

Short Walks in Richmond Park

1. Richmond Gate

Distance and terrain: 1,400m long (0.9 mile). Easy walk with gentle slopes, mainly focussed on the fine trees along the way.

This is one of a series of self-guided, short nature walks from the Park gates.

For longer self-guided walks, try our Walks with Remarkable Trees: www.frp.org.uk/tree-walks/

The walk starts around the perimeter of the Park until Bishop's Pond, which was dug in 1861 and is now a good home for dragonflies and damselflies in the summer. Later you will reach a glorious number of hawthorns sheltering plenty of finches, warblers and other small birds, especially at the start and finish of the day. There is also a dramatic crack willow to see.

On the other side of a bigger track, you will see ahead a collection of fabulous, tall poplars (P1) in Conduit Wood.

Continuing along this track, turn right 10m after the bridge to come alongside a very fine red oak (P3),

a species imported from North America in 1724. Its branches radiate perfectly upwards and in autumn the leaves turn a rich autumn hue. There is a second red oak about 20m further on.

As you exit the wood, the structure that looks like an air-raid shelter is over 500 years old and was built by Henry VII to supply water to Richmond Palace.

Lastly, find the sweet chestnuts on the near edge of the last group of trees. These were planted both for their beauty and because their chestnuts provide deer with valuable winter food.



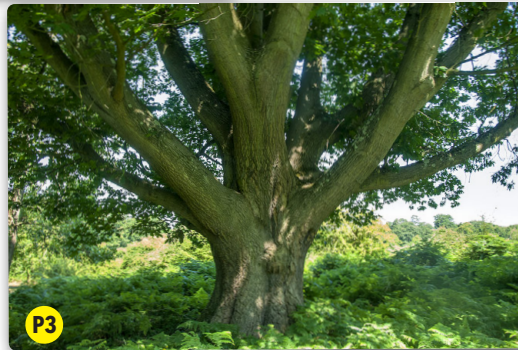
• Poplars

P1



• Free-standing hawthorn

P2



• The radiating red oak

P3



We recommend you take a tree ID book/app when walking this route.

These walks have been devised and written by Christopher Hedley and designed by Ken Edwards of the Friends of Richmond Park.

With thanks to Simon Richards, Manager of Richmond Park, for the original idea.



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