

### Handkerchief, Dove or Ghost Tree

Highfield Park Tree Trail: Number 29

Latin/Botanical Name: *Davidia involunrata*

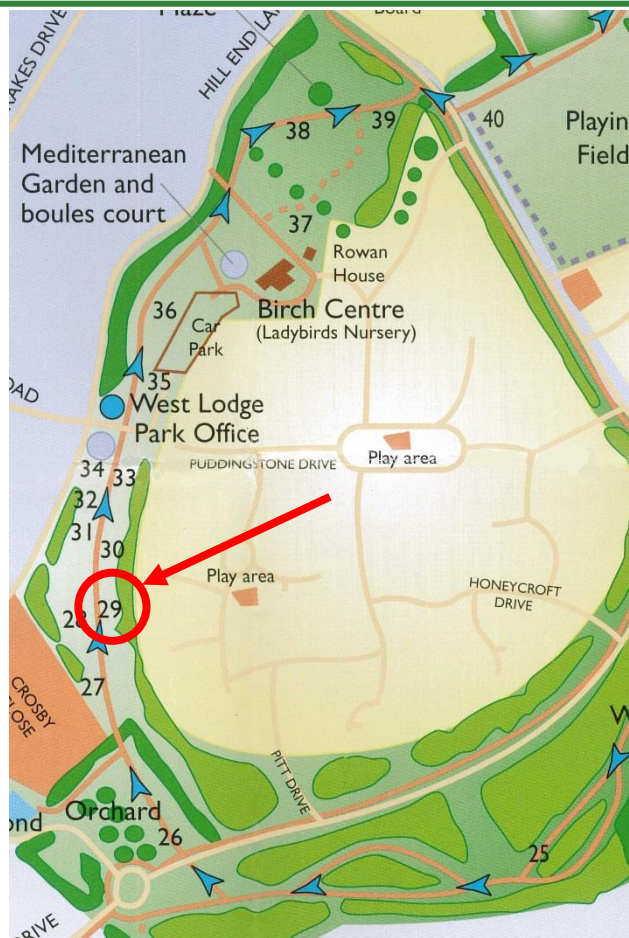
Range: Native to China but widely planted in Europe and USA.

Height: to 20m

Uses: Ornamental

Description: Deciduous, it has greyish-brown flaking and fissured bark. The heart shaped leaves have pointed teeth. The flowers form a tight cluster about 1–2 cm across, reddish in colour, each flower has a pair of large asymmetrical pure white bracts at the base performing the function of petals. The flowers are at their best in late May. On a breezy day, the bracts flutter in the wind like white doves or pinched handkerchiefs, hence the English names for this tree. The fruit is a hard nut about 3cm long.

Interesting fact: When the plant collector Ernest Wilson collected specimens to bring to England, his boat was wrecked, but he managed to save his *Davidia* specimens.



To join our **Tree Sponsorship** scheme and sponsor one of our trees on the Tree Trail, please contact the Trust.

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