

country from a French invasion led by Napoleon I. volunteer soldiers who were training to defend the III and Prime Minister William Pitt to inspect 5228 Kent Built in 1801 to commemorate a visit by King George

#### F. Volunteers Pavillion

A 15th century game keepers cottage.

#### E. Keepers Cottage



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



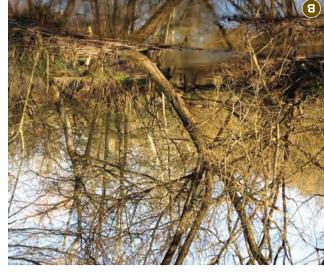
Abbey. Locally it can been seen in Canterbury's city used to build the Tower of London and Westminster This hard rock, quarried locally since roman times was

#### D. Kentish ragstone

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

under a bridge made famous by A.A. Milne in his





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

#### C. Ragstone Bridge

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



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

A. Dead but alive

## G. The Biggest Oak in the Park





## **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

## elcome 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

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

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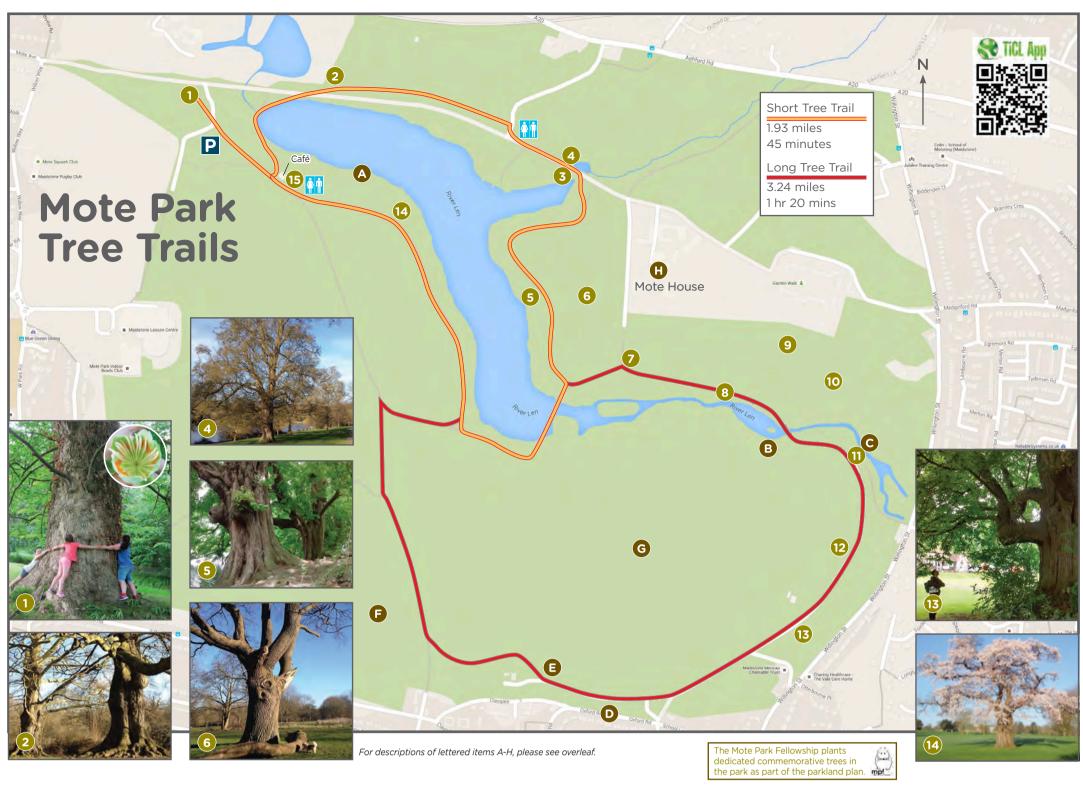
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# **Mote Park Tree Trails**











To start the trail from the café, walk a little way along the trees that border the main drive into the park

## 1. Tremendous Tulip tree

Native to eastern North America, Tulip Trees were introduced to the UK in 1656 by John Tradescant, a plant hunter and gardener to Charles I who lived in Meopham, near Maidstone. This tree is the tallest Tulip tree in Kent and is likely to be one of the early specimens planted in Britain. It has showy green and orange tulip-like flowers in the summer and unusual four-lobed leaves.

The Maidstone to Ashford turnpike road used to run along the course of this stately Beech avenue but was relocated north to its present location in the early 1800s. The oldest trees in the avenue date from this time.

Walk back towards the cafe and left down the steps to the lake. Go clockwise around the lake. At the boat house take the fork of the path that goes up the slope.

## 2. Beautiful Beeches

Fagus sylvatica Two majestic Beeches, one of which is a Copper Beech with purple leaves, stand at the top of the slope where the path splits past the boat house. Veteran trees like these are hollowed by fungi as part of the aging process, providing



habitat for animals like Stag Beetles that feed on dead wood and bats and birds that live in the

Carry on this path which rejoins the lakeside path. Past the ice cream café and head down to the lake edge

## 3. Amazing Ash

Fraxinus excelsior A veteran Ash with spreading boughs grows at the edge of the lake, its roots forming an intricate mesh. Many Ash trees locally show signs of Ash Dieback, a fungal disease which has



arrived in Britain from mainland Europe on air currents. The disease which has devastated Ash trees in Europe over the last 20 years is thought to have originated in Asia where the local Ash species have evolved to have some resistance to the disease

Continue on the main path and just before the bridge on the left you will see evidence of an ancient hedgerow

#### 4. Hidden **Hedgerows**

When typical hedgerow trees like Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna top) and Field Maple (Acer campestre middle) are found in a line it often shows the line trackway. Both trees have lobed leaves. Field Maple leaves are similar to a Sycamore (bottom) but smaller.

Continue around the lake - on the left of the path you will see a dead tree trunk, head down towards the lake edge to find...

#### 5. The Three Fishermen, **Horse Chestnuts**



Aesculus hippocastanum Three majestic Horse Chestnut trees lean out across the lake, dipping into the water as if they are fishing. The leaves are hand shaped it bears beautiful flower brown conkers in spiny cases. They are native to the Balkan peninsular were introduced to Britain



spikes and later, shiny, by plant hunter John Tradescant from his 1621 expedition to



the Mediterranean. This tree is easily identified by the leaves which look like a hand and big hard shiny seeds, which, once out of their spiny cases, are used to play the game of Conkers.

## 6. Pollarded English Oak

Quercus robur In front of Mote House is a large Oak which has been pollarded: sustainably harvesting timber by removing branches at head height so that the regrowth doesn't get eaten by browsing animals. Oak were pollarded in the past to generate large curved boughs for Britain's huge fleet of ships. This Oak has been aged at 270 years old using a coring technique to look at the tree's growth rings.

## 7. Maple Syrup Trees

Acer saccharinum

An avenue of Silver Maples leads to Mote House. In their native North America the sap is collected to make maple syrup which was the main source of sugar before settlers arrived from Europe

On the right as the path runs close to the stream you will find..

## 8. Majestic London Plane

Platanus x acerifolia A majestic London Plane with sprawling roots can be found on the riverbank. This tree, a cross between the American Sycamore and Oriental Plane which originate in different continents, has been widely planted in London's streets and parks. It is able to tolerate polluted conditions - dirt is removed with the naturally flaking bark. It is identified by its bobblelike fruits which remain on the tree in the winter.

In the distance on the left you can see at the top of the hill..





## 9. Giant Redwood

Sequoiadendron giganteum Named Wellingtonia Giganteum in 1852 by botanist John Lindley in 1852 in honour of the Duke of Wellington just ahead of the Americans who wanted to name the tree Washingtonia after their first president. Mote Park has a good population of Tree Creepers because they like to nest in the bark of these trees.

From the plane a path leads up the hill past the Giant Redwood up some steps to the adventure playground, next to the redwood is a slide. In the distance you will spot a dead looking tree...

## 10. Grand Old Duke

Juglans regia This monumental tree has the largest trunk girth of any Black Walnut in Kent and is one of the oldest in the UK. Black Walnut was historically used in the manufacture of gun stocks as the wood is very strong and can absorb the shock of recoil. Sadly this tree is now dying but the decaying wood will provide food and habitat for birds. invertebrates and fungi for years to

The path divides, continue a short distance along the left hand fork to the pooh sticks bridge.



#### 11. Pooh Sticks Bridge and Lucombe Oak

Quercus x hispanica 'Lucombeana' Standing on Pooh Sticks Bridge look ahead to see a beautiful Lucombe Oak In 1762 William Lucombe, 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. Lucombe 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. Lucombe 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 Lucombe Oak was used instead.

Go a short way back to the fork in the path and take the path up the hill. Where a grassy path joins on the right you can find the.

## 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...



## 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

Continue on the path for a fair way and take the path that runs closest to the lake. On the right, immediately before two paths join you will find

#### 14. The Monumental **Yoshino Cherry**

Prunus x yedoensis Japanese Yoshino Cherry (thought to be a hybrid between the Spring Cherry and Oshima Cherry) is commonly planted in cities in Japan and North America. This specimen, which is showing signs of ageing, is listed on the Monumental Trees Register as being the biggest of its species in the UK.



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'

Continue on the path towards the café and after the toilets on the right before you get to the café you will see...'

## 15. Dick's Oak

Quercus sp

This Oak tree was grown from an acorn from the British War Graves cemetery in Reighwald, Germany and presented to the town in 1953 by R.A.Chapman in memory of his son Sgt "Dick" Chapman 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards who died in 1945 and as a memorial to all men who gave their lives in World

