



C. Ragstone Bridge

This ragstone bridge across the River Len is a great place to play 'Pooch sticks', the game of racing sticks

straightened. Can you spot any ferns?
become increasingly uncommon as rivers have been
as carr supports a unique mix of animals but has
as they can withstand flooding. Wet woodland, known
Alder and Willow are trees are common on riverbanks

B. Carr

Mote Park has adopted the
policy of allowing standing
and fallen dead trees
to remain as the wood
provides a fantastic habitat
for fungi, birds, bats and
bugs, like the Stag Beetle
which are increasingly rare.
The desire to 'tidy up' dead
trees means that decaying
wood is increasingly
uncommon.



A. Dead but alive

Kent Heritage Trees Project

Mote Park Tree Trails



D. Kentish ragstone

This hard rock, quarried locally since roman times was
used to build the Tower of London and Westminster
Abbey. Locally it can be seen in Canterbury's city



C

under a bridge made famous by A.A. Milne in his
book The House at Pooh Corner. The River Len arises
from a spring near Lenham, one of many arising in
the greensand at the base of the North Downs. In the
past the Len powered watermills like Turkey Mill, now
just outside the park. In Mote Park the river has been
dammed to form a lake. The Len joins the river Medway
in Maidstone.



F

F. Volunteers Pavilion

A 15th century game keepers cottage.

E. Keepers Cottage



E

walls, Rochester Cathedral, The Archbishop's Palace
in Maidstone and the perimeter wall in Mote Park. The
fossilised bones of an Iguanodon were found in a local
quarry in 1834 and the dinosaur is now featured on
Maidstone's Coat-of-Arms.

G. The Biggest Oak in the Park



G



H

H. Mote House

Mote House is a grade II listed building built between
1793 and 1800 when the former grand house was
demolished. At the same time the River Len was
dammed to form the lake.

Kent is known as 'The Garden of England' and
is famous for its fruit heritage. It is home to the
globally important East Malling Research Station
and National Fruit Collection at Brogdale .

Welcome to the Mote Park Tree Trails.

Mote Park is a Grade II listed park with a
history going back to medieval times when it was
one of the first deer parks in the country. This
long history as an open space has allowed the
growth of some amazing trees set in a beautiful
landscape. There are far too many splendid
trees to list them all but this tree trail and the
shorter option aim to highlight some of the more
interesting specimens.

*Enter the park via the main entrance in Mote
Road and park in the main car park (£1 fee). Start
the walk on the roadway adjacent to the café
(toilet facilities available in this area).*

This leaflet was produced as a legacy of the Kent
Heritage Trees Project, a five year project funded by the
Heritage Lottery Fund celebrating Kent's tree heritage.
A significant achievement of the project was the
recording of over 10,000 heritage trees – trees that are
old, wide, rare or have a story to tell. Visit
tcv.org.uk/kentheritagetrees to view the tree finds and
map.

This is one of a series of leaflets created by volunteers
to encourage people of all ages to explore the outdoors,
learn about nature and heritage trees and enjoy the
Kentish countryside.

The Kent Heritage Trees Project was developed and run
by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), a charity that
works with thousands of people across the UK, helping
them to discover, improve and enjoy their local green
spaces and by doing so create happier and healthier
communities.

www.explorekent.org

Find out more about the continuing work of TCV and how
you can become involved, visit www.tcv.org.uk

Kent Heritage Trees Project is managed by

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LOTTERY FUNDED

To follow the trail on your phone, scan this QR code
TCV The Community Volunteering Charity

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Mote Park Tree Trails

Short Tree Trail
1.93 miles
45 minutes

Long Tree Trail
3.24 miles
1 hr 20 mins

For descriptions of lettered items A-H, please see overleaf.

The Mote Park Fellowship plants dedicated commemorative trees in

The Mote Park Fellowship plants dedicated commemorative trees in the park as part of the parkland plan.



13. Sweet Chestnut


Castanea sativa

An impressive Sweet Chestnut stands on an interesting raised mound. Sweet Chestnuts are native to southern Europe and were probably introduced to Britain in Roman times. They are now widespread and form a large part of the coppice woodland in Kent. The delicious chestnuts are cased in spiky fruits.

11. Pooh Sticks Bridge and Lacombe Oak

Quercus x hispanica 'Lacombeana'

Standing on Pooh Sticks Bridge look ahead to see a beautiful Lacombe Oak. In 1762 William Lacombe, a nursery man from Devon noticed an Oak that kept its leaves for most of the winter, which turned out to be a cross between Turkey Oak and Cork Oak. Lacombe reproduced the tree, by cuttings and this tree, over 200 years old, is one of the early clones. It has pointed leaves and acorns with mossy cups. Lacombe kept timber from the original tree to make his coffin but he lived so long, the wood went rotten under his bed and wood from another Lacombe Oak was used instead.



Can you spot other veteran cherries along this path? Trees of the *Prunus* genus, like Cherry are identifiable by the horizontal 'lenticels' on their trunk: lens-shaped pores that allow easy exchange of gases and allow the tree to 'breathe'.

12. Faraway Oak

Quercus robur

A magnificent Oak reminiscent of the tree in the Enid Blyton children's book *The Faraway Tree*. Oak trees provide habitat for more species of birds, insects and mammals than any other tree in the UK.

Take this grassy path on the right as a short cut or continue on the path to the church and on the left is...