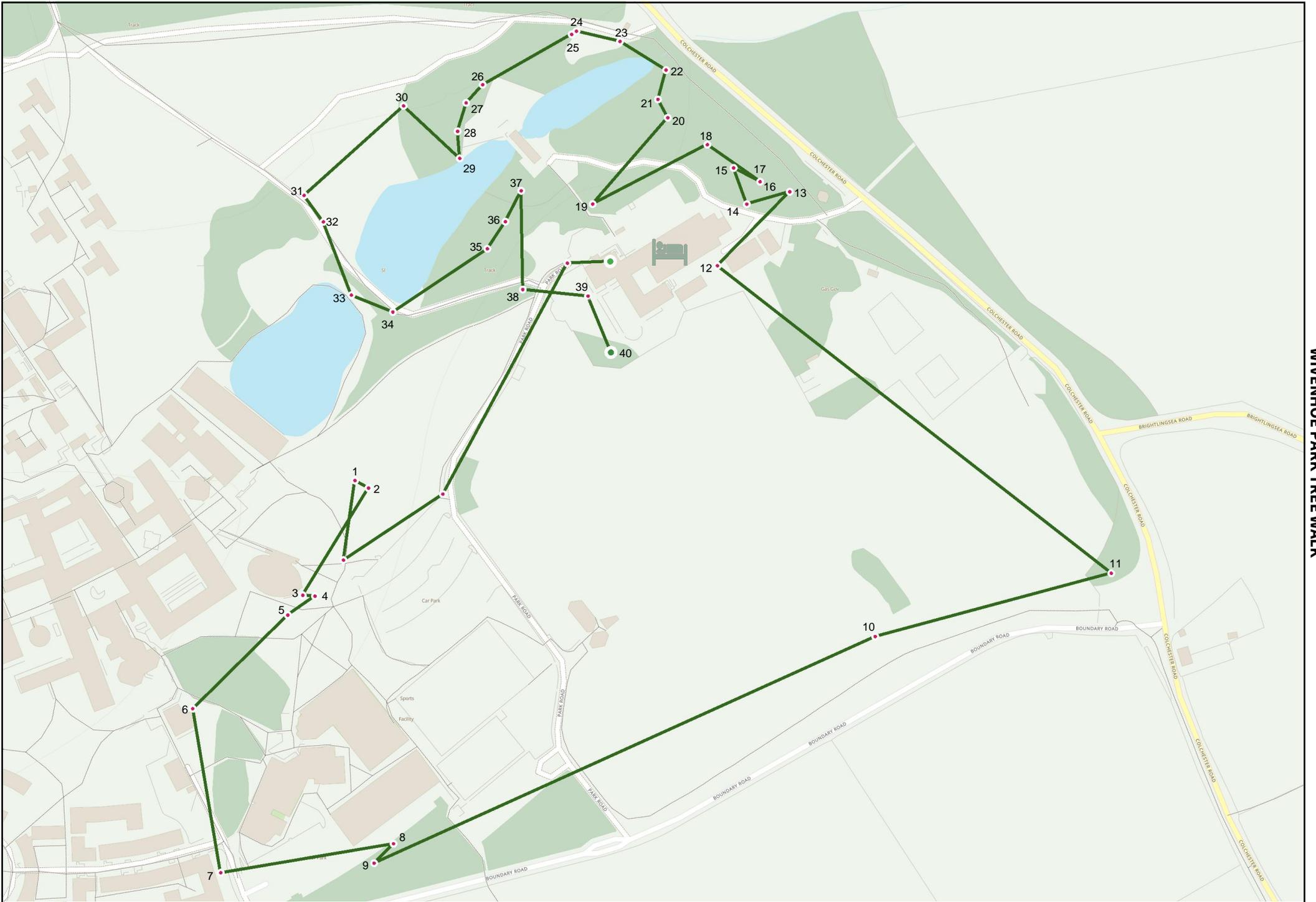


# WIVENHOE PARK TREE WALK



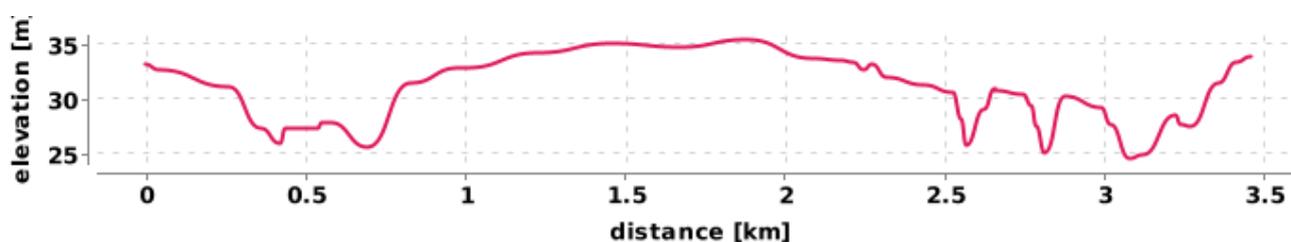
## Route Information

Wivenhoe Park Tree Walk

### Route Summary

Total Distance	<b>3.46 km (2.15 mi)</b>
Elevation	<b>25 m at lowest point</b>
	<b>35 m at highest point</b>
Total Ascent	<b>28 m</b>

### Elevation Profile



### Route Card

#	OS Grid Ref	Dist from start	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation
1	<b>TM 032 241</b> Wivenhoe House Hotel	<b>0 km</b>	51° 52' 43" N	0° 57' 7" E	<b>33 m</b>
	Dist to next: <b>0.04 km</b> , Ascent to next: <b>-1 m</b>				
2	<b>TM 032 241</b>	<b>0.04 km</b>	51° 52' 43" N	0° 57' 5" E	<b>33 m</b>
	Dist to next: <b>0.22 km</b> , Ascent to next: <b>-1 m</b>				
3	<b>TM 031 239</b>	<b>0.26 km</b>	51° 52' 36" N	0° 56' 59" E	<b>31 m</b>
	Dist to next: <b>0.1 km</b> , Ascent to next: <b>-4 m</b>				
4	<b>TM 030 238</b>	<b>0.36 km</b>	51° 52' 35" N	0° 56' 55" E	<b>27 m</b>
	Dist to next: <b>0.07 km</b> , Ascent to next: <b>-1 m</b>				
5	<b>TM 030 239</b> The Narrow-leaved Ash	<b>0.42 km</b>	51° 52' 37" N	0° 56' 55" E	<b>26 m</b>

(*Fraxinus angustifolia*). Its compound leaves form a quite delicate foliage with smaller leaflets than other Ashes

which seem to merge into 'clouds'. Look up through the leaves to appreciate how fine and feathery they are. This tree usually shows a deep red colour in the autumn, explaining its other common name of Claret Ash.

Dist to next: **0.01** km, Ascent to next: **1** m

6 **TM 030 239** **0.44** km 51° 52' 36" N 0° 56' 56" E **27** m  
Common Ash

(*Fraxinus excelsior*). This is the last of our native trees into leaf. Like the first Ash, the leaves have leaflets that are pinnate, in opposite pairs. It is also one of the first to drop its leaves. The timber is often used for traditional tool handles. It's also much valued as fuel, as the wood burns very well, even when green. It is a common woodland and hedgerow tree. It has winged fruits in the form of single wings known as 'keys' and they are often seen hanging in large bunches late into the autumn.

Dist to next: **0.11** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

7 **TM 030 238** **0.54** km 51° 52' 34" N 0° 56' 53" E **27** m  
Medlar-leaved Oak

(*Quercus petraea* Mespilifolia Group). The first of twelve different and varied species of Oak on the walk. This one is rather rare and its appearance can puzzle. Most of the leaves are unlobed and quite 'un-oak like', but it has the familiar acorns. You will see an actual Medlar tree later on the walk.

Dist to next: **0.01** km, Ascent to next: **1** m

8 **TM 030 238** **0.55** km 51° 52' 34" N 0° 56' 54" E **28** m  
Holm Oak

(*Quercus ilex*). The younger leaves are sometimes spiny-edged; explaining its other common name of Holly Oak. The underside of the leaves is finely white-felted, making quite a contrast.

Dist to next: **0.03** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

9 **TM 030 238** **0.58** km 51° 52' 33" N 0° 56' 52" E **28** m  
Turkey Oak

(*Quercus cerris*). You will recognise the leaf as 'oak-like' (lobed) but varied in shape and size. The acorns are fascinating and quite distinctive; the cups are sometimes described as mossy because they are very heavily whiskered, as with the buds which have been described as 'spidery' – you can see why.

Dist to next: **0.11** km, Ascent to next: **-2** m

10 **TM 029 237** **0.69** km 51° 52' 31" N 0° 56' 48" E **26** m  
a pair of coppiced Sweet Chestnut

(*Castanea sativa*). You will not be looking at a tree in its usual form here, as these two mature trees have recently been severely coppiced – that is cut back to ground level. This is their second coppicing, having been originally

cut back following development of the residential towers. The species was introduced into Britain by the Romans and is now a common woodland tree. Coppicing is use of the stump of a felled tree to regenerate new growth, which appear as smooth-barked poles. These can then be used as needed at the appropriate size. They were often used on hop fields before metal supports, but these days are used for fencing etc. The trees are known for the spiny husks on their fruits, but the high summer flowers on abundant catkins are not to be missed either. It will be a while before these characteristics develop again here but they are noticeable on other mature specimens on campus.

Dist to next: **0.14** km, Ascent to next: **6** m

11 **TM 029 236** **0.83** km 51° 52' 26" N 0° 56' 50" E **32** m  
Cypress Oaks

(*Quercus robur* Fastigate Group). These are sometimes mistaken for Lombardy Poplars but it's an English Oak in a neat form (fastigated) with near vertical branches. We go on to look at the English Oak in more detail later in the walk.

Dist to next: **0.15** km, Ascent to next: **1** m

12 **TM 031 236** **0.98** km 51° 52' 27" N 0° 56' 57" E **33** m  
Scots Pine

(*Pinus sylvestris*) and directly in front is (9) a Black Pine (*Pinus nigra*). Both species are two-needle pines and can be confused. However, the needles (actually leaves) on the Black Pine are longer; you can see these on the low-hanging branches. Note the bark as well, the Scots Pine has a slight reddish tinge to it, often more noticeable higher up when in full sun.

Dist to next: **0.02** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

13 **TM 031 236** **1** km 51° 52' 26" N 0° 56' 56" E **33** m  
Black Pine

Dist to next: **0.46** km, Ascent to next: **2** m

14 **TM 035 238** **1.46** km 51° 52' 32" N 0° 57' 18" E **35** m  
Chestnut-leaved Oak

(*Quercus castaneifolia*), a tree with quite an open form. Seeing the leaf on this young tree helps you to appreciate the diversity of Oaks. These leaves have lobes but they are small, quite regular and triangular; quite different from the other Oaks that you saw earlier. There are more Oak surprises later on the tour.

Dist to next: **0.21** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

15 **TM 037 238** **1.67** km 51° 52' 34" N 0° 57' 29" E **35** m  
Portugal Laurels

(*Prunus lusitanica*). These are large bushy evergreens with deep green glossy leaves and distinctive red petioles,

or leaf stalks. There are creamy-white tails of flowers in late spring/early summer, these have a pleasant fragrance and are followed by bitter-tasting deep purple berries.

Dist to next: **0.42** km, Ascent to next: **-1** m

- 16 **TM 033 241** **2.09** km **51° 52' 43" N** **0° 57' 11" E** **34** m  
Dawn Redwood

(*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*). A deciduous conifer originally from China where fossil records were known but the tree itself was thought extinct. It was re-discovered and introduced into Britain in 1948. Having a very neat shape and form with soft green foliage turning rust colour in the autumn, it has become popular in parkland planting, but it can develop into quite a large tree.

Dist to next: **0.09** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

- 17 **TM 034 241** **2.18** km **51° 52' 45" N** **0° 57' 15" E** **34** m  
Bhutan Pine

(*Pinus wallichiana*). This often shows a good display of very large cones, the most noticeable hanging near the crown of the tree, but there are also usually a few old open cones on the ground. This five-needle pine has interesting and strangely beautiful male flowers around June time. Some of the needles have a distinct kink on Bhutan Pines, in that they turn ninety degrees to hang downwards – see if you can spot them. As the name suggests the tree originates in the Himalayas. It was introduced into Britain in the early nineteenth century and is a good ornamental specimen for a tree lawn.

Dist to next: **0.04** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

- 18 **TM 033 241** **2.21** km **51° 52' 44" N** **0° 57' 13" E** **33** m  
Western Red Cedar

(*Thuja plicata*). It should be easy to locate next to the road, with its unmistakable large and luxuriant green conical foliage all the way to the ground. This tree is Cedar in name alone. It belongs to the family of Cypresses, the same as the more familiar hybrid *Leylandii*, but it is altogether more handsome and distinctive than its commoner cousin. The foliage when crushed gives off a pineapple-like scent.

Dist to next: **0.03** km, Ascent to next: **-1** m

- 19 **TM 033 242** **2.25** km **51° 52' 45" N** **0° 57' 12" E** **33** m  
Blue Atlas Cedar

(*Cedrus atlantica* Glauca Group). Originally from the Atlas Mountains in North Africa it makes a showy ornament to the lawn. Its needles are more silver-grey than blue and set in little 'bunches' or rosettes.

Dist to next: **0.03** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

- 20 **TM 034 241** **2.27** km **51° 52' 45" N** **0° 57' 13" E** **33** m  
Wellingtonia or the Giant Redwood

(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). With very reddish-brown bark, this specimen should grow even larger. The

Wellingtonia is believed to be the world's biggest tree (the largest is in the U.S.) The taller it grows the more flared its base will become. This giant is a big useless softy; in timber terms, it has very soft wood indeed, but it looks good. The bark is so soft that Treecreepers have been known to nest in it when occasional holes form naturally.

Dist to next: **0.05** km, Ascent to next: **-1** m

21 **TM 033 242** **2.32** km 51° 52' 46" N 0° 57' 11" E **32** m

Fern-leaved Beech

(*Fagus sylvatica* 'Aspleniifolia'). Note the puzzling variation in the leaves: some are lobed like an oak and others, at the shoot tips, are narrow like a willow - very interesting. If it's a fine day, look up at the blue sky through the early soft green and almost feathery foliage. It's magical.

Dist to next: **0.11** km, Ascent to next: **-1** m

22 **TM 032 241** **2.43** km 51° 52' 44" N 0° 57' 6" E **31** m

Cedar of Lebanon

Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*). Every Big House should have one! In its day this would have been a trophy tree viewed in its elegance from Wivenhoe House. The layered plates of foliage give the tree a handsome form, accentuated by the gaps allowing a clear view through its branches. The branches can grow very long and weighty and have a tendency to break off with age. You will notice the supports here to help prevent that happening to its lower limbs.

Dist to next: **0.1** km, Ascent to next: **-1** m

23 **TM 033 242** **2.53** km 51° 52' 47" N 0° 57' 9" E **31** m

Medlar

(*Mespilus germanica*). Its fruits can be something of an acquired taste, somewhat grainy and best 'bletted', or overripe. They have their followers. The foliage on the Medlar-leaved Oak (3) that you saw earlier, takes its name from the leaves of this species.

Dist to next: **0.02** km, Ascent to next: **-2** m

24 **TM 033 242** **2.55** km 51° 52' 47" N 0° 57' 9" E **28** m

Japanese Chestnut Oak

(*Quercus acutissima*). It's also known as the Sawtooth Oak, and you will see why! You will have seen the earlier tree (10), the Chestnut-leaved Oak. The leaves here are not dissimilar, they are large and very glossy with a lighter but dull underside, but each of the lobes sports a forward-pointing bristle up to about 5mm long. It couldn't saw through paper, but you can see how it got its common name.

Dist to next: **0.03** km, Ascent to next: **-2** m

25 **TM 033 242** **2.57** km 51° 52' 48" N 0° 57' 9" E **26** m

Locust Tree

(*Robinia pseudoacacia*), also known as the False Acacia. It has rough and coarsely ridged bark and attractive

compound leaves with pairs of oval leaflets. It is at its most attractive in June with its hanging spikes of highly scented white flowers; these are said to remind some people of the smells of the souk in Morocco. The later seed pods often hang into the winter.

Dist to next: **0.05** km, Ascent to next: **3** m

26 **TM 032 243** **2.62** km **51° 52' 49" N** **0° 57' 7" E** **29** m

Daimyo Oak

(*Quercus dentata*). Rather a special Oak and rare in Britain but found in a few collections. A relatively small tree but with exceptionally large leaves, some of the largest of any Oak. They can reach 40cm in length; and are quite leathery and noticeably hairy. The species was introduced to Britain in 1830 from S.E. Asia. A Daimyo was a feudal Japanese lord, a deserving reference for this little arboreal aristocrat.

Dist to next: **0.04** km, Ascent to next: **2** m

27 **TM 032 243** **2.66** km **51° 52' 49" N** **0° 57' 5" E** **31** m

Common Walnut

(*Juglans regia*). This tree has large compound leaves with the leaflets in pairs with the end leaflet being much larger, making it a distinctive feature. Prized for its wood in furniture making, and in some parts, for 'wet' walnuts for pickling. In England, the nuts ripen best after long hot summers; in the warmer parts of France they are used for producing a flavoursome oil.

Dist to next: **0** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

28 **TM 032 243** **2.66** km **51° 52' 49" N** **0° 57' 5" E** **31** m

Black Mulberry

Mulberry (*Morus nigra*). The ripe fruit look like small raspberries. You are advised not to pick them if you want to avoid the lasting stains they make! But they do make delicious jam.

Dist to next: **0.09** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

29 **TM 031 242** **2.75** km **51° 52' 47" N** **0° 57' 1" E** **30** m

26. Ash-leaved Maple

also known as the Box Elder (*Acer negundo*). The tree's very pretty little plumes of flowers appear in March and the unusual leaves follow. They are pinnate, but some of the leaflets are still recognisable as Maple; just, – what do you think? The fruits confirm the tree as a Maple with strings of the usual pairs of keys.

Dist to next: **0.02** km, Ascent to next: **-1** m

30 **TM 031 242** **2.77** km **51° 52' 47" N** **0° 57' 0" E** **30** m

27. Cedar Deodar

(*Cedrus Deodara*). You will see that the fallen Cedar has now been made into an insect harbourage.

Dist to next: **0.02** km, Ascent to next: **-2** m

31 **TM 031 242** **2.79** km **51° 52' 46" N** **0° 57' 0" E** **28** m

28. Scarlet Oak

(*Quercus coccinea*), less common than its cousin, the Red Oak, which you will see later. Its leaves are a deeper cut with whiskers on the lobes and these are the most reliably red of the Oaks – best in a long warm autumn.

Dist to next: **0.02** km, Ascent to next: **-2** m

32 **TM 031 242** **2.81** km **51° 52' 45" N** **0° 57' 0" E** **25** m

29. London Plane

Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*). A tough tree, planted a lot in London streets and parks where it can tolerate high pollution levels. Its leaves are Maple-like but it has some distinctive characteristics in bark and fruits. Its bark is noticeably scaly, showing greys, cream and brown, it's sometimes called blotchy.

Dist to next: **0.06** km, Ascent to next: **5** m

33 **TM 031 242** **2.88** km **51° 52' 47" N** **0° 56' 58" E** **30** m

30. English Oak

Oak (*Quercus robur*). This magnificent tree is estimated to be well over 400 years old - one of the oldest in the park. You can approach its massive girth and marvel at the curious craggy features of this silent and mighty sentinel of the countryside. The English Oak is everyone's friend, it supplies us with excellent timber and provides a free lunch for more leaf-eating insects than any other tree in Britain. Perhaps that's because a veteran tree like this one can have about a quarter of a million leaves!

Dist to next: **0.11** km, Ascent to next: **-1** m

34 **TM 030 241** **2.99** km **51° 52' 44" N** **0° 56' 53" E** **29** m

31. Cider Gum

(*Eucalyptus gunnii*). This tree is located by the old main track that once led to Wivenhoe House, crossing the lake. Follow the track down to where the grassy slope above the lake begins and turn right.

Dist to next: **0.03** km, Ascent to next: **-2** m

35 **TM 030 241** **3.02** km **51° 52' 44" N** **0° 56' 54" E** **28** m

32. Sweet Bay

(*Laurus nobilis*). The beautifully fragrant foliage has long had its culinary uses. Crush a leaf for the warmly peppery aroma. Appropriately, there is an academic reference too; the Medieval Latin for bachelor is baccalaurus, which in turn is derived from laurel-berry. Graduates in earlier times were adorned with Bay.

Dist to next: **0.07** km, Ascent to next: **-3** m

36 **TM 030 240** **3.08** km 51° 52' 42" N 0° 56' 55" E **25** m

33. Hybrid Black Poplars

Poplars (*Populus x canadensis*). These are an inspired planting here as they provide a high parasol for the barbeque area. The triangular-shaped leaves are on very long petioles, or leaf stalks. These allow the leaves to hang freely and catch any passing breeze, causing them to shimmer and tremble in the wind; could there be a more pleasant spot for a picnic! Stand still for a moment if there's a breeze to listen to the rustle; it can be very soothing.

Dist to next: **0.04** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

37 **TM 031 240** **3.12** km 51° 52' 41" N 0° 56' 57" E **25** m

34. Swamp Cypress

(*Taxodium distichum*). A deciduous conifer, which despite its name, also grows quite happily away from water. But it is a wetland tree and particularly well adapted to this habitat. Often, where water does not have enough movement and so has reduced oxygen levels, the tree will develop root extensions, known as 'knees', above ground, or water, to aid its oxygen supply. There are none evident here; our own 'swamp' perhaps being more agreeable!

Dist to next: **0.1** km, Ascent to next: **4** m

38 **TM 031 241** **3.22** km 51° 52' 43" N 0° 57' 1" E **29** m

35. Copper Beech

(*Fagus sylvatica Atropurpurea* Group). The tree, when in leaf, has an interesting variation in its colouring. The leaves are quite purple at the branch ends nearest the lake. Then as you move under the tree, you will notice the leaves become quite green but with purple veins; this is because of the imbalance of the colouring pigments (xanthocyanins) in the leaves as the season moves on.

Dist to next: **0.03** km, Ascent to next: **-1** m

39 **TM 031 241** **3.24** km 51° 52' 44" N 0° 57' 2" E **28** m

36. Coast Redwood

(*Sequoia sempervirens*), tall and very conical. We saw the Giant Redwood (16) earlier. The Coast Redwood is believed to be the world's tallest tree (112m in the U.S.). This one is approaching 20m high and it will take some time for it to achieve that unlikely status. If you look through the needle-like leaves you will see the reddish bark.

Dist to next: **0.03** km, Ascent to next: **0** m

40 **TM 032 241** **3.27** km 51° 52' 45" N 0° 57' 3" E **28** m

37. Red Oak

Oak (*Quercus rubra*). A little neater in appearance than the English Oak, this variety has large leaves looking more cut and pointy than most of the other Oaks you have seen. These go a deep red after long and warm Indian

summers.

Dist to next: **0.08** km, Ascent to next: **4** m

41 **TM 032 241** **3.36** km 51° 52' 42" N 0° 57' 3" E **32** m

38. Turner's Oak

(*Quercus x turneri*). This is a hybrid (crossed) semi-evergreen oak from English and Holm Oaks, both of which you saw earlier. Notice how some of these leaves are more 'stretched', and smaller compared to the English Oak.

Dist to next: **0.06** km, Ascent to next: **2** m

42 **TM 032 240** **3.41** km 51° 52' 42" N 0° 57' 6" E **33** m

39. Strawberry Trees

(*Arbutus unedo*) on your left. These are planted in the depression surrounding the house, but this allows a good view of the fruits, flowers and foliage. Despite its fruity name the tree has an attractive but unappetising crop of fruits. The previous year's orange fruits ripen to an appealing red and are evident in the early autumn, at the same time as the flowers, which are clusters of small white 'bells'. These may seem familiar - the tree is in the same family as the heathers. Its Latin name is telling: unedo comes from unum edo meaning 'I eat one' or eat only one; don't bother to find out why!

Dist to next: **0.05** km, Ascent to next: **1** m

43 **TM 032 240** **3.46** km 51° 52' 40" N 0° 57' 7" E **34** m

40. Cork Oaks

(*Quercus suber*) that you are ever likely to see. The 'complexion' of their bark may look in need of a little moisturiser. These two large rather recumbent characters are very alive. It is said that they were planted in 1814 by General Francis Rebow, then owner of the estate, as seedlings that he brought back from Lisbon, where he had been taking part in the Peninsular War. These trees are often found growing on hot scrubby hillsides around the Mediterranean, where their bark has been used for corks for hundreds of years, though plastic capsules and screw tops are changing that. A harvest of the bark every 8-10 years does not damage the tree. A tough tree, with tough leaves. These are small and evergreen, often with small spiny lobes. These final two trees do highlight the diversity of the Oak (*Quercus*) genus.