The Bishop’s Tree Trail features a ‘Top 20’ selection of exotic and specimen trees including a variety of maples and redwoods.

This sheltered valley garden dates to the mid-1770s, and contains features such as formal entrance lawns, a bog garden, sweeping drives and hints of a former arboretum. All are the inspiration of the flamboyant creator, Earl Bishop Frederick Hervey, 4th Earl of Bristol/Bishop of Derry (1730-1803). Luckily for visitors, creator, Earl Bishop Frederick Hervey, 4th Earl of Bristol/Bishop of Derry (1730-1803). Luckily for visitors, many of these garden features were rediscovered in the 1960s by Jan Eccles (National Trust Gardener).

Bishop’s Gate Gardens are considered a developing arboretum, despite its northern location. The trees thrive under existing vegetation.

The information in this guide is correct at the time of print and every care has been taken to ensure accuracy. However National Trust cannot accept responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes which may come. © 2018.

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1. Field Maple | Acer campestre |
- The only native Maple in the UK.
- Not a colonising species, instead seeds under existing vegetation.
- Sap can be used to produce Maple syrup.

2. Red Oak | Quercus rubra |
- Takes 20 years to mature to a flowering stage.
- Takes 40 years to mature to a seeding stage.
- Reproduces from seed and root sprouts.
- Vibrant Autumn colours.

3. Dawn Redwood | Metasequoia glyptostroboides |
- Endangered species, only known as a fossil until 1944.
- Was rediscovered in Central China.
- Grows to 180ft at a rate of 55yr.
- Deciduous conifer and a popular ornamental.

4. Coast Redwood | Sequoia sempervirens |
- Planted by Jan Eccles.
- Tallest trees in the world, the tallest being 375.9ft in California’s Redwood National Park.
- Lifespan of up to 2000 years, average is 500-700 years.
- Grows shallow roots, which are broad and intertwined to give support.

5. Southern Blue Gum | Eucalyptus globulus |
- Primary source of Eucalyptus oil.
- Can grow to 180ft with a 6ft girth.
- Evergreen with straight white bark.

6. Oriental Plane | Platanus orientalis |
- Highly adaptable to varied conditions.
- Grows rapidly, often reaching 165ft.
- Estimated to be from the Mesozoic era.
- Considered a parent of the London Plane.
- Leaves used as natural herbal remedies.

7. Ginkgo Tree | Ginkgo biloba |
- Also called the ‘Madainerhair Tree’.
- Used for natural herbal remedies.
- Last living species in the genus Ginkgophyta.
- Found in fossils dating back 270 million years.

8. Purple Leaved Filbert | Corylus maxima ‘Purpurea’ |
- Grows up to 19ft.
- Produces purple leaves and edible nuts.
- Grows well in chalky soils.

9. Japanese Maple | Acer palmatum |
- Commonly cultivated as an ornamental tree.
- Grows rapidly, often reaching 165ft.
- Grown to 180ft at a rate of 55yr.
- Known as ‘Holly Oak’.
- Very hard and strong timber.

10. Holm Oak | Quercus ilex |
- Very hard and strong timber.
- Holm is an old-English word for Holly, sometimes known as ‘Holly Oak’.
- Can grow to 82ft tall.
- One of the few evergreen oaks found in the UK.

11. Pyrenean Oak | Quercus pyrenaica |
- Roots frequently produce suckers.
- Rarely found in the Pyrenees.
- Tolerates industrial pollution well.
- One of two trees indigenous to Ireland but not England.

12. Roble Beech | Fagus sylvatica |
- Sometimes referred to as a ‘Patagonian Oak’.
- Found in fossils dating back 270 million years.
- Distinct catkins followed by spikes of winged fruits appear around July.
- A classical tree for exotic industrial landscapes.

13. Indian Horse Chestnut | Aesculus indica |
- Also known as the ‘Caucasian Walnut’.
- Introduced into Great Britain in the 1800s.
- Fruit appear around July.
- Distinct white flowers appear mid-summer, much later than European Horse Chestnuts.

14. Caucasian Wingnut | Pterocarya fraxinifolia |
- Distinct catkins followed by spikes of winged fruit appear around July.
- Also known as the ‘Caucasian Walnut’.
- Suits for Ireland’s climate due to thriving in damp conditions.
Welcome to the Bishop’s Tree Trail featuring 20 of our favourite exotic & ornamental trees.