


Public Toilets: Seven Dials, Monmouth Street near Kingsmead Sq

Features: Views of the river, St John's Catholic church, Bath Abbey and Pulteney Bridge

Please note there is a charge for non-B&NES residents to enter Parade Gardens if you would like to get closer to the trees shown there.

Thank you to all those who have helped us from pilot to production:
Lucy Bartlett, Fiona Bell, Antonia Johnson, Joseph Lavington, Helen Schofield, Hugh Williamson with support from:
Bathscape Landscape Partnership, the World Heritage City of Bath
Advisory Group, Grant Associates Landscape Architects, Bath BID,
Bath Festivals, St John's Foundation, the APEx City of Bath hotel,
Southside Family Project, Youth Connect South West, Forest of
Magination and Bath & North East Somerset Council Public Health.
Map and website designed by Joseph Lavington.

Feel the bark. Look up through the branches.
How many people do you need to encircle this
tree's trunk?
Recommended for tree:  18

draw it.
Recommended for tree:

Draw the tree in 1 minute. Draw it again, taking

Recommended for tree: 

Listen carefully under a tree. Write down 20

Try out these activity ideas for all ages on as many trees as you wish. A recommended tree for each activity is listed below. Please remember to take a notebook and pencil.

Activities

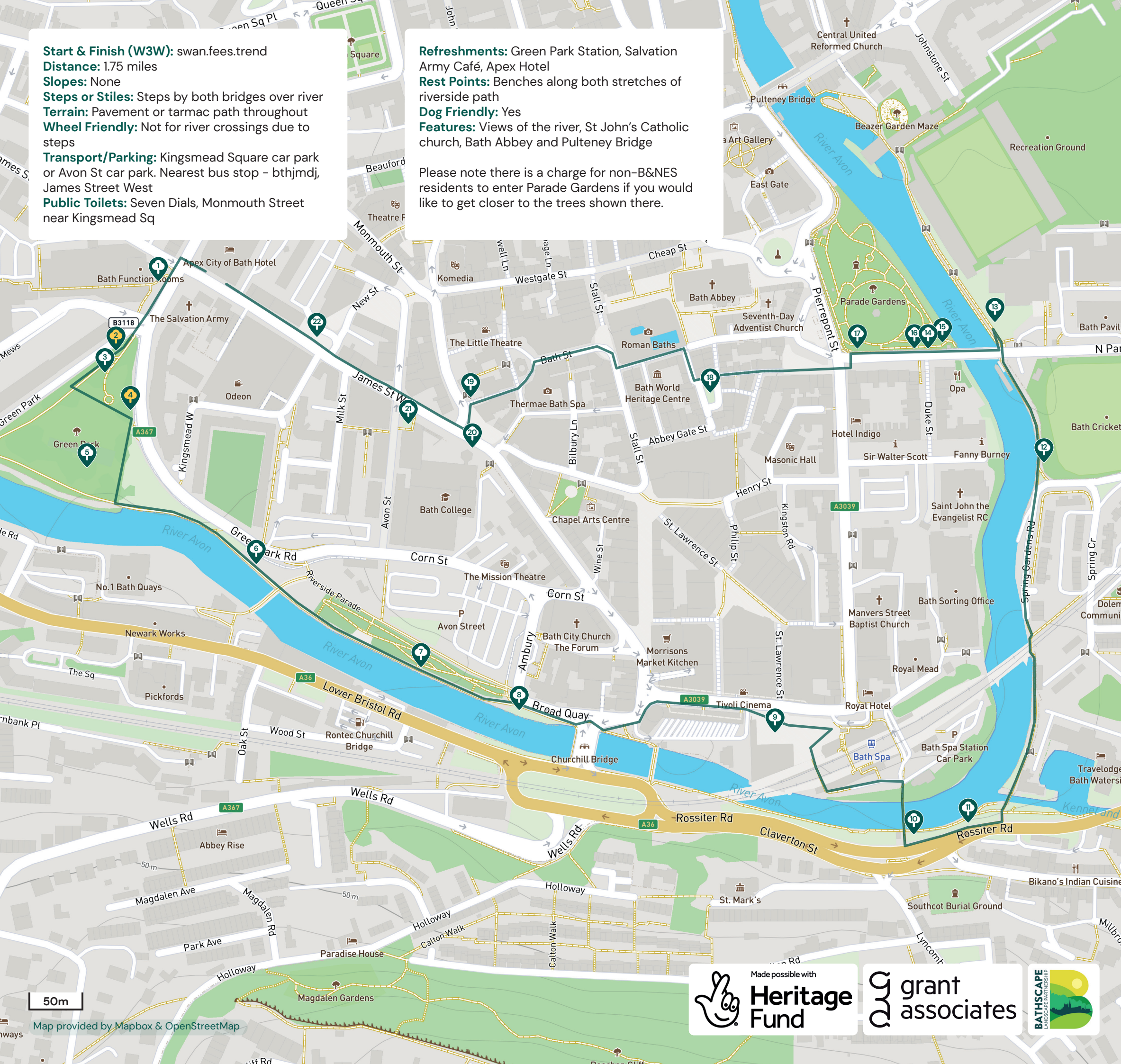


Tree Trail B: Riverside Ramble

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 southern part 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



1 COMMON WALNUT

Juglans regia
Green Park Station



Two mature trees; native to the Eastern Mediterranean and further East, introduced to the UK by the Romans for their fruit. The nuts are said to lower cholesterol.

2 DOUBLE HORSE CHESTNUT

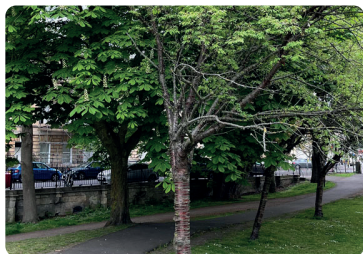
Aesculus hippocastanum
'Baumannii'
Green Park



Two Champion trees of the double-flower form of horse chestnut, probably planted soon after 1820 – they are enormous! According to the National Tree Register, the first is the fattest in the British Isles, with its girth measured at 5.78 metres in 2014. The second, further down the path towards the river, is the tallest of this variety at 31m+.

3 TIBETAN CHERRY

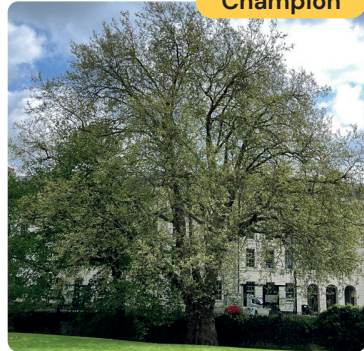
Prunus serrula
Green Park



Three smallish trees in a row. This cherry is planted largely for its glossy richly coloured bark rather than its flowers. How would you describe the colour to someone who hadn't seen it?

4 NARROW LONDON PLANE

Platanus × hispanica
'Pyramidalis'
Green Park



Champion

London Planes are a hybrid between the Eastern form *P. orientalis* and the American species *P. occidentalis*. The 'Pyramidalis' form takes its name from its narrow shape when young. This older example is a champion for its girth. It has lost its slim shape, but is still identifiable from the straighter, less crooked branches and the simpler-shaped leaves with less pronounced lobes.

5 WESTERN BALSAM POPLAR

Populus trichocarpa
Green Park, next to children's slide, near SE exit



Activity 1

Poplars are related to willows and, like their cousins, thrive near water. As well as producing numerous wind-borne seeds, these trees can also reproduce by suckering – producing new trees from the roots growing close to the surface of the ground. When an old tree dies, its suckers have a head-start in filling the space it leaves behind.

6 COMMON ALDER, BIRCH, WHITE WILLOW

Alnus glutinosa, Betula pendula, Salix alba
Riverside path



These young trees appear to have seeded naturally in the untended ground just west of the new footbridge. Alder and willow are 'riparian' trees, meaning they tend to thrive along river banks. Birch is a classic 'pioneer' tree – one of the first to invade any patch of waste ground.

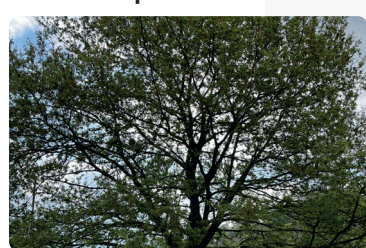
7 ALDER, BIRCH AND WILLOW

Alnus glutinosa, Betula pendula, Salix alba
Riverside path, Broad Quay



Here, the same types of trees that we saw at the last stop have been deliberately planted. A planted tree's chances of survival are increased if it is placed where it would grow naturally, as these have been. The common alder is a native British tree. Its timber is soft and porous when dry, but hardens when waterlogged. It has therefore been used in building boats, sluice gates and water pipes. Its Latin name comes from the sticky twigs and buds.

8 TURKEY OAK



There aren't many deciduous oaks in central Bath, but

this one is apparently thriving. Turkey oaks are native to much of Europe, but not Britain. Since their introduction in the 1700s they have thrived and often self-seed. They are a very fast-growing oak, but perhaps because of this, their timber is of little use.

9 TURKISH HAZELS

Corylus colurna
Brunel Square



Activity 2

A relatively new creation and planting. The Turkish hazels are native to the Balkans.

10 WEEPING WILLOWS

Salix babylonica
On the opposite riverbank, view from Halfpenny Bridge



Native to N China, weeping willows grow well near water. Willow bark has been used as a traditional pain relieving medicine for more than 3500 years. The active ingredient in the bark, salicin, was discovered in 1828 and led to the development of aspirin. White willow wood is stiff, shock-resistant and lightweight, which makes it good for making cricket bats.

11 GREY AND ITALIAN ALDER

Alnus cordata, Alnus incana
Riverside, Rossiter Road



Here are two further kinds of alder, identifiable from their small, round, hard seed cones. The grey alder (represented by a single tree) has toothed, pointed leaves and small cones. The Italian alder, with glossy heart-shaped leaves and larger cones is now quite common as a street tree. There are several along this stretch of the river.

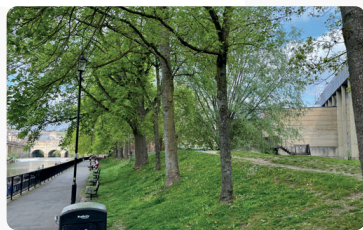
12 ELDER



The elder is another 'pioneer' tree, that will seed itself in any patch of ground. Numerous legends and superstitions are associated with the elder, and it is sometimes said that the English summer starts with elder flowers and ends with elder berries.

13 LINE OF TULIP TREES

Liriodendron tulipifera
Riverside, behind the Rec



Grown for timber in their native America, the 'tulip' flowers appear in early Summer, and the dome-shaped trees colour golden in Autumn.

14 MONTEREY PINE

Pinus radiata
Parade Gardens, view from North Parade



A large evergreen tree near the corner of Parade

Gardens. Look up to see the large cones, often in pairs, which are retained for years. If there are any pine needles nearby, you'll see that, unusually, they grow in bundles of three.

15 WEEPING BEECH

Fagus sylvatica 'Pendula'
Parade Gardens, view from North Parade



The original tree was found in the grounds of an English park in the 1830s and has to be propagated by grafting in order to retain its distinctive growth habit.

16 HOLM OAK



This oak is a native of the E Mediterranean and is one of the top three trees used for truffle orchards. This is an evergreen, with leaves resembling those of holly (genus *Ilex*). It is resistant to salt spray from the sea, so is often planted as a windbreak in coastal areas.

17 GREY-LEAVED LAWSON CYPRESS

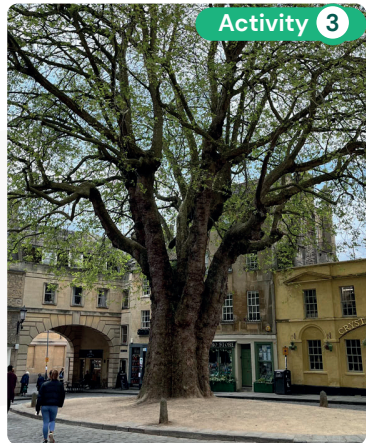
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana
Parade Gardens, view from North Parade



This tree variety came from California in 1854 and has become one of the UK's most popular garden conifers; there are innumerable named cultivars with different forms or foliage colour. Its rot-resistant wood is popular in Japan for coffins and shrines.

18 LONDON PLANE

Platanus × hispanica
Abbey Green



Activity 3

The London plane was the world's first intercontinental hybrid, its parents being from SE Europe and North America. Planted in 1880, at the time of the marriage of Sarah, daughter of Thomas Jefferys, a chimney sweep living at no.2 Abbey Green. This tree looks much older than its 140 years, but looks are often deceptive!

19 GINKGO

Ginkgo biloba
St John's Almshouses, Shickle Garden



A species of tree native to China. Fossils very similar to this tree have been found, which extend back approximately 170 million years ago. Ginkgos are dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers grow on separate trees – this example is male. The female fruit can be very smelly in late Autumn.

20 FASTIGIATE HORNBEAM

Carpinus betulus
'Fastigiata'
James Street West



Sometimes called the 'Pyramid' hornbeam, this tree is widely planted as a street tree and in town parks, where it has an attractive shape eventually resembling an ace of spades.

21 GOLDEN WEEPING WILLOW

Salix × sepulcralis
'Chrysocoma'
James Street West



This tree takes its name from its golden twigs, which are spectacular in Spring, before the leaf buds open.

22 ORIENTAL PLANES

Platanus orientalis
James Street West



Concluding the walk with two Oriental plane trees, one of the 'parents' of the London plane. The leaves are more deeply lobed than the London plane – rather like the fingers of a hand.