

The Beale Arboretum



A GUIDE TO THE TREES IN
THE BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS
AROUND WEST LODGE PARK

FROM MAY 2025



West Lodge Park

YOUR LONDON RETREAT



WELCOME FROM ALL OF US HERE AT WEST LODGE PARK



Here is a guided tour to the stunning Beale Arboretum at West Lodge Park. The map is on pages 16-18, and the map numbers relate to the relevant text in this booklet.

I sincerely hope that you will get great pleasure from the wonderful 950 or so different specimen trees around the Arboretum.

There is huge benefit to seeing trees together in species groups as we have in the Beale Arboretum. It enables close comparison of maturer specimens. This is never possible in a garden centre or nursery where all the examples on display are tiny and immature.

Since its inception in 1963, it has become an arboretum of national importance, with national collections of *Carpinus betulus* (Hornbeam), *Taxodium* (Swamp Cypress) and *Catalpa bignonioides* (Indian Bean tree), and a planned national collection of *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Giant Redwood).

If you have any questions please feel free to email me at andrewbeale@bealeshotels.co.uk and I will do my best to reply, but may seek advice first from our Arboretum Consultant Mark Lane CVO or Head Gardener Paul Baynes.

We also have further information, tree list and quarterly Arboretum notes on our website at:
www.westlodgepark.co.uk/arboretum/about-the-arboretum.

If you would like to bring a group for a private tour around the Beale Arboretum, please see page 15.

Andrew Beale
Managing Director, Beales Hotels

1 Welcome to the Beale Arboretum



This wonderful arboretum was founded in 1963 by Edward Beale in association with Derek Honour, Arboricultural advisor to the GLC and with Frank Knight, Director of the RHS at Wisley. It has been developed further over the past 55 years by Edward Beale's son Trevor, grandson Andrew and great grandson Dominic.

The tree above you is *Taxodium distichum*, (Swamp Cypress), dating from c 1850 – a fine specimen of this deciduous conifer – a very ancient species.

Look around at the arc of mature trees planted by the former owner John Cater in the mid 1800's, starting with the *Quercus robur* (English Oak) in the car park in front of the hotel, around past the *Taxodium distichum* to the *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monterey Cypress), to the *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coastal Redwood), the *Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Wellingtonia' (Giant Redwood) and the beautiful *Cedrus atlantica* (Atlantic Cedar).

Follow the path to the left of the grand urns and steps to commence your tour of the Beale Arboretum.



2 The Pinetum



The Pinetum contains wonderful conifers from all parts of the world. It is particularly useful to be able to compare so many firs, spruces and pines in close proximity to one another.

Look out for *Picea abies* 'Acrocona' – notable for its "terminal" cones at the end of each branch.

Pinus wallichiana (Bhutan Pine) is a five needle pine, and has a lovely feminine wispy form with huge blue cones.

Pinus pinea (Umbrella or Stone Pine) is commonly grown in Mediterranean lands but copes well at this northern limit to its zone of tolerance, complete with pine nuts inside its cones.

Pinus radiata (Monterey pine) is a grand tree in the corner of the Pinetum, with serotinous cones that open up only in extreme heat such as forest fires.

Cryptomeria japonica 'Araucarioides' (Sugi or Japanese cedar) is a rare large specimen of this monotypic genus, with whip like branches and short dark green needles

3 Taxodium National Collection

The Plant Heritage National Collection of *Taxodium* (Swamp cypress) and cultivars includes:

T. distichum – several specimens planted in the 1850's and 1960's

T. ascendens 'Nutans' – the rarest tree in the arboretum, and arguably the most beautiful too

T. distichum 'Cave Hill'

T. distichum 'Hursley Park'

T. distichum 'Imbricatum'

T. distichum 'Little Twister' – a real beauty with fastigiate branches

T. distichum 'Minaret'

T. distichum 'Peve Minaret'

T. distichum 'Schloss Herten'

T. distichum 'Secrest'

T. distichum 'Mickleston'

T. distichum 'Mucronatum'

T. distichum 'Gee Wizz'

T. distichum 'Cascade falls' – a very pendulous habit for this weeping swamp cypress

T. distichum 'Shawnee Brave'

T. distichum 'Pendens'

T. distichum 'Prairie Sentinel'

T. distichum 'Peve Yellow' – beautiful soft yellow foliage turns to rust in the autumn

T. distichum 'Astrid'



National collection status is prestigious recognition of the national importance of particular collections, and is conferred by Plant Heritage.

Taxodiums are native to the southern states of the US, and are named after *Taxus* (Yew) because of the similarity of their foliage to that of yews. They thrive in boggy soils and are deciduous conifers with beautiful rusty red autumn colouring and occasional 'knees' (pneumatophores).

4 More Pinetum trees

Look out for *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn Redwood) – a fossil tree long thought to be extinct yet rediscovered in China in 1941 and brought to the outside world in 1948.

Pinus aristata (Bristlecone pine) grows in the Rockies at altitude and the oldest examples are 4600 years old.



Fitzroya cupressoides (*Fitzroya*) is the largest tree species in South America, and the second oldest living tree species in the world at over 2600 years old, only beaten by *Pinus aristata* (*Bristlecone Pine*)

Picea breweriana (Brewers Spruce) grows in California up to 6000' altitude with dramatic pendulous foliage.

Picea omorika (Serbian Spruce) from the Balkans. Reputed to be the timber which Stradivarius selected for his famous violins.

Thuja plicata (Western Red Cedar) – a very shapely tree from British Columbia. The timber is highly prized and is unusual in that it can be trimmed as the foliage regenerates.

Wollemia nobilis (Wollemi Pine) A fossil tree, thought extinct for 200 million years, yet rediscovered by David Noble in the Wollemi National Park (Australia) in 1994. The location of the small grove of mature trees is a closely guarded secret.

5 The Main Ride

A wonderful view back to the 1838 building of West Lodge Park and forward to the monument erected by Trevor and Andrew Beale to Edward Beale who died in 1998.



Look out for *Mahonia bealeii* (Asian Mahonia).

Juglans nigra (Black Walnut) planted by Trevor Beale. A very valuable tree, with the wood used for gunstocks.



Nyssa sylvatica (Black Tupelo) a native American tree with a wonderful autumn scarlet colour.

Corylus avellana 'Contorta' (Corkscrew Hazel) with crazy shaped stems and leaves – a great favourite of flower arrangers and in rude health despite looking rather sickly when in leaf.

The first specimen to be cultivated was at Myddleton House, close to West Lodge Park.

Cornus kousa 'Venus' (Kousa dogwood) has wonderful large bracts in the spring and summer.

6 The Lower Ride

Quercus coccinea 'Splendens' (Scarlet Oak) for fantastic autumn colour

Quercus rubra (Northern Red Oak) – another autumn tree, a native of North America.

Sorbus (Mountain Ash) – several varieties in this area, with delicate leaves, colourful berries in shades of red, orange, pink and white, from the USA, Hungary, Kashmir, China, and the UK.



Sorbus torminalis (Wild Service Tree) – quite rare now. The fruit used to be used in beer instead of hops, and was reputedly good for colic.

Crataegus (Hawthorn) – lots of varieties here, the hawthorns are noted for their blossom that bursts into life around May day, (hence the name Mayflower), and autumn berries.

7 *Carpinus Betulus* National Collection

This Plant Heritage National Collection of ***Carpinus betulus*** (European Hornbeam) includes the following:

C.b. 'Frans Fontaine'

C.b. 'Pendula' – a very sinuous trunk going up into the canopy, with a graceful pendulous habit

C.b. 'Fastigiata' – a beautifully symmetric tree, one of the best in the arboretum

C.b. 'Quercifolia' – look out for the oak shaped leaves, but also where some leaves are reverting to hornbeam

C.b. 'Purpurea'

C.b. 'Heterophylla'

C.b. 'Horizontalis'

C.b. 'Columnaris'

C.b. 'Globus' – the cutest tree in the arboretum, a perfect replica of

C.b. 'Fastigiata' in miniature.



National collection status is prestigious recognition of the national importance of the collection and is conferred on the Beale Arboretum by Plant Heritage.

Hornbeams are often confused with beech trees, but the wood is denser still, and has the highest calorific value of any firewood.

8 More Lower Ride trees

Betula jacquemontii – a lovely small silver birch and white trunk, very suitable for a smaller garden.

Podocarpus (New Zealand Yew).

Nothofagus (Southern Beech).

Zelkova (Caucasian Elm) – with a multi stemmed and very graceful habit.

Pterocarya fraxinifolia (Caucasian Wing Nut Tree) – one of the prizes of the Beale Arboretum with extraordinary catkins up to 45 cm long, pinate leaves that look like they belong on an Ash tree, and, less attractively, vigorous suckers that need to be cut down each winter.

Malus – a large collection of crab apples with spring blossom and autumn fruits. The best is *M. Evereste* with perfect apples in miniature.

Fraxinus excelsior (European Ash) – very tall and multi stemmed with delicate leaves. A beautiful tree. The wood is used for bows, hammers and snooker cues.

Cercis siliquastrum (Judas Tree) – reputed to be the tree that Judas hung himself on. Native to the Middle East, with deep pink flowers in spring.

Paulownia tomentosa 'Fast Blue' (Foxglove Tree) – an extraordinary tree growing at 5' per year with lovely blue/purple foxglove-like flowers.



9 Magnolia Collection

This collection of various evergreen and deciduous Magnolias includes the following cultivars:

M. wilsonii – a beautiful magnolia with lantern shaped pendulous flowers

M. lennei

M. lennei 'Susan' – purple flowers for this popular magnolia

M. stellate

M. grandiflora 'Exmouth' – a prize specimen with beautiful scented flowers in the summer and autumn

M. lilliflora 'Nigra' – a beautiful low magnolia barely 3' high, with lily-shaped purple flowers

M. grandiflora 'Galesoniere'*M. x sieboldii**M. x galaxy**M. kobus**M.x loebnerii* 'Leonard Messel'*M. grandiflora* 'Royal Star'*M. x butterflies**M. x elizabeth*

10 Ilex Collection

Here is a collection of decorative hollies from around Europe. Hollies are a wonderful winter plant with shiny leaves that give pleasure at a dull time of year.

I.aquifolium 'Ferrox argentea'*I.a. 'Angustifolia'**I.a. 'Silver Van Tol'**I.a. 'Argenteomarginata'**I.a. 'Green Pillar'**I.a. 'JC Van Tol'**I.a. 'Handworth New Silver'**I.a. 'Myrtifolia aurea'**I.a. 'Pendula'**I.a. 'Silver Milkboy'**I.a. 'Chestnut Leaf'**Ilex altaclarensis* 'Camellifolia'*I.a. 'Aurea Pendula'**Ilex altaclarensis* 'Golden King'*I.a. 'Pyramidalis'**Ilex altaclarensis* 'Lawsoniana'*I.a. 'Marginata Pendula'*

11 Maple Glade and pea family area



Look out for the leguminous trees like *Robinia frisia*, *Gleditsia sunburst*, *Sophora* – all part of the pea family with pods. Late flowering but all last long into the autumn with glorious yellows and golds.

Laburnocytisus 'Adamii' – an extraordinary cross, with yellow and pink flowers on the same tree!

Gleditsia triacanthos 'Ruby Lace' – a beautiful bronze coloured tree planted by the late Alan Mitchell, the UK's foremost tree expert, and friend of the Beale Arboretum.

Gymnocladus (Kentucky Coffee Tree) – so named as a very poor substitute for real coffee in times of poverty in mid west America.

Acer freemanii 'Autumn Blaze' – as its name suggests, stunning in the fall.



Acer davidii (Snake bark maple) – the striations on the bark are most noticeable in the younger branches. Native of China.

Acer griseum (Paper bark Maple) – also native of China and most notable for the beautiful rust coloured exfoliating bark.

Acer circinatum (Vine Maple) small and native to western USA.

Acer cappadocicum (Cappadocian Maple) native to Turkey.

Acer rubrum 'Scanlon' – a champion tree with stunning autumn colour.

Acer rubrum 'October Glory' – another spectacular tree in October and November each year.

Acer saccharum 'Newton Sentry' – an extraordinarily columnar sugar maple and one of our champion trees.

Acer laxiflorum – one of the most beautiful of the snakebark family maples.

12 Biblical Wall

This is the most sheltered part of the Beale Arboretum and more delicate plants can grow here as mentioned in the Bible.

***Ficus carica* 'Brunswick'** (Common Fig) – Matthew 24:32 “Now from the fig tree learn this parable. When its branch has now become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near”.

Punica granatum (Pomegranate) – Song of Songs 6:7 “Your lips are like scarlet thread. Your temples are like a piece of pomegranate behind your veil”.

Paliurus spina-Christi (Jerusalem Thorn tree) – Matthew 27:29 “They braided a crown of thorns and put it on his head”.

Olea europea (Olive Tree) – Romans 11:24 “For if you were cut out of that which is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree, how much more will these, which are the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?”

Myrtus communis (Myrtle) – Isaiah 55:13 “Instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree and it shall be to Yahweh for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off”.

13 Catalpa collection

Our National collection of Catalpas, (Indian bean tree) contains the following varieties:

C. bignonioides – all the mature catalpas have remarkable pods in the autumn, sadly inedible.

***C. bignonioides* 'Aurea'** – one of the best trees in the Beale Arboretum, stunning leaf colour, and summer flowering.

***C. bignonioides* 'Nana'** – a dinky little catalpa in a perfect lollipop shape.

***C. speciosa*.**

***C. speciosa* 'Pulverulenta'.**

***C. speciosa* 'Frederik'.**

***C. speciosa* 'Szechuanica'.**

***C. fargesii* 'Duclouxii'** - with extraordinarily long beans

***C. erubescens* 'Purpurea'** – the young purple leaves are very striking.

***C. ovata*.**

Also in this area is a mature ***Pinus pinea***, (Umbrella pine), a champion tree ***Juniperus recurva* 'Castlewellan'** (Drooping juniper), and a pleached Hornbeam hedge of 50 ***Carpinus betulus***, to mark 50 years of the Beale family at West Lodge Park when it was planted in 1995.



14 Main Lawn Trees

***Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Wellingtonia'** (Giant Redwood) – the largest living thing in the world. Native to the Sierra Nevada in northern California, the largest tree (General Sherman) is 1487 m3. The spongy bark protects the tree from forest fires.

Cedrus atlantica (Atlantic cedar)
– It is rare to see an intact specimen like this one due to the horizontal habit of the branches. Look for the beautiful resinous cones that differ to the Lebanese cedar with a dimple in the top.



Sequoiadendron sempervirens (Coastal Redwood) – the tallest tree in the world, rising as high as 381' in a narrow coastal strip in northern California.

Arbutus unedo (Killarney strawberry tree) – reputed to be the oldest tree in the Beale Arboretum, dating back to 1760. Unedo is Latin for “Eat one” as the strawberry-like fruit is very bitter and you won’t want to eat another! This tree is out of fashion but a much better winter tree than olive, with glossy green foliage all year round. Native to both the Mediterranean and SW Ireland.

Araucaria araucana (Monkey Puzzle) native to Chile and Argentina – so named as a monkey would have trouble climbing down it. Planted 1974, it has fruited every year since 2014. Often planted in Edwardian gardens but less widely seen now.

15 Lakeside Trees

In this area of the Beale Arboretum are some wonderful trees, many of which have been planted by successive Lord Mayors of London.

Look out for the following specimens:

***Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata'** (Cypress Oak) Across the lake. A fine tall tree, Cypress like in form, with a narrow columnar habit. Originally propagated from an upright tree found in central Europe.



Quercus palustris (Pin Oak) To the left of the lake. Glorious autumn colour is the feature of this North American Oak, with fastigate upper branches and pendulous lower branches.

Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip tree) We have five of these North American trees adjacent to the driveway. Known for lovely spring flowers, and autumnal colour as well as a primitive looking leaf.

Quercus suber (Cork oak) with very definite cork bark, native to southern Portugal and Andalusia.

***Fagus sylvatica* 'Dawycyk'** (Fastigate Beech) – to the right of the lake. A lovely fastigate beech, with a tall slender habit, compact leaves, and autumnal beech colour.

Tilia (Lime or Linden) – across the driveway to the left of the lake. As well as the lime avenue of some 110 trees up the driveway, we also have a good collection of these trees, including *T. mongolica*, *T. americana* ‘Redmond’, *T. europea*, *T. tomentosa*, *T. x europaea* ‘Wratislaviensis’ our spectacular champion lime, *T. petiolaris*, and *T. henryana*.

Quercus Robur (English Oak) – this fine oak that dominates the front of the hotel is so named from Quercus (oak) and Robur (strength or hard timber). The quintessential symbol of England, this specimen is some 25 – 30m tall.

Salix x Sepulcralis Chrysocoma (Weeping willow) – a fine symbol of waterside trees, with bright yellow shoots.



16 The Top Field

This 18 acre field has superb views over the Enfield Chace – it is remarkable and unique to find such a sense of space in a London borough.

The field has plenty of interest including:

A large collection of **Quercus** (Oaks) to the right.

A grove of **Liquidambar styraciflua** (Sweet Gum) straight ahead.

A duplicate national collection **Carpinus beulus** (hornbeam) to the right, and duplicate national collection of Catalpa beyond

A duplicate national collection of **Taxodium** (Swamp Cypress) by the pond.

A grand avenue of 50 giant redwoods (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) planted in 2013 to commemorate 50 years since the founding of the Beale Arboretum – this avenue is the only wild-collected Sequoia avenue in the UK. planted by a group of local MPs including Cecil Parkinson, Michael Portillo, Ian Twinn, Tim Eggar, Lord Harris and others.





The West Lodge Park beehives in the grove straight ahead – the honey is collected twice a year and is sold at the hotel reception.

The top field pond straight ahead, home to frogs, toads, breeding mallards, moorhens etc.

Enjoy the mown footpaths around and through the field for complete peace and quiet and a sense of oneness with the natural world.

Open Days in aid of the National Gardens Scheme

The Beale Arboretum is open to the public twice a year in aid of the National Gardens Scheme. This charity, whose patron is His Majesty King Charles III, is responsible for the organisation throughout England and Wales for the opening of 2,300 gardens, the majority of which are private and not normally open to the public.



The proceeds of the scheme benefit Macmillan Nurses, Marie Curie cancer care, Hospice UK and gardeners' charities. The Open Days at West Lodge Park are popular events usually attended by over a hundred people, with guided tours by experts during the afternoon and light refreshments available.

Check on the dates of the open days each year at:
www.belearboretum.com/visit

Conducted tours for private parties

Private conducted tours of the arboretum for groups (minimum 10 persons) can be arranged if booked in advance, normally on weekdays. The walk round the trees takes one and a half hours, and is taken by the Managing Director Andrew Beale.



Andrew Beale
Managing Director



Mark Lane CVO
Arboretum Consultant



Delicious lunches, afternoon teas and other refreshments are available at the hotel to round off your visit.

For full information and to make a booking please contact Jane Gray on janegray@bealeshotels.co.uk or 020 8216 3904.

WEST LODGE PARK



The Beale
Arboretum
West Lodge Park

ENFIELD





Please unfold to reveal Arboretum map







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