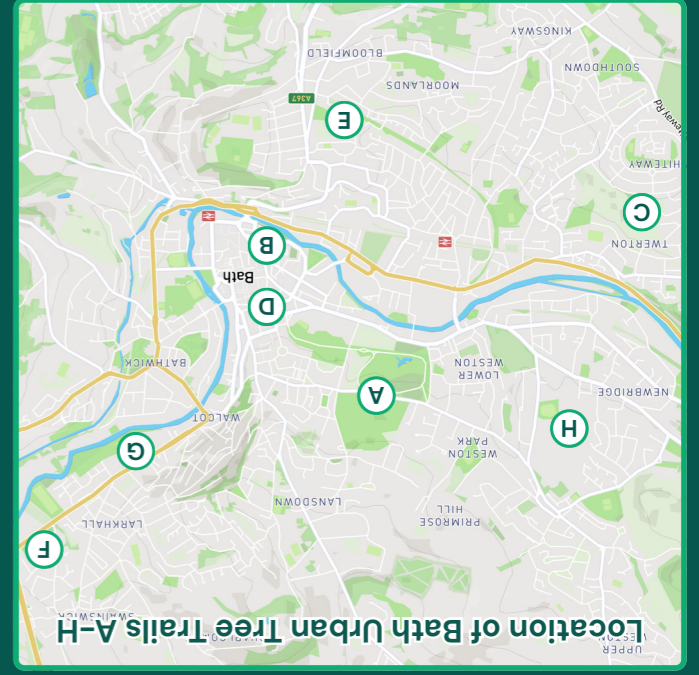


**Start / Finish (W3W):** The Bear, Wellsway (note.begin.text)  
**Distance:** 3 miles  
**Accessibility:** Mix of pavement and parkland. Short grassy climb out of Moorlands Park. Narrow kissing gate at Greenway Lane. No steps or stiles. There is a steep uphill from Bear Flat towards Alexandra Park (if going clockwise)  
**Bus:** Bus stops – Bear Flat Stop (bthjgtg) towards city centre, Stop (bthjgwa) from city centre  
**Parking:** The area is within resident permit parking zone, the best parking is Odd Down Park & Ride and take the bus to Bear Flat. There is some parking in Alexandra Park (please check closing time)  
**Public Toilets:** Alexandra Park (2Op), cafés/bars on Bear Flat  
**Refreshments:** Bear Flat and Wellsway has shops, cafés and bars  
**Rest Points:** Alexandra Park, Moorlands Park, Bloomfield Green  
**Features:** Play areas at Alexandra Park, Moorlands Park and Bloomfield Green. Beechen Cliff Viewpoint.

This trail is based on a route recommended by the late Rob Randall, Bath Naturalist.



# BATH URBAN TREESCAPE

## Tree Trail E: Rob's Route

Bath is a UNESCO World Heritage City with six attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, including the green setting of the city. There are many significant trees—in the parks and in the streets—which contribute indirectly to the World Heritage status and the wellbeing of the community.

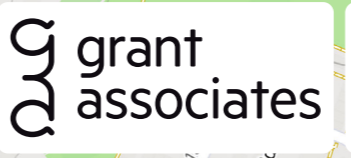
Here is one of our Urban Treescape trails in digital and map form, where we share a selection of trees on the south side of the city. We invite you to follow our trail and enjoy the shapes and colours of each tree—their flowers, fruits, seeds, leaves and bark—and learn something about each one, while seeing the city from a different perspective.

A digital map is available at:  
[bathurbantreescape.com](http://bathurbantreescape.com)



50m 150m

Map provided by Mapbox & OpenStreetMap



Thank you to all of those who have produced this tree trail:  
 Lucy Bartlett, Fiona Bell, Antonia Johnson, Joseph Lavington, Helen Schofield, Hugh Williamson with support from:  
 Bathscape Landscape Partnership, the World Heritage Advisory Group, Grant Associates, Street Nameplate Co, Rob Randall, Bath Natural History Society, Bath BID, St John's Foundation, the APEX City of Bath Hotel, B&NES Parks & Greenspaces, B&NES Public Health.  
 Map and website designed by Joseph Lavington.

**1 NORWAY MAPLE, SYCAMORE**  
*Acer platanoides, Acer pseudoplatanus*  
Bloomfield Green



Two different trees, of similar size, either side of the path. They are sometimes confused, since their leaves are a similar size and shape. The leaves of the Norway maple (on the right as you walk down the slope) have sharper tips to the 'lobes'. The sycamore has light brown, scaly bark.

**2 HORSE CHESTNUT**  
*Aesculus hippocastanum*  
Row of trees crossing path between Bloomfield Green and Maple Grove



Spiky cases, gleaming seeds, celebrated by children, horse chestnuts, with their mahogany-bright conkers, are the very essence of autumn. Horse chestnut bark is smooth and pinky-grey when young. It darkens and develops scaly plates with age. Twigs are hairless and stout; buds are oval, dark red, shiny and sticky.

**3 COMMON ASH, ELDER**  
*Fraxinus excelsior, Sambucus nigra*  
Between Maple Grove and Chantry Mead Rd



Stump of a large ash tree felled in 2016. It will take decades to rot away, during which time it will provide food and shelter

for birds, insects and other invertebrates. Elder trees have self-seeded around it, providing additional shelter and food for wildlife.

**4 HONEY LOCUST**  
*Gleditsia triacanthus*  
Chantry Mead Road



A pair of trees. It originates in the Eastern US where it can be thought a weed. The leaves appear late, typically in mid-May, followed by seed pods in late summer. Pulp from the seeds tastes sweet and gives the tree its common name. Wild trees have fearsome triple spines on the trunk and branches ('triacanthus' is Latin for three-spined) but these are the 'Inermis' cultivar, meaning unarmed or defenceless.

**5 MONKEY PUZZLE**  
*Araucaria araucana*  
Moorfields Road



The thick, triangular and scaly leaves are visual reminders that it once shared the Earth with dinosaurs—its long, thin, spiky branches were a natural defense against their grazing. Chile's national tree was a major part of the lives of indigenous people. The Chilean word for the tree is pehuen. One tribe's lives were so closely tied to the tree that they were called the Pehuenche. It is said that speaking while passing a monkey puzzle tree will bring bad luck or cause you to grow a monkey's tail!

**6 NARROW-LEAVED ASH**  
*Fraxinus angustifolia*  
Moorfields Road



Often planted as a street tree for its attractive foliage, which ripples like water in the lightest breeze. The leaves of some varieties are flushed reddish when young. It appears to be less susceptible to ash dieback, a fungus which came from Asia; this doesn't cause much damage on its native hosts (the Manchurian ash & Chinese ash), but it has devastated the European ash because they did not evolve with the fungus and have no natural defence against it.

**7 HORNBEAM**  
*Carpinus betulus*  
Moorlands Park



A very fine specimen of this native British tree. The smooth grey bark is rather like beech, but the leaves are narrower, with toothed edges and more prominent veins. The hard-wearing wood has been used for piano parts, parquet flooring and gear-wheel teeth.

**8 CAUCASIAN OAK**  
*Quercus macranthera*  
Moorlands Park



This oak species (one of 400+ worldwide) is native to the montane forests of the Caucasus, and prefers dry growing conditions. Note the large leaves, downy shoots, and hairy buds.

**9 GIANT SEQUOIA**  
*Sequoiadendron giganteum*  
Moorlands Park



Giant sequoia trees were brought to the UK by the Victorians. They can live a very long time, and are the largest tree by volume in the world. Their capacity to sequester carbon is now being actively exploited in the UK, (up to 85kg per tree per year), as part of our national carbon strategy.

**10 TURKEY OAK**  
*Quercus cerris*  
Moorlands Park



The Turkey oak is native to south-eastern Europe and Asia Minor but is increasingly naturalising through the UK, as our climate warms. It is distinguishable from our native oak not only by the hairy buds and acorn cups but its growth is much more strongly vertical.

**11 ENGLISH OAK**  
*Quercus robur*  
Moorlands Park



The large tree by the road is probably 200 years old or more. Behind it you'll find a grove of much younger oaks planted perhaps 30 or 40 years ago. Mature English oaks support more species of wildlife than any other tree in Britain.

**12 FIELD MAPLE**  
*Acer campestre*  
Moorlands Park



You'll find this tree in the strip of woodland which divides the park, about 20m uphill from where the path passes through. It has three trunks and a huge old stump—probably a survivor from an old hedge. Notice the characteristic rough bark divided into small squares.

**13 BALSAM SPIRE POPLAR**  
*Populus 'Balsam Spire'*  
Moorlands Park



Balsam poplars have heart-shaped leaves and give off a distinctive scent in spring. These trees produce suckers from the roots which you'll find growing up amongst the newly planted trees nearby. Avoid tripping over them!

**14 BHUTAN PINE**  
*Pinus wallichiana*  
St Luke's Churchyard



A coniferous evergreen tree native to the Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountains, the Bhutan pine is a popular tree for planting in parks and is valued for being resistant to air pollution. It has long needles and large, long cones. The wood is moderately hard, durable and highly

resinous. If burnt, it gives off a pungent smoke. This tree is grown as a commercial source of turpentine.

**15 COMMON WALNUT**  
*Juglans regia*  
St Luke's Churchyard



Walnuts were originally grown in Britain for their fruit. It was common to beat the tree with long poles, both to dislodge the nuts and to encourage the growth of short, fruiting spurs. The first example growing in the wild wasn't recorded until 1836. The pinnate leaves—unusually large on this specimen—give the tree its characteristic untidy look.

**16 ENGLISH OAK**  
*Quercus robur*  
St Luke's Churchyard



The metal plaque on this tree identifies it as a 'Blenheim Oak'. It was grown from an acorn from one of the ancient oaks at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. As he died in 1965 and this tree looks less than 60 years old, it may have replaced an earlier one.

**17 HANDKERCHIEF TREE**  
*Davidia involuocrata*  
Beechen Cliff School Playing Fields



This is a highly sought-after tree, native to China but rare in the wild. Also called the dove tree, it is named after its beautiful white, flower-like bracts, which appear in late spring and flutter, like doves or handkerchiefs, in the breeze. In tropical regions, these trees can grow up to 1m per year eventually reaching up to 20m in height.

**18 BLACK PINE**  
*Pinus nigra*  
Alexandra Park



Native to Southern Europe, it has variants named Austrian, Corsican and Crimean pine. It grows faster than Scots pine in Southern England, so is the preferred crop for timber. This group of trees was likely planted as a wind break, to shelter Alexandra Park from the prevailing westerly winds.

**19 COMMON BEECH**  
*Fagus sylvatica*  
Alexandra Park



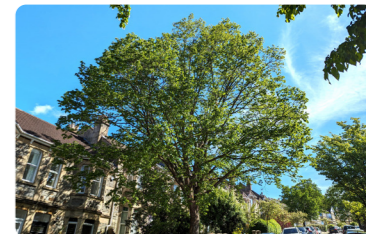
Known as the 'queen' of British trees, the common beech is a fast-growing species with attractive green wavy-edged leaves that turn a coppery-bronze in autumn. Beech nuts are edible, though they have a high tannin content and a slightly bitter taste. They are also an important food source for wildlife, such as squirrels which are clearly thriving here. For generations, they were fed to pigs to fatten them up in the autumn.

**20 VARIEGATED SYCAMORE**  
*Acer pseudoplatanus f. variegatum*  
Alexandra Park



First grown in the 1860s, this is an eye-catching tree because of the foliage. The leaves are green, splashed and speckled with creamy white in a myriad of patterns. There are yellow-green pendant flowers in April followed by winged fruit.

**21 HOP HORNBEAM**  
*Ostrya carpinifolia*  
Shakespeare Avenue



This row of trees is—so far as we know—unique in Bath. Their shaggy bark and hop-like fruit in early summer differentiate them from their relative, the common hornbeam. Like the latter, their wood is dense, hard and has been used for the soles of carpentry planes and for gear wheels—applications where steel would be more common today.

**22 GOLDEN RAIN TREE**  
*Koelreuteria paniculata*  
50 Shakespeare Avenue



This may be the best example of this species in Bath. It comes from China and is full of interest—pinnate leaves with lobed leaflets in spring, yellow flowers in summer and lantern-like pods with black, glossy seeds in autumn.