

The Trees of the Jephson Gardens

Fifteen Guided Walks



THE TREES OF THE JEPHSON GARDENS

The Jephson Gardens contain a wonderful collection of trees, one of the best nationally in a public park of this size. This is the work of the many people who chose what to plant and who then maintained the planting. Those decisions were personal choices and are largely undocumented. Those concerned knew what they were doing, at least for the most part. At some points there was a clear desire to assemble a broad collection, with many species represented by just one example. Splendid one-upmanship!

The collection consists of about 170 different trees. (It is difficult to be precise because the boundary between a tree and a shrub is debatable and also because some trees have many different ornamental forms). This is only a fraction of the thousands of trees that are hardy in our climate. Even so, the main types of broadleaf tree commonly found across the British Isles are well represented. The collection of conifers is less wide but still impressive. There are one or two obvious absentees like the Giant Redwood.

Warwick District Council has done a great job in upgrading the gardens. Nevertheless there is more to be done. Much of the planting is mature. Some is over-mature. A number of trees are far too close together. This problem is often found in public spaces where felling is difficult to achieve. In my view some thinning and shaping is essential in order to enable trees to give of their best and to open up views.

These walks have two purposes. The first is botanical - to document what we have in the Gardens. That might appear straightforward but previous plans of identification have been incomplete and occasionally wrong. The second purpose is to share this heritage in an accessible way, to enable visitors to appreciate the quality and variety of the collection. Not everyone will want full detail or anything like it, but detail is there for the keen observer.

The walks cover almost all the tree species in the gardens. They do not, however, attempt to cover the numerous varieties of Cherry, Crab Apple, Holly, Rowan and Lawson Cypress, many of which remain to be identified precisely. An inclusive approach means that the walks include both impressive and unimpressive specimens. In order to keep things simple no attempt has been made to indicate all the multiple plantings of the same species, for example Holm Oak, Copper Beech and Yew.

I am very grateful to Steven Falk, Senior Keeper of Natural History at the Warwickshire Museum, a real expert and enthusiast who has led the way on identification. Many of the descriptions draw on Collins Tree Guide and the Hillier Manual of Trees and Shrubs.

One thing is certain. These walks will have left out some important things and got others wrong. All comments and corrections will be gratefully received. In the meantime, enjoy the trees!

This booklet can be downloaded free of charge from <http://warkcom.net/Jephson>

David Howells

September 2007

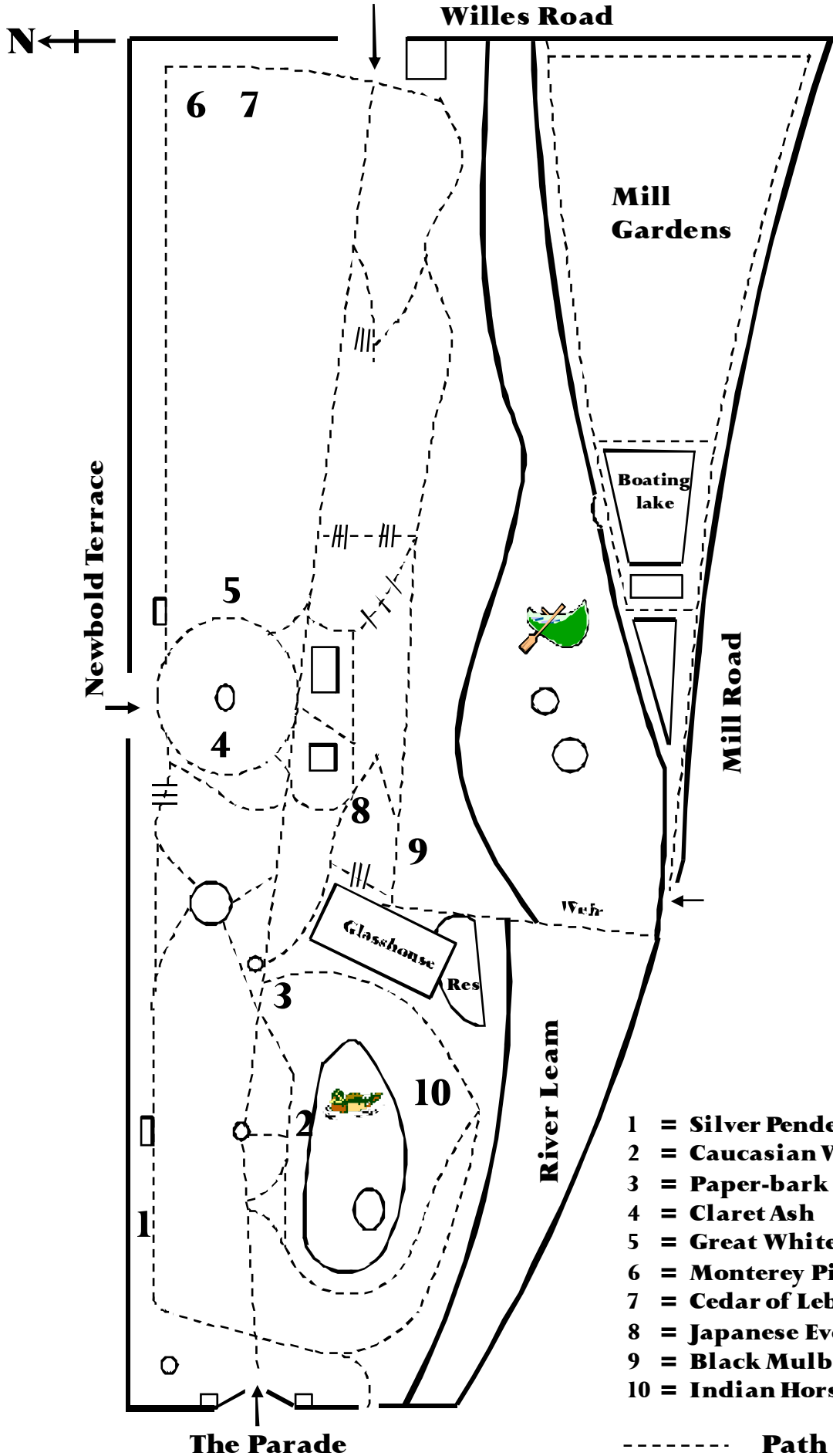
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A FIRST WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

An introductory walk with some spectacular, rare and interesting trees.

1. Turn left inside the Parade entrance and move up the Newbold Terrace side and one soon encounters a large Silver Pendent Lime (*Tilia tomentosa* 'Petiolaris'). In late summer it is particularly striking as the fragrant flowers and then the fruit hang down.
2. Beside the shallow lake is a magnificent Caucasian Wingnut (*Pterocarya fraxinifolia*), easily the biggest in Warwickshire. This species tends to sucker and extend over a wide area, as here. The wingnut is a large and fast-growing tree which is being more widely planted in public places because of its vandal-proof qualities. There are two other young specimens by the river.
3. Near the glasshouse is a striking Paper-bark Maple (*Acer griseum*). It was introduced from China by Ernest Wilson, the greatest of the early twentieth century plant-hunters. The cinnamon-coloured peeling bark is unique. Unlike most maples its leaves consist of three leaflets.
4. Near the Newbold Terrace entrance is a relatively new planting. The trees to the right of the Davis Clock with dense, feathery foliage are the Claret Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* ssp. *oxycarpa* 'Raywood'). This is now a popular selection as a result of its spectacular autumn colour.
5. At the bottom of the lawn is a Great White Cherry (*Prunus* 'Tai Haku'), one of many Japanese cherries in the Gardens. They all have their moment of glory in the spring and then relax for the rest of the year. This particular cherry was found growing in the British garden in 1923 after having been assumed lost in Japan. Its large snow-white flowers are the largest of any cherry and are balanced by copper leaves, fading to green. It has a wide low dome.
6. At the North end of the gardens is a Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*). In nature this tree is confined to cliffs around Monterey, California. It does far better in cultivation and was widely used for shelter-belts in coastal gardens. The leaves consist of three needles, soft to the touch. The cones last for many years and open only in the wake of forest fires.
7. Next door is an equally striking tree, the Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*). Since the mid-eighteenth century it has been the essential accessory for a mansion lawn, although it is seldom planted these days. It is a large vigorous tree with flat plates of foliage which develop in open situations and distinguish it from the other cedars. This one is a splendid example.
8. Just to the left behind the cafe stands a quiet and obscure tree. In fact it is one of the best examples of its species in the country. This is the Japanese Evergreen Oak (*Quercus acuta*). It is a small bushy tree whose foliage and habit suggest anything but an oak. When oaks originated some sixty five million years ago in South East Asia they were all evergreen like this.
9. Near the restaurant is a Black Mulberry (*Morus nigra*), which bears an excellent crop of delicious berries. It was imported from China by the orders of James I in the mistaken belief that it would support silkworms. The tree they were really after (*Morus alba*) is also to be found in UK but less commonly. The Black Mulberry almost always looks old, even when it is really quite young.
10. On the eastern side of the shallow lake is a fine specimen of the Indian Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus indica*), introduced from the Himalayas and far from common. It shows a fine dome on a short trunk with scaled bark on older specimens. In early summer the tree is covered with pale pink candles, long and elegant. The leaflets are slender and more elegant than those of the familiar horse chestnut. The conkers are also different, with leathery, spineless husks.

A FIRST WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS



- 1 = Silver Pendent Lime
- 2 = Caucasian Wingnut
- 3 = Paper-bark Maple
- 4 = Claret Ash
- 5 = Great White Cherry
- 6 = Monterey Pine
- 7 = Cedar of Lebanon
- 8 = Japanese Evergreen Oak
- 9 = Black Mulberry
- 10 = Indian Horse Chestnut

----- Path

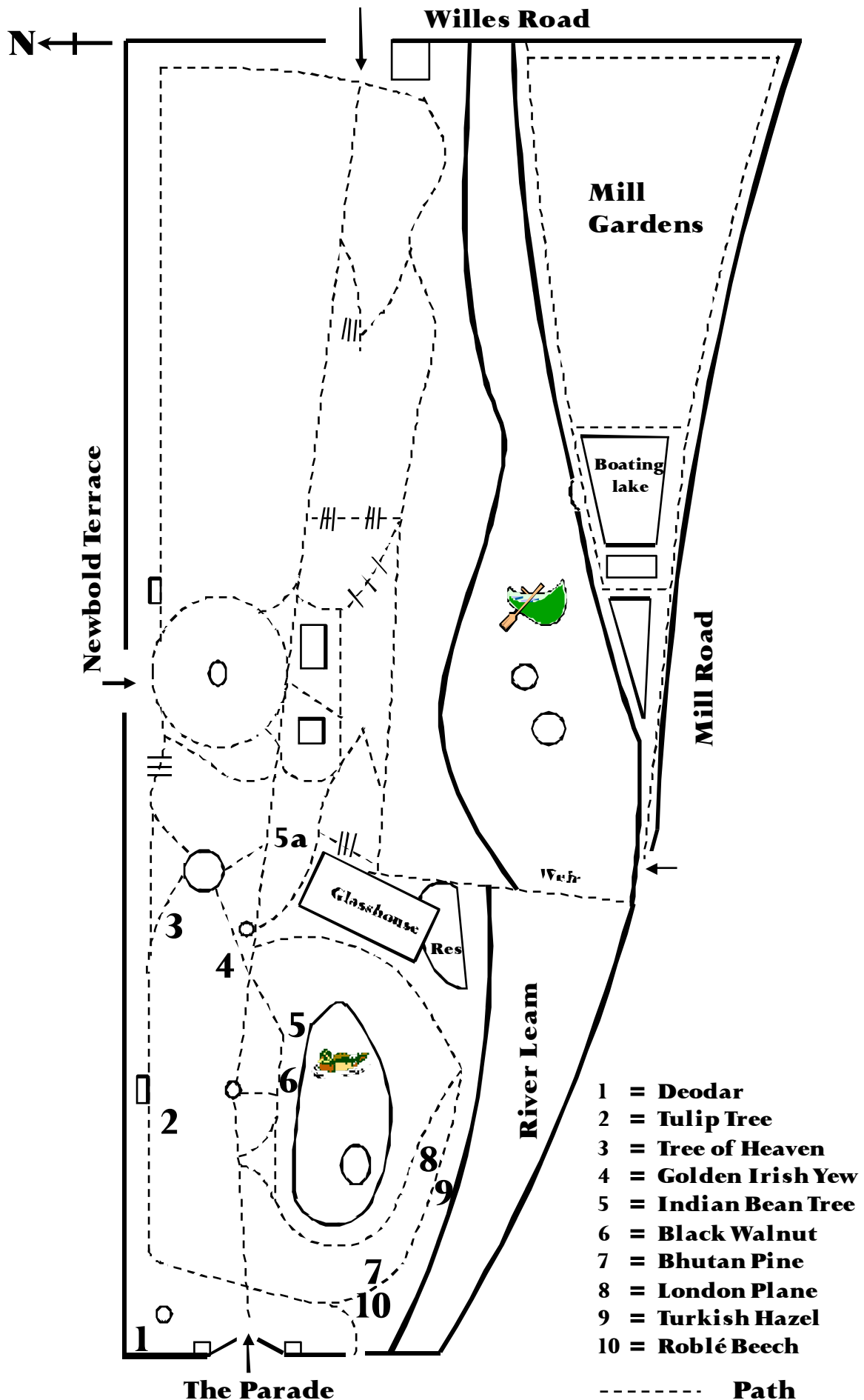
The Parade

A SECOND WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

This is a short walk which stays on the side of the gardens nearest The Parade.

1. Turn left inside the main entrance and then look left. Just beyond the Hitchman Fountain, named for a benefactor of the town, there are two Deodars (*Cedrus deodara*). Introduced into cultivation here in the 1830s, this cedar soon became popular and is widely planted in public places and also (sometimes unwisely) in private gardens.
2. Moving up the path parallel to Newbold Terrace we find the Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), introduced over 300 years ago from North America. It is easy to identify by its oddly shaped leaves, which look as though someone has cut off the end and which turn butter-yellow in the autumn. When fully grown the tree produces tulip-shaped yellow-green flowers.
3. Near the top of the path stands a Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). This is a large, imposing tree from China with distinctive ash-like leaves. There are characteristic teeth at the base of each leaflet - its identifying feature. The female trees produce large conspicuous bunches of reddish, key-like fruits. This tree does well in areas with hot summers.
4. At the top of the path is a memorial to Dr Henry Jephson, after whom the Gardens are named. Nearby is a golden Irish Yew (*Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata Aureomarginata'), with yellow margins on the leaves. The Irish yew is more erect than the standard species.
5. Towards the lake stands a fine specimen of the Indian Bean Tree (*Catalpa bignonioides*), with large, heart-shaped leaves. This is the golden-leaved form 'Aurea'. The Indian Bean Tree hails from the South East part of North America. It needs warm sunshine to look its best and to produce a good crop of pendulous pods. Nearby are some younger catalpa, including one with new leaves which are blackish red (5a). This is probably *Catalpa* × *erubescens* 'Purpurea'.
6. A little further on is a rapidly growing young specimen of the Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*). This tree also comes from the USA and is less common here than the European walnut whose nuts we eat. It makes a very large tree in time. When supplies of English oak ran short in the seventeenth century, the furniture-makers used American black walnut instead, succeeded in turn by mahogany when that became available. The bark is grey with criss-crossing ridges.
7. Further down towards the main entrance are a couple of Bhutan Pines (*Pinus wallichiana*) from the Himalayas. This is a large, elegant tree whose needles come in 5s, blue-green, slender and drooping. The graceful foliage makes it one of the most ornamental pines. The hanging banana-shaped cones are also attractive.
8. The London Plane (*Platanus* × *hispanica*) is easily recognised by its scaling grey/cream bark, maple-like leaves and dangling round fruit. A hybrid of American and oriental species, it has the vigour to make a very big tree. Between 1880 and 1914 it was widely planted in London because of its resistance to smog, but many of those trees are now too big for the squares in which they grow. Here there are some good young specimens in Newbold Terrace.
9. Growing by the river is a Turkish Hazel (*Corylus colurna*), used as a street tree because of its broad symmetrical spire. Unlike the native hazel it has a straight trunk which is rarely forked. The nuts come in frilly cups.
10. Also near the entrance is a Roblé Beech (*Nothofagus obliqua*) from Chile. The southern beeches are closely related to the familiar native beech but are all found in the Southern Hemisphere – in South America and Australasia. They are fast-growing and colour well in the autumn.

A SECOND WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

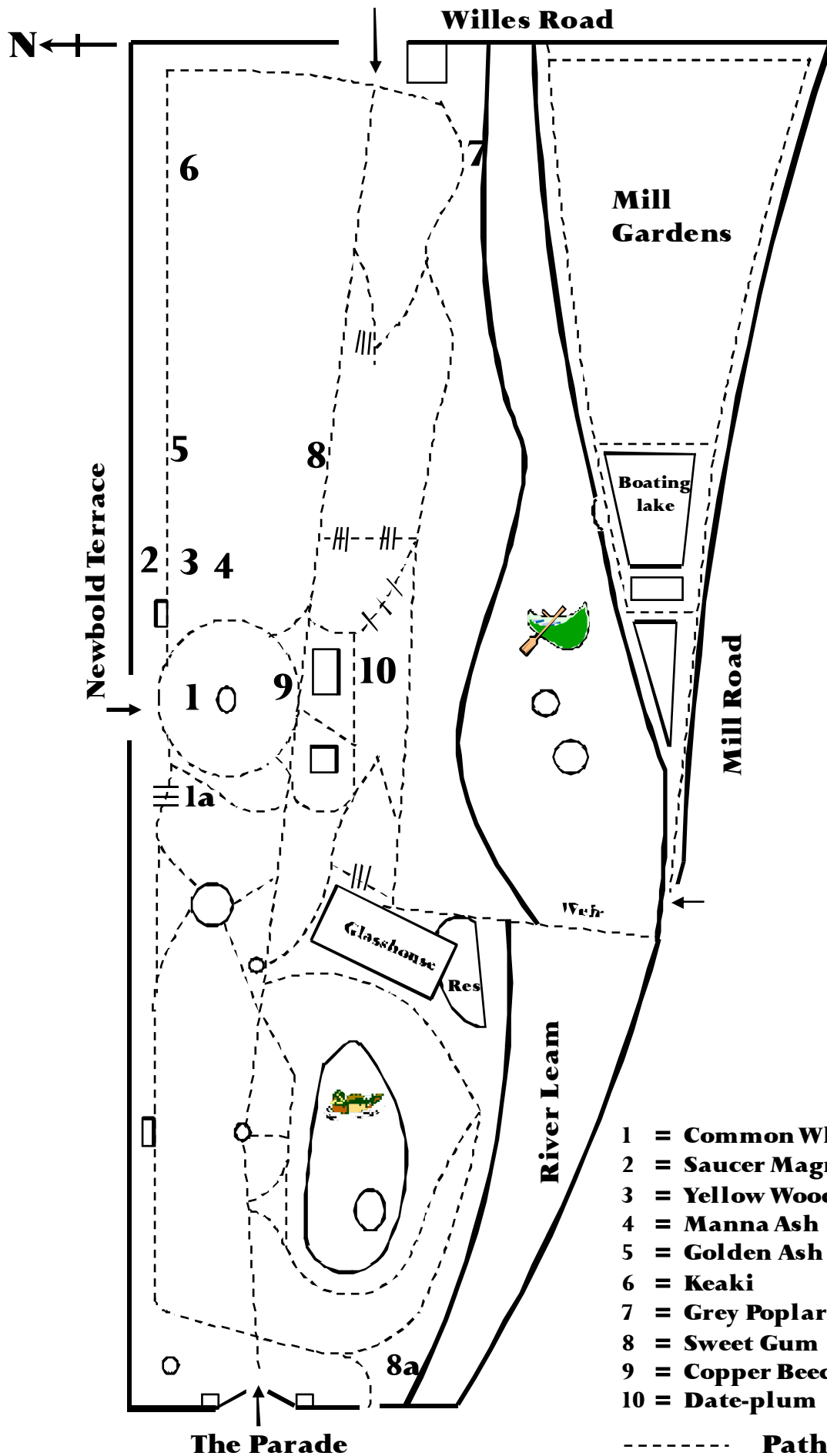


A THIRD WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

This walk concentrates on the top part of the Gardens, away from the Parade.

1. Enter from Newbold Terrace. Among the trees around the Clock are some young Common Whitebeam (*Sorbus intermedia*), possibly the form 'Majestica'. This is a useful tree because it grows strongly but does not become too big. The young leaves are attractive and so are the orange-red fruits, which form in bunches. Nearby is a mature specimen of the Bastard Service Tree (*Sorbus thuringiaca* 'Fastigiata')(1a), a cross between whitebeam and rowan.
2. Turning left along the path there is a succession of good trees. On the left hand side is a Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia × soulangeana*), perhaps the most common magnolia seen in gardens. It makes an untidy tree with a low dome, but the erect flowers are spectacular in the spring. There are many ornamental varieties. The original cross was produced by one of Napoleon's generals in his long retirement. (Note: this specimen was previously described as *Magnolia denudata*).
3. On the opposite side of the path is an unusual American tree, the Yellow Wood (*Cladastris lutea*). This comes from the South Eastern USA and was introduced in the early nineteenth century but remains uncommon. Like a number of trees from that part of the world, it has close relatives in South East Asia. The wisteria-like white flowers are produced in June.
4. Further out onto the lawn is a Manna Ash (*Fraxinus ornus*). It has the pointed winter buds of all ashes and flowers attractively in May. It comes from Southern Europe and beyond and is quite distinct from the common British ash, which is a much bigger tree.
5. The contrast becomes clearer when we reach the Golden Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* 'Jaspidea'). This is a vigorous form of the common ash, particularly striking in winter when the black buds contrast strongly with the golden-yellow shoots and yellowish branches.
6. A little further on is the Keaki or Chinese Water Elm (*Zelkova serrata*). Despite its common name, this is not a true elm but a relative. It is attractive mainly because of its graceful, wide-spreading habit, forming a rounded crown. The leaves are long and edged with pointed teeth.
7. Near the upper gate is a clump of Grey Poplar (*Populus × canescens*), growing by the water. Poplars have a reputation for quick growth and invasive root systems. Properly placed, however, they make fine trees. The grey poplar is, unsurprisingly, a hybrid between the black poplar and the white poplar, both good trees in their own right and with many different forms. There is another young specimen of the grey poplar growing near the Glasshouse entrance.
8. In the main lawn are two specimens of the sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). The far one is the largest specimen in Warwickshire. Of American origin, it becomes a large tree and is at its best in autumn when the leaves turn crimson. The leaves resemble those of a maple, except that they are arranged alternately, not in opposite pairs. To the right of the entrance from the Parade is a young liquidambar with a different leaf shape – 8a.
9. This route passes a number of fine beeches. One of the biggest is the Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* f. *purpurea*) which stands near where we started. A mature copper beech forms the biggest mass of any tree that is commonly found here. Unfortunately the root system eventually becomes unable to bear the weight so that the tree blows over.
10. Behind the café towards the river is a Date-plum (*Diospyros lotus*), an uncommon tree from Asia. It is deciduous but the glossy, thin, hanging leaves look evergreen. It can produce an elegant dome but not in the case of this specimen, which is rather shaded out by yews. The yellow flowers emerge in mid-summer but the fruit never ripens enough to become edible.

A THIRD WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

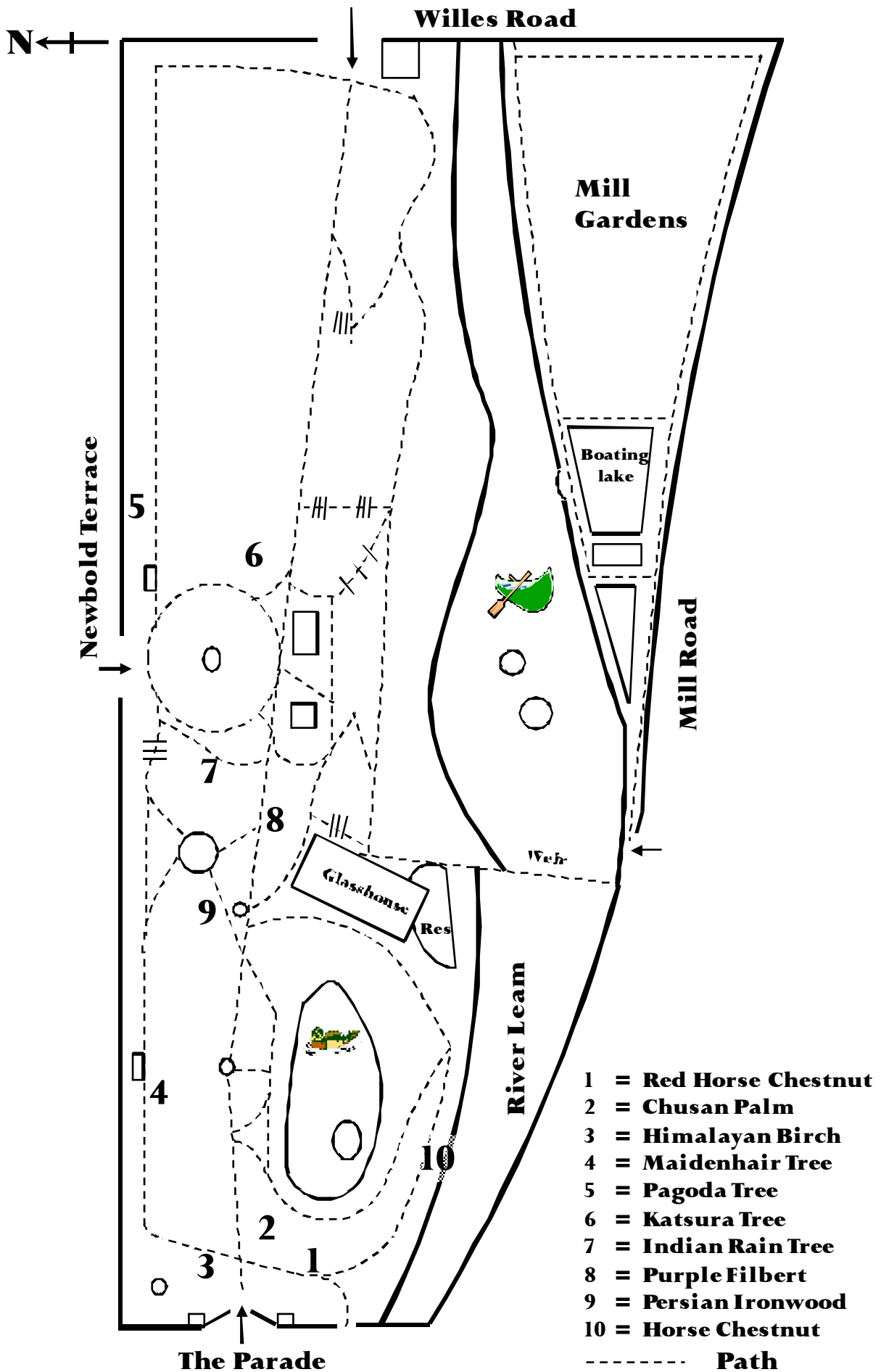


- 1 = Common Whitebeam
- 2 = Saucer Magnolia
- 3 = Yellow Wood
- 4 = Manna Ash
- 5 = Golden Ash
- 6 = Keaki
- 7 = Grey Poplar
- 8 = Sweet Gum
- 9 = Copper Beech
- 10 = Date-plum
- Path

A FOURTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

1. Near the entrance is a Red Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus × carnea*). This is a common tree in the streets and parks of Leamington, standing out when its red candles are in flower. It is a cross between an American chestnut and the common horse chestnut but is smaller than both. Its leaves are rather misshapen and the conker husks have few or no spines.
2. In the same area is quite a different tree. For a long time the Chusan Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) was almost the only palm grown outside in England and it is still by far the most common, especially in mild areas. The matted fibres which cover the bark help to keep frosts out. The leaves are fan-like on a stalk one metre long. It rarely flowers here.
3. To the left of the entrance stands a prominent Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis*), a striking tree with a brilliant white bark. This is probably the variety '*jacquemontii*', of which there are many forms. The bark has many horizontal markings and often peels into paper-like rolls.
4. Now take the path parallel to Newbold Terrace. The Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) once dominated the earth before other trees had evolved but is now endangered in the wild in China. It is a primitive tree which lacks pollen and in some ways is closer to the ferns. It was brought here in the 1750s and is now quite common in the West, especially as a street tree. The fan-like leaves are characteristic and colour a rich gold in the autumn.
5. On the far side of the Davis Clock the Pagoda Tree (*Sophora japonica*) comes from China and at its best has an oriental look with its heavy, twisting limbs. The white flowers only appear after 30 years or so, following hot summers. Fortunately the tree is long-lived: the one at Kew is 250 years old. This specimen shows the effects of heavy pruning and has rather lost its shape.
6. The Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) has a rather dainty appearance. Its heart-shaped leaves are characteristic and are borne in opposite pairs, unlike the closely related Judas tree.
7. The Indian Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) is easily recognised by its large and complex leaves, accompanied in summer by mustard-yellow flowers which hang down. In the autumn the leaves flush a garish red. This tree is growing very close to a chestnut so that only the top part can be seen, at least during the growing season.
8. Purple Filbert (*Corylus maxima* 'Purpurea') is a frequent tree or large shrub and might be thought of as a purple version of the native hazel. In fact it is a different species introduced long ago from Turkey. Both the leaves and the catkins are purple.
9. The Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*) comes from the Caspian Sea area. Its branches tend to arch out horizontally from a short trunk. The wood is hard, hence the name, which commemorates its finder, Monsieur Parrot, not the bird.
10. To the surprise of many people the common Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) is not a native tree. In fact it comes from quite a small area in the mountains of Northern Greece and Albania. It has been growing well in this country for nearly four hundred years with some characteristic features: sticky buds, prominent white flowers, and spiny conkers. Unfortunately it is threatened by a disease which has already claimed many local victims. There are a number of specimens in the Gardens, of which this is the biggest, growing very near the river.

A FOURTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

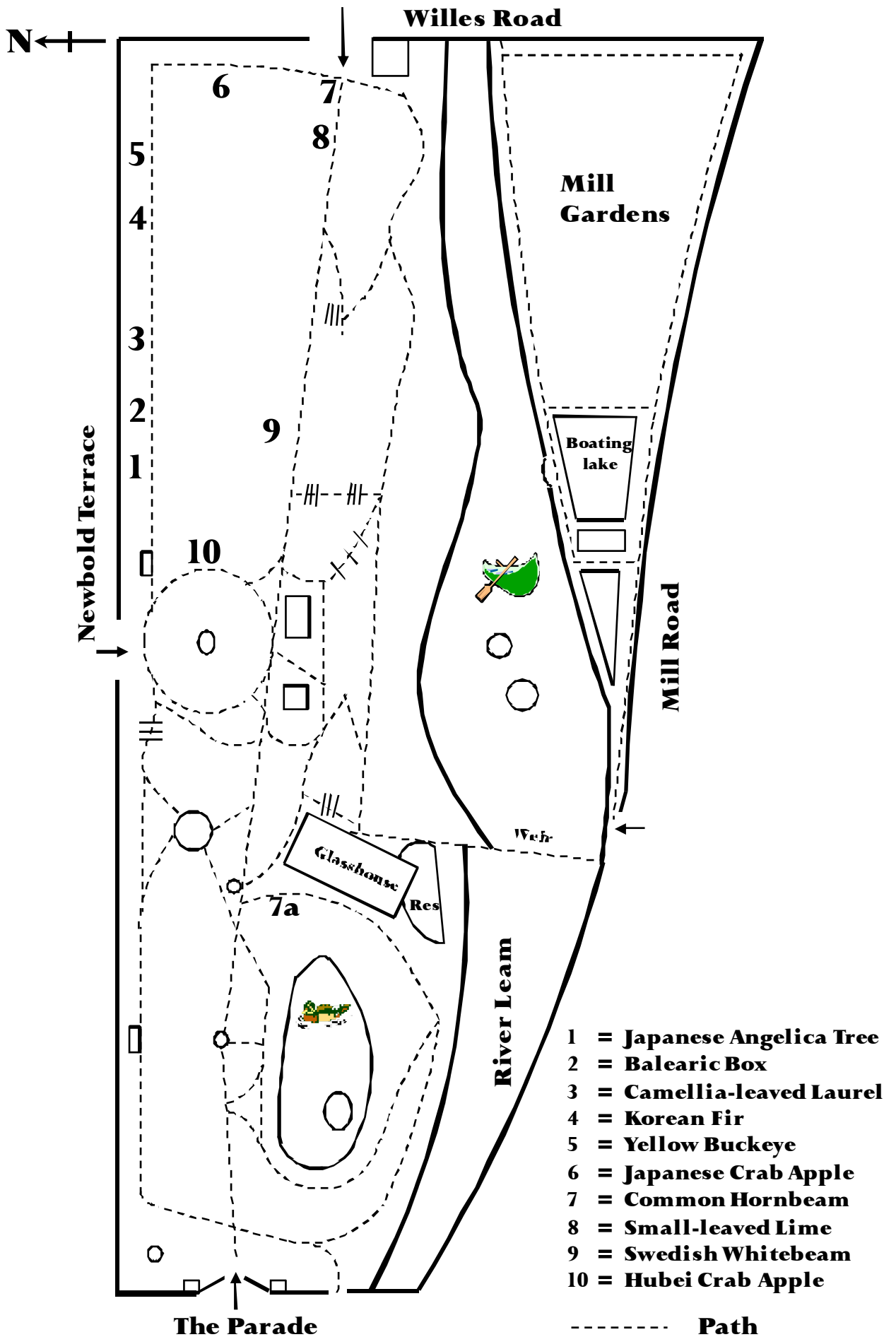


A FIFTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

This is a walk around the big lawn.

1. Turn left inside the Newbold Terrace entrance. The Japanese Angelica tree (*Aralia elata*) is more of a suckering shrub than a tree. What stands out are the huge doubly-compound leaves, with white heads in summer followed by huge clusters of berries. Beware the spines!
2. The Balearic Box (*Buxus balearica*) is a shrub or small tree, growing upright with large, flat, bright green leathery leaves, bigger than those of the common box. The small yellow flowers are produced in spring. This is quite a rare tree.
3. Nearby is the Camellia-leaved Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus* 'Camelliifolia'), which is a large shrub or small tree. It is a rare form of the common laurel, native to Eastern Europe and South West Asia. The dark green leaves are twisted and curled.
4. The Korean fir (*Abies koreana*) was introduced only in 1913 but is now the most widely planted silver fir, owing to its slow growth and neat habit. The abundant purple-blue cones make a striking display. The leaves are stumpy, with brilliant white bands underneath. This small specimen looks a bit out of place among the larger pines.
5. The Yellow Buckeye (*Aesculus flava*) is an occasional park tree from the South Eastern USA. The leaves normally comprise five elegant leaflets, each on its own short stalk, which turn bright orange-red in autumn. The yellow candles in May and June are unspectacular. The leathery conker husks lack spines.
6. At the top of the lawn stands a Japanese Crab Apple (*Malus floribunda*), rather dominated by the large conifers nearby. This is one of the oldest established and most dazzling of the crabs. It makes a low and tangled dome of ziz-zag branches. The flowers emerge pink and then become white and are followed by dull yellow fruit.
7. The Common Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) is native to South East England but is now uncommon in the wild. Like the beech, it is used widely for hedging. The two leaves are similar but those of the hornbeam are less shiny and have many more veins, closely impressed. Given space, the hornbeam can be broad and shapely, although the upright form ('Fastigiata' – 7a) is normally used for street planting.
8. 5000 years ago the Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) was the dominant tree in north west Europe, including England. It is still widely found in old woods and hedges and is now back in fashion for planting. It makes a large domed tree with small heart-shaped leaves, hairy beneath. The bark is craggy, often with sprouting shoots.
9. The Swedish Whitebeam (*Sorbus intermedia*) comes from the Baltic region and has proved tough street tree here. The round lobes of the leaves are serrated and are grey-woolly beneath. The creamy-white flower heads are showy.
10. The Hubei Crab Apple (*Malus hupehensis*) has luxuriant foliage which forms a wide dome. The flowers are white from pink beds and the fruit is a deep red. It is quite a common tree in parks and streets.

A FIFTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

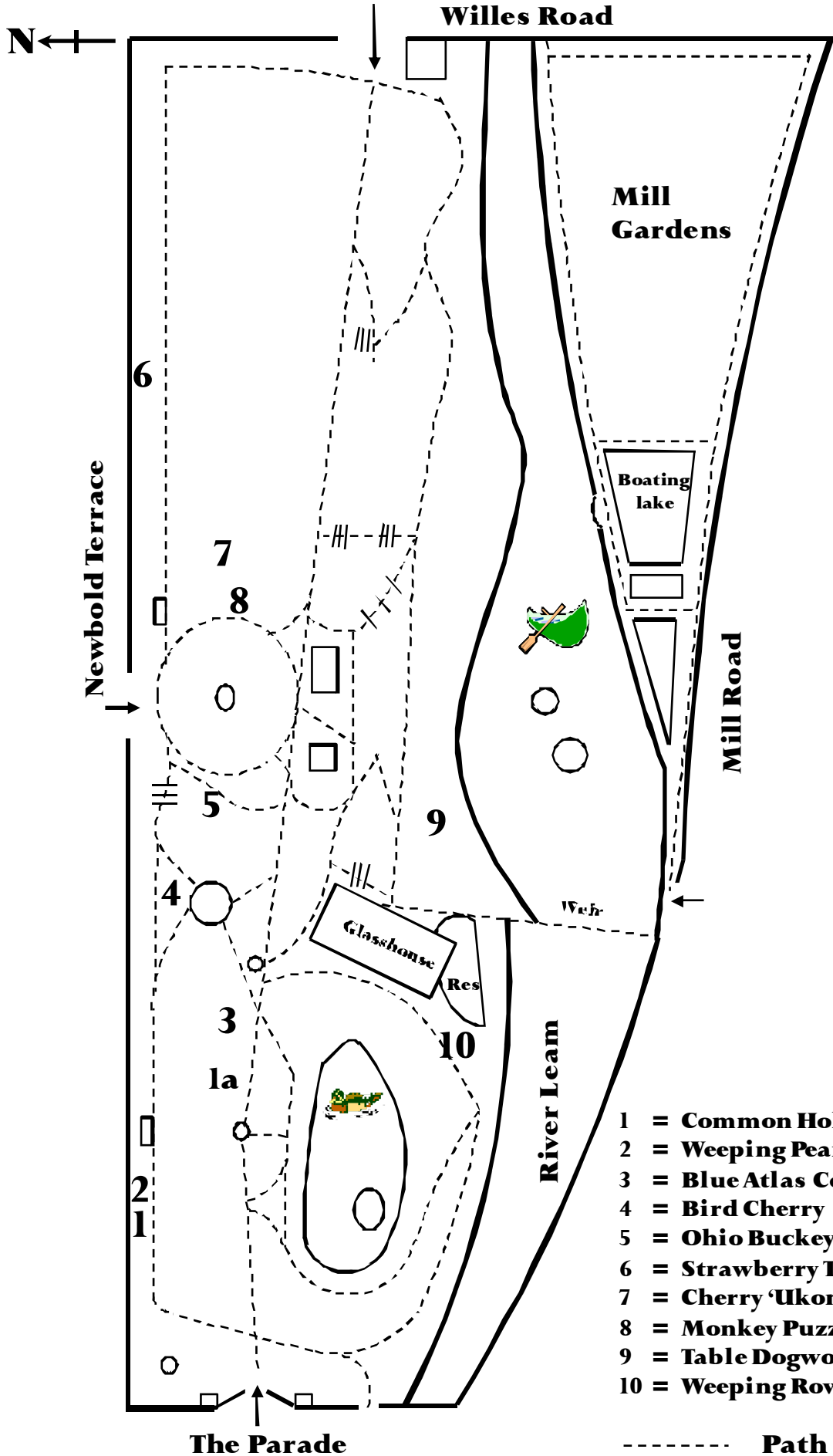


A SIXTH WALK IN THE JEPHSON GARDENS

This walk takes in a number of common trees, some native and others introduced, together with one rarity.

1. The Common Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is a native plant found everywhere, both in the basic form (as in this strong tree) and in hundreds of ornamental varieties. One example is the Highclere Holly (*Ilex* × *altaclarensis* – 1a), which produces flatter shoots and broader leaves than the common holly, often without spines. This particular form, ‘Hodginsii’, produces thick and glossy leaves.
2. The willow-leaved pear (*Pyrus salicifolia* ‘Pendula’) is well-named because its long, narrow and silvery leaves resemble those of the white willow. It makes an ornamental small tree and is found frequently in gardens. Pruning should be frequent and vigorous – a treatment it rarely receives. The weeping form is the one in general cultivation.
3. The Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca*) from North Africa is found everywhere, often too big for where it is planted. Compared to other cedars, this cedar has short leaves, greyer bark and spiky branches rising to a narrow top. The blue form has bright silver-grey foliage.
4. The Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*) is a native tree, usually found in gardens in selected forms. The leaves are dull green with fine teeth. The long, stiff flower-heads bloom in late spring, followed by inedible black cherries. Most cherries can be recognised by two tiny glands at the top of the leaf stalks. This specimen is too overshadowed to look its best.
5. The Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) is a rare tree in this country, although a number have been planted as street trees in Northumberland Avenue. It is a smaller tree than the horse chestnut and its leaves, with 5-7 slightly stalked leaflets, are much more elegant. The yellow-green flowers appear in May, followed by knobby or prickly conker-husks.
6. The Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*) is native to South West Ireland but is more at home nearer the Mediterranean. It is attractive for its deep brown, shedding bark, often gnarled on older trees. The flowers arrive in the autumn in the form of white bells, followed by strawberry-like but inedible fruit.
7. Crossing the lawn one meets a robust, spreading cherry. This is labelled as *Prunus* ‘Shirotae’ but is in fact *Prunus* ‘Ukon’, with yellowish flowers tinged green. The young leaves are brownish, turning rust red in autumn.
8. Nearby the Monkey Puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*) is unmistakable. It grows on the slopes of extinct volcanoes in Chile, where it is now threatened in the wild. It caused a sensation when introduced in the nineteenth century and was planted in gardens large and small. The trees have a straight trunk with long and spidery branches. The leaves are leathery, rigid and spiny and are arranged spirally. In the wild it keeps its lower branches but often loses them here.
9. Nearer the river, the Table Dogwood (*Cornus controversa*) is a much-admired tree as a result of its layered habit of growth. It produces clusters of cream flowers in May. It grows only slowly and is therefore expensive to buy. The variegated form is even more impressive.
10. Beyond the Glasshouse, the Weeping Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia* ‘Pendula’) makes a small, widespreading tree. It is less attractive than the common rowan, of which it is selected form.

A SIXTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS



- 1 = Common Holly
- 2 = Weeping Pear
- 3 = Blue Atlas Cedar
- 4 = Bird Cherry
- 5 = Ohio Buckeye
- 6 = Strawberry Tree
- 7 = Cherry 'Ukon'
- 8 = Monkey Puzzle
- 9 = Table Dogwood
- 10 = Weeping Rowan

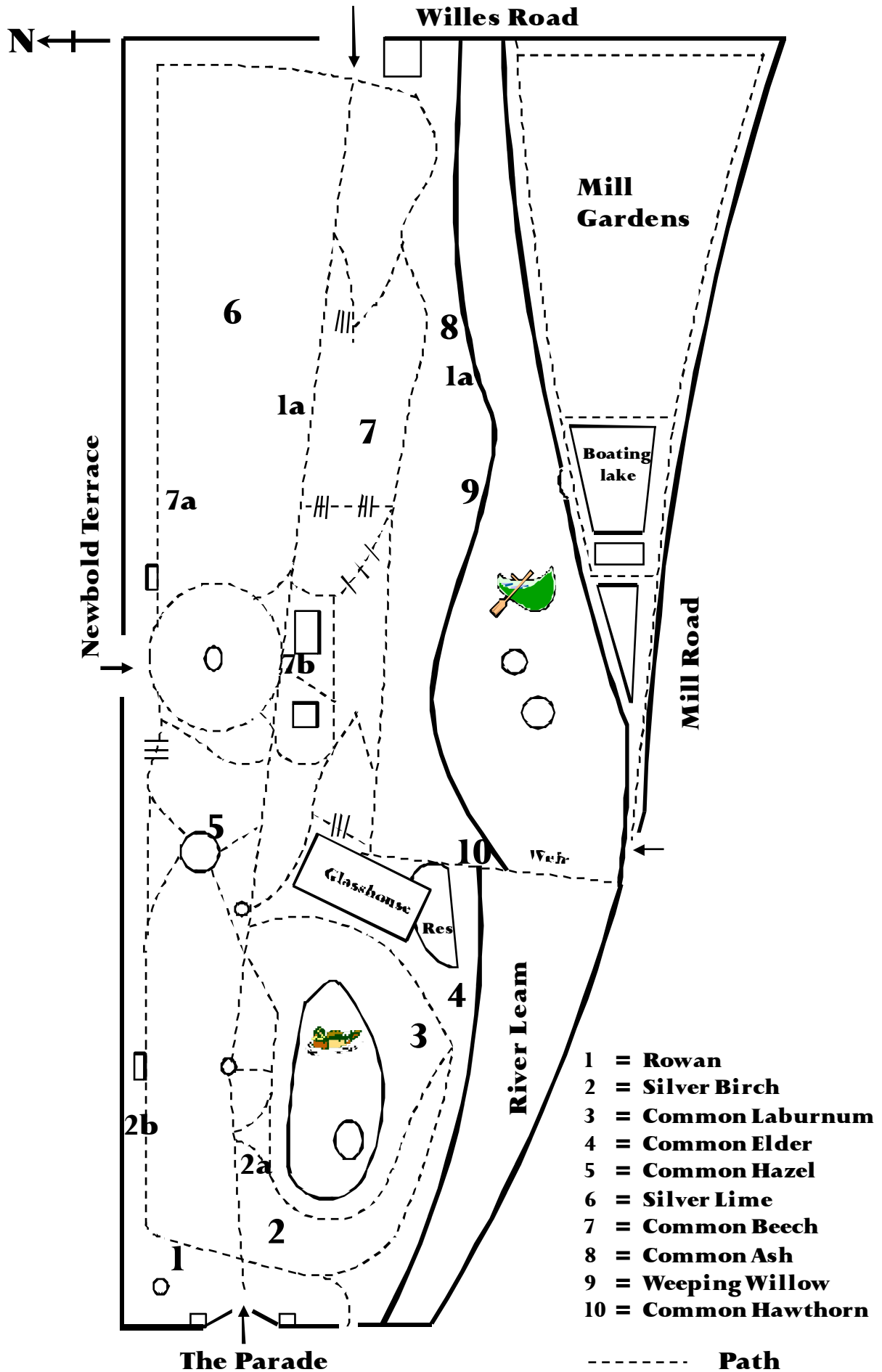
----- Path

A SEVENTH WALK IN THE JEPHS ON GARDENS

This walk takes in some very common trees, mostly native to this country.

- 1 The Common Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) is a small to medium-sized native tree. The leaves are complex, with many sharply-toothed leaflets, sharply toothed in the common form. The white spring flowers - 'May' - are followed by dense bunches of bright red fruit in the autumn. These young trees are an unidentified ornamental form. Other specimens closer to the native form are shown at 1a.
- 2 Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) is native throughout Britain and is a 'pioneer species', establishing itself as the first tree on land where no other trees have grown. It is short-lived. The bark is white, except on very young trees, but also grows rough black arrows and diamonds so that older trees tend to be dark and rugged. By way of comparison, the bark is less white than on the Himalayan birch nearby. The cut-leaf form 'Laciniata' (2a) is represented in the Gardens, as is the weeping form 'Tristis' (2b).
- 3 The Common Laburnum (*L. anagyroides*) is a small tree native to Central and Southern Europe. Its strings of yellow flowers in late spring make it highly ornamental, either on its own or in arbours. Out of flower it can be recognised by the three untoothed leaflets on each leaf. Unfortunately the whole tree is poisonous, so it is positioned well away from grazing animals.
- 4 The Common Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is often a bush but can be persuaded to become a small tree. It is robust, quick-growing and found everywhere. Once established it is quite hard to get rid of because it thrives on being cut back. The bark is creamy-grey with corky criss-cross ridges. The dull green leaves are made up of five or seven leaflets, arranged in opposite pairs.
- 5 The Common Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is found everywhere, especially on poor or waterlogged soils and in hedges. It is usually multi-stemmed with soft, floppy leaves and yellow catkins which open in late winter. These days it tends not to spread naturally because squirrels strip the nuts before they ripen. There are many specimens in the Gardens, conspicuous only in the spring.
- 6 The Silver Lime (*Tilia tomentosa*) was introduced 250 years ago from SW Russia and NW Turkey and is quite frequent. It makes a tall, domed tree with straight limbs. The leaves have large teeth and lobes at the shoulders and are white-woolly beneath. The fruit is 5-ridged.
- 7 The Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is native to Southern England and is one of our tallest broadleaf trees, growing on huge trunks with silver-grey smooth bark. Its roots are shallow and the trees blow over before they can become very old. The fern-leaved form of the beech (*F. sylvatica* 'Asplenifolia') grows nearby (7a), as does the weeping form *pendula* (7b).
- 8 The Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is abundant throughout Britain. It has an open shape, often on a long trunk and can be recognised from a distance by the shoots which droop and then curl up at the ends. During the winter the sharp buds are sooty-black, producing leaves with 9-13 leaflets in pairs. It is the last native tree to come into leaf and one of the first to lose its leaves.
- 9 The Golden Weeping Willow (*Salix × sepulcralis* 'Chrysocoma') is the most commonly found form of weeping willow. It is a nineteenth century hybrid. (The true Chinese weeping willow needs warmer summers than we can provide - so far). It forms a broad head of twisting limbs with long, straight, hanging shoots which colour a greyish gold.
- 10 The Common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is a familiar native of hedgerows, bearing fragrant white flowers in May and red haws in autumn, each with one pip. It produces a twiggy mass of stiff branches and can be long-lived. The leaves are cut by lobes at least half way to the midrib. This is a very small specimen as yet.

A SEVENTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

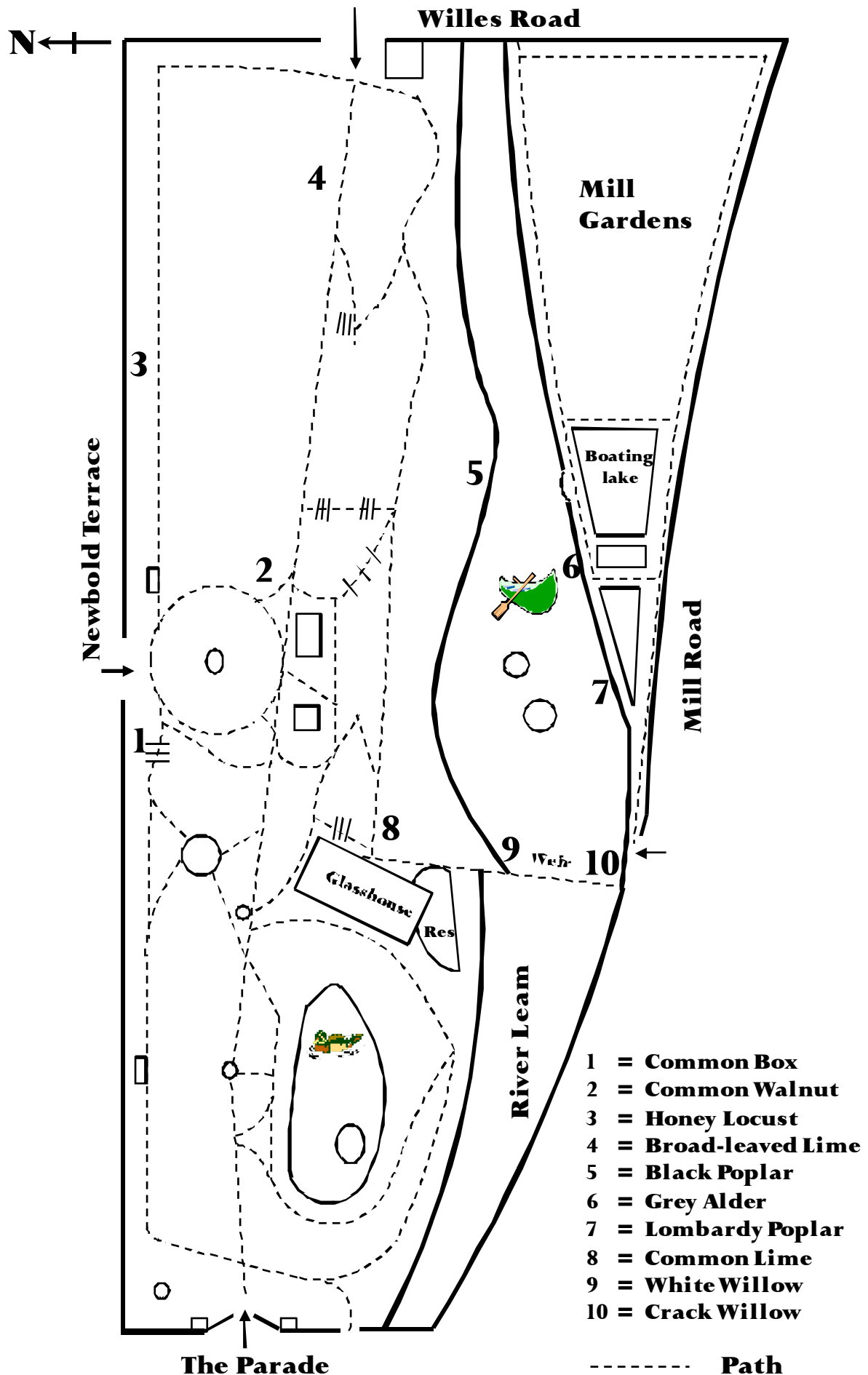


AN EIGHTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

The trees on this walk are mostly very common, almost all native.

- 1 To the right of the gate from Newbold Terrace are two specimens of the Common Box (*Buxus sempervirens*), naturalised and grown everywhere. Its timber is valuable and can sink in water. The dwarf forms are much favoured for hedging.
- 2 On the other side of the Davis Clock are two specimens of the Common Walnut (*Juglans regia*), which is native to continental Europe but has long been grown here for its valuable timber. In an open position the tree has a wide shape with heavy, twisting branches. The leaves contain 5-13 leaflets, emerging late with a coppery colour at first. It is not grown here commercially for its nuts, which only ripen well in hot summers.
- 3 The Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) comes from the Mediterranean and is frequent as an ornamental tree in the form 'Sunburst', with yellow leaves fading to green. It has a slender, open shape on a long stem. The leaves are compound on thick, curling twigs and emerge late. In nature the shoots have spines, but spineless forms of the tree have been selected for garden use.
- 4 The Broad-leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*) is native but uncommon in the wild. It makes a large, tall-domed tree. The leaves are dull and dark and may curl down at the edges. The flowers hang in mid-summer and are followed by strongly ribbed fruit. This is the rare cut-leaved form 'Laciniata'.
- 5 The native Black Poplar (*Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia*) is a tree of river flood plains – a habitat has been more or less eliminated in the UK. A hundred years ago it was much planted as a street tree in northern industrial cities for its resistance to pollutions, but those trees are now dying or have become too big, so it is now quite uncommon. Efforts are now being made to plant it again more widely. When mature it leans and produces many bosses on its short trunk.
- 6 Across the river and in other places is the Grey Alder (*Alnus incana*), a European native often used in reclamation schemes because it grows strongly in unfavourable conditions. It is seldom found in parks and gardens but makes a vigorous tree, leaning and often suckering. The cone-like fruit identifies it as an alder and its leaves are quite deeply toothed, unlike the Common Alder.
- 7 The Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') is surely one of the easiest trees to identify. The strongly vertical shape makes this tree useful in many settings, although not near buildings! Its precise origins are obscure but it has been grown in Europe since the eighteenth century.
- 8 The Common Lime (*Tilia × europaea*) is a cross between the small and large-leaved limes. Introduced in the mid-eighteenth century, it was an immediate success, initially in grand avenues and more recently as a cheap street tree. Sadly it makes a very unsuitable street tree. It grows too big, needs a lot of attention and sheds a sticky secretion from insects during the summer. On the positive side it makes a very large and impressive specimen when well grown in the right place. Here the line of trees leading down to the river is an effective planting.
- 9 Near the river are a number of specimens of the White Willow (*Salix alba*), a familiar species in water meadows and riversides. It grows into a large tree with slender branches that droop at the tips. The leaves have silky hairs which create a silvery appearance from a distance. There are many ornamental varieties, some represented in the Gardens.
10. At the other end of the weir is another willow, probably the Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*). This is also abundant in wet ground, although seldom planted. It grows shorter and broader than the white willow and often leans. The foliage is glossy-green rather than greeny-white. It reproduces by shedding branches which drift downstream and take root in wet ground.

A EIGHTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

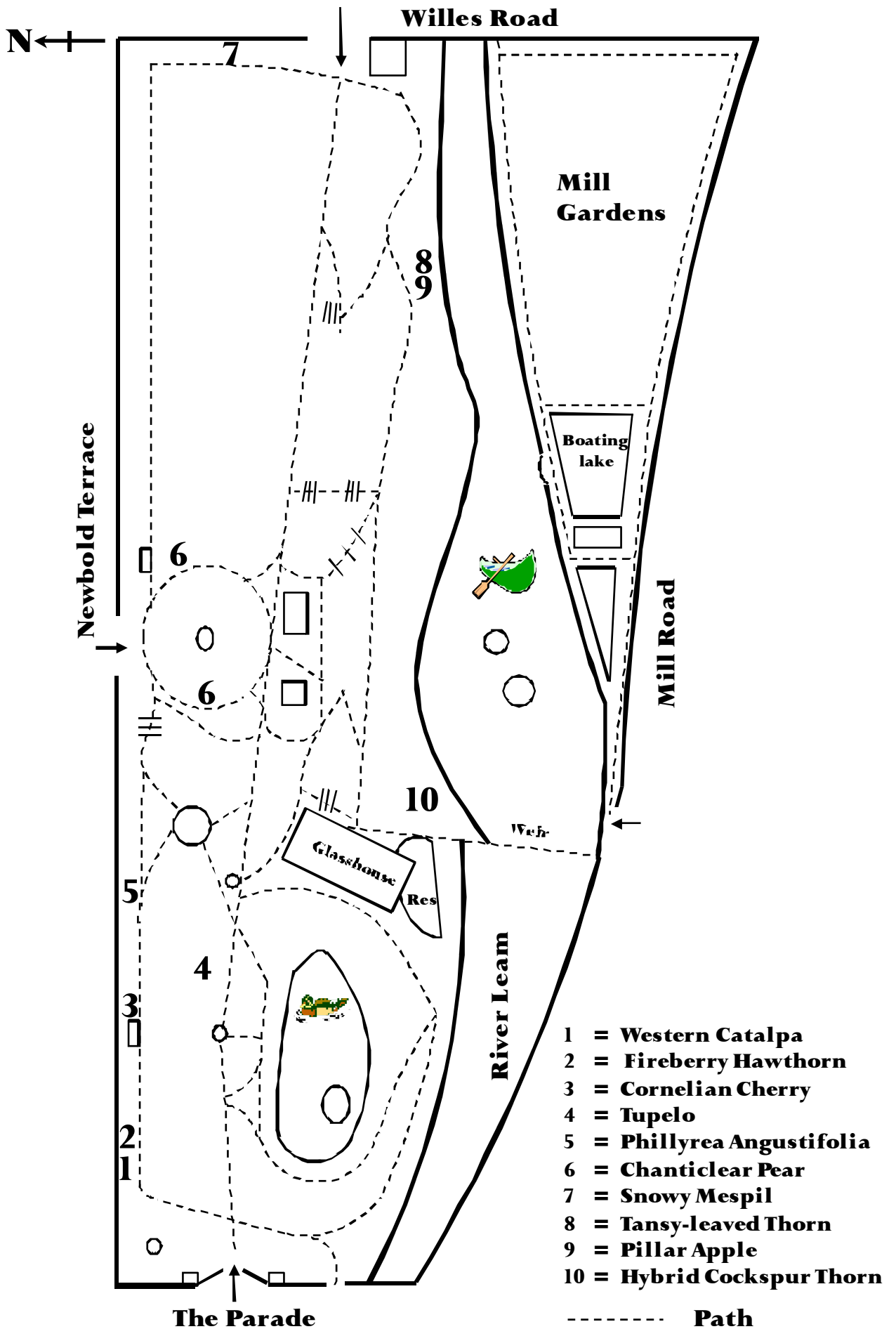


A NINTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

A mixed bag of trees, all good in their different ways.

1. The Western Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) is a relative of the more widely planted Indian Bean Tree, also represented in the Gardens. It is distinguished by its leaves, which are heart-shaped at the base and taper to a narrow apex. The dangling fruit pods only develop after warm summers. There are two other specimens either side of the Newbold Terrace entrance.
2. On the left hand side of the path, beyond the silver pendant lime, stands a good specimen of the Fireberry Hawthorn (*Crataegus chrysocarpa*), one of the large-leaved American hawthorns. It has large hairy leaves but the most characteristic feature is the fruit – robust and strongly coloured red haws. This species is found in a number of local parks and cemeteries.
3. The Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*) is a European species which has long been grown here but has gone out of fashion. It forms a twiggy bush, with masses of mustard-yellow flower clusters in late winter and red berries in autumn. This specimen is best seen from Newbold Terrace.
4. The Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) is a slow-growing American tree with a columnar shape and good autumn colour. This specimen is a young memorial tree.
5. The Victorians used to plant phillyreas in their shrubberies, but these plants have gone out of fashion. *Phillyrea angustifolia* is a rounded evergreen bush with dark green and narrow leaves. The small creamy-yellow flowers appear in May and June.
6. To the right of the Newbold Terrace entrance is a good and relatively recent planting of the Chanticleer Pear (*Pyrus calleryana* ‘Chanticleer’). This is an American selection of a Chinese species and has become a popular UK street tree in recent years, for example in the streets around the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. It has an upright form with short spreading twigs. There is a more mature specimen nearby on the lawn to the left of the entrance.
7. The Snowy Mespil (*Amelanchier lamarckii*) is a widely planted shrub or small tree from the Eastern part of North America. The white flowers appear in spring and the autumn colour is deep orange and red.
8. The Tansy-leaved Thorn (*Crataegus tanacetifolia*) is an uncommon tree from the Middle East. The leaves are grey and woolly and have tiny glands at the tips of the teeth. The haws are yellowish and apparently taste like apples. This specimen is being crowded out by a Lawson cypress.
9. The Pillar Apple (*Malus tschonoskii*) is rare in the wild but is common in streets and parks, mainly because of its upright shape and bold colour. In autumn the tree bears yellow fruit while the leaves are gold and scarlet.
10. The park has two good specimens of the Hybrid Cockspur Thorn (*Crataegus × lavallei*), which is frequently planted in parks and streets. The shape is rather level, with a dense branch system. It bears white flowers in early summer, followed by red fruits which often last until the following spring. It completely lacks thorns despite its name. The other specimen is just to the right of the Parade entrance.

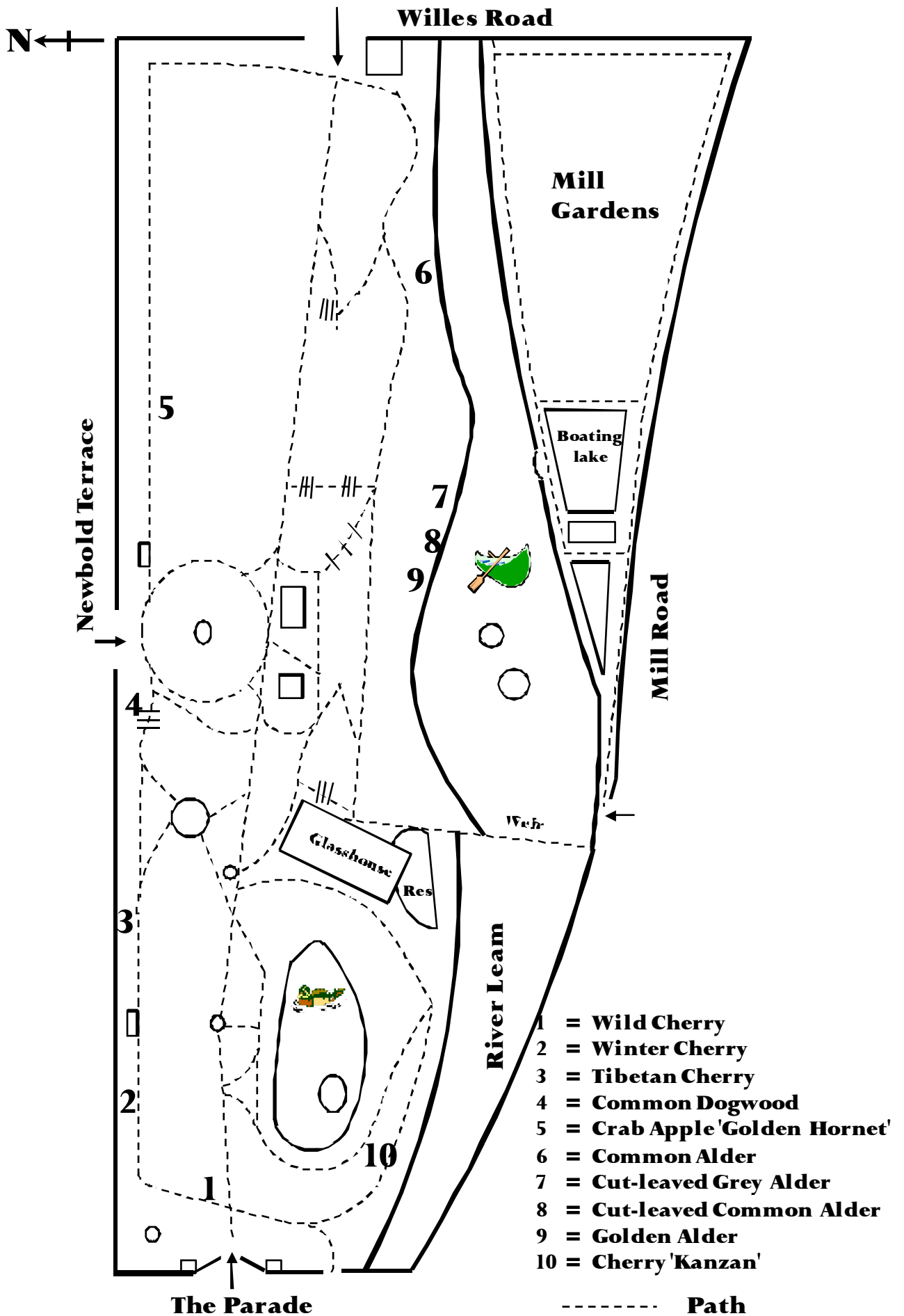
A NINTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS



A TENTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

1. The wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) is a frequent native tree and is widely planted for its white blossom and vigour. The buds are clustered on flowering spurs. The leaves are big and dark green, with coarse single teeth. This specimen is probably one of many ornamental forms. Unfortunately it is growing too close to a silver birch.
2. The Winter Cherry (*Prunus x subhirtella* 'Autumnalis') is inconspicuous for much of the year but stands out in winter and early spring, when it provides a welcome touch of colour, especially in mild periods. The flowers are small, semi-double and almost white. It is a commonly planted tree. Indeed there are two more specimens nearby along the path.
3. Unlike most cherries, the Tibetan Cherry (*Prunus serrula*) is grown not for its short-lived flowers but for its unique bark, which is crimson and satin-smooth between rough brown bands. It is normally a great tree to touch. This tree unfortunately does not show the bark to best effect and the identification may not be secure. The memorial plaque is no guide because many such plaques are wrong.
4. The Common Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) is usually represented in ornamental shrubby forms, some of which are found in the Gardens. It also makes a small bushy tree, flowering in June. The leaves tend to hang and show prominent up-curving veins. The dull white flowers open in early summer.
5. Beyond the Davis Clock, next to the Golden Ash we find a Crab Apple (*Malus x zumi* 'Golden Hornet'). This is a small tree producing white flowers followed by large crops of bright yellow fruit, retained until late in the year.
6. Moving across to the river we come to an excellent series of alders. The first is the Common Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). This is found widely by riversides and in damp places. Like other alders the male seed is carried in dangling cone-like structures.
7. Next is a Cut-Leaf Alder (*Alnus incana* 'Laciniata'). It is a form of the Grey Alder which grows nearby and is uncommon.
8. The next riverside tree is also a cut-leaved form, this time of the Common Alder (*A. glutinosa* 'Imperialis'). 'Imperialis' is a Japanese-looking tree with very feathery foliage. Often it is a weak grower but this specimen looks strong and healthy and may be one of the best in the country.
9. Last in this excellent planting is the Golden Alder (*Alnus glutinosa* 'Aurea'), also a form of the Common Alder.
10. There are many Japanese cherries in the Gardens, some of them hard to identify precisely. This is probably *Prunus* 'Kanzan', which is one of the most commonly planted. It makes a show in the spring as the magenta buds unfold under red young leaves. Thereafter it is dull. The green mature leaves are large and hairless, with whisker-tipped teeth.

A TENTH WALK AROUND THE JEPHSON GARDENS

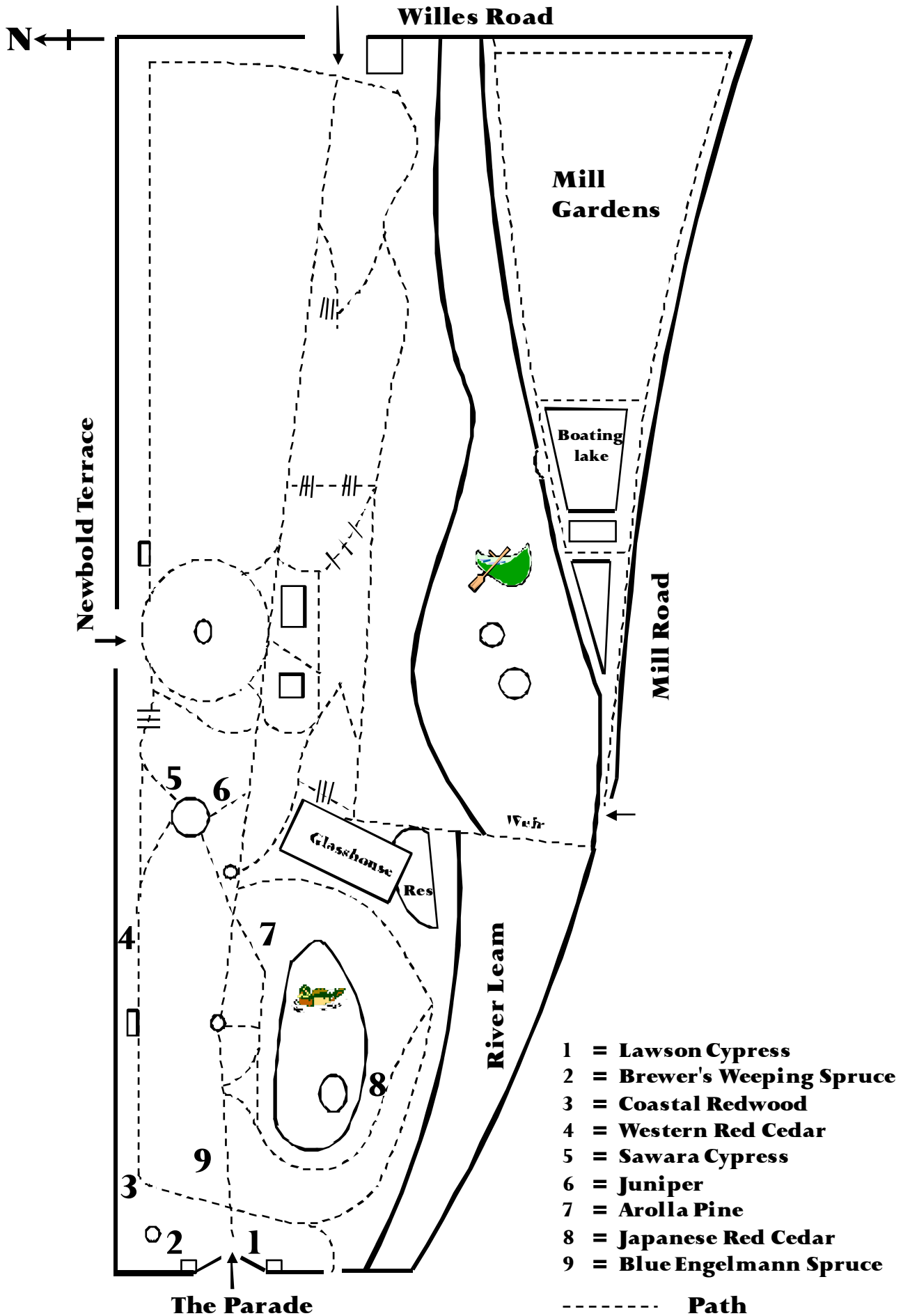


JUST CONIFERS

Most conifers are harder to identify than deciduous trees. Many of them are similar. The following descriptions therefore include some hints on how to distinguish them.

- 1 On either side of the Parade entrance is a Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*). This comes in hundreds of forms, of which several are found in the Gardens. It is abundant in this country, although confined in the wild to a few stands in the mountains of Oregon and Northern California. Its shape is a dense column in which the trunk is typically invisible. The leading shoot droops, and this is the easiest way to distinguish it from the Leyland cypress. The small green cones are abundant.
- 2 Brewer's Weeping Spruce (*Picea breweriana*) is also confined in the wild to a few mountain tops in the same area. It is much less common in cultivation than the Lawson cypress but the weeping habit is very characteristic, especially when the arching branches hang down like curtains of lace.
- 3 The Coastal Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) grows taller than any another tree in the world. It is found in dense stands in a foggy coastal strip in N. California, where it thrives in moist conditions. In shape it is a dark, ragged column with deep and spongy bark. The leaves grow radially from the stems, with two white bands underneath. The small cones are an anti-climax.
- 4 Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) is the biggest tree in the cypress family. Similar in shape and leaf to the Lawson cypress, it forms a tidy spire with a billowing base and an erect leader. On warm days it is strongly scented, with hints of balsam and turpentine. The small oval cones stand like rose-hips above the branches and are the easiest way to identify the tree from close up, although in the case of these three specimens they can only be seen in the upper branches. There is another good specimen near the café, naked at the base.
- 5 The Sawara Cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*) is a potentially big tree from Japan. Its shape is usually sparse and open, with the leaves in rather meagre sprays, slightly drooping.
- 6 The Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) is native not only to the UK but throughout Europe and in North America. The soft young leaves have a white band on the cupped underside. By contrast the mature foliage of the garden forms is often hard and prickly. There are many different forms, several of which are growing nearby. The original type is a dense greyish bush. *J. communis* 'Skyrocket' is a strong upright form, as its name implies.
- 7 The Arolla Pine (*Pinus cembra*) comes from the Alps and Carpathian mountains and is not commonly found here. It forms a dense spire in youth but broadens out in middle age and leans, as here. The short needles come in 5s and the shoot has dense brown hairs. Unlike most pines, the cones are squat.
- 8 The Japanese Red Cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) is also a large tree, important for timber in its native Japan. Like the giant redwood, the bark is red-brown but the ridges are flatter and wider. The leaves are also similar but are longer and curve slightly forward on drooping shoots, bearing small cones at the end. There is another specimen nearer the Parade entrance.
- 9 The Blue Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii* f. *glauca*) comes from Western North America and is quite rare in gardens. As in all spruces, the cones hang downwards – by contrast with the firs and cedars, where they stand upright. It is similar to the Blue Colorado Spruce but has softer leaves and a neater habit.

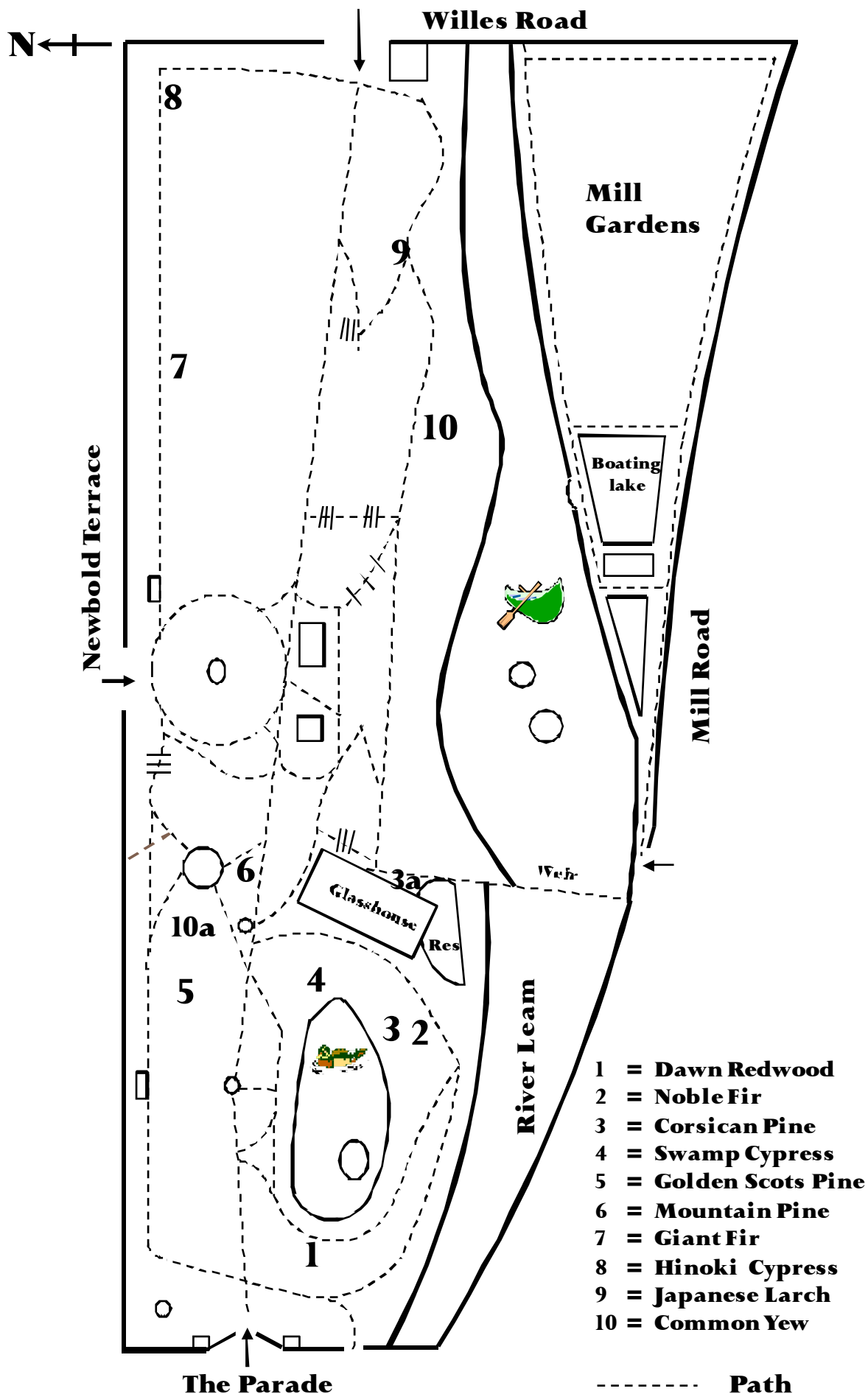
JUST CONIFERS



MORE CONIFERS

- 1 The Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) was once regarded as extinct and known only through the fossil record. It was rediscovered in China in 1941 and quickly introduced to the west after the war. Propagation was so successful that the tree is now relatively common. It forms a dense spire on a straight trunk, often convoluted near the base. The side-shoots are carried in opposite pairs and the leaves are shed in winter after a display of autumn colour.
- 2 The Noble Fir (*Abies procera*) comes from the NW USA and is now widely planted here. In nature it forms a very tall spiky tree with large cylindrical cones, but this young specimen has a very long way to go. The bark is silvery or purplish grey. The leaves are also grey or silver and are flattened so that they cannot be rolled between thumb and forefinger.
- 3 This group of pines contains two young trees that are similar and are probably the Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio*), which often appears in modern planting schemes. The taller and older tree further along is slightly different. Its leaves are darker and less curved. It could be the same species or else the Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*). The specimen on the other side of the Glasshouse (3a) is definitely an Austrian pine. The other pine with longer needles in 5s is the Bhutan Pine.
- 4 The Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) is similar to the Dawn Redwood, except that its side-shoots are carried alternately, not opposite each other. The basic tree of the Florida Everglades, it was introduced here as early as 1640. Although it flourishes in waterlogged conditions it also does perfectly well in normal soil. The bark is reddish-brown.
- 5 The Golden Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* 'Aurea') is a form of our only native pine, of which only a few natural stands remain in Scotland. On mature trees the upper bark shows an orange-pink colour while the lower trunk grows big mauve plates. The leaves come in pairs and are shorter, thicker and more twisted than most other two-needled pines.
- 6 The Mountain Pine (*Pinus mugo*) is often found in the mountain regions of Europe on the high slopes where little else will grow. It is a tough tree, as it needs to be. In shape it is typically multi-stemmed, open and straggling. The stiff needles come in 2s and grow in whorls. Dwarf selections are common, as in this recently planted group.
- 7 Take the path by Newbold Terrace. The Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) is the tallest tree in many areas of Britain. The long leaves are flattened either side of the shoots, each of which has a tiny grey bud. The bark is silvery-grey. This young specimen could eventually become a very tall tree, dominating those around it. There is another specimen in the bed nearby.
- 8 At the end of the path stands the Hinoki Cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*) from Japan. It looks like a Japanese tree, with rich green foliage in horizontal branch systems. The leaves grow in neatly fanned sprays with blunt ends and complex, cell-like markings underneath. These attractive qualities are also found in the many small rockery conifers of which it is the parent.
- 9 The Japanese Larch (*Larix kaempferi*) is one of three larches commonly found in this country. Like the dawn redwood and the swamp cypress, the larches are deciduous conifers, colouring yellow in autumn. The needles are arranged radially around strong shoots along the branches. The three species can be distinguished by their cones, which in the case of the Japanese larch are almost round, with scales that curl back sharply.
- 10 The Common Yew (*Taxus baccata*) is a long-lived native tree, often planted in churchyards where its poisonous red fruit cannot be grazed. It often gives a solid green effect, although the bark can be colourful when visible. Several selected forms are represented in these Gardens. In the Westfelton yew ('Dovastonia' – 10a) the foliage cascades from very wide, low limbs.

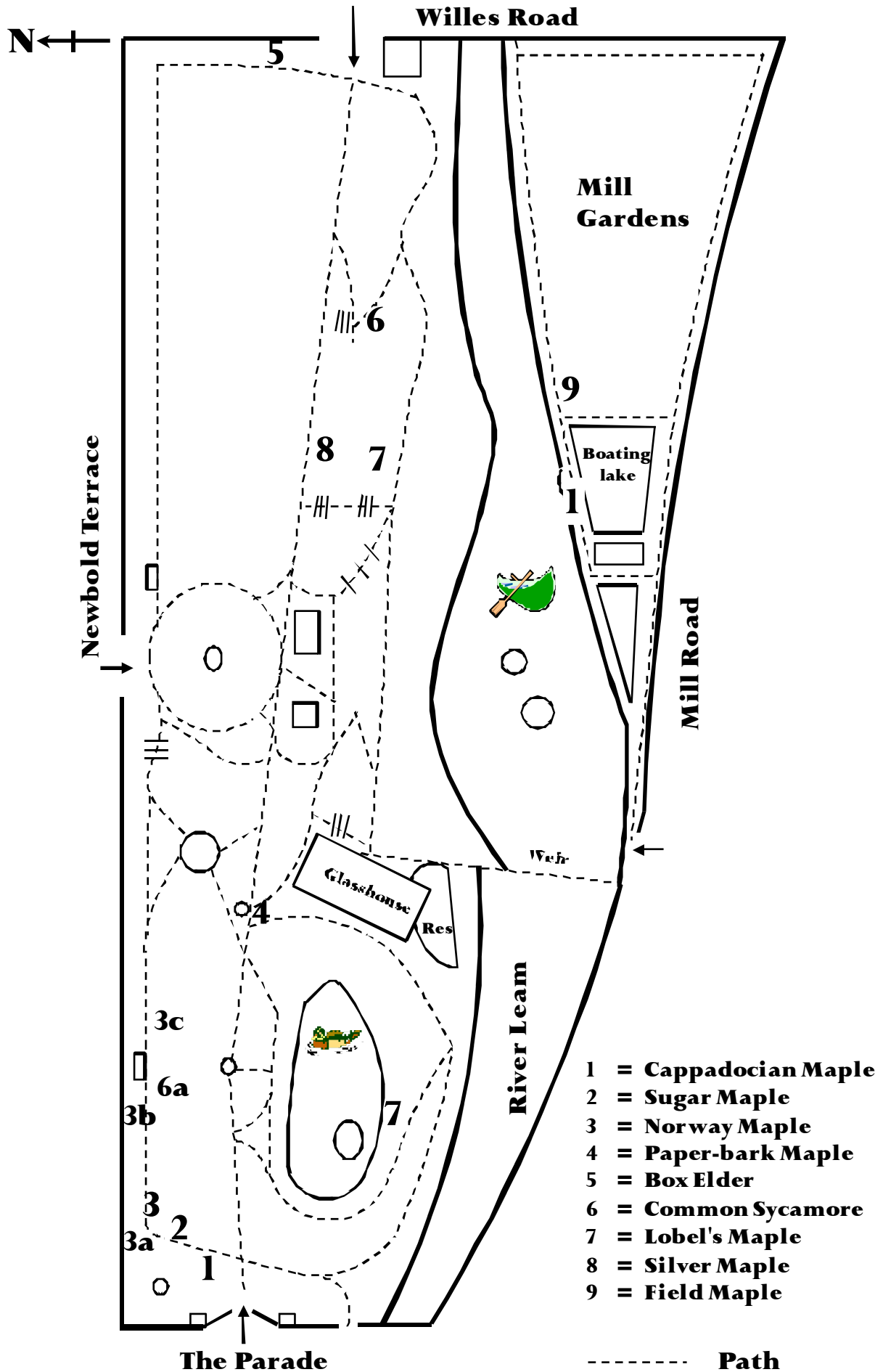
MORE CONIFERS



MAPLES IN THE JEPHSON GARDENS

1. The Cappadocian Maple (*Acer cappadocicum*) is found across Southern Asia. It is a frequent tree in streets and parks where it forms a dense dome. Its leaves resemble those of the Norway maple but the five lobes do not have teeth. Each lobe is topped by a whisker. There is another good specimen by the Boating Lake.
2. The leaf of the Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) is well-known because it appears on the Canadian national flag and also because it is tapped for maple syrup. In appearance and in leaf form it is very similar to the Norway maple, but the leaves are flimsier and downy beneath and the squeezed stalks ooze clear sap. It is not commonly grown here and does not do as well as in its native habitat.
3. The Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) comes from continental Europe but is abundant here, both in the basic form and in many ornamental forms. It forms a neat leafy dome to a considerable height, with pale grey bark that is closely corrugated with small regular ridges. The leaves have whiskers not only on the lobe tips but also on the teeth. And the squeezed stalks ooze a milky sap. There are many ornamental forms, including the variegated 'Drummondii' (3a), the crimson-purple 'Schwedleri' (3b), and the purple form (possibly 'Crimson King' – 3c) planted by Jack Jones in 1971. Fifty years previously a group of trade unionists gathered in Leamington Spa and decided to form the Transport and General Workers Union.
4. The Paper-bark Maple (*Acer griseum*) is one of the best trees in the Jephson Gardens. It was introduced from China in 1901 by Ernest Wilson, born in Chipping Campden and the greatest of the early twentieth plant-hunters. The cinnamon-coloured peeling bark is unique and striking. It is quite a small tree and so is suitable for use in private gardens as well as parks. Unlike most maples its leaves consist of three leaflets.
5. The Box Elder (*Acer negundo*) is tucked away at the North end of the Gardens. It is a rather untidy medium-sized tree from North America, found here very widely. What makes it unusual among maples are the complex leaves, each with 3-5 leaflets.
6. The Common Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is a tree that many people dislike. Its leaves are a dark green and it can be invasive, crowding out less robust trees as its seeds take root. On the other hand it forms a magnificent, strong and shapely tree if planted in the right setting. It is not a native tree but has grown here for centuries and is fully naturalised. The leaves have many coarse, round-tipped teeth. There are many cultivated varieties with different leaf colours, including the yellow-splashed form 'Leopoldii' (6a).
7. Lobel's Maple (*Acer lobelii*) comes from Italy. Its upright and non-suckering habit makes it a good street tree in its youth. Older trees are broader, as in this specimen which is a nationally important tree of the species. The leaves are similar to those of the Cappadocian maple but may have odd teeth on the wavy margins. Although an uncommon tree there are a number of specimens in the Gardens, including some either side of the children's playground.
8. By contrast the Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) does very well here. Another American native, it grows quickly to a considerable height but then proves fragile and short-lived. Although a frequent street tree, both in Leamington and elsewhere, it is a poor choice - too big and too prone to drop its branches. The leaves are deeply cut (especially in the form *laciniatum*) and silver-grey underneath.
9. The Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) is an English native, abundant on heavy soils and planted everywhere. The bark is light brown, corky with close ridges. The leaves are small with three or five neat lobes with rounded teeth. Like the Norway and silver maple, its sap is milky.

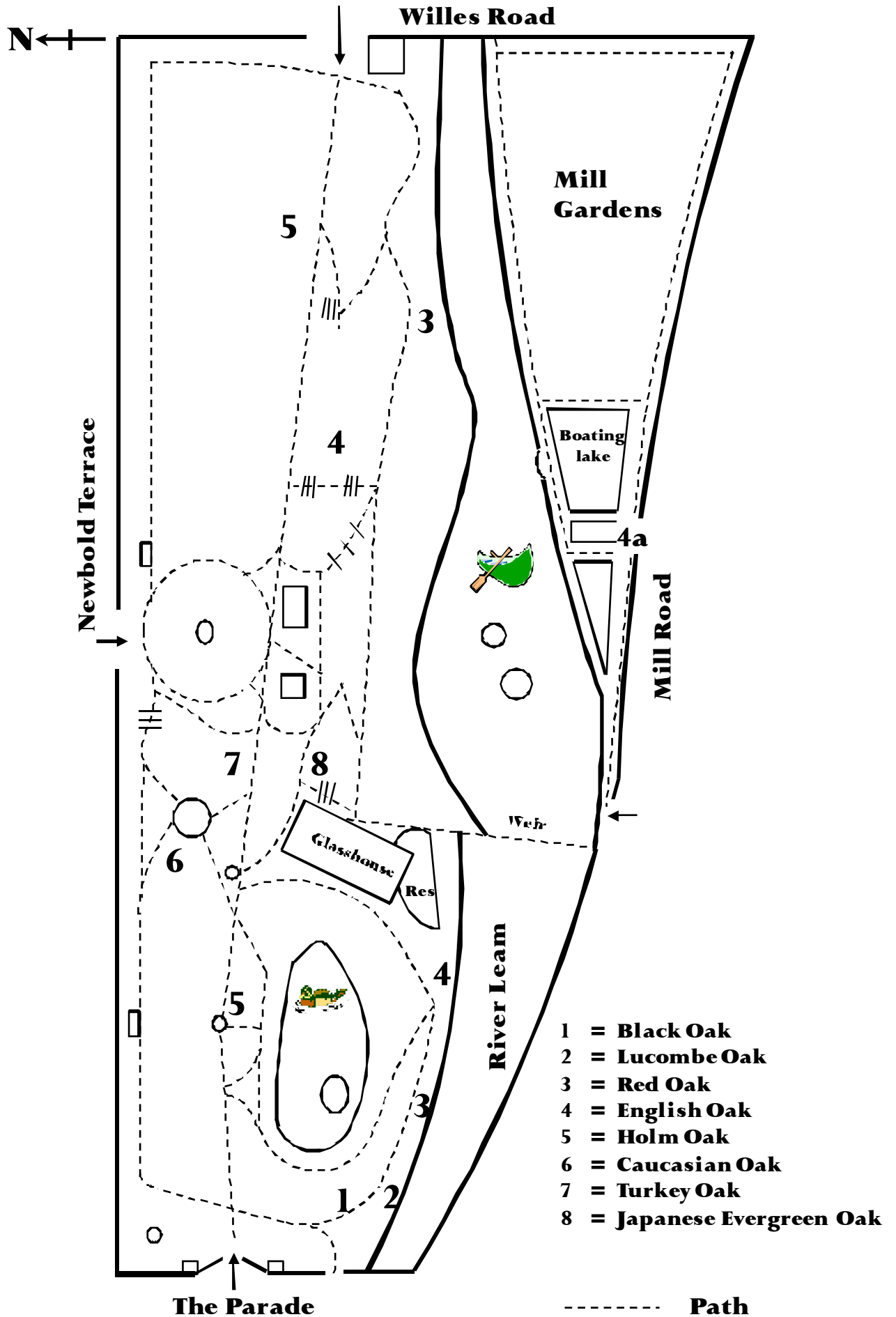
MAPLES IN THE JEPHSON GARDENS



OAKS IN THE JEPHSON GARDENS

- 1 The Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*) from Eastern America is rather rare here. It resembles the red oak in its shape but its leaves are glossy and blackish, thick and leathery. Orange fissures can be seen between the scaly grey ridges of the bark. This specimen, planted in 1942, is the rare form 'Rubrifolia'.
- 2 The Lucombe Oak (*Quercus* × *hispanica* 'Crispa') is a hybrid between two European oaks – the Turkey oak and the cork oak. Its branches are heavy and much swollen as they leave the short stem. The bark is not very corky but shows deep triangular ridges. The shiny dark leaves tend to hang on through the winter. The tree was once planted quite widely and there are two good specimens in Christ Church Gardens at the top of the Parade. It is now rather out of fashion.
- 3 In this area there are some good specimens of the Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), which was introduced nearly 300 years ago and grows as large here as in its American habitat. Its shape is broad, with straight branches. Unlike the English oak, the timber is soft and the tree is relatively short-lived. The big leaves have angular lobes, each with whiskered teeth.
- 4 The English Oak (*Quercus robur*) thrives across Britain but some of the best and oldest specimens are to be found in Warwickshire. Its branches are heavy, spreading and twisting, while the bark is divided into short, deep and knobbly ridges. In some years it does not produce acorns – a strategy to limit the populations of acorn-predators like squirrels. It supports a greater variety of insect life than any other native tree. The Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) – 4a - is a very common native tree, especially on higher ground and lighter soils, but it seldom planted for ornamental purposes. The identification of this specimen is not certain because the acorns have not been seen. Its leaves differ from those of most Common Oaks in definite ways, eg in their regular and shallow lobes and in the presence of a leaf stalk. On the other hand certain other features suggest that it is not a straightforward Sessile Oak. It almost certainly has the genes of both.
- 5 The Holm or Holly Oak (*Quercus ilex*) is the most prominent oak in the Mediterranean area and has long been grown here. It is sometimes used as a hedge, especially near the sea. Its shape tends to be dense and the bark is blackish. It is easily recognised by its dark evergreen leaves which show a grey felt colouring underneath. There are many specimens in the park, including a large one at the top end of the Gardens. Maybe there are too many specimens because the tree can be dark and dull when out of flower.
- 6 This is a fine specimen of the Caucasian Oak (*Quercus macranthera*), which is a tall and vigorous deciduous tree but comparatively rare in this country. The buds are large with a few long whiskers. The leaves are big and thick with forward-angled lobes.
- 7 The Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*) is a common tree nationally and locally, and there is a prominent group in Clarendon Square. When introduced in 1735 there were hopes that it would produce good timber but in fact the wood is no use at all. It makes a big tree, with branches swollen at the union with the trunk. The leaves are slender, often with deeply cut lobes. The buds are small with prominent twisting whiskers and the oak cups are mossy.
- 8 The Japanese Evergreen Oak (*Quercus acuta*) is a small bushy tree whose foliage and habit suggest anything but an oak. In fact many oak species around the world are evergreen like this one. This is a rare tree and this specimen is one of the best in the country, if not the best.

OAKS IN THE JEPHSON GARDENS



A WALK AROUND THE MILL GARDENS

The Mill Gardens are quiet corner, comparatively little visited. The planting is much younger than that of the Jephson Gardens and there are no monuments. Even so it has dignity and interest. The planting is mostly recent and good – better than in the Jephson Gardens in terms of space and design.

- 1 Close by the small gate from Mill Road are two specimens of the Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), a native species often found in old woods and hedges. It is similar to the common hawthorn but the leaves are less deeply lobed and the fruit has two or three pips rather than one. There are many ornamental forms, of which this is 'Paul's Scarlet', dating from the mid-nineteenth century.
- 2 Nearby are three trees of a much rarer relative, Grignon's Thom (*Crataegus × grignonensis*). This is a hybrid with Mexican origins dating from the late nineteenth century. It has slightly lobed, glossy leaves with bright red haws.
- 3 The path runs by several specimens of the Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), growing near some Silver Birches. The Downy Birch is a common native tree found particularly in damp places. Despite being so abundant in the wild state it would be hard to find a garden centre that stocks it. By comparison to the Silver Birch it has a less weeping habit, smooth and downy shoots and more rounded, single-toothed leaves. It tends not to develop the rough black markings found on older Silver Birches.
- 4 Moving up the path alongside Mill Road we find three examples of the Cherry Plum – specifically the purple-leaved variety (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Pissardii') introduced from Iran. This tree is abundant everywhere in Leamington, with prominent pale pink flowers in early spring. The foliage is a heavy purple but varies a lot, as these trees show.
- 5 The False Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) was introduced from Eastern North America as early as 1630 and has flourished everywhere since. The bark grows craggy with age and the leaves consist of many untoothed leaflets. There are cascades of white flowers, but only after hot summers. The most abundant form is the golden variety 'Frisia'. Here we have a fine row of young trees in the basic green form.
- 6 In the bed at the top of the Gardens is a fine Austrian Pine - (*Pinus nigra* ssp. *nigra*) of which there are a number in the Jephson Gardens. The foliage is dark and the limbs are heavy. This tree comes from mountain areas in Central and Southern Europe and is closely related to the Corsican Pine.
- 7 Further along is a young Balsam Poplar (*Populus × jackii*), the Balm of Gilead. This natural hybrid comes from Western North America. The sweet smell of the buds' resin is prominent in early spring.
- 8 Turning back down by the river is a young Italian Alder (*Alnus cordata*). The leaves are characteristically heart-shaped and glossy. As in all alders, the fruit develops into little woody 'cones' which are an identifying feature. This species makes an upright tall tree and does not require wet conditions to flourish.
- 9 Along the path are a number of ornamental White Willow whose exact form is unidentified. In addition there are two specimens of the Violet Willow (*Salix daphnoides*), a fast-growing small tree from Central Europe with long purple-violet shoots. It makes a broad head of twisting limbs. It also responds well to hard pruning but does not receive that treatment here.
- 10 At the bottom of the path is a young River Birch (*Betula nigra*), easily identified by its pink and shaggy bark. Although not common, this tree is being planted increasingly in parks and streets. It comes from the Eastern USA.

A WALK ROUND THE MILL GARDENS

