat

The Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone by J.K Rowling

The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S Lewis

The Great Unexpected by Sharon Creech

What the Oak Tree Sees by Charlotte Guillain

Winne the Pooh by A.A. Milne

### **Teens/Adults**

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater

**Disclaimer: This is a guide only. If you undertake this trail, you do so at your own risk. FOGL**