

Short Walks in Richmond Park

Distance and terrain: 1,600m long (1 mile). Easy walk with gentle slopes.

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/

From Ladderstile Gate, walk up towards High Wood which is one of the oldest woods in the Park, dating back to medieval times. It is full of wonderful ancient English oaks—this is what Richmond Park is all about.



High Wood is epitomised by two giant ancient English oaks that are probably both about 700 years old (P1). With their wide, squat trunks, these trees accommodate hundreds of beetle, fungi, liverwort, bird, bat and other species within their ecosystems, which are many times more diverse than young oak trees.

• Ancient oaks

Dann's Pond is surrounded by willows and cherries hiding shy nesting birds such as chiff-chaff and blackcap. At the corner of the enclosure (both inside and out) there is a good collection of grey poplar (P2).

Move on to turn left along a slight ridge in Coronation Plantation (planted 1902). In about 75m you will find a light-coloured evergreen tree—this is a cork oak (P3), more normally found in Portugal and Spain.



• Cherry plum



• Grey poplar

• Cork oak

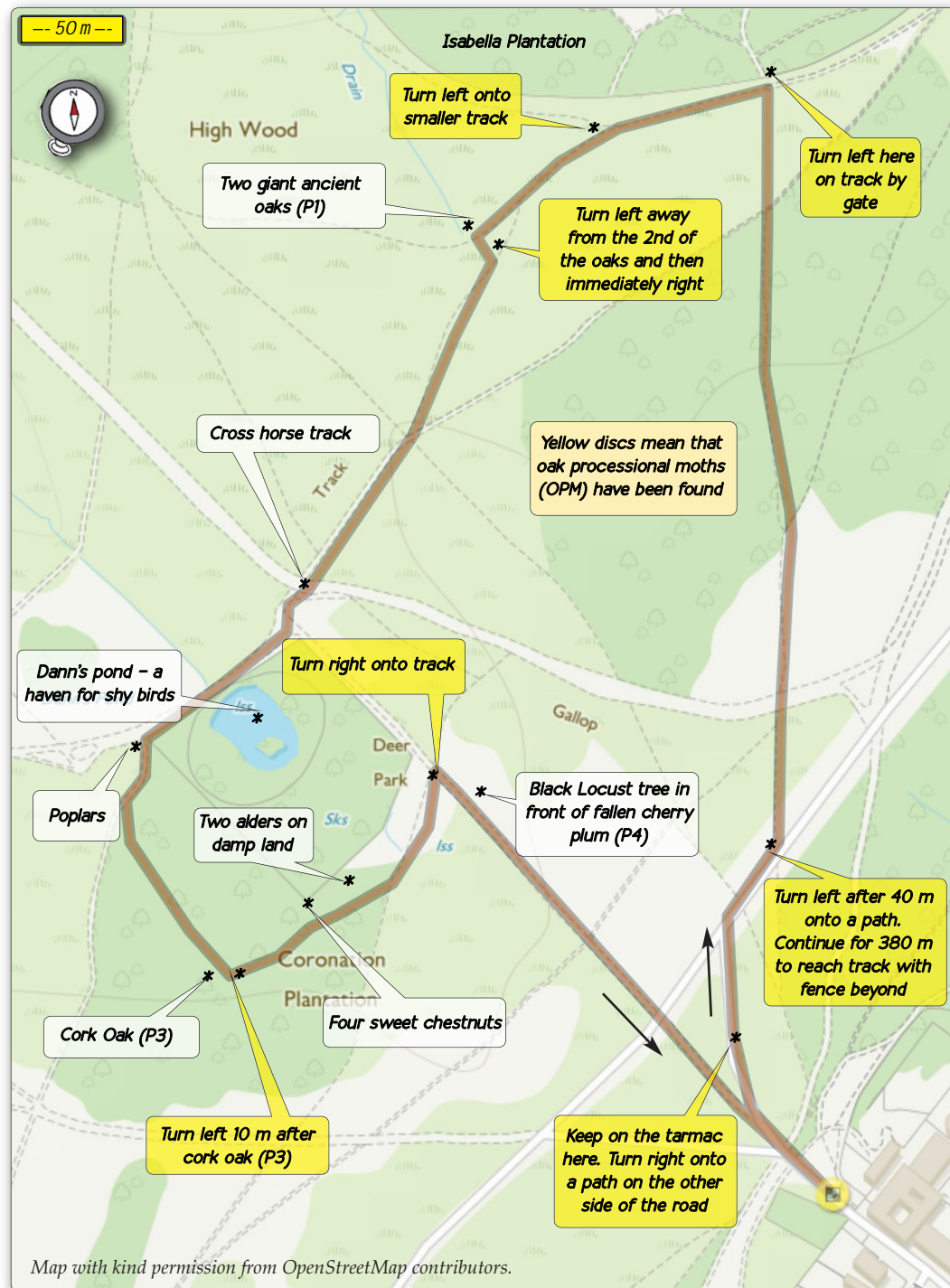
Photos: © Anne Ross.

After turning out of the wood there are sweet chestnuts and alder set in a damp area before reaching a black locust tree in front of a recumbent cherry plum (P4).

This series of walks has 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.*

6. Ladderstile Gate



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