

A few metres along the path and located further back on your left are four examples of:

**Coastal Redwood** *Sequoia sempervirens*. Native to California and Oregon in the USA, it is the world's tallest tree. The 'Howard Libbey' tree in Humboldt State Redwood Park, Oregon measures approximately 110 m (360ft) tall. Its bark is very similar to the Wellingtonia (see 12) and serves the same purpose.



▶ Walk slightly further along the path and to your left you will see:

**Blue Compact Japanese Pine** *Pinus parviflora Tempelhof*. 'Templehof' is a short growing pyramid pine with short five-needled bundles that are much bluer than most pines.



▶ Continue along the footpath until you come to a right hand junction. Bear right and walk along to the first major group of trees on your left. At the front of this group is:

**Caucasian Lime** *Tilia x euchlora*. A hybrid between the small leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*) and another caucasian lime (*Tilia dasystyla*). It is one of the few Limes that tends not to produce the sticky substance known as honeydew during the summer. This is because the hairs on the underside of the leaves act as an effective barrier to aphids trying to feed on the sap.



▶ Return to the main footpath. Continue south, where the path joins the cycleway to Brickhill Avenue:

**Coriscan Pine** *Pinus nigra 'Maritima'*. The most unusual specimen in the park with its looped trunk. The reasons for its contorted growth are not known, but damage when the tree was younger is suspected.



▶ When you reach the East Lodge turn left out through the gates, then turn right and walk along the edge of the tree belt. Approximately 100 metres along is:

**Brewers Weeping Spruce** *Picea breweriana 'Pendula'*. Native to the north west of the USA, this tree is quite rare in the wild. Brewers Spruce grows very slowly and is well adapted to heavy snow loads with pendulous drooping foliage which shed snow readily.



▶ Continue along the verge for another 30m and you come to:

**Cyprus Cedar** *Cedrus brevifolia*. Uncommon, this tree has the shortest needles of any of the true Cedars.



▶ Continue along the tree belt for approximately 100 metres and you reach.

**Weeping Ash** *Fraxinus excelsior 'Pendula'*. A fairly unusual form of English Ash often seen in churchyards



▶ The trail ends here.

Return to the main gates either along the grass verge or pass through the tree belt back onto the park's main footpath.

*A 'Bedfordshire Champion' is the largest specimen in the county, as registered by the National Tree Registry.*

*We hope that you have enjoyed the trail. Please pass this leaflet on to your friends or keep it for visitors. If you have any queries about trees in Bedford please contact the Arboricultural Team on Bedford 01234 221818.*

# Bedford Park TREE TRAIL

A GUIDE TO THE MORE  
UNUSUAL TREES IN THE PARK

A PLACE  
BEDFORD  
PARKS



## About the park

Just over 110 years ago Bedford acquired the right to a 'people's park' when the St. John's Hospital Estate, founded by Robert de Parys, was wound up by an Act of Parliament. The selling of some surplus land provided the necessary funding for the park's development and in 1883 Messrs Brown & Son of Derby began the landscaping. Two years later at a cost of around £4000 it was completed. The park was officially opened in 1888 and since then it has developed into a major local attraction bringing a great deal of enjoyment to the people of Bedford and beyond.

### The trail

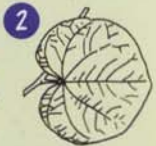
The walk begins at the main gates, opposite the turning into De Parys' Avenue. Do not pass through the gates. Instead turn left and walk along the grass verge for approximately 10 metres. On your right is:

**Cut leaf Broad Leaf Lime** *Tilia platyphyllos* 'laciniata'. An ornamental form of the Broad leaf Lime native to Northern Europe and Asia Minor.



Now return to the main entrance. As you pass through the gates into the park, directly on your right is:

**Judas Tree** *Cercis siliquastrum*. A native of the eastern Mediterranean and southern Europe it was brought to Britain for the appearance in spring of its rose pink, pea-like flowers. It is, in fact, a member of the pea family! A popular myth is that this was the tree that Judas Iscariot hung himself from after betraying Jesus, hence the name.



Continue along the footpath. Approximately 15 metres from the park cottages on your left is:

**Algerian Oak** *Quercus canariensis*. One of the few semi-evergreen Oaks, it retains around half its leaves through the winter. This particular specimen is the largest in the County.



Carry along the main footpath. In front of you just after where the two paths meet you will see:

**Silver Whattle** *Acacia dealbata*. Originating from south east Australia, this is a fast growing evergreen growing typically to 30m in height. Typically a pioneer species after fire, it does not live longer than 30 to 40 years. The tree is adorned with a display of bright yellow flowers in early spring.



Now bear left where the two paths meet and continue on until you reach the Bowls Pavilion. Directly opposite is:

**Oregon Maple** *Acer macrophyllum*. Uncommon, it bears the biggest leaves of any Maple. This tree was also recognised as one of the largest in Bedfordshire but unfortunately is now a former shadow of its former self.



A little further along on the right is:

**Hungarian Oak** *Quercus frainetto*. A fast growing tree, it is regarded by many as the noblest of all Oaks.



Next to it is:

**Cypress Oak** *Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata'. An upright form of the native English Oak.



**Cork Oak** *Quercus suber*. Evergreen and a native of the west Mediterranean. The bark is stripped off every ten years to provide cork.



Just to the right to the entrance to the bowling green is:

**Cappadocian Maple** *Acer cappadocicum*. Introduced in 1838 it is native to North and West Asia. Good Autumn colour. Listed as a county champion.



At the footpath junction continue straight across. Here the footpath splits into two, bear right. On your left is:

**Bhutan Pine** *Pinus wailichiana*. Native to the Himalayas it is particularly attractive when young with its drooping blue/grey foliage. It is the only 5 needle pine likely to be found in parks.



Return to the main footpath and turn right. Directly on your right is a cultivar of:

**Norway Maple** *Acer platanoides* 'Cucullatum'. The tree is sometimes referred to as the "Eagle Claw Maple" due to its unusual 'crinkled' leaves. This is another Bedfordshire champion.



Continue along the footpath for approximately 15 metres. On your left is:

**Wellingtonia** *Sequoiadendron giganteum*. The Giant Redwood from the Sierra Nevada range in California USA. Though never attaining the height of a coastal Redwood (see 16) they will still grow to a height of around 90 m (180ft). They do however attain a more substantial girth. With a total trunk volume of over 15,200 cubic metres (50,000cu / ft) the 'General Sherman' in Sequoia National Park, California is regarded as the world's largest living thing. Capable of reaching an age in excess of 3000 years they are also one of the oldest living things. Its soft spongy bark protects it from forest fires.



A little further along, again on the left hand side is one of the park's rarer trees:

**Cut Leaf Oak** *Quercus x rosacea* 'Filicifolia'. A cultivar of the ill-defined hybrid between our English Oak *Quercus robur* and the Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*.



As the footpath begins to sweep southwards on the left is:

**Caucasian Wing-Nut** *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*. As well as being another Bedfordshire champion this is arguably the finest tree specimen in the park. Particularly attractive in the summer when its crown is adorned with yellow pendulous catkins up to 50cm long.



Continue along the footpath for another 50m. On your left, near the path you will see:

**Stone Pine** *Pinus pinea*. Native to south west Europe and the Mediterranean. In the open, this tree forms an umbrella shape and can reach 30 m in height. The seeds can be eaten raw and can also be roasted or added to ragouts.



# Bedford Park TREE TRAIL

1 TREE NUMBER  
TRAIL DIRECTION



# TREE TRAIL Quiz!

- 1 WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE TREE LEAF COVER HAS CHANGED BACK TO A NORMAL LEAF SHAPE?
- 2 ARE THE LEAVES OPPOSITE OR ALTERNATE?
- 5 HOW LARGE ARE THE TREE'S LEAVES?
- 6 CAN YOU GIVE TWO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THIS TREE AND NO.7?
- 8 HOW DO THE LEAVES COMPARE WITH THE LEAVES ON NO.6 AND NO.7?
- 9 ARE THESE LEAVES OPPOSITE OR ALTERNATE?
- 11 DESCRIBE THE TEXTURE OF THE BARK?
- 12 WHAT COLOUR IS THE BARK?
- 13 HOW DOES THE LEAF SHAPE DIFFER FROM COMMON OAK?
- 14 THE LEAF OF THIS TREE IS MADE OF SMALLER LEAVES (LEAFLETS). HOW MANY LEAFLETS ARE ON EACH LEAF?
- 16 HOW DO THE LEAVES DIFFER FROM NO.12, THE WELLINGTONIA?
- 18 CAN YOU FIND ANY HAIRS ON THE LEAF? IF THE ANSWER IS YES, WHERE ARE THEY?
- 19 HOW MANY NEEDLES ARE IN EACH BUNCH?
- 20 ARE THE NEEDLES ON PEGS OR FIXED STRAIGHT ON THE TWIG?
- 21 ARE THE NEEDLES INDIVIDUAL OR GROUPED?
- 22 ARE THE BUDS A DIFFERENT COLOUR TO TREE NO.11?