

Richmond Park Short Nature Walks

Distance and terrain: 1,500m long (0.9 miles).

45m climb up and down the escarpment, including an off-track, uneven section.

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/

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

9. Petersham Gate



• Giant sequoia

The route goes past over 20 types of tree, the most notable being the number of large cedars. There are four types of cedar here: Lebanon, deodar, atlas and blue atlas (P2). Use your tree book to spot the differences. See also the giant sequoia (P1), the largest tree in the world (in terms of bulk) in its native California.

There are two fascinating tree features at the bottom of the slope, the first, a collection of fallen limes. The main trunk of one has blown over and what were branches now seem to be trunks as they are growing upright. Some people call this a 'Phoenix' tree (P3).



• Blue atlas cedar

• Phoenix lime tree

Alongside is an avenue of elms (P4) specially bred to withstand Dutch Elm Disease, which has destroyed most of the elms in southern England. The avenue was planted in 2018 by The Royal Parks and funded through the Friends of Richmond Park, with the intention to re-establish elms in the Park.

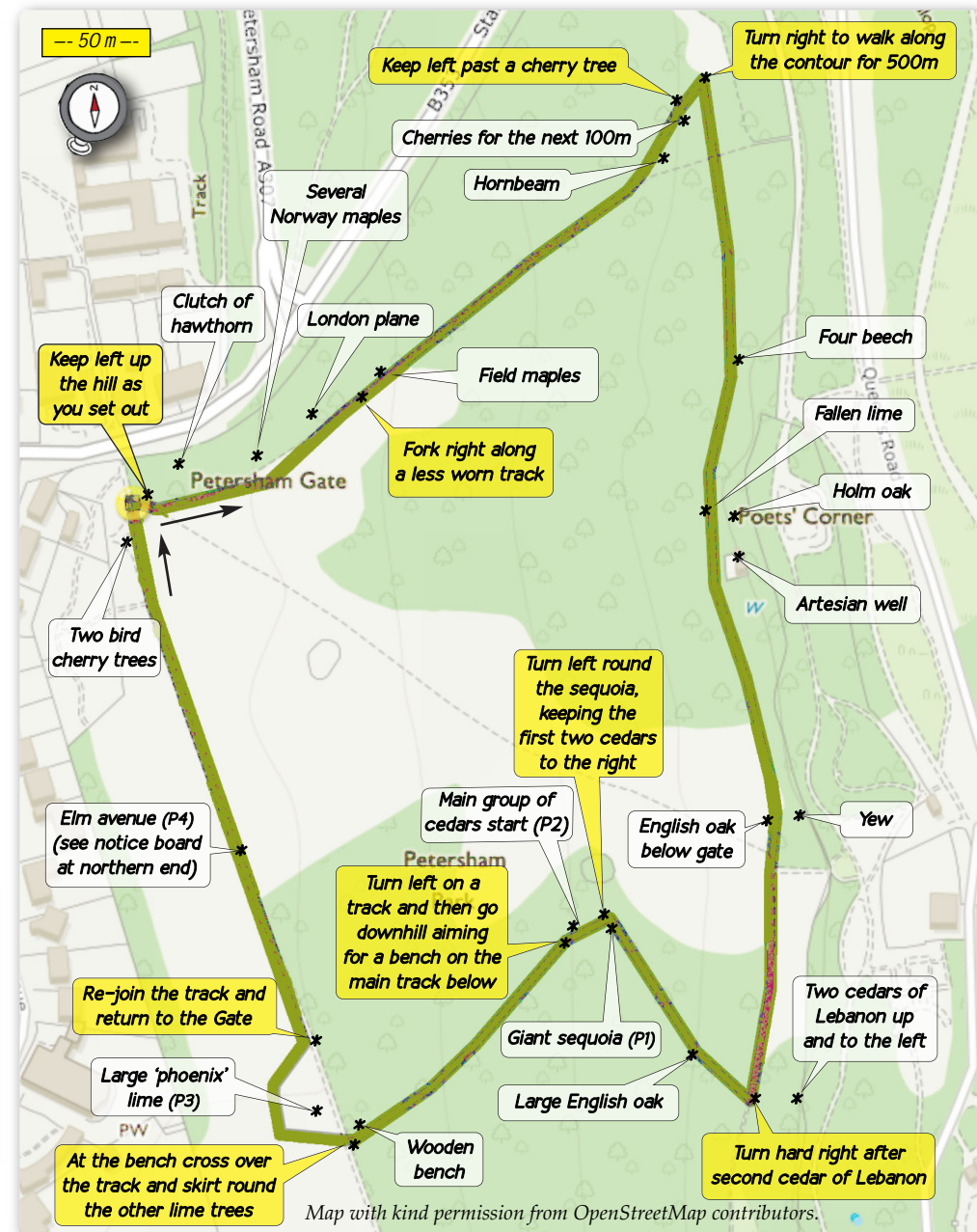
• Elm walk



P4

Three historical facts: first, this walk goes through 'Petersham Park', which was joined with the rest of Richmond Park in 1833; second, the original Russell School was located inside Petersham Gate until it was bombed 70 years ago; third, there is an 18th century artesian well at the top of the hill below Pembroke Lodge Gardens which was used to supply local mansions with water.

Photos: © Eric Baldauf



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www.frp.org.uk
Charity number 1133201

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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