

Start / Finish (W3W): Western end of Claverton St, Widcombe, BA2 4LE (shack.kept.digs)

St, Wimborne, BA2

Accessibility: Steps, rough grass paths, some steeper uphill sections, kissing gates

Bus: Bath Bus Station

Parking: City Centre car parks

Public Toilets and Refreshments: Widcombe Parade and Alexandra Park (20p)

Rest Points: Benches around the route and at the viewpoint

Features: Viewpoints, play area in Alexander Magdalen Gardens, Lyncombe Hill Fields

Map and website designed by Joseph Livingston.

Stewart Owen, Robyn Barnes, Cllr Alison Bonn, Cllr Deborah Collins, Friends of Lyncombe Hill Fields, B&NES Parks and Green Spaces, Friends of Lyncombe Hill, Bath BID, World Heritage Advisory Group, Street Team, Bathscape Landscape Partnership, Grant Associates, St John's Architecture, Bath BID, World Heritage Advisory Group, Street Team, Bathscape Landscape Partnership, Grant Associates, St

I thank you to all of those who have produced this free trial!

The map illustrates the locations of the Bath Urban Tree Trails A-L. The trails are marked with green circles and letters A through L. Trail L is highlighted with a green arrow pointing to the right. The map shows the city's layout with major roads, green spaces, and landmarks like the River Avon and the Roman Baths.



Tree Trail J: Beechen Cliff Clamber

Beechen Cliff & Lyncombe Hill Fields

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 up and down Beechen Cliff. 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



Map provided by Mapbox & OpenStreetMap

1 COMMON LIME

Tilia x europaea
St Marks Burial Ground



A large vigorous tree unwisely planted in confined spaces where only drastic pruning controls its growth. Here it has engulfed the iron railings at its base. In summer, the whole base of the tree may be covered in characteristic 'epicormic' shoots, which emerge from buds under the bark of the trunk. Aphids are attracted to the flowers in July and excrete sugary honey-dew onto the heart-shaped leaves that turn black with sooty mould. Clusters of small round fruits hang from tongue-like bracts, but are usually sterile.

2 RED SNAKEBARK MAPLE

Acer capillipes
Holloway



Introduced from Japan in the 1890s for its bright green bark with vertical silver stripes, this may be the best example in Bath. Red winter buds release shiny green leaves on long leaf-stalks in spring. Yellow-green strings of flowers form during May, developing into bunches of small, paired winged seeds, ready for wind dispersal. The leaves turn red/yellow in autumn. Sadly snakebark maples are not long-lived and this specimen is beginning to show signs of age.

3 SYCAMORE

Acer pseudoplatanus
Holloway



Three similar-aged trees. Sycamore is a fast-growing large tree that seeds itself widely. The 5-lobed, leathery, dark green leaves have unevenly toothed edges and can vary in size as the tree ages. The fungus *Rhytisma* commonly causes black 'tar spots' on sycamore leaves. The flowers hang down like tails in April, forming paired winged fruit that fall and spin like helicopter blades.

4 TWO WILLOWS

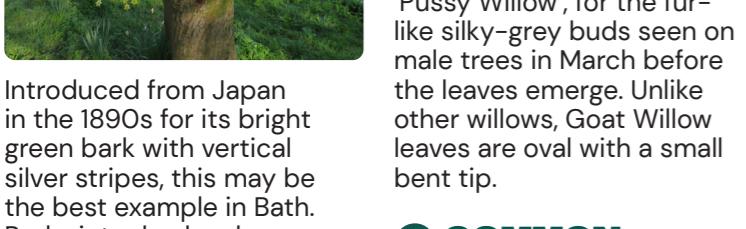
Salix alba, S. caprea
Calton Gardens



Two trees of the Willow Genus growing together. On the left, the vigorous shoots of the White Willow come from the stump of a tree that fell several years ago. The leaves have silvery down underneath that appear 'white' in a breeze. Yellow male and green female catkins grow on separate trees. On the right, the Goat Willow is also known as 'Pussy Willow', for the fur-like silky-grey buds seen on male trees in March before the leaves emerge. Unlike other willows, Goat Willow leaves are oval with a small bent tip.

5 COMMON BEECH

Fagus sylvatica
Calton Gardens



Small native tree often coppiced (cut down to just above the base) to produce many stems used for stakes or fencing. The heart-shaped leaves have ragged edges and a rough, floppy feel. The pale yellow male catkins hang from bare branches in February, well before the tiny red flowers that

after fertilisation produce hazelnuts. These were a favourite food of prehistoric Britons, but today the squirrels usually get them first!

6 ITALIAN ALDER

Alnus cordata
Calton Play Area



A tall, slender, impressive tree from southern Italy. It has glossy, heart-shaped leaves with shallow-toothed edges on long leaf-stalks. In spring fawn-yellow male catkins shed pollen on the wind that fertilises small, red female flowers on the same or nearby trees. After shedding seeds in autumn, the ovoid 'cones' become woody and stay on the trees with the old catkins until the following spring.

7 COMMON HAZEL

Corylus avellana
Beechen Woodland

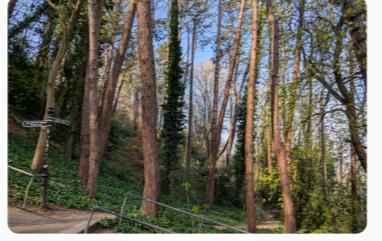


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8 CORSICAN PINE

Pinus nigra
Beechen Woodland



Fifty of these pines were planted here in 1914 to help stabilise the slope, and as a nod to those planted in Bournemouth at the other end of the Somerset and Dorset Railway. Commercially used for its tall straight trunk. Leaves have pairs of slightly twisted, slender, grey-green needles. Cones are dull grey-brown and pointed in shape before the scales open to release winged seeds. It is similar in many ways to the Maritime Pine (tree 13) but the cones are smaller.

9 NEW PLANTING AREA: BLACK MULBERRY, WILD SERVICE TREE

Morus nigra, Torminalis glaberrima
Magdalen Gardens



This area above the path was planted in 2017 by B&NES after being cleared by volunteers. On the right, the Black Mulberry was introduced from W Asia in the 1500s for its edible fruit. In late summer, the large heart-shaped leaves hide raspberry-shaped fruit that turn sweet and purple when ripe. On the left, the Wild Service Tree is native to Britain and characteristic of ancient woodland. The unequal pointed lobes give the leaves a unique shape. Its fruit, called 'chequers', were used in making beer and in medicine.

10 JUDAS TREE

Cercis siliquastrum
St Mary's Chapel, Holloway



A small ornamental tree or multi-stemmed shrub from the Himalaya that grows untidily and typically leans. The oval leaves are semi-evergreen. Insects love the plentiful flat-topped clusters of creamy white flowers in June. Later, conspicuous red berries appear and may last through winter, although they are popular with birds.

11 COPPER BEECH

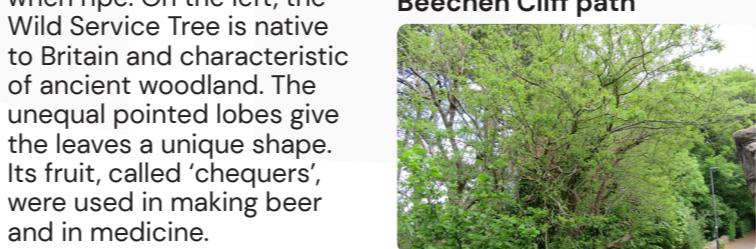
Fagus sylvatica
'Purpurea'
Magdalen Gardens



Mainly planted as an ornamental tree in parks and gardens for its dark purple leaf colour. The names 'Purple Beech' and 'Copper Beech' are largely interchangeable, although some trees do have darker leaves than others. Beechen Cliff itself was named after the beech trees which dominated its slopes. They have shallow roots and are not ideal for stabilising steep slopes, which may be why the Council later also planted pines.

12 COTONEASTER

Cotoneaster sp.
Beechen Cliff path



Pale yellow, highly scented, nectar-rich flowers and the resultant small round fruits project from long green bracts at all angles, making the whole tree a striking pale yellow-green in early summer.

13 MARITIME PINE

Pinus maritima
Alexandra Park



Found on sandy heaths in England, where the soil suits its Mediterranean origins. It is most easily distinguished from other pines by its purplish bark. The wide crown has flat branches and long, stiff needles in pairs. Large cones persist in clusters, each cone scale bearing an upturned prickle.

It was widely grown in France as a source of resin for the manufacture of turpentine.

14 SMALL-LEAVED LIME

Tilia cordata
Alexandra Park



This type of lime dominated lowland woodlands in Britain 5000 years ago but is scarcer now. The leaves are small and rounded with a pointed tip, finely-toothed edges and red hair tufts under the vein joints.

Pale yellow, highly scented, nectar-rich flowers and the resultant small round fruits project from long green bracts at all angles, making the whole tree a striking pale yellow-green in early summer.

15 TINY FOREST

Various native species
Lyncombe Hill Fields



From the footpath you can see the tops of 600 young trees of 18 native varieties, planted very close together (2.5 trees per square metre) early in 2021. This is the first of three "Tiny Forests" planted by the Friends of Lyncombe Hill Fields, using the Miyawaki method and is intended to maximise the carbon capture possible from a small area of land. For a closer look, take the first path off to the left, where the main path bears slightly right. All three Tiny Forests are marked on the maps of the Fields, located at the entry gates.

16 FIELD MAPLE

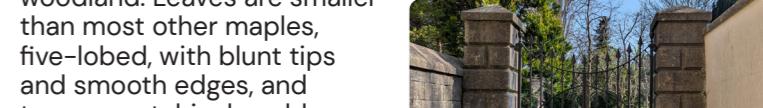
Acer campestre
Lyncombe Hill Fields



A massive, stately evergreen tree introduced from the Himalaya in the 1830s. Now commonly seen in parks and gardens throughout Britain. Twigs and shoots are covered in clusters of soft long needles, with the new shoots noticeably drooping down. Tall, grey-green male cones shed pollen in October. Mature female cones are barrel-shaped and sit erect on the branches.

17 SOUTHCOT CEMETERY

Lyncombe Hill



The gate to this Baptist burial ground is usually locked, but several interesting trees are visible through it. On the left is a tall, narrow Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) from the Western US. Straight ahead is another American tree, a Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) with five-lobed leaves which turn deep purple in autumn and may remain on the tree until Christmas. Uphill on the right is a Handkerchief Tree (*Davallia involucrata*) from China. Large white bracts, like silk handkerchiefs, hang down in April. Later, seed balls may persist throughout the winter.