Short Walks in Richmond Park

4. Roehampton Gate

We recommend you

take a tree ID book/app

when walking this route.

Distance and terrain: 2,100m (1¼ miles). Easy walk with slight gradients and some uneven ground. 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/

The walk starts with a large ash tree just beyond the small Roehampton Gate garden.

Ashes can carry male or female flowers or occasionally both – this one is female.

A little further on is a wych elm (P1) with toothed slightly asymmetrical leaves, which

has withstood the threat of Dutch Elm Disease.

Over the road is an example of some fencing around veteran oak trees. The fencing (partly funded by Friends of Richmond Park) protects the public from the danger of falling branches and protects the tree from soil compaction around the roots. Along Beverley Brook, there are some crack willows, weeping willows and alders (P2). All these trees love the damp

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/ych elm ___ © Eric Baldaui

conditions found along the brook, which is named after the Saxon term for beaver stream.

The main wood along this walk is White Lodge Plantation, planted in the 1870s. Here there are plenty of oaks. An especially notable veteran (*P3*) can be found just outside this wood, just as you start your return to the gate. This mighty specimen is over 500 years old and harbours hundreds

Alder cones and leaves
 © Eric Baldauf

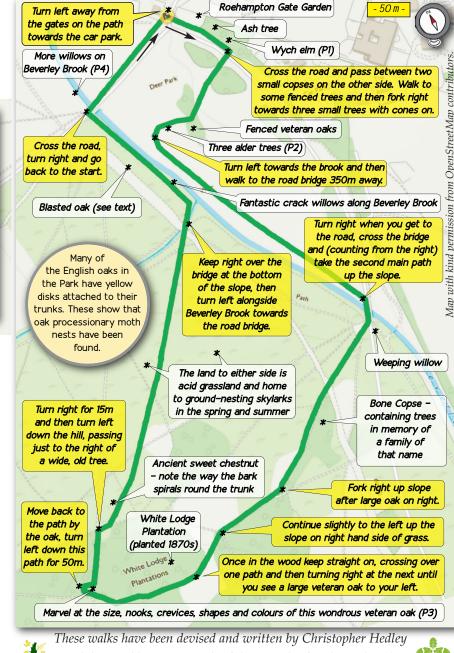
Massive old English Oak © Paula Redmond
 Willows along Beverley Brook
 © Christopher Hedley





of different beetles, lichens, birds, bats and other species. There are over 1,300 veteran trees in the Park.

As you come down the slope after this oak, you walk through the rare acid grassland that the Park has so much of. This grassland provides ground nesting places for the wonderful skylark, whose song enlivens a summer walk. The blasted oak towards the end of the walk is an example of a tree that has probably been struck and killed by a lightning strike.



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

FRIENDS of With thanks to Simon Richards,

RICHMOND PARK Man

Manager of Richmond Park, for the original idea.



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