



**The Beaudesert Trust**  
Providing adventure for young people & conserving Beaudesert Park

# Beaudesert Tree ID Trail

This trail will take you around the estate's woodland, giving you the opportunity to see some of the most impressive trees on the estate.

Use the questions paper to practice your tree ID skills or follow this paper to learn about the story of the trees.

Use what 3 words to find the positions of the trees, or follow the accompanying map.

What3words can be downloaded here: [What3words.co.uk](https://www.what3words.co.uk)

To complete the whole trail will take 2 hours. The total length is 2.5miles.

You can complete each section separately, each section will take around 40 minutes.

Happy treeing!

Sitka Spruce – Left of Campfire Circle – Subjects.hockey.shuttled

*Picea sitchensis*

This is the only Sitka spruce onsite. It can be identified by its distinct cone and sharp blue-green needles. Sitka spruce accounts for 25% of all tree cover in the UK, largely due to its importance as a timber production tree. It is fast growing and has a straight growth habit.



Yew – Left of Campfire Circle – hurray.spurred.painter

*Taxus baccata*

Yew is prevalent throughout much of the site. The needles of the tree are extremely toxic. Yew trees have important religious and spiritual connotations and are often found in churchyards. You will find yew trees at the outdoor chapel. Yew is slow growing and was once used for longbows.



Birch sp. – Outdoor Chapel – encourage remodel subway

*Betula sp.*

Birch are found throughout the site. There are two main species of birch in the UK: downy and silver. They hybridise readily, so are tricky to tell apart.



Sycamore – Anglesey 12 – hazelnuts.tucked.funded

*Acer pseudoplatanus*

Sycamore were introduced to the UK around 1500. They set seed very readily, so rapidly colonise areas.



Red Oak – Anglesey 14 – [cuter.simulations.paramedic](#)

*Quercus rubra*

The red oak is native to the North-East of North America. It is fast growing and produces a beautiful colour in the Autumn. It is mainly grown for aesthetic value, as seen here. Note the trees planted in lines going East to West. This is an example of an allée, a technique which can be found throughout the site.



Gorse – Anglesey 15 – [windmills.sogging.behave](#)

*Ulex sp.*

Gorse is an upland plant. It has sharp leaves, and provides nesting opportunities for birds. Notice it grows readily under these birch trees. You will find gorse growing like this in the wilds of Cannock chase.



Oak sp. – French – basher.recliner.verbs

*Quercus sp.*

There are two main oak species in Britain: sessile and pedunculate oak. The trees frequently hybridise, and may exhibit characteristics of the other species. This oak has an impressive twist.



Scots Pine – Opposite French – panther.expensive.rods

*Pinus sylvestris*

Scots pine is one of the UK's three native conifers (along with yew and juniper).



Hybrid Larch – Backwoods 3 – blubber.charming.dozens

*Larix × marschlinsii*

Larches are a rare example of a deciduous conifer. Hybrid larch is a cross between European and Japanese larch. It was once an important timber tree in the UK, though is no longer planted due to the pressures of disease. This area is dominated by larch. Notice the increased ground cover beneath the larch trees.



Birch sp. – Broadhazels 2 – firmer.blurs.send

*Betula sp.*



Leyland Cypress – Broadhazels 2 – firmer.blurs.send

*Cupressus x leylandii*



Turkey Oak – Broadhazels 1 – fishery.harmlessly.motion

*Quercus cerris*

The Turkey oak is native to the Mediterranean. It can be used in land reclamation, as it grows slightly faster on more exposed sites than our native oaks. Notice the hairs on the buds.



Yew – Outdoor Classroom – wriggle.unspoiled.operating

*Taxus baccata*

Another of the site's many yew trees. Notice how dark it is under the canopy. Forests dominated by yew frequently have little ground flora.



Austrian Pine – High ropes – equality.pitching.eventful

*Pinus nigra*





Hazel as coppice – Walled Garden – reissued.smothered.rust

*Corylus avellana*

Hazel readily coppices. This hazel has been repeatedly coppiced, to harvest the long stems. Hazel stakes area traditionally used as hedge laying binders. It is a common technique to leave a few stems in the middle of the stool, to provide hazelnuts in the Autumn, as well as allowing the coppice regrowth.



Sweet Chestnut – Anglesey 10 – bandaged.hormones.pleaser

*Castanea sativa*

Sweet chestnut was introduced to the UK by the Romans. It is an important tree for timber and as a food source. In the South of England, it is traditionally coppiced, producing fence posts. This specimen has gnarled and burlled bark at the base, with the characteristic swirling bark only found at around 2m height.



Wild Cherry – Centenary Avenue – gasping.lobbed.bookshelf

*Prunus avium*

This allée of wild cherry was planted to commemorate 100 years of scouting.



Lime – Anglesey 6 – prestige.glory.materials

*Tilia sp.*

Observe the epicormic growth at the base of the tree. This is characteristic of lime. Note also the very red buds.



Portuguese Laurel – Anglesey 6 – grasp.workroom.filer

*Prunus lusitanica*

Portuguese laurel is invasive to the UK. It is commonly planted as a hedge or ornamental shrub, but can become overgrown and set seed. It is not as invasive as the rhododendron or cherry laurel found around the site. It does spread invasively, but is easier to keep under control.



Lime as coppice – Anglesey 2 – organist.inferior.betraying

*Tilia sp.*

Lime allées are present throughout the Anglesey sites. This tree was felled for health and safety reasons. Now, it has coppiced, sending out fresh shoots. Lime readily puts out shoots from old growth. This is known as epicormic growth. Observe the mature lime trees, see the epicormic growth at the base of them. Coppice can be continually cut, to obtain long straight wood. This can be useful for fencing and stakes.



Copper Beech – Tented village – minder.extreme.constrain

*Fagus sylvatica*



Austrian Pine – Diamond Junction – dominate.duet.crisis

*Pinus nigra*

Sometimes called black pine, the Austrian pine is related to Corsican pine. Both are important timber trees in the UK. You'll see our other black pines in the walled garden.



Leyland cypress – Diamond trail at model – shame.ironic.explain

*Cupressus × leylandii*

Around the estate, there are several cypresses. These are relics of the old estate.



Birch sp. with burls – Diamond trail at model – shame.ironic.explain

*Betula sp.*

The large spherical masses on the stem are called burls. They are formed when the tree sustains an injury. This could be a branch break, fungus or insect intrusion. The swirling woody growth is a response to this stress, to heal the injury.



Beech with twisting stem – Quarry – afternoon.mess.sailing

*Fagus sylvatica*

This beech has a very interesting form. This is uncharacteristic of a beech, which often has quite a straight stem.



Japanese Maple – Pond – pictures.likening.soulful

*Acer palmatum*

This Japanese maple (sometimes referred to as just an “acer”) has beautiful autumn colour and impressive broad form. In the autumn, this tree has a beautiful carpet of reds beneath it.



Grey Willow – Pond – machinery.happen.bibs

*Salix cinera*

Grey willow can be differentiated from other willows by the stipules (tiny leaves) found on the stems of their leaves. Willows will tolerate having wet roots, so are often found growing near water.



Holly – Ruin – Outright.continued.lectured

*Ilex aquifolium*

Holly is known for having the whitest wood of any UK native tree. Observe the foliage. It is not spiky above head height. This is because naturally, holly does not form spiked leaves. Forming spikes takes energy away from the tree which could otherwise be used for growing. Spikes are only formed when the tree detects damage. This could be from deer or humans. This is why only the lower branches have spiked leaves.



Yew – Broadwalk – bonfires.lunch.bombshell

*Taxus baccata*

This broadwalk is formed of yew trees. It would have been seen as a status symbol at the time of the original estate. Here, the yew trees were cut in to topiary shapes, but have become overgrown with time.



Sweet Chestnut – Bluebell wood – potions.duos.modules

*Castanea sativa*

This is another one of the site's ancient trees. It provides a link to the site's past. This tree would have been here at the time the hall was still standing!





Leyland Cypress – Bluebell wood – fizzled.bypasses.senior

*Cupressus × leylandii*

This area of the site formed formal gardens from the old house.



Sweet Chestnut – Viewpoint – dislodge.indirect.chatted

*Castanea sativa*

These ancient trees have stood for over three hundred years. Special care is needed in their management. They are extremely important culturally, as they provide a link to our past. They also are important habitat for many endangered and protected species, such as woodpeckers and bats.



Leyland Cypress – Viewpoint – plausible.irrigated.sake

*Cupressus × leylandii*



Beech– Naboth's – upholding.gripes.slate

*Fagus sylvatica*

This field grown beech creates a peaceful atmosphere. If you look towards the South boundary, you will sometimes see herds of deer grazing in the field.



Atlas Cedar – Triangle – thigh.suceses.something

*Cedrus atlantica*

Atlas cedars are impressive trees, native to Northern Africa. Atlas cedar is one of only four true cedars. They were a favourite of gardeners of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Nowadays, they are at risk of cedar dieback. Atlas cedar can be differentiated from other cedars by the upward pointing tips of the branches.



Box – Dorothy Dean – stops.sprawls.clouding

*Buxus sempervirens*

This is a very unusual forest tree. It is currently the only example of box on the estate. Box grows native to alkaline soils, and can be found on the chalky hills of the South of England. It is very slow growing, and does not attain a great height. More commonly, it is grown as the traditional plant for an English hedge. Recently, alternatives to box are being used in hedging due to an increased prevalence of box blight.



Leyland Cypress – Dorothy Dean – stops.sprawls.clouding

*Cupressus × leylandii*



Atlas Cedar – Owl's Nest – knees.contain.chat

*Cedrus atlantica*



Yew – Owl's Nest – knees.contain.chat

*Taxus baccata*



Sweet Chestnut – Owl's Nest – knees.contain.chat

*Castanea sativa*

This sweet chestnut has been pollarded. This was carried out for safety reasons, to reduce the risk of the tree dropping branches.



Hedging mix – Owl's Nest – knees.contain.chat

There has been a significant push to plant hedging on the estate over the last few years. See how many different species you can spot. Hedges provide nesting and feeding opportunities for birds and small mammals.

Beech – Model – ramps.jumps.reveal

*Fagus sylvatica*



This brings us to the end of the trail.

To further read about trees and their role in our environment, check out the woodland trust:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/>

To find out about the estate team's work, follow our facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/beaudesertpark>



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