

# Short Walks in Richmond Park

## 5. Robin Hood Gate

Distance and terrain: 1,800m (1.1 miles).

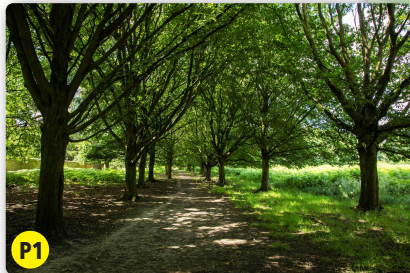
Easy walk with slight gradients and slightly uneven ground.

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](http://www.frp.org.uk/tree-walks).

This triangular short walk starts along the wall with some striking trees and a lovely avenue. There are many hornbeams here, with a fenced-off veteran hornbeam which has so many cracks and crevices that you can see through it, even though it is still alive. There is also an extremely attractive avenue of hornbeams (P1) before the walk turns away from the wall 600m from the start. Hornbeams have serrated leaves and timber that is hard to cut. There are several immense grey and hybrid black poplars and a large American red oak to pause by.



• Hornbeam avenue

The second section takes you towards the road leading to Pen Ponds car park. Along the way, you will see some young Scot's pine before coming across a large old oak on the other side of the road. Next to this is an intriguing veteran hawthorn (P2) that needs metal struts to keep the tree from falling apart.

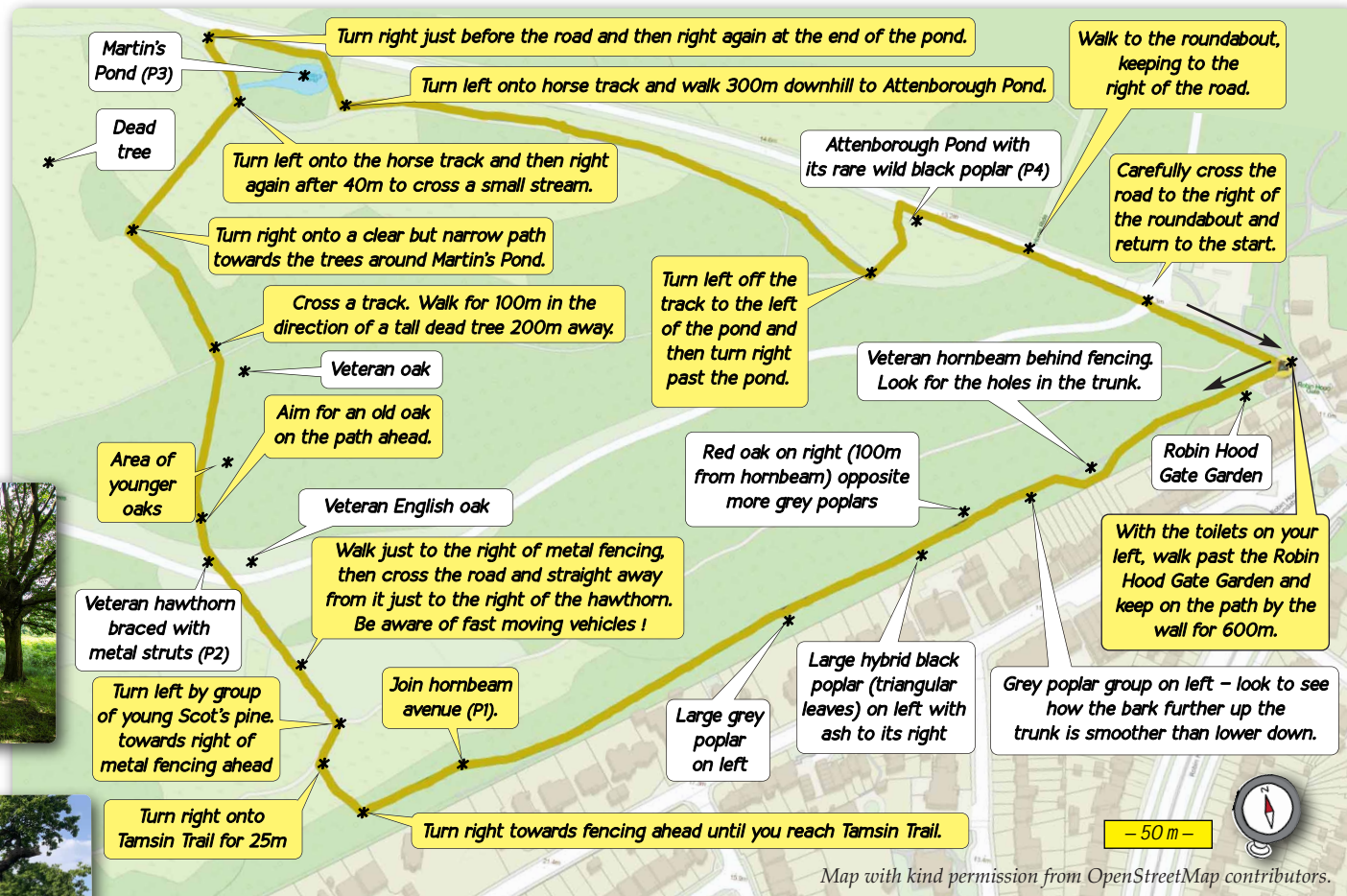


• Veterans - hawthorn and oak

• Martin's Pond



• Attenborough Pond



Photos: P1 © Ann Healey. P2,3,4 © Christopher Hedley We recommend you take a tree ID book/app when walking this route.

The return section features two wonderful ponds. Martin's Pond (P3) was created about 1860 to help with drainage and provide water for the deer to drink. Around it are some attractive willows and a well-placed bench for contemplating the pond and the surrounding area. It is also a good place to watch dragonflies and damselflies on a hot sunny afternoon.

The second pond was newly created in 2014 to retain more water in the Park, and is named after Sir David Attenborough (P4). On the road side of the pond is a wild black poplar, a tree that used to be common several thousand years ago but now there are fewer than 10,000 remaining in Britain. This poplar likes its wet position beside the pond.

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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