



# Peace Memorial Park Special Features



Peace Memorial Park is Wigston's War Memorial. Following public subscription after the Great War, the Park was founded in 1921 and since that time has changed and evolved, eventually becoming the welcoming and peaceful green space we have today, much loved and used by the local community. A success reflected in the achievement of Green Flag status since 2007

Within the Park, there are many special features and points of interest which are described and pictured below. These have mostly been introduced since the major upgrade of Peace Memorial Park which took place from 1998 to 2003, following a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund:



## The Main Entrance Gates

Whereas the original style of park railings was retained in the upgrade, the gates were a new design. They are decorated with stylised birds on the gateposts, and banding across the gates showing the name of the park along with stylised barbed wire, poppies and doves.

## The Carpet Badge Bed

A longstanding feature of the Park, the Carpet Badge Bed was fully restored during the renovations and annually is planted to celebrate local groups and organisations. Depicted here is the logo of "Pride of the Borough" who lead the Borough's entry in the East Midlands in Bloom competition. The bed is laid out with small hardy annuals and succulents.



## The Oak Sculpture

Affectionately referred to as "the Totem Pole", this solid oak sculpture was the result of collaboration between a local youth club and a wood sculptor from Rutland. The youngsters were given the history of the Park and its association with the Great War and asked to come up with a design. The result is this superb work of art which starts off at its base with twisted barbed wire, the word "Peace", and poppies before finally evolving into flying doves. It is situated on the left just inside the main entrance.

### **The Sensory/Memorial Garden**

This quiet corner of the Park contains raised beds with scented and tactile plants, along with a small rill with five bubbling fountains. The main purpose of this garden is to enhance the enjoyment of the Park for those with sight problems. There are metal plaques on the wooden surround describing the plants therein, in written English as well as Braille. There are also several memorial benches within this area.



### **The Memorial Wall**

Probably the most significant feature within the whole Park, this wall is cherished by the whole community and is the focal point of the annual Service of Remembrance in Wigston each November. The plaques record the names of the fallen in the two world wars, but sadly there have been, and still are, conflicts since then and there is currently (2010) another plaque being prepared in order that this poignant but important Roll of Honour continues.



### **The Curved Bench**

Outside the north-west corner of the Bowling Green is the Curved Bench. Each of its five back supports records a different era in history of the area which contains the Park, from prehistoric to the present day.

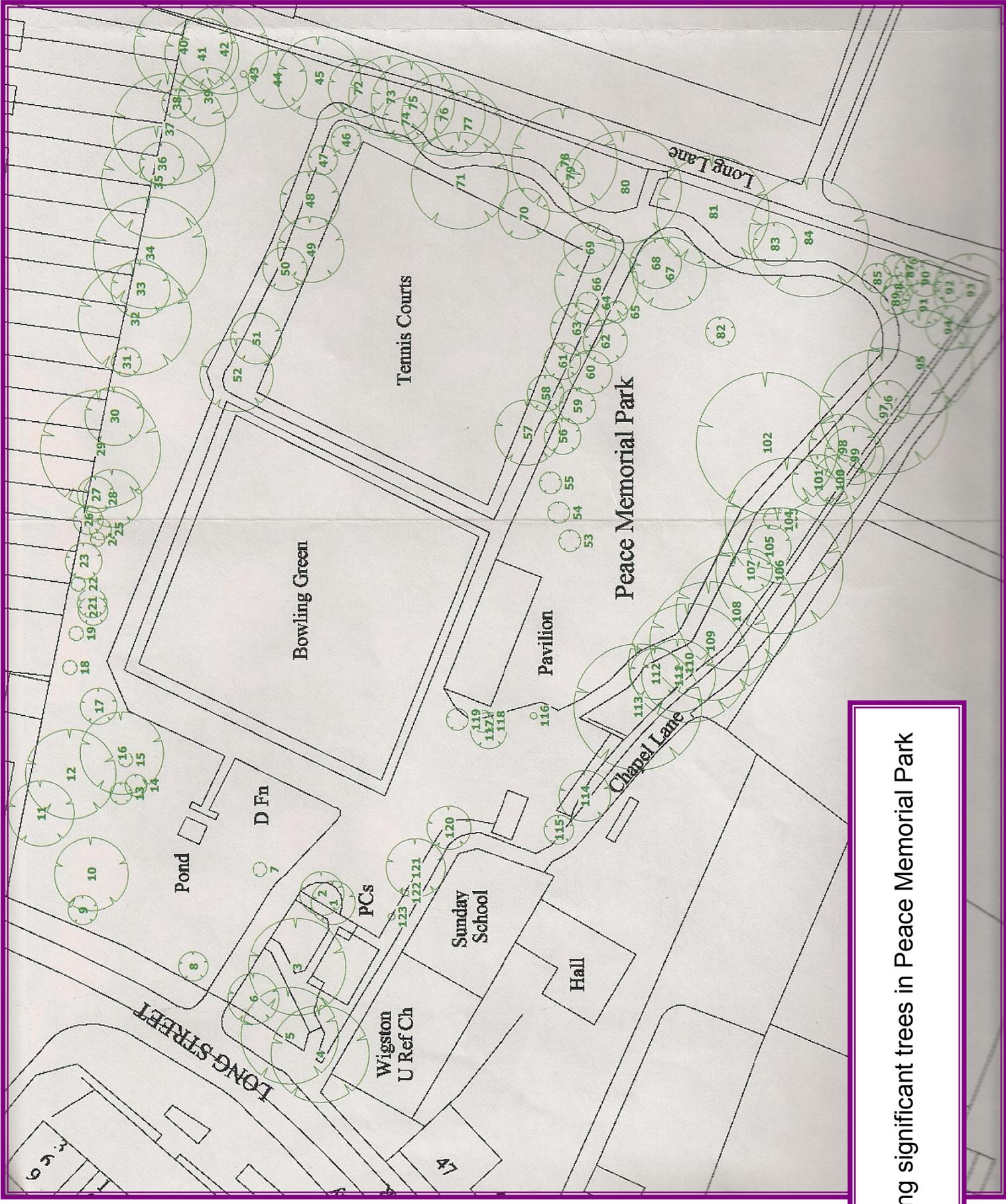


This leaflet supplements the History of Peace Memorial Park booklet created at the time of the upgrade.

There are in excess of 120 significant trees in the park, approximately a third of them are labelled giving the common and botanical name.

The labelled trees are listed below and the plan showing there positions printed over.

<b>Ref No.</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>
1	Common Yew	Taxus baccata
4, 12	Norway Maple	Acer platanoides
3, 5, 45, 113	Common Lime	Tilia europaea
6	Purple-leaved Plum	Prunus cerasifera
7	Variegated sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus
8	Black Walnut	Juglans regia
10	Silver Birch	Betula pendula
16, 106	Common Ash	Fraxinus excelsior
17	Cut-leaved birch	Betula pendula Dalecarlica
18	Small leaved Lime	Tilia cordata
23	Box Elder	Acer Negundo
25	Black Bullace	Prunus lusitanica
29, 32	Austrian Pine	Pinus nigra spp nigra
38	Wild Cherry	Prunus avium
39	Golden Bullace	Prunus domestica insititia
40, 108	Common Beech	Fagus sylvatica
41	Red Oak	Quercus rubra
42	Corsican Pine	Pinis nigra spp Laricio
44, 74	Common Holly	Ilex aquifolium
52	Lawson cypress	Chamaecyparis lawsonia
60	Cherry spp	
73	Hornbeam	Carpinus betulus
93	Hazel	Corylus avellana
95	Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus
97	Copper Beech	Fagus sylvatica cuprea
100	Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus
102	Turkey Oak	Quercus cerris
111	Horse Chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum
112	Holly	Ilex aquifolium
116	Crab apple	Malus John Downie
120	Silver maple	Acer saccharinum
121	Flowering cherry	Prunus x hillieri Spire
122	Bastard Service	Sorbus x thuringiaca



Plan showing significant trees in Peace Memorial Park