

Get to know your park

A tree trail around
Kneller Gardens, Twickenham



For more information about the Friendly Parks for All Project see:

www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/explore_richmonds_parks_and_open_spaces

or email Parks@richmond.gov.uk



Investigate the trees in Kneller Gardens.

The trail will take between 30 minutes and an hour depending on how fast you walk and how long you spend looking at each tree.

The paths in the park are all accessible for people with walking aids and those in wheelchairs. There are toilets on site including a disabled toilet. There is parking on the streets around the park including a blue badge parking space on Meadway.



Kneller Gardens

Meadway, Twickenham, TW2 6PH

1. London Plane

Family: Platanaceae

Species: *Platanus x hispanica*

The London plane is a hybrid of American sycamore and Oriental plane. This tree pre-dates the park which was set out in 1932. The tree is valued for its ability to adapt to urban conditions and resistance to pollution. In the winter the fruit looks like Christmas tree decorations.



2. Common Ash

Family: Oleaceae

Species: *Fraxinus excelsior*

A common tree in British woodlands now threatened by ash dieback. It is a tough hardwood that absorbs shocks and does not splinter so traditionally used for tools and sport equipment. Ash keys, the winged seeds found in autumn, often last through the winter.



3. Mixed native hedge

A hedge is a line of woody vegetation, managed so that trees no longer take their natural shape. There is a borough wide [Habitat Action Plan for Hedges](#). This hedge was planted by schoolchildren and layed by Richmond Green Gym. It supports a large diversity of flora and fauna, offers shelter, refuge connectivity and food for invertebrates, birds and small mammals.



4. Black poplar

Family: Salicaceae

Species: *Populus nigra*

A fast-growing native tree, now rare in the UK. Mature trees grow to 30m and can be long lived. These trees are part of a conservation programme with a Richmond Biodiversity Action Plan in place to protect the species. [BAP Leaflet for Black Poplar](#)
The tree grows best in damp conditions along rivers and in floodplain woodland. The timber was once in high demand as a building material as it is naturally pliable and shock resistant. Traditionally it was used to make cartwheels and floorboards. The tree can be coppiced or pollarded, growing quickly to provide material for thatching and baskets.



5. English Oak

Family: Fagaceae

Species: *Quercus robur*

A native tree which is host to hundreds of insect species, and supplies birds with an important food source. Bats often roost under loose bark and in autumn mammals, such as squirrels, feed on acorns. These two trees pre-date the park and may have marked a safe place to cross the river.



6. Dawn redwood

Family: Cupressaceae

Species: *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Dawn redwoods are fast-growing deciduous trees that like wet sites such as rivers. They were known as a fossil species until they were discovered in China in the 1940's. They have bright green, feathery leaves. As the tree gets older the bark deepens and the lower trunk forms buttresses.



7. Golden Weeping Willow

Family: Salicaceae

Species: *Salix chrysocoma*

A non-native line of weeping, deciduous tree which is often associated with rivers and streams. This avenue dates from when the park was established. The catkins are an important source of early nectar and pollen for bees and other insects. Aspirin is derived from the bark of willow trees



8. Pissard's Plum

Family: Rosaceae

Species: *Prunus pissardii*

This row of cherry plums is famous for its highly coloured purple leaves and very early flowers which are attractive to bees and other insects. The fruit is edible and the ancestor of the domestic plum

