

Short Walks in Richmond Park

Distance and terrain: 1,600m (1 mile).

Easy walk with slight gradients.

This is one of a series of self-guided, short nature walks from Park gates. For longer self-guided walks, try our Walks with Remarkable Trees:

www.frp.org.uk/tree-walks/

Apart from the strong representation of English oaks, this short walk from Sheen Gate is good for water-loving trees, like poplars, alder and willows (P3). You will find these along the boundary wall, around Adam's Pond and along Beverley Brook. Some of the poplars are particularly tall and magnificent (P2).

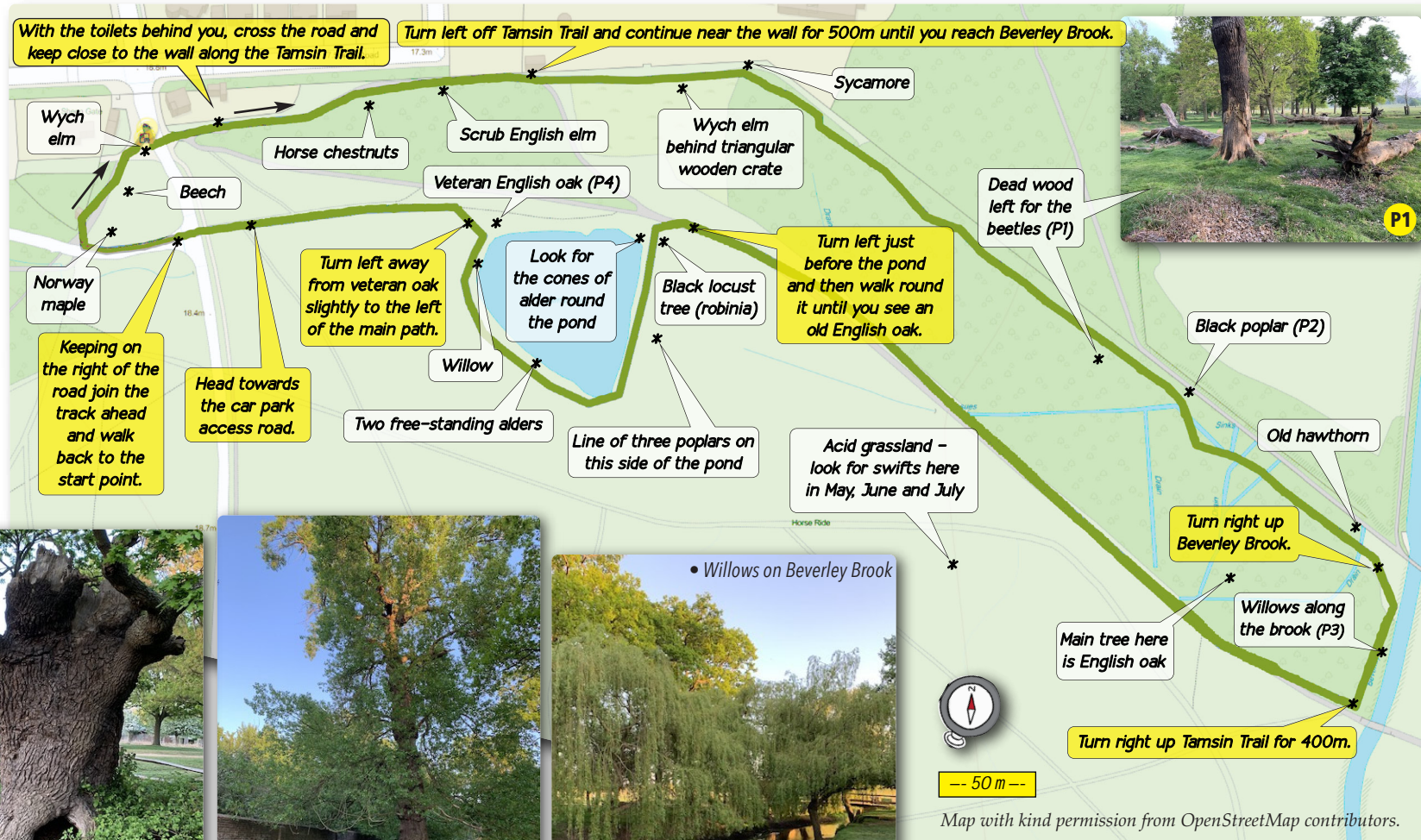
English Elms have suffered very badly from a fungus causing Dutch Elm Disease (DED) with very few mature trees left in the country. The walk features some scrubby young English elm which will grow until they are about 10 yrs old when they are big enough to attract the beetle that carries the deadly fungus. There is a wych elm, more resistant to DED than the English species, outside the toilets at the end of the walk.

Halfway down the outward stage of the walk, on the right of the path by the wall, you will see a group of dead trees (P1). This is part of the Park's dead wood policy, which aims to leave fallen limbs and tree trunks on the ground to rot. That way, more invertebrates that feed on decaying wood can continue to find a food source whilst the results enrich the soil. The plentiful supply of dead wood is one reason why there are over 1,300 species of beetles in the Park.

Adam's Pond was used for boating between 1920 and 1939 but now it is an attractive home for waterfowl with a good collection of alders and poplar.

There is also a very splendid veteran oak (P4).

3. Sheen Gate



• Veteran English oak beside Adam's pond



• Black poplar by the boundary wall



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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