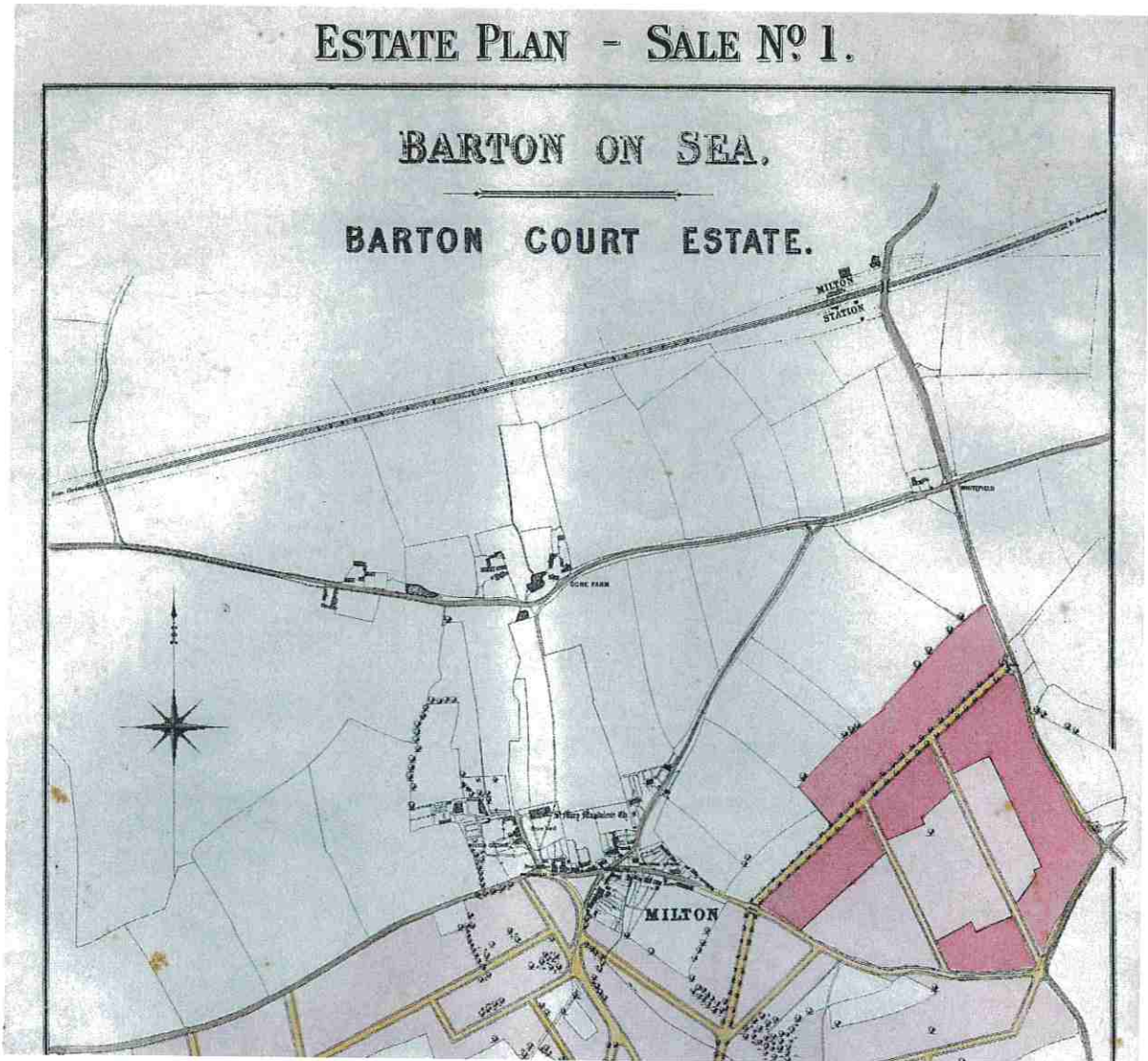


Living Legends. Trees of Heritage Importance

Barton Court Avenue and Barton Court Road were created in about 1894 and were clearly visible on the map of the first sale of the Barton Court Estate in that year and in the 1898 Ordnance Survey Map.

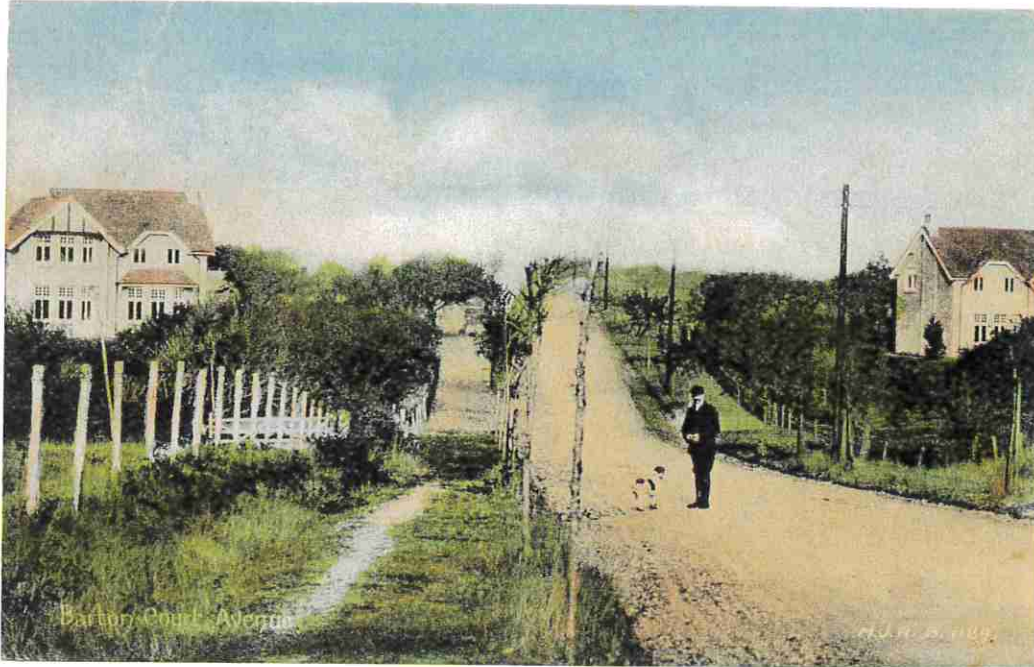
Travelling from Station Road to the cliff tops you cannot fail to notice that the long, straight road and avenue are bordered by some fine trees. The view, in spring and summer is especially lovely.



1894 sale of Barton Court Estate map

The planting of the trees is linked to the Reverend John Edward Kellsall who was the rector at Milton Parish from 1897 to 1924. He was a truly good man who did much to enhance the town and help the local inhabitants.

The Reverend Kellsall started planting the trees along both the road and avenue to enhance the views towards the cliff tops. He appears to have done this at his own expense. He encouraged other residents to fill in gaps and add to the existing specimens. This probably began just before the First World War. We now know that some of the trees were planted in Barton Court Road by wartime visitors to Milton Parish.



Barton Court Avenue postmark 28th Dec 1916 showing saplings planted.

In a post-war edition of the Milton parish magazine, Reverend Kellsall wrote that “The ash tree near **Bykanor House** was planted by a Belgian refugee during the Great War [...] and three sycamores near the top of the Avenue were planted by Indian soldiers during the same period”. Study of the Ordnance Survey maps of the period combined with a 1934 directory listing house names shows that Bykanor House is halfway along Barton Court Road. There is a pollarded ash tree outside the house today. Pollarding is method of pruning trees to deliberately keep them to a smaller size and reduce the size and weight of the crown of the tree. This also helps to prolong the life of the tree.



1931 OS map of Barton Court Road. Bykanor House highlighted.

BARTON COURT ROAD—
(Left from Station Road)

Eldoret,	Lee, W. D.
Little Hayes,	Lewis, Z.
Carlton House,	Kerley, H.
New Lea,	Jones, R. L.
Evedean,	Lanyon, E. C.
Gippeswyck,	Wright, R. G.
Marion,	Lloyd, G. N.
Snuggery,	Sturgess, H. V.
The Brown Cottage,	Furneaux, E.
Abbotslea,	Sewell, W. G.
Bykanor,	Brawley, W. T.
St. Christopher's (School),	Quinion, G.
White Barn,	Gilbert, W. H.
Dunnator,	Recano, J.
The Moorings,	Hodges, Miss
St. Margaret's,	Bailes, I. M., and
Bredon,	Horne, E. M.
Red Roses,	Nelson, J. W.
Electric Light Co.	Nobbs, E. J.
	—

Barton Court Road directory 1934 showing house names.

In the parish magazine of December 1915 Reverend Kelsall wrote that "some more memorial trees now stand alongside the Belgian tree in the "Avenue des Nations", planted by the representatives of four Indian

nations, namely Jamadar [Lieutenant] Sita Ram (Marhatta) Niak [Corporal] Gobar Singh (Garwali), Niak Makand Singh (Sikh) and Sepoy [Private] Fateh Noor (Muslman). Two European nations and the English army were represented at the planting ceremony, and a few words were said in three languages of India". The soldiers were patients at the Indian Army Convalescent Depot at Barton on sea. The Depot was run for Indian soldiers from 1914 to 1916 and then British and commonwealth troops until 1918.

In a post war parish magazine note Reverend Kelsall once again appealed to local residents to fill in the gaps along the tree line. He wrote "If the Avenue (for it is really all one avenue) were bordered with fine, well grown and healthy trees, it would be an even more striking feature of the place than it is now".

From the notes in the parish magazine, we can see that the Reverend Kelsall referred to both Barton Court Road and Avenue as 'all one avenue'. He also called it the "Avenue des Nations". Confusingly in one note he wrote that the trees the four named Indian soldiers had planted, 'stood alongside' the Belgian tree. This would put them somewhere near the centre of Barton Court Road. His post-war parish note states that three sycamores were planted 'near the top end of the avenue'. Is that Barton Court Avenue? Does the top end mean near the Indian Convalescent Depot memorial? If we take note of the Reverend's comment describing Barton Court Avenue and Road as 'really all one avenue' would the 'top end' be located in Barton Court Road near to the Station Road end? If the Reverend had named four Indian soldiers in the planting ceremony why were there only three trees mentioned post war?



Sycamore buds.