

Welcome to the **Red Tree Trail** which first started back in 1980 and has evolved over the years. We are delighted to share with you 65 trees of distinction from our collection of 5000 plants here within the demesne. It may take you more than one trip to admire all on this list, please tick off as you go and keep your trail map for your next visit.

Some of the trees within this trail display a "blue label" which means that they are designated as **CHAMPION trees** (*the tallest and biggest girth in Ireland and Britain by The Tree Register of Britain and Ireland*).

\*Tree listing below is formatted with each tree led by its Latin name then followed by an English common name and the country of origin/native or where they are most commonly found.

A number of trees on this trail will form a collection of the same trees from a landscaping point of view. A good example of this is our Hornbeam Cloister No. 56 and Beech Avenue, No. 59 on the trail.

1. *Fagus sylvatica* 'Rohanii'  
**Rohan's beech**  
Planted in 1946 by the 6th Earl of Rosse, this tree descended from a cultivar by Prince Camille de Rohan in Bohemia, 1888.

2. *Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula'  
**Weeping beech**  
Native to Europe and planted in 1933 by the 6th Earl of Rosse.

3. *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca'  
**Blue Atlas cedar**  
Atlas Mountains in Morocco, planted in 1921 by the 6th Earl of Rosse.

4. *Magnolia delavayi*  
China, planted c. 1912 by the 5th Earl of Rosse.

5. *Platanus x acerifolia*  
**London plane**  
Europe, planted in 1960, this tree is typical of what can be found planted along streets in cities.

6. *Magnolia Leonard Messel*  
Raised at Nymans Garden, England and named after the 7th Earl's grandfather. Planted by the 7th Earl of Rosse c.1995.

7. *Quercus suber*  
**Cork oak**  
S.W. Europe, used for making bottle corks. Planted by the 5th Earl of Rosse in 1912.

8. *Populus x canadensis*  
**Canadian or Carolina poplar**  
We believe this tree was planted c.1870.

9. *Pinus sylvestris* (MAP COVER PICTURE)  
**Scots pine**  
Native, planted by the 5th Earl of Rosse c.1912 and ancient trees of this type are often found in bogs.

10. *Quercus ilex*  
**Holm oak**  
Europe, We believe this tree is around 100 years old.

11. *Fagus sylvatica* f. *purpurea*  
**Copper beech**  
Europe, propagated by grafting and planted c. 1870.

12. *Acer wilsonii*  
**Maple - CHAMPION TREE**  
Central China, seed collected by Ernest Wilson and planted by 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

13. *Acer griseum*  
**Maple**  
NE China, planted c. 1912 by the 5th Earl of Rosse.

14. *Parrotia persica*  
**Persian ironwood**  
Iran, seeds collected there by the 7th Earl of Rosse in 1970's. Raised at Birr and planted 1990.

15. *Magnolia acuminata*  
**Cucumber tree**  
America & Canada, planted in 1912 by the 5th Earl of Rosse.

16. *Tilia x europaea* 'Hatfield'  
**Common lime**  
Europe, believed to be around 150 years old.

17. *Aesculus hippocastanum*  
**Horse chestnut**  
S.E. Europe & Balkans, seeds are know as 'conkers' and used by children for games. This tree is about 100 years old.

18. *Eucryphia x nymansensis* 'Nymansay'  
**Eucryphia**  
Chile, raised in Nymans Garden, England and planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse in 1935.

19. *Xanthocyparis nootkatensis*  
**Nootka or yellow cypress**  
Canada & NW America, named after the Nuu-chah-nulth people of Vancouver Island. This tree is about 100 years old.

20. *Magnolia dawsoniana*  
**CHAMPION TREE**  
China, planted in 1937 to mark the christening of the 7th Earl of Rosse.

21. *Ginkgo biloba*  
**Maidenhair tree**  
China, planted c. 1935 by the 6th Earl of Rosse.

22. *Heptacodium miconioides*  
China, seed collected by Ernest Wilson and presented to us by Sir Bernard Lovell and planted by the 7th Earl of Rosse c. 1996.

23. *Tetracentron sinense*  
Southern China and the Himalayas, planted by Lord & Lady Oxmantown 2006 for the christening of their son, William.

24. *Cupressus macrocarpa*  
**Monterey cypress**  
California, planted c. 1912 by the 5th Earl and Countess of Rosse.

25. *Juniperus recurva*  
**Himalayan juniper - CHAMPION TREE**  
Himalayas, planted by the 5th Earl of Rosse c. 1912.

26. *Podocarpus totara*  
**Totara**  
New Zealand, planted by the 5th Earl of Rosse c. 1912.

27. *Salix alba* 'Britzensis'  
**Golden willows**  
Europe to Central Asia, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

28. *Quercus dentata*  
**Japanese emperor oak**  
Japan, Korea and China, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1935.

29. *Acer cissifolium*  
**Ivy-leaved maple**  
Japan, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

30. *Picea omorika*  
**Serbian spruce**  
Serbia, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

31. *Sequoia sempervirens*  
**Coastal redwood**  
California, planted by the 5th Earl of Rosse c. 1942, similar to those planted in Giant's Grove here within the demesne.

32. *Quercus petraea*  
**Sessile oak**  
Native, around 200 years old.

33. *Taxodium distichum*  
**Swamp cypress**  
S.E. America, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

34. *Abies pindrow*  
**West Himalayan fir**  
W. Himalayas, seeds gathered by the 7th Earl of Rosse in 2000 in Kalash Valley, N Pakistan. Planted in Birr around 3 years later.

35. *Picea spinulosa*  
**Sikkim spruce**  
E. Himalayas, planted in 1961 by the 6th Earl of Rosse.

36. *Eucalyptus gunnii*  
**Cider gum**  
Australia, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

37. 'Wollemia nobilis'  
**Wollemi pine**  
Australia, was believed extinct until 1994 where it was re-discovered in a remote gorge in New South Wales. Planted by William Parsons in 2021 the grandson of the 7th Earl of Rosse.

38. *Thuja plicata*  
**Western red cedar**  
America, believed to be over 100 years old.



Map - Illustrated by Alison, Countess of Rosse







No. 24



No. 3



No. 13



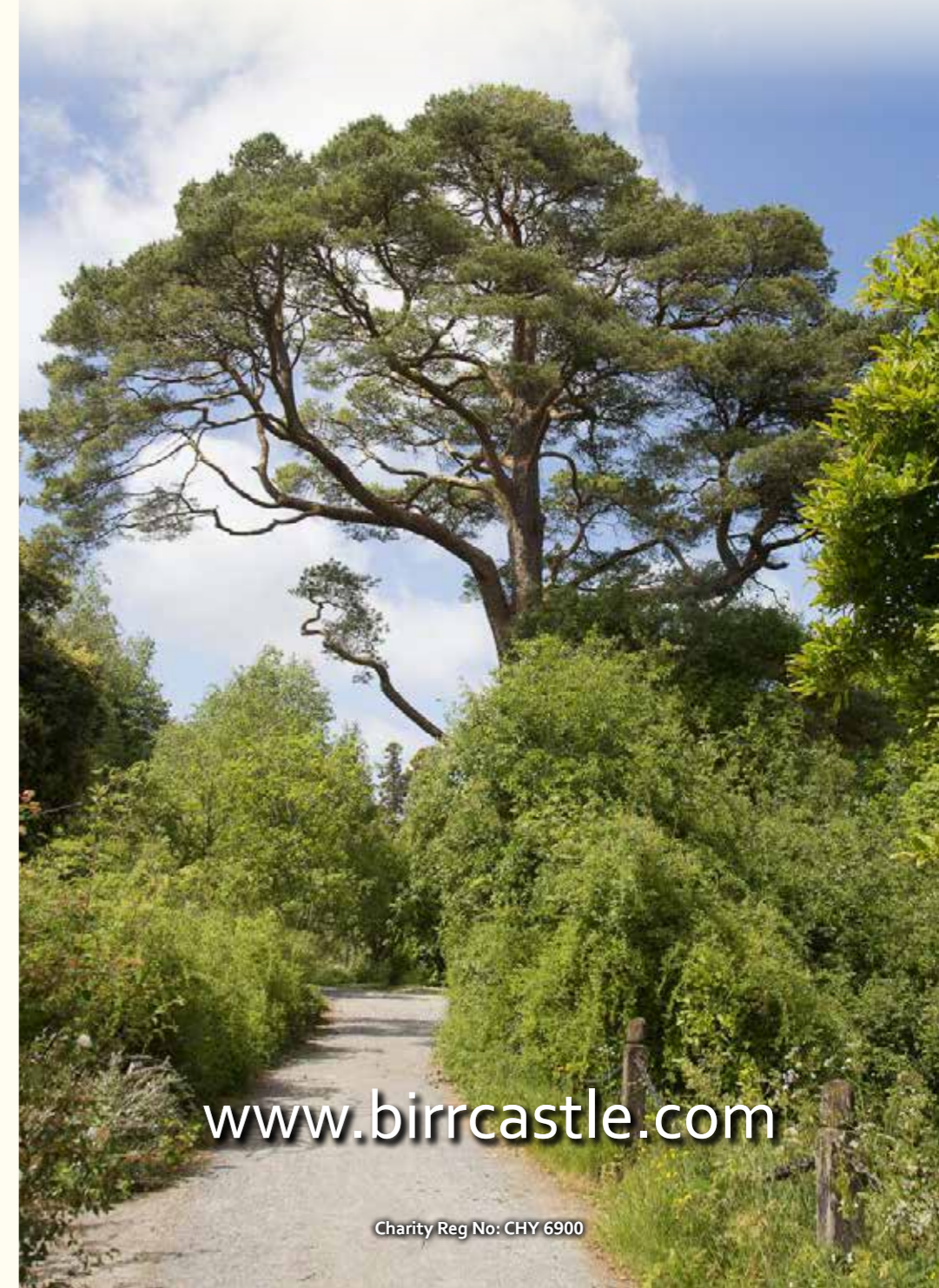
No. 13



# BIRR CASTLE DEMESNE

1620 – 2020 | CELEBRATING 400 YEARS

## The Red Tree Trail 65 Trees of distinction



39. *Chamaecyparis formosensis*

**Taiwan cypress**

Taiwan, planted by the 5th Earl of Rosse c. 1912.

40. *Fitzroya cupressoides*

Patagonia, seeds were collected by Martin Gardiner of Royal Edinburgh Botanical gardens and planted by the 7th Earl of Rosse in 1999.

41. *Larix laricina*

**Tamarack**

Alaska/Canada, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse.

42. *Tilia henryana*

**Lime**

China, planted by the 7th Earl of Rosse in 1987.

43. *Ulmus procera*

**English elm**

Europe, planted c. 1950 and has so far survived the elm disease.

44. *Fagus orientalis*

**Oriental beech**

E. Europe/W. Asia, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

45. *Arbutus unedo*

**Irish strawberry tree**

Native, planted by the 7th Earl of Rosse c. 2005.

46. *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

**Dawn redwood**

China, discovered in central China in 1941 and this garden was one of the first to plant its seeds. Planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

47. *Fagus sylvatica* 'Birr Zebra'

**Birr Zebra beech**

Discovered growing in Birr c. 1985. Later named the Birr Zebra.



48. *Tsuga canadensis*

**Canadian hemlock**

Canada and North America, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

49. *Cedrus libani Atlantica*

**Atlas cedar**

Morocco, (Lebanon) Planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1929.

50. *Abies grandis*

**Giant fir**

N.W. America, planted by the 5th Earl of Rosse c. 1920.

51. *Fagus sylvatica pendula aurea*

**Golden weeping beech**

Europe, planted by the 7th Earl of Rosse c. 2000.

52. *Araucaria aracana*

**Monkey puzzle**

Chile, planted by the 7th Earl of Rosse c. 1980.

53. *Sequoiadendron giganteum*

**Giant redwood**

California, planted c. 1860, young redwood years. They can live for 2000 years.

54. *Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata'

**Irish yews**

Native, discovered in Florence Court estate in Northern Ireland. Planted by the 4th Earl of Rosse c. 1900.

55. *Buxus sempervirens*

**Common box**

Europe, about 300 years old.

56. *Carpinus betulus*

**Hornbeam**

Europe, planted c. 1936 to celebrate the marriage of the 6th Earl of Rosse to his wife Anne.



57. *Staphylea bumalda*

**Japanese bladdernut**

Japan, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

58. *Laurus nobilis*

**Bay tree**

Mediterranean, planted c. 1960 by the 6th Earl of Rosse.

59. *Fagus sylvatica* 'Rohanii' x *Fagus sylvatica*

**Beech**

Seeds raised at Birr Castle Demesne, planted together in 1998 to form this Beech avenue.

60. *Maytenus boaria*

**Mayten tree**

Chile, planted by the 7th Earl of Rosse c. 1985.

61. *Acer sempervirens*

**Cretan maple**

S.E. Mediterranean, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.



62. *Tetradium daniellii*

**Bee-bee tree**

S.W. China and Korea, planted to commemorate the work of the 6th Earl of Rosse for An Taisce.

63. *Prumnopitys andina*

**Chilean yew - CHAMPION TREE**

Chile, planted by the 6th Earl of Rosse c. 1930.

64. *Taxus baccata*

**Common yew**

Native, between 300 to 400 years old.

65. The Carroll Oak' & 'Parsons Oak'

**Common Oak**

Native, The Carroll Oak is at least 500 years old and The Parson's Oak was planted in 2020 to commemorate the 400 years of the Parsons at Birr Castle.



- Walking among trees has great benefits to your health, here at Birr Castle Demesne you can take the time to sit and relax, hug a tree or enjoy some forest bathing.
- Suitable comfortable clothing and footwear is recommended before you start the trail.
- We would also appreciate your effort to leave no trace and bring your rubbish home with you.

### Notes and date of visit

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In case of emergency please contact our reception on 057 912 0336  
Or call 999 for emergency services, and immediately advise one of our team members. Our postal code is R42 V027.

Information correct at time of going to print.



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