

Short Walks in Richmond Park

7. Kingston Gate

Distance and terrain: 1,600m long (1 mile). Easy walk with gradual 30m climb, focussing on fine trees along the walk.

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/

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

This walk from Kingston Gate highlights English oak, beech and nine other tree species, many of them veterans, in a magnificent short walk. There are some wonderful veterans amongst them.

On your outward leg, Gallows Pond was dug in 1861 to drain the surrounding land and to provide water for the deer – the gallows were just outside the Park. The pond has a water-loving willow on the other side. Above the pond and to the right of the path is the unusual sight of 100 sugar maples from Canada. Not only do these trees supply maple syrup but also their leaves appear on the Canadian flag.

There are some substantial mature trees as you walk up the slope, chiefly English oak and beech (P1). One old oak on the right has lost most of its trunk (P2) – still alive with leaves on

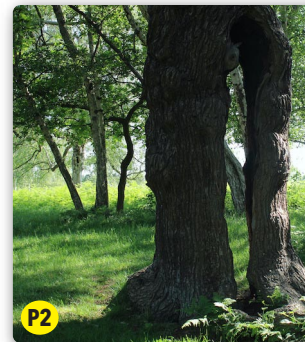


• Black locust tree

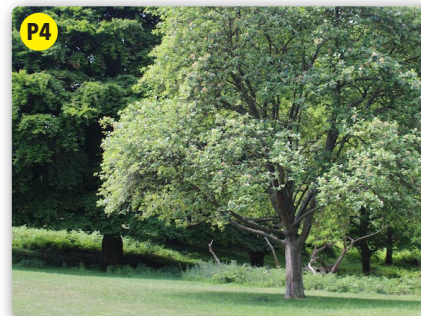
the remaining branches – opposite two much larger ancient oaks probably over 500 years old. Trees like this support a remarkable ecosystem with many hundreds of species, especially wood-eating beetles and other invertebrates and also birds, bats, fungi, liverworts. On the way up the slope you might spot some hawthorns, mainly on the left.



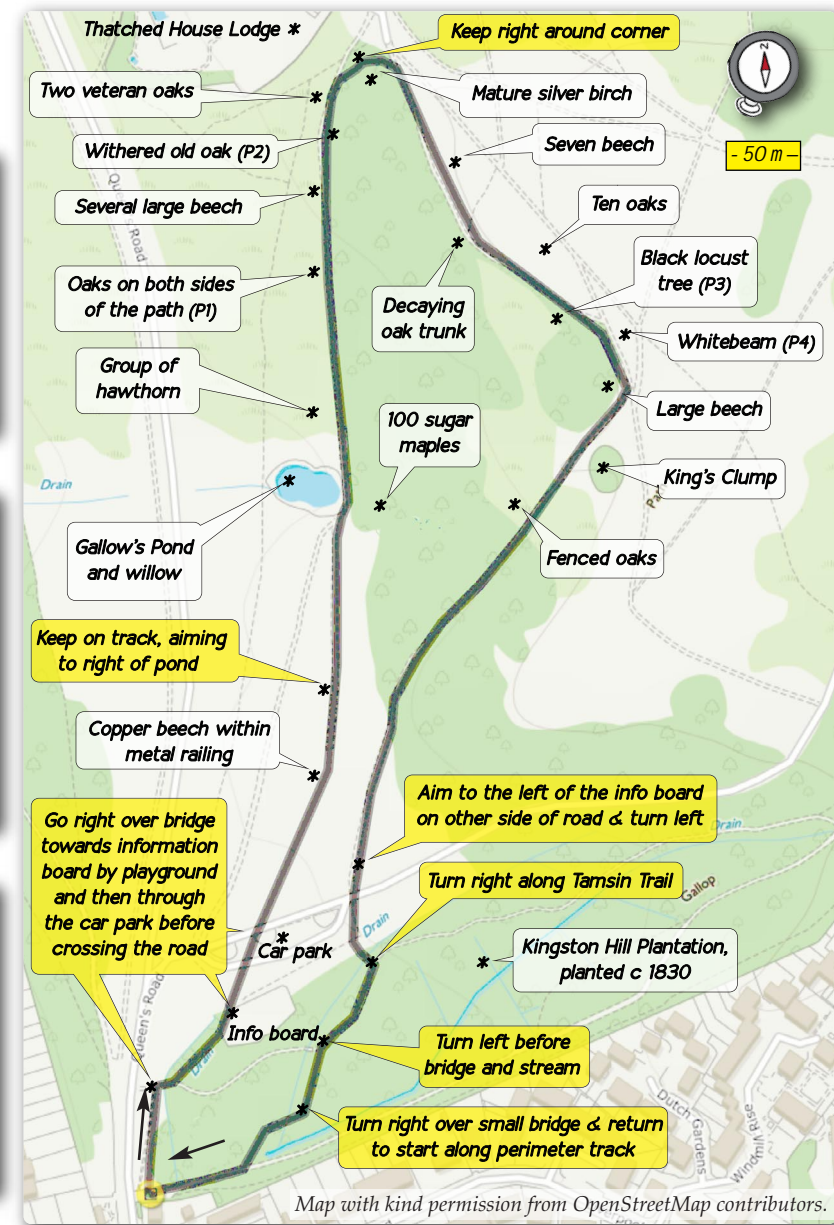
• Oaks beyond Gallow's Pond



• Veteran oak



• Whitebeam with beech behind



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

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