

Commemorative Policy Information Sheet

Elvaston Castle Country Park

Elvaston Castle & Country Park, located between Derby and Nottingham, consists of approximately 200 acres of parkland, woodland and more historic gardens, the latter being recognised as having significant archaeological and historical value (grade II*). It was one of the country's first designated Country parks (1970) and encompasses a more recently designated Local Nature Reserve (1989).

Elvaston Castle, once home to the Stanhope family and Earls of Harrington, is the centre piece of the park together with the unique gardens, estate and ornamental buildings surrounding it. Although there have been several studies of the historic development of the Elvaston Estate since pre-Norman conquest, the greatest wealth of documentary and pictorial evidence is that associated with the fourth Earl and his head gardener, William Barron, between 1829 and 1851. In general, it is this historic context that informs the wider landscape management of the estate.

Commemorative Options

At present there are two options available within Elvaston's commemorative policy:

1. Memorial Tree:

Trees intended for planting are usually called 'specimen' trees. They have spent their lives growing in containers of various sizes and, therefore, vary in height from around 3' (approx. 90cm) to 8' (approx. 240cm), sometimes taller. They are delivered in their containers, which may be up to 75 litres in size.

Each year, memorial trees are identified for planting as part of a managed programme of maintenance and restoration within the grade II* listed park and gardens. This inevitably means that the list will be limited to carefully selected species. Due to the garden's historic value, we will only plant those that support the restoration and conservation of the gardens and may include those that have to be purchased from a more specialist nursery.

The cost of a 'specimen' tree can vary from £50 to in excess of £500.

Whilst memorial trees can be dedicated at any time of year, plantings will only take place during the planting season, typically between October and March, depending upon weather conditions.

2. General donation:

An alternative to purchasing an individual tree would be to make a general donation, which would be used for the maintenance and improvement of the site, including garden restoration.

Due to the historic nature of the site we are currently unable to offer installation of any other features.

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Species List

Each year, we aim to plant approximately ten to twelve memorial trees on the Elvaston Estate. The range and number of trees available will vary from one year to the next, but a few more commonly planted species are listed below. The pictures included with the description below illustrate some of the trees already planted around the Country Park.

Copper Beech – *Fagus sylvatica* var. '*Riversii*' or var. '*Purpurea*'



One of the few types of deciduous tree planted by William Barron in the gardens of Elvaston, we plant two almost identical varieties on site; both have purple coloured leaves with a coppery sheen. A tree native to Europe, these trees will reach an average height of 30m and roughly 1.5m in diameter and have a lifespan of up to 250 years.

The picture here shows a Copper Beech during the Winter months. They retain some of the dead leaves from the previous Summer to protect the new buds from frosts.

Cedar of Lebanon – *Cedrus libani*



Impressive size and stature are the characteristics of mature specimens of Cedar of Lebanon trees. Trees often reach 40m in height and 2.5m in diameter, with large, spreading branches. As the name suggests, it's home range is the Eastern Mediterranean, where it can reach ages of between 1000 and 2000 years old. In Britain, however, lifespans are usually around 250 to 350 years.

Silver Fir – *Abies alba*



A tall, evergreen tree, Silver Firs are native to the mountains of Central and Southern Europe. Silver Fir trees grow to an average height of 40m-50m and roughly 1.5m in diameter. The average lifespan is 250 – 350 years.

Noble Fir – *Abies procera*



Native of the Pacific coast mountains of North America, Noble Firs are a large evergreen tree capable of growing up to a maximum height of 70m and almost 3m in diameter. Given ideal conditions, trees can live for 300 years or more.

Eastern Hemlock – *Tsuga canadensis*



Eastern Hemlock trees are native to the Eastern side of North America. Eastern Hemlock trees can reach heights of up to 30m and 1.5m in diameter, but in Britain, they are usually shorter, smaller in diameter and more forked than those found in their native range. Trees normally take around 250 years to reach maturity, although in ideal conditions Eastern Hemlocks can live for over 800 years.

Monkey Puzzle – *Araucaria araucana*



Elvaston is the home to many examples of mature Monkey Puzzle trees, but numbers are declining in their native range of Central and Southern Chile. This gives Monkey Puzzles their other common name of the 'Chilean Pine'. Monkey Puzzles exist as separate male and female trees, but both grow to around 35m-40m in height and 2m in diameter. Given good growing conditions, they can live to up to 200 years or more.

Grand Fir – *Abies grandis*



Native to the Pacific Northwest, from Northern California to British Columbia, Grand Firs grow to heights of up to 60m and 2m in diameter, making it a large evergreen tree specimen. Grand Firs normally live for a maximum of 250 years.

Care and Maintenance

The Countryside Service staff at Elvaston aim to provide regular maintenance to all the commemorative plantings during their first few years and will try to ensure that trees become well established. However, should a tree fail or die, due to disease, vandalism or for any other reason, we do not guarantee to plant a replacement tree.

Commemorative plantings, due to the nature of planting historic trees, may be planted in areas off-limits to the general public. However, we aim to provide access to anyone who wishes to visit a commemorative tree (for example, on birthdays or anniversary dates), provided a request is made at least 72hrs prior to a visit.

We will try to maintain a clear access route to the tree at all times, but due to the management of some areas within the gardens, which are Grade II* listed, this may not always be possible.