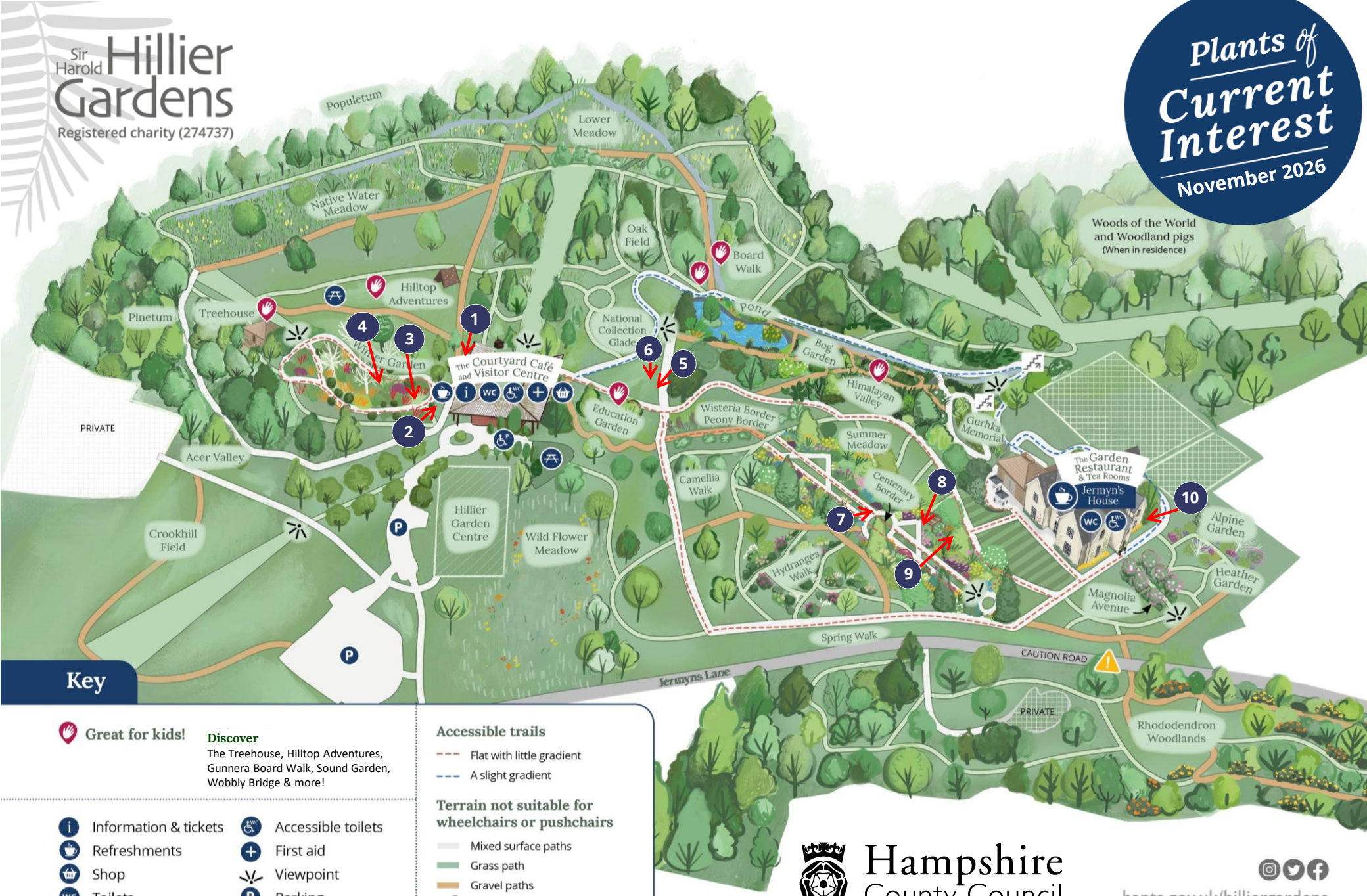
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

Registered charity (274737)

Plants of Current Interest

November 2026



Key

Great for kids!

Discover
The Treehouse, Hilltop Adventures, Gunnera Board Walk, Sound Garden, Wobbly Bridge & more!

- Information & tickets
- Refreshments
- Shop
- Toilets
- Picnic Area
- Accessible toilets
- First aid
- Viewpoint
- Parking
- Accessible parking

Accessible trails

- Flat with little gradient
- A slight gradient

Terrain not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs

- Mixed surface paths
- Grass path
- Gravel paths
- Steps
- Main road

Hampshire County Council

hants.gov.uk/hilliergardens

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

Plants of current interest

November 2026

Pick up a copy of our **Garden Guide**
Members: £3*
Non-member: £6

Welcome to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens.
Explore one of the world's largest collections of hardy trees and shrubs, including Britain and Ireland's biggest collection of Champion Trees with over 600 specimens! Use the map to guide your walk—the ten highlighted plants are just a glimpse of what's waiting to be discovered.
We hope you enjoy your visit.
= RHS Award of Garden Merit

1 ***Nandina domestica 'Richmond'*** *(nan-DEE-nah)*
This is a wonderful form of the Chinese 'Heavenly Bamboo'. It is named because the stems have a bamboo-like appearance, but unlike true bamboo, it is not invasive. Related to Berberis and Mahonia, this attractive shrub is valued for its autumn colour, as well as its delicate white summer flowers, which are followed by colourful berries (not edible). Evergreen to semi-evergreen.

2 ***Zanthoxylum simulans*** *(zan-THOX-ee-lum)*
This is one of the species known as 'Sichuan Pepper'. A tree native to China, Taiwan and Korea, it has traditionally been used as a spice. These trees are known not only for their strong, peppery fruits but also for their very spiny bark. Once the leaves have fully dropped, the fruits remain on the tree throughout much of the winter. Their flavour is too strong for most birds!

3 ***Acer x conspicuum 'Elephant's Ear'*** *(AY-ser)*
This is a beautiful example of a snakebark maple. This specimen is a hybrid between the North American Acer pensylvanicum and the Chinese Acer davidii. These trees can sometimes be challenging to grow and are particularly susceptible to diseases associated with wet conditions. However, their bark is highly attractive, especially when young.

4 ***Acer* 'Gingerbread'** *(AY-ser)*
This rare hybrid maple is a cross between the paperbark maple, Acer griseum, and Acer maximowiczianum. Similar in leaf to the paperbark maple, it develops its red autumn colour much later in season. A beautiful small tree, this specimen was planted by Her Majesty The Queen to commemorate her visit in 2003. Sadly, it does not possess the flaky bark of its paperbark parent.

5 ***Ilex x koehneana*** *(EYE-leks)*
This is a wonderful holly, whether grown as a hedge or as a specimen tree. In fact, it makes a particularly unusual small evergreen tree for UK gardens. Unlike the native holly, this variety produces large clusters of red berries that often persist much longer. Although the leaf margins (outer edges) are serrated, they are not as prickly as those of the native species.

6 ***Mespilus germanica*** *(mess-PILL-lus)*
The medlar is probably one of the less widely grown fruit trees; however, it has many merits. In addition to its unusual fruits, which can be quite attractive and distinctive, it provides excellent autumn colour on a compact scale. Its large white spring flowers are every bit as beautiful as apple blossom. The fruits are edible but require bletting and are best used in jams and jellies.

7 ***Abelia x grandiflora*** *(ah-BEE-lee-ah)*
An attractive, compact shrub with a long season of interest. Flowering can begin as early as spring and continue into early winter. Generally semi-evergreen, it can retain all of its foliage during a mild winter. In addition to the white, tubular flowers loved by insects, the colourful bracts behind the flowers can remain attractive throughout the year.

8 ***Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind'** *(PAHN-nee-kum)*
Although this American prairie grass is deciduous, it can remain intact for a month or two after dieback, leaving tall, golden-yellow stems that provide a stunning autumn display. Leave it to fall apart naturally or cut it back in late winter. During the growing season, the foliage is typically blue-green.

9 ***Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Globe'** *(lik-KWID-am-BAHR)*
This is a tree sometimes mistaken for an Acer (maple), largely because it has a similar leaf shape. However, Liquidambar is much more versatile than a maple and far easier to grow. It adapts to almost any soil and is also tolerant of wet conditions. Good autumn colour can be achieved in both alkaline and acidic soils, and the range of forms is extensive. This is a wonderful rounded, squat form.

10 ***Neopanax arboreus*** *(NEE-oh-pan-naks)*
This is a fabulous, exotic-looking evergreen shrub from New Zealand, perfectly happy in all but the coldest parts of the UK. It is a member of the ivy family, with similar flower and fruit clusters, but in deep purple rather than white. This plant is ideal for bringing a tropical feel to the garden. It is very common on the South Island.

Membership starts from £52*
Join today and claim back today's admission fee

Help support the Sir Harold Hillier Garden charity and become a member visit https://shop.hants.gov.uk
* Just ask at the Ticket Desk
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