

## Silver Birch

Highfield Park Tree Trail: Number 8

Latin/Botanical Name: *Betula pendula*

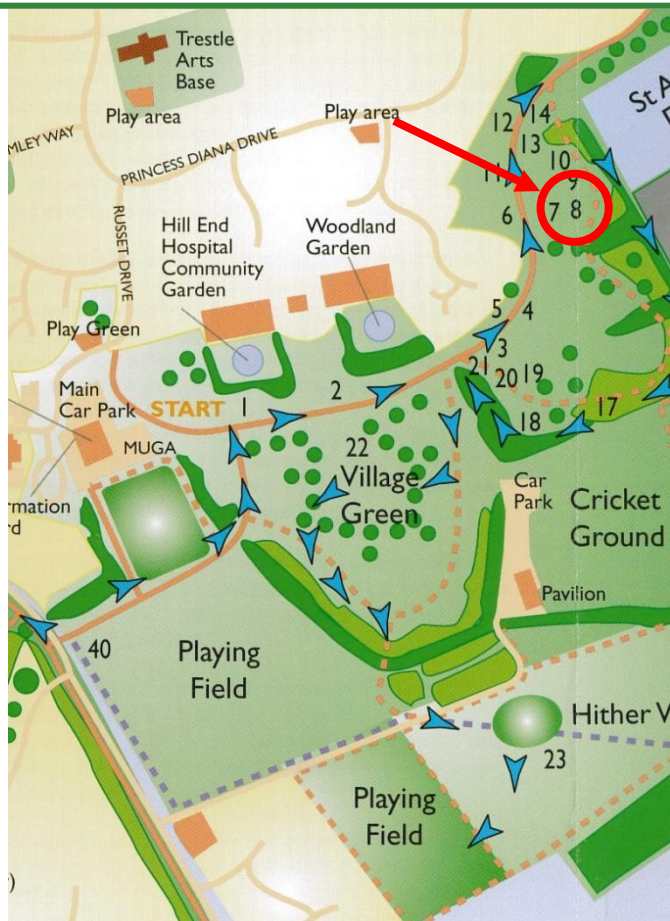
Range: Britain and Northern Europe

Height: up to 30m

Uses: Making furniture, handles and toys, also bobbins, spools and reels for the Lancashire cotton industry, the bark is used for tanning leather and the twigs for besom brooms.

Description: The bark is smooth and silvery but becomes dark and fissured at the base. Branches become pendulous and the leaves are triangular with uneven teeth. It has long yellow male catkins with female catkins in the leaf axils.

Interesting fact: It is easily confused with Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and the two easily hybridise. New shoots on the silver birch are hairless and warty whereas those of downy are smooth and covered in soft hairs.



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

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