Short Walks in Richmond Park

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.

1. Richmond Gate Map with kind permission from OpenStreetMap contributors. -- 50 m Crack willow Free-standing Turn right 10m after hawthorn (P2) bridge immediately after first substantial tree Several sycamores First red oak (P3) Fork half-right Wild Second red oak cherry Many hawthorns More poplars Poplars (P1) Turn right immediately Rowan after Bishop's Pond Alder Conduit Wood by pond Bishop's Pond, dug in Turn left down track 1860s to help drain area and to provide Turn right over water for deer bridge and then walk towards White Conduit Large English oak the left-hand side (70m on from beech) of structure ahead Turn right, round White Conduit and then head towards right-hand side of Several beech This area between Bishop's Pond trees ahead and back to Richmond Gate & Conduit Wood was the site of the First World War hospital Norway for wounded S. African soldiers Many of maple the English oaks in Sweet chestnuts the Park have yellow in wood by path disks attached to their trunks. These show that oak processionary moth nests have been Start on the Tamsin ver's Hill Trail (main track) found.

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Charity number 1133201

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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• Free-standing hawthorn