

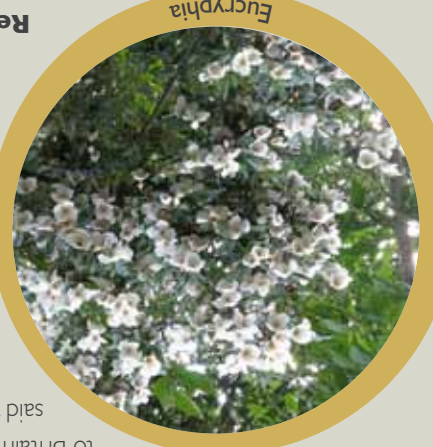
GLIFFAES TREE WALK

A walk around the grounds of the hotel will give you glimpses into the history of over 600 years of habitation, the maturation of a Victorian statement of grandeur and the passion of a family's love of trees and travel. It is a tale gloriously told out by the landscape you will walk through and the trees you will meet along the way.

From the front door of the hotel, turn east to the main lawn. Our tree walk starts with the **Eucryphia 'Nymansoy'** (*Eucryphia x nymansoensis*) (1), there are a number of these in the grounds all of which give a striking floral display in late summer. Just beyond the south side of the lawn, you can see a **European Larch** (*Larix decidua*) (2) at the top of the bank, overlooking the valley. Although it is not native to this country, it is often seen as forestry planting. It is though striking in its own right, particularly in autumn colour before it sheds its needles. The **Japanese Maple** (3) on the lawn, is over a hundred years old, and has always been known to Susie as **Acer palmatum var. songhinum heptalobum** and changes in nomenclature have moved this tree in the Acer palmatum atropurpureum group and is categorised as **Acer palmatum var. dissectum** 'Dissectum atropurpureum' these days.



Eucryphia



Following the drive you pass a **European Silver Fir** (*Abies alba*) (7), before entering an area where a number of younger specimen trees were planted around the time that James and Susie began to run the hotel in 1998. You first encounter a **Handkerchief Tree** (*Davidia involucrata*) (8) which gives like a myriad of waving handkerchiefs – hence the name. Behind this tree you will find a **Lime tree** (*Tilia maximowicziana*) (9) planted to mark James and Susie's arrival at Gliffaes. There is also a **Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) (10) and on the edge of the bank a **Tree** (*Pawlonia tomentosa*) (11) find a mature **Austrian Pine** (*Pinus nigra* sp.) (12) that are tucked away amongst the younger planting. At this point you can continue along the main drive or descend the Fisherman's Steps to the river. Either way, keep a look out for one of our **ancient veteran Oaks** (*Quercus robur*) (12) that are tucked away amongst the younger planting.

On the north side of the lawn is a group of three **Sweet Chestnuts** (*Castanea sativa*) (4). These aged and stag-headed trees were originally introduced to this country by the Romans, who carried them with them as they expanded the Empire, planting them for their fruit and timber. Behind this group, is a **Western Red Cedar** (*Thuja plicata*) (5), introduced to this country from the Pacific Northwest. Native Americans used it for canoes, totem poles and even to make rope, while the settlers used it in construction as shingles. The adjacent **Atlas Cedar** (*Cedrus atlantica*) (6) is native to the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. The first tree of its type was introduced to Britain in 1845, planted in Herefordshire by Lord Somers and is still said to be going strong.

Another North American tree, the **Western Hemlock** (*Tsuga heterophylla*) (32) is to be found at the front of the tennis court plantation. It is a relatively young tree, but will mature to be a prominent specimen.

Following the path around and into the west lawn arboretum, you will find a rather characterful **Chinese Red Cedar** () (33). Before taking in the trees of the wets lawn, follow the garden wall to the **Chinese Stewartia** (*Stewartia sinensis*) (34), which although smaller in stature has beautiful bark and delightful flowers. In the area below this, there are many specimen trees, including a **Judas Tree** (*Cercis chinensis*), the **Blue Atlas Cedar** (*Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca*), a **Nikko Maple** (*Acer maximioizianum*), a **Sweet Gum** (*Liquidamber styraciflua*) and a strikingly large **Chamaecyparis lawsoniana** 'Erecta' (35).

If you cross the track and walk cross the lawn towards the terrace, you will see another **Cedar of Lebanon** (*Cedrus libani*) (36). You can continue onto the terrace and enter the hotel via the conservatory, or extend your walk by follow the path down through the pine grove and along the lower boundary to the amazing and ancient 'dinosaur' **Beech** (38).

If you return to the hotel via the conservatory, and you will find the final jewel of this walk, a **Kurrajong Tree** (*Brachychiton populaneus*) (37). Growing out of an impossibly small pot, this tree was gifted to Susie's parents when it grew too large for his greenhouse, and is now touching the conservatory roof.

The tree walk and tree collection are very much a work in progress, James and Susie have taken over the baton of caring for and enhancing the trees, with a very firm view of handing it on to future generations.



Cedar of Lebanon



Handkerchief Tree

These trees are many hundreds of years old, and are remnants of a woodland pasture that would have been the land use associated with the original settlement and farmhouse on this site. These ancient trees would have been managed as pollards, providing the land owner with a variety of products from fodder for his cattle to the building beams for his home. Their management as pollards has lapsed now, but their age and size have allowed them to become home to a wide number of invertebrates, some of which will have specialist habitats on different types of dead wood or bark at specific heights within the tree's canopy. As well as their age, these trees provide a significant resource to the biodiversity here at Gliffaes. Towards the end of the drive, is a group that contains a **Giant Redwood** (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) (13) and two impressive **Coastal Redwoods** (*Sequoia sempervirens*) (14) in its native Sierra Nevada, the Giant Redwood is the world's most massive tree in terms of volume. While the Coastal Redwood grows to be the world's tallest tree, introduced to the British Isles in 1843, the trees at Gliffaes are reputed to have been planted in 1885. They are spectacular trees and provide a hint of a rivalry between local land owners. If you look out of the entrance gates to Gliffaes you will see a line of Giant Redwoods growing along the road, all the way up to the 'front door'. In the Victorian era, planting and showing off the latest trees to arrive from the 'new world' was a source of one upmanship and a way of displaying one's wealth and fashionable status. Many of the houses along the Lisk valley have excellent specimen trees from this time and it would appear no coincidence that the Glauks and Gliffaes show theirs off side by side.

Although the **Japanese Maple** (*Acer palmatum*) (15) by the lodge is introduced to this country in 1820, there are now many cultivars of the Japanese Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

In 1971, Alan Mitchell measured the height of the Coastal Redwoods at 102' (42.97m) with a girth of 7.36m. (31.09m) with a girth of 19' 5" (5.5m), in 1984 he recorded them at 141' (42.97m) high and 20' 10" (6.35m) girth. Today, they stand at 157' 6" (48m) with a girth of 7.36m.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.



Paper Bark Maple

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

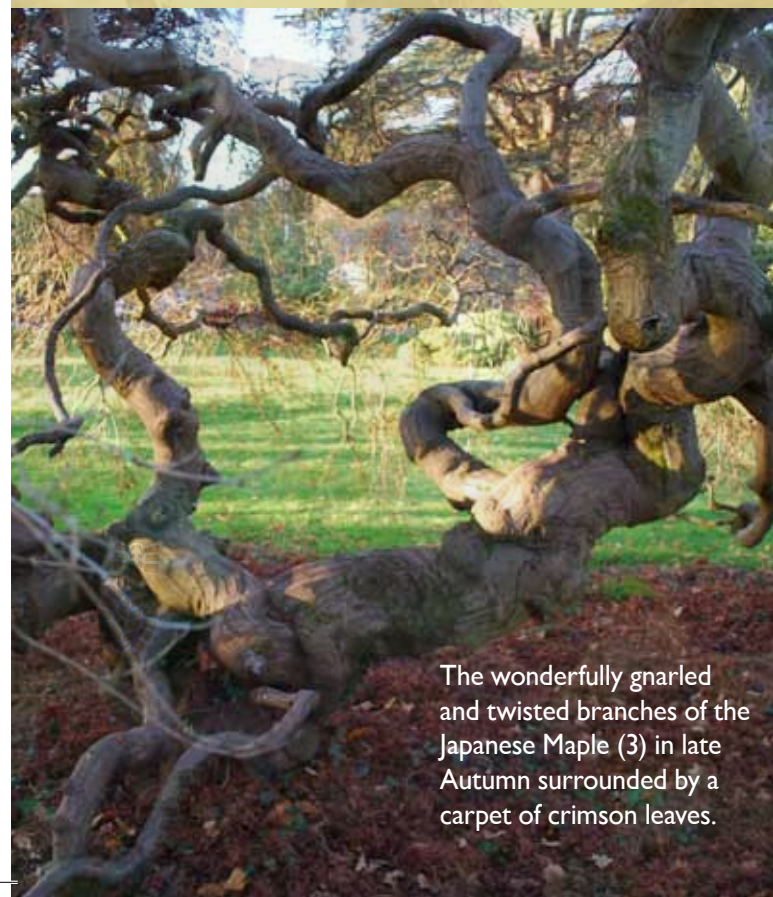
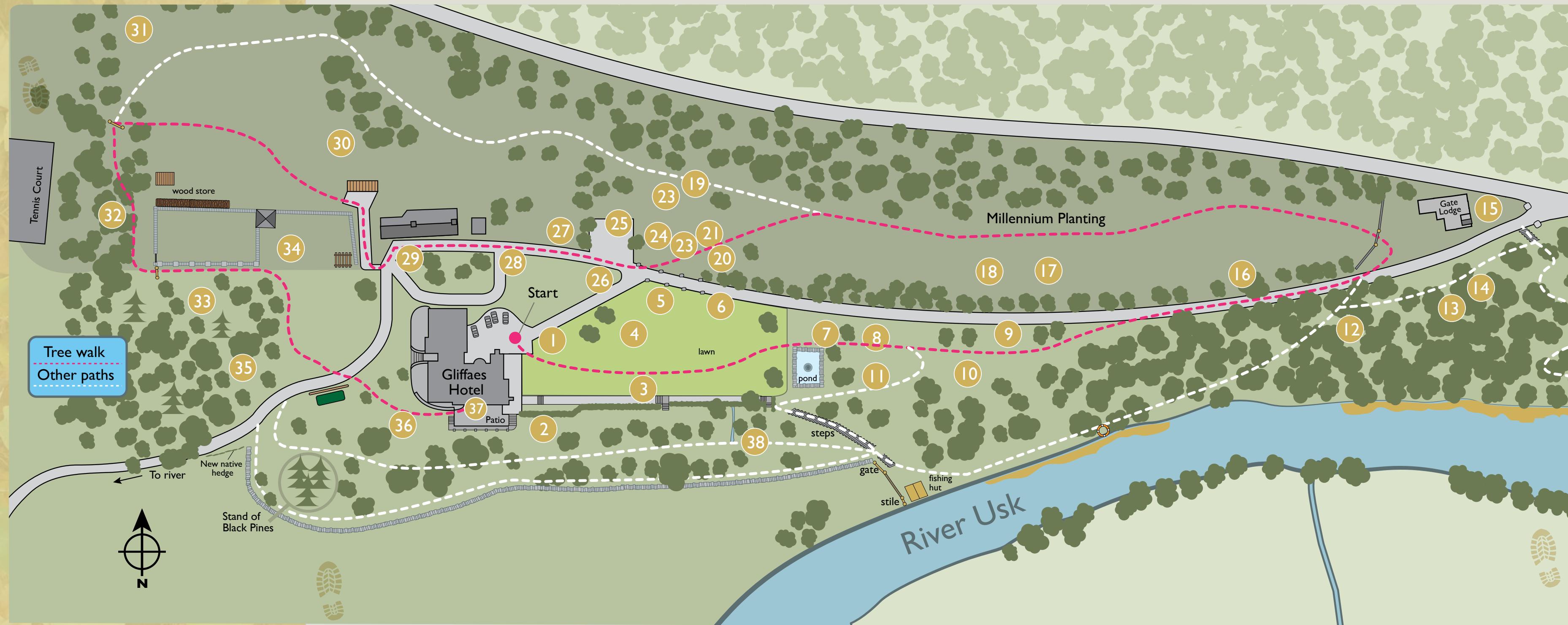
Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

Maple and you will find a variety of them around the gardens at Gliffaes.

The treescape at Gliffaes is the result of many generations of planting by tree enthusiasts, it is listed as a Notable Tree Collection in The Tree Register and was visited, on more than one occasion, by the renowned dendrologist Alan Mitchell, who measured many of the trees. More than that, however, it reflects the history of this corner of Wales, the evolution of the landscape and hints at local rivalries.

GLIFFAES TREE WALK

Welcome to our gardens. The grounds at Gliffaes have benefited from the foresight and passion of its owners, over the decades collecting and planting interesting trees from around the world to enhance the native species already here. Use this map to follow the suggested route to discover nearly 40 or so tree highlights in our beautiful garden on the banks of the Usk.



The wonderfully gnarled and twisted branches of the Japanese Maple (3) in late Autumn surrounded by a carpet of crimson leaves.

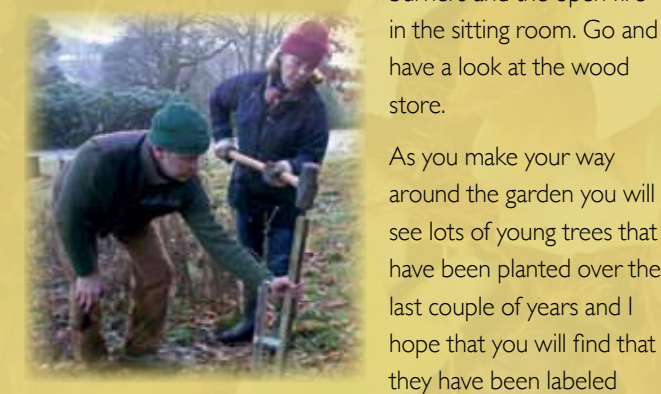


37 Ancient Beech
Can you see the dinosaur?



Recent Work and Planting

Over the past few years we have been working with an arboriculturalist to enhance the tree scape and develop an on-going planting scheme. A lot of this work has taken place on the steep bank to the south of the hotel. We have cleared a lot of squirrel damaged and stunted Sycamore along with many Cherry trees that had passed their best, in addition we coppiced Hazel and Chestnut stools. Tree surgeons went up to lift the canopy and bring down hung up branches. We think the results are spectacular, with views down to the river from the terrace and all along the top of the bank enhanced. In addition we have planted an understory of Holly, Hazel, Spindle, Midland Thorn, Crab Apple, Guelder Rose and Hawthorn. I am hoping that the early blossom of the Hawthorn will really stand out in Spring when seen from the river bank looking back up at the hotel. This has given us plenty of firewood for the hotel's wood



burners and the open fire in the sitting room. Go and have a look at the wood store.

As you make your way around the garden you will see lots of young trees that have been planted over the last couple of years and I hope that you will find that they have been labeled

Guided Tree Walks & Lunch on the Terrace

Nothing whets the appetite quite like a walk in the fresh air. We have lung fulls of fresh air and magnificent grounds plus we have the chefs who can prepare a special lunch so we have put them together.

During the summer of 2014 we will be hosting a number of guided tree walks around the Gliffaes grounds with a particular emphasis on the trees and the work we are undertaking to enhance the landscape. This will be followed by a lunch prepared outside over hot coals on the grill. We will be celebrating the best of local Welsh meat along with organic crunchy fresh salads from Primrose Farm near Hay. Puddings and Welsh cheeses will round the lunch off. The idea is for long, lazy Sunday lunch out on the terrace enjoying the best of local food, beer and wine in good company.

At present we have four such events scheduled over four Sundays in 2014. Places are limited and booking is required.

May 4th, June 15th, July 13th & August 24th. Walk begins at 11am. Call us to find out more and book your place.



Morning Coffee, Lunch and Afternoon Tea

Gliffaes is open every day (we are closed during January) to non-residents. Feel free to come along, have a walk and then enjoy lunch or afternoon tea. Lunch from 12 – 2.30pm and tea from 4 – 5.30pm, no booking required.

Gliffaes Hotel, Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1RH
01874 730 371
www.gliffaeshotel.com
calls@gliffaeshotel.com

