

14th November 2018

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to a meeting of the:

Devolved Assets and Services Committee
on Thursday 22th November 2018 at 7.00pm
at the Civic Centre, Sambourne Road, Warminster, BA12 8LB

Committee Membership:

Cllr Brett (East) Chairman	Cllr MacFarlane (West)
Cllr Fraser (West) Vice Chairman	Cllr Nicklin (West)
Cllr Fryer (Broadway)	Cllr Robbins (East)
Cllr Jeffries (Copheap)	

Peter Hewitt (Volunteer); Stuart Legg, Park and Open Spaces Manager; Fiona Fox, Town Clerk and RFO; Tom Dommett, Assistant Town Clerk; and other invited guests.

Copied to all other members for information.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council and its committees, unless excluded due to the confidential nature of the business.

Yours sincerely



Fiona Fox BA (Hons) MCIPD FILCM
Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for absence**
To receive and accept apologies, including reason for absence, from those unable to attend.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest under Warminster Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

3. **Minutes**

3.1 To approve and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Devolved Assets and Services Committee meeting held 16th October 2018; copies of these minutes have been circulated and Standing Order 12.1 provides that they may therefore be taken as read.

3.2 To note any matters arising from the minutes of the Devolved Assets and Services Committee meeting held 16th October 2018.

4. **Chairman's Announcements**

To note any announcements made by the Chair.

Standing Orders will be suspended to allow for public participation.

5. **Public Participation**

To enable members of the public to address the committee with an allowance of three minutes per person regarding any item on the agenda and **to receive** any petitions and deputations.

Standing Orders will be reinstated following public participation.

6. **Reports from Unitary Authority Members**

To note reports provided which are relevant to this committee

7. **Clerk's Report: Town Park and Associated Land**

For noting. (See attached).

8. **Tree Trail – Request for funding**

Members are requested to approve publication of a 'Tree Trail' for the Lake Pleasure Grounds. The 'Tree Trail' has been written by Harriet James with grateful thanks to others involved. It is proposed that the booklet would be printed in full colour with an initial print run of 1000 copies at a cost of £398.30. **(Draft copy of the Tree Trail attached).**

Members to consider and resolve accordingly.

9. **Lake Pleasure Grounds: Paddling Pool**

The paddling pool in the Lake Pleasure Ground is currently fenced off to protect the surface of the pool and because the safety surface surround contains several trip hazards.

The paddling pool is undoubtedly a major attraction for the Lake Pleasure Grounds in warm weather, and it is greatly used by local residents, as well as attracting people to the Park from outside the Town.

The Town Council has been responsible for maintenance and operation of the paddling pool for only two summer seasons. During that time, the surface of the pool and the safety surfaces have had to be repaired several times.

Fundamentally the problems with the pool stem from its age.

The Council has four options:

1. Not to re-open the paddling pool.
2. To keep 'patching' the pool as has been done to date to try and keep it open.
3. To explore the cost of more extensive repairs to the pool in the hope of extending its life span.
4. To seek to replace the existing pool which could include; water filtration/re-cycling, robust/heavy duty cover and improved safety surfaces in and around the pool edge.

Officers suggest that to not re-open the pool would be a retrograde step for the Lake Pleasure Grounds and the Town.

Members are asked to consider the future options for the provision of a paddling pool as detailed above and are further requested to delegate the research, costings and funding of these options to officers for presentation at the next Committee meeting.

10. Draft Budget

Members have already received the provisional Council budget with the Finance and Assets Agenda 5th November 2018. These accounts refer.

Members are requested to note the budget lines relevant to this Committee and to suggest any additional 2019 /2020 spend items to the Clerk for inclusion.

11. CIL Funding

Members are requested to put forward any projects that they would like the CIL working group to consider for WTC CIL funding.

12. Communications

The members to decide on items requiring a press release and **to nominate** a speaker for any item on the agenda if required.

The date of the next Devolved Assets and Services Committee will be Thursday 13th December 2018 at 7pm

Minutes from this meeting will be available to all members of the public either from our website www.warminster-tc.gov.uk or by contacting us at Warminster Civic Centre.

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Devolved Assets and Services: Thursday 22nd November 2018

Clerk's Report: Town Park and Associated Land

Item 9

- a) **Lake:** nothing to report.
- b) **Pavilion Café:** winter hours started on 1st October 2018 and will continue until 31st March 2019. The café is now open Thursday – Sunday inclusive, 9.30am – 3.30pm. Lucy has been appointed Café Supervisor.
- c) **Skate park:** the council has resolved to see this project through to completion, a working party has been established and the Clerk is managing the funding applications. Provisional start date for the works, late spring 2019. The Military Covenant funding application has been submitted and the Plain Action will be submitted w/c 19th November 2018. The quantity surveyor (QS) has reported back and papers presented to Council on 19th November 2018 refer.
- d) **Putting green:** noting to note.
- e) **Lake Pleasure Grounds (LPG) and central car park public conveniences:** the LPG insurance claim for a replacement toilet door has been accepted and the works will commence soonest.
- f) **Tennis courts:** noting to note.
- g) **Boats on the lake:** these have now been put to bed for the winter.
- h) **MUGA area:** nothing to note.
- i) **The Boat House:** nothing to note.
- j) **Tree works:** trees work are on-going as per last meeting's update.
- k) **Green Flag:** we have now received feed back from the 'mystery shop'. Action points have been carried forward into the 2019/2020 budget, these include improved signage. Officers are now applying for the 2019 – 2020 Green Flag awards when the Park will be fully assessed.
- l) **Paddling Pool:** as per agenda.
- m) **The Council's grounds maintenance contracts** are due for renewal on 31st March 2019. The Council may, on the recommendation of the Town Clerk, extend the period of the contract annually at the end of the term for a period not exceeding a total of five years. This is the contracts' first renewal.

Officers have carried out a review of the same and there are no substantive changes to the Lake Pleasure Grounds and Street Furniture Contracts respectively, and no changes are required to the Hanging Baskets and Public Conveniences contracts.

Final costing is awaited from idverdi and will be presented to members at the next Committee meeting.

- n) A WW1 commemorative Cherry tree has been planted in the Lake Pleasure Grounds.

16.11.2018

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Warminster Town Park Tree Trail



This walk takes you round the lake looking at beautiful trees.

There is plenty to see at any time of year.

The route is just over 1km long and is on level, surfaced paths suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Directions are in bold type.

The trail map is on the centre pages.

START at the main entrance to the park on Weymouth Street

Walk straight ahead until you come to the lamp post on the corner of the putting green. Turn right towards the café.

Trail map 1

Alders

Have a look at the Alder trees on the putting green, beside the path. One tree has a double trunk.

Alders are **deciduous** which means they drop their leaves and fruits in the autumn.

In contrast **evergreen** trees have leaves for the whole year.

There are definitions of other tree-related words on page 24.





Alder Leaf



Alder fruit



Alder catkins in spring

In spring alders have long, hanging flowers called catkins. The leaves are heart-shaped with a small point at the tip.

Alders have little oval green fruits which turn brown and look like mini fir cones. These open up to release seed in the wind.

Follow the path straight ahead past the café. Go over the little bridge crossing the river Were.

The river flows from near Cley Hill, through the town and under Morrisons' car park before it comes into the park. Beyond the park it joins the river Wylfe flowing south to Salisbury.

Trail map 2

Cockspur Thorns

There is a row of **Cockspur Thorn** trees ahead of you, along the fence line behind the play area. These are from the hawthorn family and are **native** to North America. The early summer white flowers attract bees and other insects. In autumn the berries and leaves turn red.



These trees have big thorns like the bony spurs on a cockerel's legs. Can you spot one?



Cocksaur Thorn flowers in June

Carry on down the path following the flow of the river.

Trail map 3

Limes

Inside the fence just beyond the swings are two magnificent mature lime trees.

In the past limes were called linden trees.

They can grow to about 40m tall.



Lime leaves are heart-shaped with a point at the end and a **serrated** edge with 'teeth' like a saw blade. The leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of several kinds of moth.

Lime trees have fragrant yellow summer flowers which are loved by bees and other **pollinating** insects. The flowers turn into fruits like little bobbles.



Some people say the young lime leaves taste good in sandwiches. This might be because the leaves are often covered in sticky 'honeydew' left by aphids (greenfly). These insects pierce the leaves to suck out sugars made by **photosynthesis**. Ants come to 'milk' the aphids for the honeydew, rather like humans milk cows. Bees, hover flies and ladybirds also come for the honeydew.

Lime wood is very good for carving and making furniture because it is soft, has a fine grain and does not warp. Lime bark has vertical ridges and was once used to make rope.

Carry on along the path past the limes.

Trail map 4

Sycamore

By the sluice gate in the river you will see a **Sycamore** with ivy growing up it. Ivy is evergreen and makes good shelter for insects, birds and small mammals like bats. It flowers in the autumn and has berries in the winter so its nectar, pollen and berries are food for insects and



Sycamore leaves and keys



Ivy

Trail map 5

English Oak

When you come to the gate into the play area, look across to a magnificent mature English or Common Oak growing against the fence on the slope. Oak trees are five-star hotels for many different species. They support more animals and plants than any other native tree so are very good for **biodiversity**.

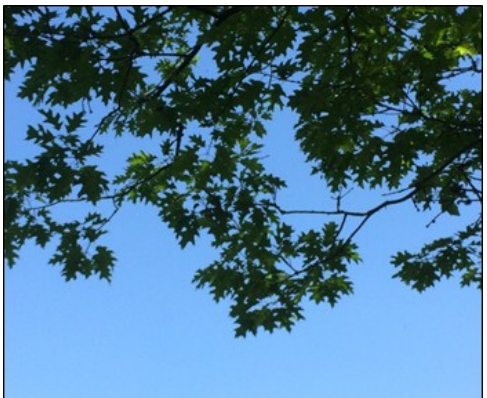


There are at least **40** different species of oak which will grow in the UK, each with slightly different leaf, bark and acorn shapes.



Oak bark has a different bark texture from the limes.

Looking towards the skate park there are two young oaks of a different kind either side of the entrance. They have a spikier shape of leaf and a smoother bark.



Hundreds of different kinds of insects live in amongst oak leaves and like to eat them, for example, the caterpillars of the Purple Hairstreak butterfly and the Great Oak Beauty moth.



Purple Hairstreak Caterpillar 7

[Photo: Peter Eeles, Butterfly Conservation]



Purple Hairstreak Butterfly7

[Photo: Jim Asher, Butterfly Conservation]

By July oak leaves get very tatty from being nibbled by insects so the trees often grow more new leaves then. The new leaves are called 'Lammas growth' because it happens around the time of the old Celtic festival of Lammas at the beginning of August which is half way between the summer solstice (June 21st) and the autumn equinox (September 23rd).

40 species of midges, mites and wasps burrow into oak buds or twigs to lay eggs and this makes the tree produce little round balls of woody material known as oak apples or galls. The eggs hatch into larvae which feed inside the galls.



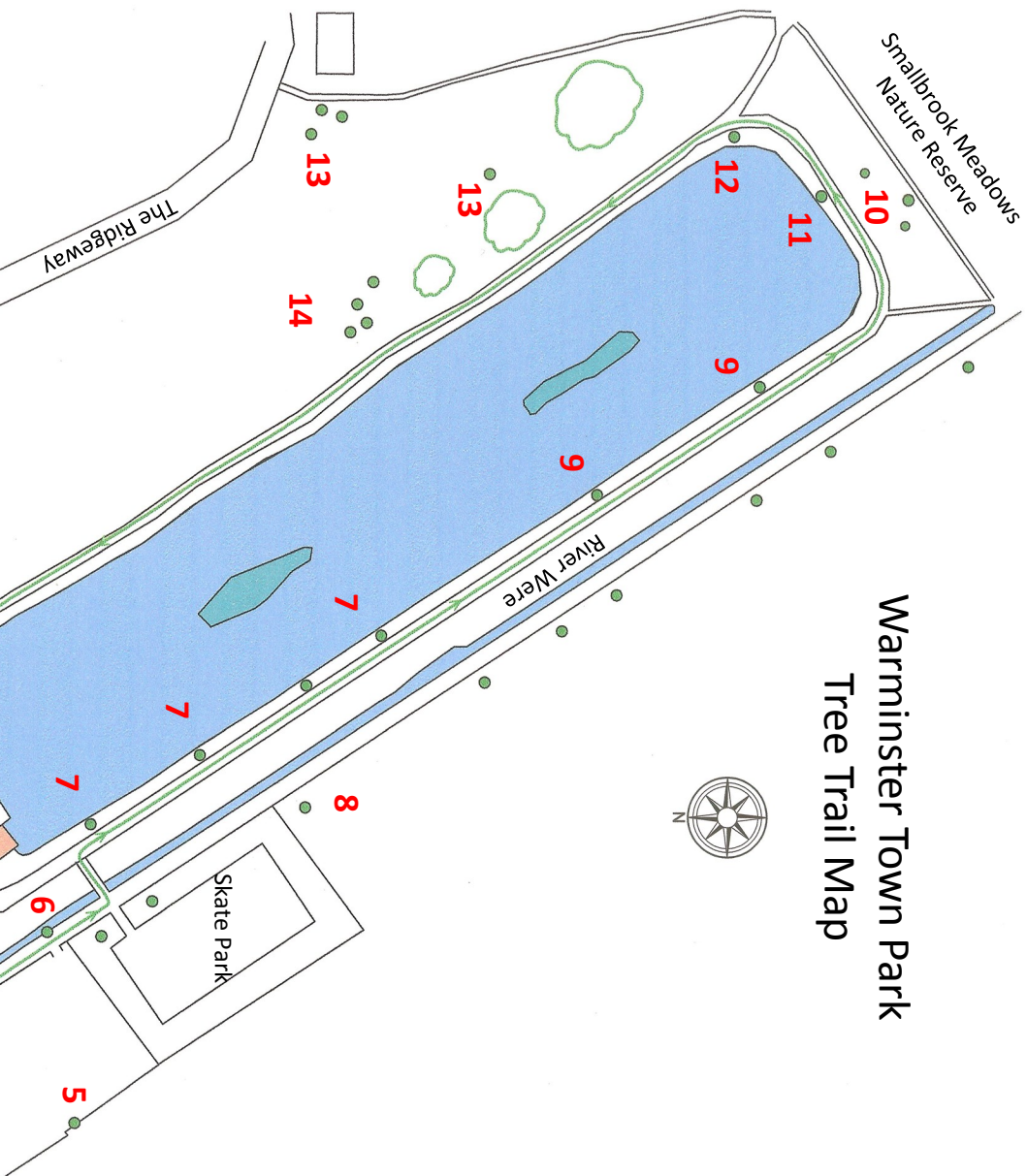
Birds and bats nest and roost in oak trees.

Badgers, squirrels, mice and deer eat the acorns.

- 1 Italian Alders (*Alnus cordata*)
- 2 Hybrid Cockspur Thorns (*Crataegus x lavallei*)
- 3 Common Limes (*Tilia x europaea*)
- 4 Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
- 5 English Oak (*Quercus robor*)
- 6 English Elm (*Ulmus minor* 'Atinia')
- 7 Swamp Cypresses (*Taxodium distichum*)
- 8 English Oak (*Quercus robor*)
- 9 Dawn Redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)
- 10 White Willow (*Salix alba*) & Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
- 11 Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
- 12 Common Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)
- 13 Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)
- 14 Common Beeches (*Fagus sylvatica*) & English Oaks (*Quercus robor*)
- 15 Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)
- 16 Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
- 17 Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)
- 18 Arizona Cypresses (*Cupressus arizonica*)



Warmminster Town Park Tree Trail Map



Fallen oak leaves make a good **habitat** for stag beetles, fungi and lichens.



Male and female stag beetles
[photo: People's Trust for Endangered Species]

Oaks produce one of the hardest and longest-lasting timbers on the planet. Oak was used for building ships until the mid-19th century. Modern uses include flooring, architectural beams and wine barrels. Oak bark contains a chemical called tannin which was used for soaking or 'tanning' leather to make it more flexible and easier to use.

Trail map 6

Elm

Beside the path is an elm with its roots in the water. Dutch elm disease has killed most mature elm trees in Wiltshire. It is caused by a fungus which is carried by the Elm Bark Beetle. This young tree seems quite healthy. It is hoped some elms may be developing resistance to the fungus.

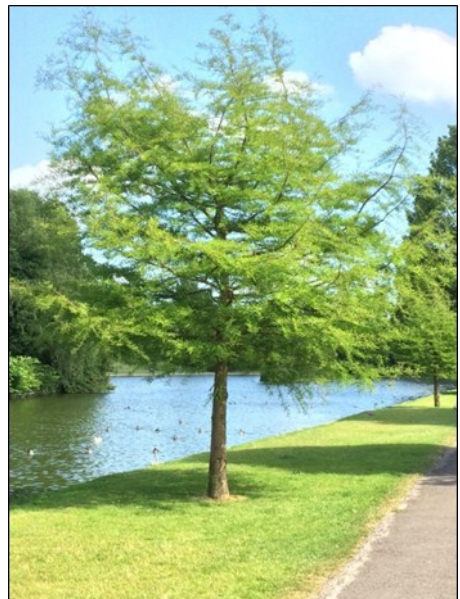


Elm leaf

Cross back over the river on the small bridge by the skate park. Turn right onto the path going down the side of the lake.

Trail map 7

Three Swamp Cypresses on the edge of the lake



Swamp cypress in winter and summer

Swamp cypresses are **conifers**. Most conifers are evergreen (keeping their leaves all year) but Swamp Cypresses are an exception to the rule. They are **deciduous** and gradually shed their old needles over the winter. They come from the swamps of south-eastern United States and Mexico. Clusters of male catkins appear in late autumn, turning yellow and shedding pollen in the spring. Female flowers are tiny green conelets which grow to about 2.5 cm across. The needles turn to



Swamp Cypress bark is ridged and fibrous. The trunks of mature trees develop tapers at the base which are called buttresses

Walk along beside the lake until you pass the second Swamp Cypress. Now look to your right, across the river Were .

Trail map 8

Oak in the corner of the field beside the skate park

This is a **veteran** tree and the girth (circumference) of its trunk is 5m. This tree has been struck by lightning in the past and still bears the scars but it is still in good condition. Some dying or dead wood on a tree does not mean it is going to die. Rotting wood provides good



Oak in winter and summer

Continue along the lake side.

Trail map 9

A row of three Dawn Redwoods right by the water



Dawn Redwoods are rare deciduous conifers like the Swamp Cypresses, which are their closest living relatives. They come from central China and were only identified and named by two pioneering Chinese **botanists** in the 1940s. Seeds were then distributed throughout North America and Europe. Before that Dawn Redwoods were only known through fossils up to 100 million years old.

Dawn Redwoods can grow to 60m tall. Their cones and leaves are similar to the Swamp Cypress and the leaves turn a reddish brown.

before falling. The roots have ‘knees’ which can grow out of the water and heave up paths.

In the wild, the Dawn Redwood is now restricted to just a few scattered places in China. The species is classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as endangered because of intensive rice cultivation.



Dawn Redwood catkins in Spring

Carry on towards the corner at the end of the lake.

Over to your right along the edge of the field there is a row of oaks and horse chestnuts.

Trail map 10

White Willow

In the row of trees along the bottom of the lake is a mature **White Willow** with ivy climbing its enormous trunk. This is a **native** British tree. The narrow leaves have white hairs on the surface and white fluff underneath which gives the tree a pale look when the wind is blowing.



Willow and Ash in summer (centre)

Willow bark contains salicylic acid and so does a plant called Meadowsweet which grows in Smallbrook Meadows just beyond the lake. Salicylic acid has become one of the world's most useful drugs – Aspirin, named after the Latin botanical name for Meadowsweet, *Spirea ulmaria*.

The spreading branches of the White Willow are mixed up with the Ash trees either side of it. Ash trees have black leaf buds and purplish flowers before the leaves come out in Spring. The fruits hang in clusters and turn to seed in 'keys' which have wings and are distributed by the wind, like Sycamores.



Willow leaves

Turn the corner and walk along the bottom of the lake to **Trail map 11** another Swamp Cypress with a double trunk, then on to **Trail map 12**, a Common Alder on the corner of the lake by the water

Alder is a native British tree which likes growing by water. The leaves are different from the Italian Alders on the putting green as they have a little indent at the tip. Alder wood is useful for making clogs and for shoring up canal banks since it does not rot under water.



Carry on walking round the lake passing big clumps of evergreen laurel on the slope and holly beside the path. Look up the slope to

Trail map 13

Maples

Maples at the top of the slope beside the house with the solar panels.



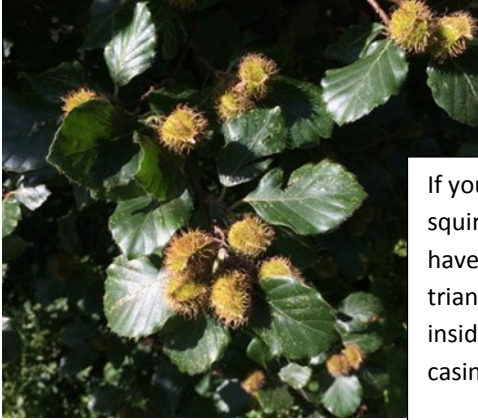
Trail map 14

Beech and oak.

When you are past the first island in the lake, look up to your right to a mixture of mature beech and oak trees.

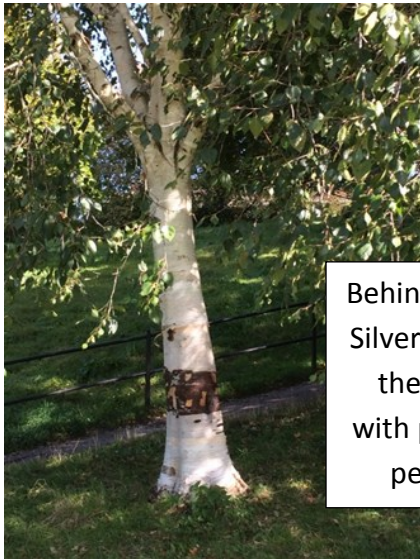


The Common Beech is a British native tree with a smooth bark compared to an oak.



If you can beat the squirrels in autumn, have a look at the triangular beech nuts inside their spiny casing.

Walk to the top of the lake. Trail map 15 Birch



Behind the Queen's Silver Jubilee stone there is a birch with papery white, peeling bark.



Turn left and go past the bandstand towards the boathouse.

Trail map 16 Horse Chestnut

Horse chestnuts come from northern Greece and Albania and were brought to England in the late 1500s during the reign of Elizabeth I.



Spring sticky buds and horseshoe patterns



Pink 'candle' flowers



Spiny conkers form in summer



and split open in autumn

Trail map 17 & 18

**For refreshments head for the Pavilion Café passing a
Dawn Redwood and two Arizona cypresses**



Botanist	A scientist who studies plants
Buttress	Large roots visible at the base of a shallow-rooted tree. They prevent the tree from falling over
Catkin	A flowering spike of many small flowers, usually hanging down in clusters
Cone/conelet	A woody fruit containing seed e.g. on an Alder or Swamp
Deciduous	A deciduous tree sheds all its leaves for part of the year.
Evergreen	Keeping leaves all year
Girth	The measurement of the circumference of a tree trunk 1.5m from ground level.
Habitat	The home of an animal, plant or other organism
Native	A native tree is one that came to a country naturally, not introduced by humans. Trees native to the UK came when glaciers melted after the last ice age before it was separated from mainland Europe by the sea.
Non-native	A tree introduced to the UK by humans. A species that would not naturally be living here if it were not intentionally or accidentally brought here.
Photosynthesis	The process that plants use to make nutrients from carbon dioxide and water using sunlight. Photosynthesis in plants generally involves the green pigment chlorophyll and generates oxygen as a by-product.
Pollen	A powder produced by the male part of a flower. It fertilises female flowers so they produce seed. Pollen is carried by insects or the wind.
Seed	The part of a fruit which can grow into another plant
Serrated	Serrated leaves have notched edges like the teeth of a saw with their points angled towards the tip of the leaf
Veteran tree	A tree which is of exceptional cultural, landscape or wildlife value because of its great age.

The Warminster Park Tree Trail was written by Harriet James

Thanks to: Stuart Legg, Warminster Park and Open Spaces Manager; Rob Fear, Park Keeper; Jonathan Astill, Tree Consultant; Shane Verrion, Tree Officer, Wiltshire Council ; Sarah Walters; Ian Gourlay; Warminster Town Council;?Friends of Warminster Park;?Printer/sponsor



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