



# Tree Trail in Loughton Cemetery



**written by Tricia Moxey**  
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The original layout of the Cemetery was a simple design in a restrained quieter 'better mannered' style and the initial plantings including some conifers bordering Church Lane and several at specific locations within the layout of the paths. Those which have survived are much larger now! These and the newer additions of varied species add much to the tranquillity and attractiveness of the area. Of special note is the large pollarded oak, one of many such trees in the Loughton area, reminding us of the many lost hedgerows!

The trees marking the boundary between the new Cemetery and the adjacent churchyard of St John the Baptist were planted in the late 1840s and were maturing when this postcard was produced about a century ago.

Recently, some of these trees have been felled for safety reasons as their trunks are being attacked by fungi.

Yew trees have been traditionally associated with churchyards and several were planted in churchyard. The one in the Cemetery is rather hidden by the adjacent larger Lawson's Cypress.



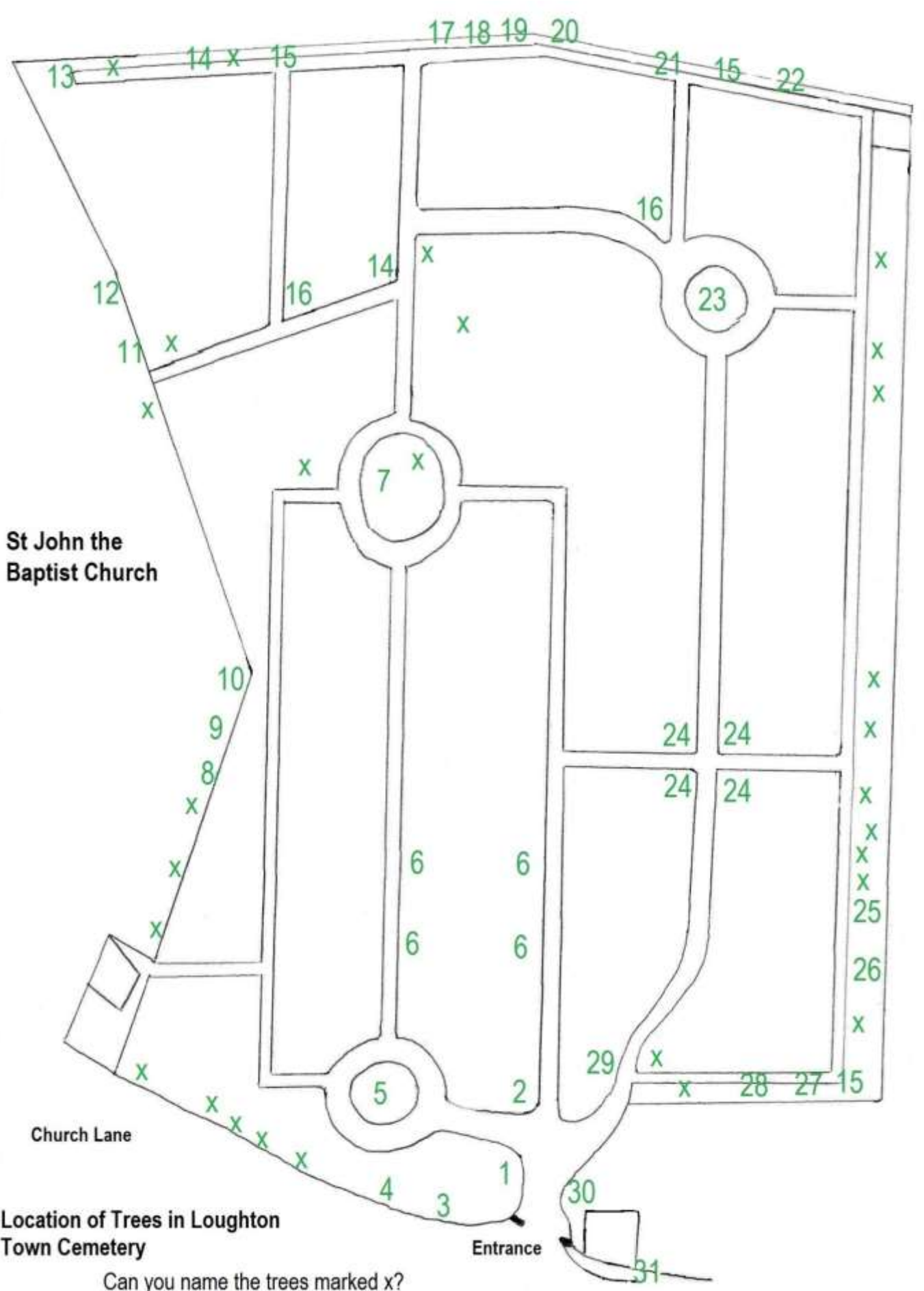
As different evergreen trees were introduced into Britain from other parts of the world, the Victorian garden designers had a greater choice of species including Deodars, Cedars, Cypresses, Pines and Evergreen Oaks and these were often included in planting schemes for cemeteries. Representative of all of these grow in the Cemetery.

In the past 120 years new trees have been planted, especially after the Cemetery expanded. At the present time the list includes species native to the British Isles as well as others from Europe, Asia and North America. Deodars are native to the Himalayas, Red Oaks grow in North America, Golden Rain Trees come from India and the Tree of Heaven originates in Northern China.

The trees within the Cemetery are a mixture of needle leaved or coniferous trees and broad leaved deciduous trees. The conifers have narrow needle like leaves which remain on the tree for two or more years. They produce large quantities of wind-blown pollen which is shed from cones and their seeds develop within hard cones which open up to release the seeds when ripe.

Broadleaved trees usually shed their leaves each autumn, and some have been selected for their autumn colour. Others have attractive flowers in the spring.

Starting at the entrance, this trail lists 31 different species with their locations marked on the map. The numbering follows a clockwise route round the surfaced paths within the Cemetery, but there may be more than one more specimen of each species!



**St John the Baptist Church**

Church Lane

**Location of Trees in Loughton Town Cemetery**

Entrance

Can you name the trees marked x?

1. **Tree of Heaven *Ailanthus altissima*** green large pinnate leaves with pink midribs
2. **Mountain Ash *Sorbus aucuparia*** a small tree with red berries and pinnate leaves
3. **Deodar *Cedrus deodara*** whorls of needle like leaves and tips of branches hang down
4. **Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*** trunk covered with grey and ginger coloured bark
5. **Lawsons Cypress *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*** tiny cones forming on end of branches
6. **Flowering Plum *Prunus species*** these 4 are more spectacular when in flower
7. **Yew *Taxus baccata*** evergreen, poisonous tree, often grown in churchyards
8. **Holly *Ilex aquifolium*** spiny green leaves, red berries – makes a good prickly hedge
9. **Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*** palmate leaves and lots of winged seeds
10. **Common Lime *Tilia x europaea*** many shoots from base of trunk – heart shaped leaves
11. **Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*** makes a useful firewood or can be used for broom handles
12. **Common Oak *Quercus robur*** a small group of oaks with lobed leaves which many caterpillars like to eat!
13. **Pissard Plum *Prunus cerasifera* var *Nigra*** purple leaves and pink flowers in spring  
There are a number of this species, can you locate the others?
14. **Red Oak *Quercus rubra*** quick growing tree with large leaves that turn red in autumn
15. **Purple Maple *Acer platanoides* var 'Crimson king'** has deep purple leaves
16. **Golden Rain Tree *Koelreuteria paniculata*** yellow flowers and pink fruits
17. **Wild Plum *Prunus ceasifera*** sour red fruits in autumn, white flowers in early spring
18. **Plum *Prunus domestica*** purple fruited tree
19. **Laburnum *Laburnum anagyroides*** yellow flowers in spring, but seeds poisonous
20. **Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*** makes an excellent evergreen hedge
21. **Cornelian Cherry *Cornus mas*** yellow flowers in spring, red fruits, colourful leaves
22. **Holm or Evergreen Oak *Quercus ilex*** glossy green leaves and a dark grey bark
23. **Common Oak *Quercus robur*** veteran pollard which stood in hedge, 300 years old
24. **Blue Cedar *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca'** 4 majestic trees with significant visual impact
25. **Silver Birch *Belula pendula*** surviving one of a group planted in late 1960's
26. **Beech *Fagus sylvatica*** one of several planted in late 1960's
27. **Italian Cypress *Cupressus sempervirens*** tiny scale leaves and lumpy persistent cones
28. **Norway Maple *Acer plantanoides*** - a fast growing tree, fruits with spread wings
29. **Himalayan Tree-cotoneaster *Cotoneaster frigidus*** small red berries
30. **Flowering Cherry *Prunus serrulata* Kanzan** pink flowers, autumn leaves crimson
31. **Black Pine *Pinus nigra*** - dark grey bark with longer needle-like leaves

The perimeter hedge between the cemetery and the adjacent churchyard contains a number of shrubby species including Blackthorn, Elderberry and Hawthorn.

Dotted about the cemetery are a number of small fastigate (flame shaped) conifers of varying shades of green. These include *Chamaecyparis obtuse* Nana Gracilis – a small bright green bush with upright foliage and *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* Stardust which is a bright golden yellow columnar form introduced from Holland in the 1960's.

Tree Trail produced by Tricia Moxey with thanks to Paul Hoy, Chris Pond, Richard Morris, Enid Walsh and Alex Wilson.

The post card is reproduced by kind permission of the Loughton and District Historical Society.

For further information:

Pond, Chris. (2010). The Buildings of Loughton and notable people of the town. Loughton and District Historical Society

Philips, Roger, (1978) *Trees in Britain, Europe and North America*. Pan.

Johnson, Owen and More, David. (2004) *Collins Tree Guide*. Collins

The Loughton Tree Strategy is available from the Loughton Historical Society or online.

For information about non-native trees [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)

See also 50 favourite trees of the District [www.favouritetrees.org](http://www.favouritetrees.org).