

LA Nature Winter Tree Trails

Trail: Street Fox

Challenge Level: 1 (tarmac pavements & paths, suitable for all, walking & cycling)

Area: Cycle path between Birdwell School & Northleaze School

Winter identification features:

Tree No. 1	Common Name: Lime/Linden	Latin Name: <i>Tilia spp.</i>	<u>Location:</u> near bicycle slow through, at side entrance to Birdwell, behind football goal
	Height: tall, (up to 30m) Trunk: pale grey-brown, irregularly ridged, burrs & shoots at base Bark: long ridges & cracks Branches: low enough to touch Leaves: absent during winter (deciduous) Fruit: 2-3 ball-shaped seeds attached to leaf-like bracts		
Tree No. 2	Common Name: Oak	Latin Name: <i>Quercus spp.</i>	<u>Location:</u> opposite the Birdwell school playing field
	Height: up to 20-40m Width: up to 30m with thick, strong trunk & twisted with age Bark: smooth, silvery-brown bark, becoming rugged with age Branches: sturdy, jaggedy & twisted, broad reaching Leaves: some smooth lobed leaves may still be attached in early winter Leaf buds: rounded, scaly & clustered Fruit: acorns may still be present or found on the ground		
Tree No. 3	Common Name: Ash	Latin Name: <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	<u>Location:</u> beside pond on right of path, opposite a damaged elder
	Height: up to 35m, (may be tallest trees on this trail) Width: up to 20m, with a pretty thick trunk Bark: from pale brown to grey, later developing fissures Branches: thick; seem to form trident shape at ends, twigs flattened Leaves: deciduous (lost during autumn) Leaf buds: distinct black, large, ridged & pointed Fruit: browned, pointed, winged, clearly visible clusters, (ash-keys)		
Tree No. 4	Common Name: Pink Hawthorn	Latin Name: <i>Crataegus spp.</i>	<u>Location:</u> Walk up slope after pond & bridge, take left path. Tree right-side, with encroaching brambles
	Height: small, (up to 12m), common as a hedge shrub Width: up to 15m Bark: bright brown, flaking Branches: thorny, straight Leaves: absent during winter (deciduous) Fruit: some deep red haws may remain through winter		
Tree No. 5	Common Name: Hazel	Latin Name: <i>Corylus avellana</i>	<u>Location:</u> on the path that runs along-side Dawson's wood, behind wooden fence
	Height: up to 12m, but usually coppiced Trunk: cluster of numerous narrow upright 'stems' if coppiced Bark: smooth, grey-brown Branches: bendy thin twigs Leaves: leaves absent, (deciduous), small leaf buds oval, blunt & hairy Flowers: small tight yellow-green male catkins, mature in length & loosen to free pollen Fruit: remains of hazelnuts may be seen on the ground		

Tree No. 6	Common Name: Willow	Latin Name: <i>Salix spp.</i>	<u>Location:</u> on the path that runs along-side Dawson's wood, behind wooden fence
	Height: up to 20m Trunk: either main trunk or cluster of narrow branches Bark: grey-brown, deeply fissured Branches: shrubby long upright stems, bright olive-green shoots Leaves: absent during winter (deciduous) Fruit: catkins absent during winter		

Tree No. 7	Common Name: Alder	Latin Name: <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	<u>Location:</u> on the right edge of the green grass slope that leads onto kissing gate of the wood
	Height: up to 20m, thrives by water (timber supports Venice!) Width: up to 12m with medium-thick trunk Bark: dark grey-brown, lightly fissured, with possible green lichen Branches: relatively thick, with light-brown spotted stem Leaves: deciduous, (absent during winter), oval leaf buds Fruit: male: green-yellow long pendulous catkins found with female: ripen into small brown cones		

Tree No. 8	Common Name: Silver Birch	Latin Name: <i>Betula spp.</i>	<u>Location:</u> 5 trees to left of downhill path leading to allotments bridge
	Height: tall, (up to 30m), fast growing, slender Trunk: usually narrow, as fast growing (width can be up to 6m wide) Bark: pinkish-brown when young, white scaly, black patches when old Branches: drooping twigs hang down from stiff main branches Leaves: absent during winter (deciduous) Fruit: some catkins may remain through winter		

Tree No. 9	Common Name: Elder	Latin Name: <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	<u>Location:</u> just after allotment bridge on stream-side
	Height: shrub or small tree, rarely reaching 10m Trunk: narrow, straggly, often near horizontal Bark: light brown, deeply furrowed, spotted when young Branches: may grow upright from horizontal-ish larger branch/trunk Leaves: absent during winter (deciduous) Fruit: black elderberries on red stalks, absent during winter		

Tree No. 10	Common Name: Sycamore	Latin Name: <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	<u>Location:</u> on bank of stream, just before wooden playpark
	Height: up to 30m Trunk: thick & solid Bark: grey-brown & smooth initially, then flaking & rough Branches: stout twigs with fat green buds Leaves: deciduous, absent during winter, check for brown fallen leaves Fruit: brown v-shaped samara's hang down in drooping tail-like clusters		

Tree No. 11	Common Name: Norway Maple	Latin Name: <i>Acer platanoides</i>	<u>Location:</u> on the patch of grass beside wooden park & stream
	Height: medium, (up to 15-30m) Width: up to 6 - 20m Branches: cover a wide area & create a dome, overshadowing undergrowth Bark: pale, grey-brown, smooth, or finely ridged & corky in maturity Leaves: bright yellow leaves may yet to have fallen in early winter Fruit: winged 'samaras', gone brown, occur in pairs, ('helicopters')		

Tree No. 12	Common Name: Beech	Latin Name: <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	<u>Location:</u> left/house-side of muddy no-cycling path along stream
	Height: may exceed 40m Trunk: strong & mighty Bark: smooth Branches: smaller branch ends kind of zig-zaggy Leaves: dried brown leaves may remain on very young trees/hedges Leaf buds: reddish brown, long, pointed, sharp, formed on short stalks Fruit: beach nuts may be found dropped on the ground		

Tree No. 13	Common Name: Horse Chestnut	Latin Name: <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	<u>Location:</u> on the far-side of the stream, branches reaching cycle path at corner of Northleaze
	Height: up to 30m, tall & mighty, great for a rope swing! Trunk: thick spitting into a few strong main branches Bark: very smooth, pink-grey when young, darkening with age Branches: very thick main branches with stout twigs Leaves: deciduous/absent during winter/lost early autumn Leaf buds: large, oval, dark red & sticky, mainly at branch ends Fruit: conkers may still be found on the ground		

Tree No. 14	Common Name: Holly	Latin Name: <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	<u>Location:</u> on the path that runs along-side Dawson's wood, left-side
	Height: Trunk: Bark: Branches: Leaves: Fruit:		

Tree No.	Common Name:	Latin Name:	<u>Location:</u>
	Height: Trunk: Bark: Branches: Leaves: Fruit:		

References:

- 👉 www.woodlandtrust.org.uk has a really great a-z of trees, as does their Tree ID app. (Free)
- 👉 Collins gem do a little Tree ID book that fits nicely in a pocket, (around £4)
- 👉 Usborne have a sticker book, (around £3)
- 👉 Collins Michelin i-SPY Guides have a 'Trees' book for recording what's been spotted, (£2.99)

Tree Monograph

Common names:

Latin name:

Identifying features:

Similar trees:

Found in:

Value to wildlife:

Mythology & symbolism:

Practical uses:

Culinary uses:

Medicinal uses:

Threats & conservation:

Location spotted:

Date spotted:

Season spotted:

Who spotted: