



**Start / Finish (W3W):** Eco Garden (outside Lansdown Restaurant), Royal United Hospital, Combe Park (quest.fear.sleepy)

**Distance:** 1 mile

**Accessibility:** Level pavement, walking surfaces vary (wheelchair accessible if following the recommended route)

**Bus:** Number 4 bus from city centre

**Parking:** Public parking at RUH (Gate 1) – pay to park

**Public Toilets:** Inside hospital buildings

**Refreshments:** Public café in main hospital lobby, Friends of the RUH café @ B18; Weston village has shops and cafés

**Rest Points:** Around the car park, marked

There are sections through the car parks with no pedestrian pathway. Please take extra care here and avoid during morning and afternoon rush hours, when they are very busy.



# BATH URBAN TREESCAPE

## Tree Trail H: Combe Park Canopy

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 the Royal United Hospital grounds, located in the south west corner of the site. 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.

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



10m

Map provided by Mapbox & OpenStreetMap



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:  
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Map and website designed by Joseph Lavinton.

**1 COMMON HAZEL**  
*Corylus avellana*



Hazel normally grows as a bushy, multi-stemmed tree, like this one. Gerard, a 16th century herbalist, believed that hazelnuts “preserve the body from infection of the plague, and being plentifully eaten, drive worms forth of the belly”. Most hazelnuts eaten in Britain today are imported—the native ones are more often enjoyed by the squirrels.

**2 YOUNG'S WEEPING BIRCH**  
*Betula pendula 'Youngii'*



This silver birch cultivar originated in the 1870s. The twigs in silver birches always droop downwards—hence the ‘pendula’ name—but in this weeping example the branches grow downwards too. It is grafted on to an upright stem, to give the tree some height and a mushroom-like shape.

**3 PURPLE NORWAY MAPLE, WHITEBEAM**  
*Acer platanoides, Aria nivea*



Two trees planted closely together, with a striking

contrast in foliage—the pale green of the whitebeam and the deep red of the Norway maple. The maple—ultimately a larger tree—may eventually out-grow and out-compete the whitebeam for light.

**4 WHITE WILLOW**  
*Salix alba*



Native to Britain. Salicylic acid, produced by willows as a defence against insect attack, has an analgesic effect on humans: it is the basis for aspirin. The timber is light, springy and fast-growing. A hybrid of the white and crack willows, the cricket bat willow takes its name from one of its many uses.

**5 SHORE PINE**  
*Pinus contorta*



This tree takes its Latin name from its twisted shoots, leaves and buds and its common name from being native to sand dunes on the Pacific coast of North America. The scales of the small cones have a prickle at the end and are sealed with resin—possibly as protection from salt spray in marine locations.

**6 MONTEREY CYPRESS**  
*Cupressus macrocarpa*



Native of California, this is the same species as the huge tree on the Gravel Walk near the Royal Circus. It is sometimes called the lemon cypress, from the smell of the crushed leaves. It is particularly common in the South and West of Britain, and grows well in seaside locations.

**7 WESTERN RED CEDAR**  
*Tuja plicata*



Native to the Pacific Northwest of the US, where it can grow 70m tall and live for over 1000 years. The name ‘plicata’ means braided in Latin—a reference to the pattern made by the tiny leaf scales. If you crush a small piece of foliage between your fingers you may be able to smell pineapples.

**8 HORSE CHESTNUT**  
*Aesculus hippocastanum*



John Evelyn, in his 1665 tree book ‘Sylva’, tells us this tree got its name “from its curing broken-winded horses and other cattle of coughs”. When the leaves fall in autumn they leave a horse-

shoe shaped scar on the twig. It even has spots which look like nail-holes!

**9 FIELD MAPLE**  
*Acer campestre*



This veteran tree, surrounded by modern buildings, may date from before the time the RUH moved to this site in 1932. Field maples are native to Britain and are more often found in hedges and field boundaries than in woodlands. Their medium size and small leaves make them a popular urban street tree.

**10 NORDMANN FIR**  
*Abies nordmanniana*



The Nordmann fir is the most popular Christmas tree in the UK. Famed for their symmetrical shape and strong branches, these fantastic trees are good at retaining their soft dark green needles after being cut down.

**11 GOLDEN RAIN TREE**  
*Koelreuteria paniculata*



Two young trees stand either side of the entrance to ReMind UK. The beautiful leaves are divided into leaflets, each of which is intricately shaped. They give the whole tree a delicate, lacy appearance. Papery, lantern-like seed pods hang from the tree in autumn.

**12 FALSE ACACIA**  
*Robinia pseudoacacia*



Known as black locust in its native Eastern US, the oldest false acacias in Britain date from the 1700s. The radical pamphleteer William Cobbett, who once worked at Kew Gardens, imported thousands of trees, but the timber did not (and does not) live up to his extravagant claims.

**13 NARROW-LEAVED ASH**  
*Fraxinus angustifolia*



The delicate leaves of this ash, a native of Southern Europe, dance in the lightest breeze. Planted as an ornamental tree in Britain, it is considered an invasive weed in Australia and South Africa.

**14 MANNA ASH**  
*Fraxinus ornus*



This tree is native to Southern Europe and takes

its name from the sugary extract obtainable by cutting the bark. Medieval scholars compared it to the biblical ‘manna’ provided to the Israelites during their exile. Manna ash has so far proven more resistant to ash die-back (Chalara) than common ash.

**15 DAWYCK BEECH**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck'*



The Dawyck (pronounced ‘doik’) is a selected upright form of the common beech. The original tree was discovered in 1860 and transplanted to the garden of Dawyck House, south of Edinburgh, where it still survives.

**16 COMMON YEW, HOLLY**  
*Taxus baccata, Ilex aquifolium*



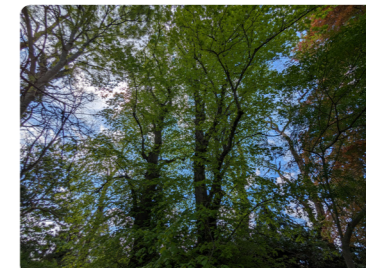
Two different trees growing very closely together. Both of these native evergreens can survive in the understory of British woodlands, receiving light in winter when the taller deciduous trees above them are leafless. Here, they are also competing for light with each other.

**17 COPPER BEECH**  
*Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea*



Few trees divide opinion as starkly as the copper (or ‘purple’) beech. Some people love its striking colours, especially with the sun shining through the leaves. Others think the huge dark purple blotches out of place amongst the subtly varied greens of the British landscape. What’s your view?

**18 COMMON LIME**  
*Tilia x europaea*



The wood of lime trees is light and even textured, and was the choice of Britain’s most famous wood-carver, Grinling Gibbons. If you look high up, you may be able to see bunches of mistletoe, a parasitic plant that extracts water and nutrients from its host tree. Otherwise healthy trees can survive many years as mistletoe hosts.

**19 SCOTS PINE**  
*Pinus sylvestris*



This is the only pine native to Northern Europe. It thrives on the poor, thin soils of heathland or mountains

but is out-competed by other trees on fertile soils. The timber, like the bark, is reddish brown and known as ‘deal’. The trunk exudes a sticky resin, called rosin when it hardens.

**20 ENGLISH OAK**  
*Quercus robur*



The dense, strong and resilient timber of the English oak has found more uses than that of any other tree. Most famously in sailing ships in the British Navy, but also in buildings, including medieval cathedrals. Oak leaves and acorns are commonly used as symbols of nature in Britain.

**21 BLUE ATLAS CEDAR**  
*Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'*



Cedars are prized for their fragrant wood, which is used to line drawers in chests and sideboards. Pliny the Elder records that an extract from it was used for toothache—it broke and loosened the tooth as well as removing the pain!