

Wellingtonia scientific name Sequoiadendron giganteum

This gigantic tree was discovered growing in California in 1852. Seeds and cuttings were brought to the UK by William Lobb in Autumn 1853 and the tree was named Wellingtonia in honour of the recently deceased Duke of Wellington.

These trees are capable of growing to a great height and the tallest Wellingtonia in the world is 95metres (or 311ft). They can also grow very quickly with one young tree recorded as growing to a height of 22metres (or 72ft) in just 17 years.

These trees were very fashionable and popular with wealthy Victorians and many impressive examples exist today. At Conygham Hall we have three excellent specimens, probably planted in the late 1880's by the then owner of Conygham Hall, Basil Woodd.

Basil Woodd was the MP for Knaresborough from 1852 until 1874 and died in 1901.

Information provided by the National Trust, Wikipedia and Harrogate Borough Council.