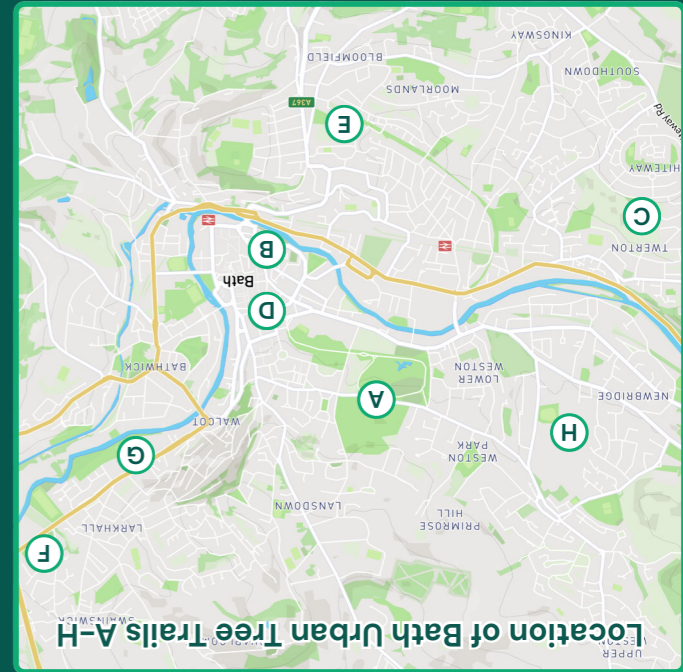


Start / Finish (W3W): Alice Park, Gloucester Road, BA1 7BL (woods.pizza.onion)
Distance: 800 metres
Accessibility: Mostly level. Pavement with some grass. Some gates. All trees except one visible from the wheelchair path
Bus: Elm Grove/Gloucester Road (**bthmajp**); Lambridge stop on London Road (**bthmaja**) (outbound)
Parking: There is a small car park at the main entrance to the park and on street parking outside the park
Public Toilets: In the park (20p)
Refreshments: Alice Park Café
Rest Points: Throughout the park
Features: Play area, tennis courts, quiet zone, community garden, skateboarding area



BATH URBAN TREESCAPE

Tree Trail F: Alice's Arboretum

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 in a city park. 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



Thank you to all of those who have produced this tree trail:
 Lucy Bartlett, Fiona Bell, Antonia Johnson, Joseph Lavinton, Helen Schofield, Hugh Williamson with support from:
 Bathscape Landscape Partnership, Alice Park Trust, The Charter Trustees of the City of Bath, Cllr Joanna Wright, Mary La Trobe-Bateman, Tony Hickman and Alice Park Café, Alice Park Community Garden, The World Heritage City of Bath Advisory Group, Grant Associates Landscape Architects, Bob Whitfield Photography.
 Map and website designed by Joseph Lavinton.

20m

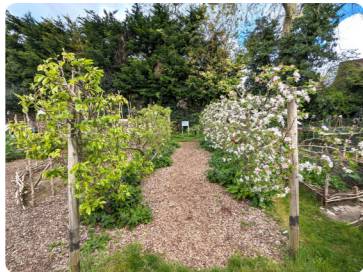
Map provided by Mapbox & OpenStreetMap

1 COMMON LIME
Tilia x europaea



Lime trees, of which there are several types in Alice Park, have no connection to the citrus fruit of the same name. This one is a hybrid between two native British trees, the small-leaved and broad-leaved limes. It is popular with aphids who drop a sticky 'honey-dew' in summer.

2 APPLE, PEAR
Malus sp., Pyrus sp.



Pear trees (left) grow best in light, deep soils in a mild climate. They bring autumn colour, spring blossom and summer fruits to the community garden. Usually, a pear tree will begin to bear fruit somewhere between 3 and 7 years of age.

3 KANZAN CHERRY
Prunus serrulata 'Kanzan'



In 2022, through the Ward Empowerment Fund, 12 Kanzan cherry trees were planted to create a long corridor. This 'Cherry Avenue' reminds us of Bath's links with the Japanese spa city of Beppu. In spring many people visit the park just to see the blossom.

4 SILVER PENDENT LIME
Tilia tomentosa 'Petiolaris'



The silver lime tree was introduced into the UK in 1767 and became a popular tree choice for landscaping and green spaces. The 'tomentosa' in its scientific name is derived from Latin tomentum meaning 'the hairy stuffing of a pillow', referring to the hairy undersides of the leaves. Bees visit the flowers in the summer, but chemicals in the nectar can make them too groggy to fly! The Petiolaris Group has leaves on long and slightly twisted stalks (the petioles, see 12) which flutter and show their silver undersides.

5 RED HORSE CHESTNUT
Aesculus x carnea



Like the London plane, this tree is an inter-continental hybrid. One parent—the horse chestnut—originates in the Balkans while the other—the red buckeye—comes from North America. The red candle-like flowers appear in May. For the rest of the year, it resembles a small, crinkly-leaved horse chestnut.

6 BLUE ATLAS CEDAR
Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'



Visitors to Alice Park voted this their favourite tree in 2024. The colour of its foliage stands out against the greens of the other trees, but it isn't truly blue—more a pale grey-green. Chlorophyll, essential for photosynthesis, absorbs red and blue light but reflects green, giving leaves their colour, including the short needles of this cedar.

7 PURPLE NORWAY MAPLE
Acer platanoides 'Goldsworth Purple'



A lovely tree with large palmate purple leaves throughout the growing season which turn a bright ruby red in the autumn. It tolerates most soil types, air pollution and is drought tolerant. Its mature height can be 10-15 metres. The wood is used for furniture, flooring and musical instruments. Stradivarius is said to have made his violins partly from Norway maple.

8 BLACK PINE
Pinus nigra



This tree is one of three planted in 2011 to commemorate the suffragettes who recuperated at Eagle House in Batheaston following

their ordeals in prison. Their hosts, Linley and Emily Blathwayt, planted trees for each suffragette. Only one tree of the original 'Annie's Arboretum' at Eagle House survives. It too is a black pine.

9 GREY-LEAVED LAWSON CYPRESS
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana



A very popular tree for parks and gardens, one of many large conifers introduced from the Western US in the mid 1800s. The tiny scale-like leaves grow in fours, closely pressed against the twigs. When crushed they smell of parsley.

10 JAPANESE MAPLE
Acer palmatum



There are over a thousand named cultivars of Japanese maple, popular worldwide as a small, decorative, garden tree. They typically have deeply-cut leaves—sometimes almost like lace. This one has been planted away from much larger trees by a small pond, where its scale fits perfectly in its surroundings.

11 SILVER BIRCH
Betula pendula



A fine open-grown example, showing the characteristic pendulous branches and leaves which give it its Latin name. Unlike the silver maple and silver lime, which get their common names from the whitish undersides of their leaves, the 'silver' of this tree refers to the bright white areas of the trunk, unique amongst native British trees.

12 SILVER MAPLE
Acer saccharinum



Like many of the trees in the park, this one is 'open-grown'—meaning it has never had to compete with nearby trees, and can assume its natural shape. The delicate leaves have long stalks or 'petioles' (the botanical word), which allow them to dance in the slightest breeze, flashing their silvery undersides. The bark is rough and gets shaggier with age.

13 BROAD-LEAVED LIME
Tilia platyphyllos



Native to England & Wales, as far north as Yorkshire, this tree is shade tolerant and hardy. It has heart-shaped, furry leaves; yellow-green, five-petalled flowers; and small, oval fruits with pointed tips. It can grow to 40m, one of the tallest UK broadleaf trees. The dried flowers are processed into lime blossom tea. Leaves, flowers and fruits of lime contain oils that are used in various home remedies. The lime provides a good bee pasture.

14 DEODAR CEDAR
Cedrus deodara



Also called the Himalayan cedar, from its place of origin, and recognisable from the drooping shoots at the ends of the branches ('d' for drooping, 'd' for deodar!). The wood is very durable and was used to construct temples in northern India. 'Deodar' comes from the Sanskrit for 'wood of the gods'.

15 TULIP TREE
Liriodendron tulipifera



Despite its unique four-lobed leaves and its beautiful orange-green flowers in May and June, this tree is easily overlooked. In its native Eastern US, it can live for over 200 years and reach 50m in height. The smooth and workable timber is much used for joinery.

16 LONDON PLANE, SYCAMORE
Platanus x hispanica, Acer pseudoplatanus



Here is a chance to 'compare and contrast' these superficially similar trees. The leaves of the London plane (outside the path) are larger, glossier and three-lobed. The bark of the plane is brown and flakes off to show yellow, while the sycamore's can be pinkish.

17 HORSE CHESTNUT
Aesculus hippocastanum



Mature horse chestnut trees grow to a height of around 40m and can live for up to 300 years! The leaf stalks leave a scar on the twig when they fall, which resembles an inverted horse shoe with nail holes. This association with horses could explain why conkers used to be ground up and fed to horses to relieve them of coughs, and could be the origin of the tree's name.

18 TREE OF HEAVEN
Ailanthus altissima



Native to northern China, this tree is invasive, spreading rapidly via suckers (new shoots from its roots which quickly grow into trees) and in warmer climates also seeding vigorously. Sprays of greenish-white flowers in summer are followed by pink-orange seed pods in autumn. Many of Bath's best trees of heaven have died in the last few years—let's hope this one survives.

19 ENGLISH OAK
Quercus robur



This 'open grown' tree shows the characteristic wide-spreading shape of an oak which hasn't had to compete with nearby trees. Its symmetrical shape is typical of fairly young trees—in another 100 or 200 years it will probably be distinctly lopsided.

20 PERSIAN IRONWOOD
Parrotia persica



As the name suggests, this tree is native to Iran & Azerbaijan. It was introduced and is usually seen as a low, multi-stemmed tree in the UK, although nowadays more vertical clones are available. In early autumn its leaves turn rich reds and oranges.

21 EUROPEAN LARCH
Larix decidua



Millions of larches were planted for their timber by Scottish landowners in the 1700s. It is a deciduous conifer, meaning it bears cones—like pines and firs—but loses all its leaves every winter. Young leaves (or 'needles') are soft and bright acid green in spring and the immature cones are raspberry pink.