



Staunton
Country Park

Tree Trail

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Hampshire
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Welcome to Staunton Country Park

A Grade II listed Regency landscaped garden of over 200 acres. The gardens were designed during Sir George Thomas Staunton's ownership in the early 1800s and developed further by later estate owners.

There are over 650 trees with at least 85 different species.

As of 2021, we are proud to become part of the ArbNet* (an international network of rare and non-native tree species).



Some of our older trees are Champion Trees; Look out for the TROBI* Champion Tree blue plaques.



Explore the park to find these and other remarkable trees.



1

Redwoods

There are three types of redwoods here at the park:

Californian Redwood: (*Sequoia sempervirens*)

These are fast growing trees, normally found in the western part of North America (California). They can grow to between 60-100m tall. Amazingly they are tolerant to fire and can re-sprout after burning.

Giant Redwood: (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)

These are the largest of the Redwood species. They can live to over 3000 years old and can grow over 100m.

Dawn Redwood: (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

Unlike the other two, this one is deciduous (i.e. drops its leaves in winter!)



2

Split Beech - *Fagus sylvatica* *Asplenifolia*



You can see the dead parent tree is at the core with trees around in a circle, which are its 'clones'. The branches hang low so as to start a new ring of the next generation.



The deadwood is also great for wildlife; the holes are perfect for nesting birds (we've seen woodpeckers in this one).



3

Staunton Vines: *Stauntonia latafolia*

The vines are named after George Leonard Staunton, George Thomas Staunton's father. The former was a renowned amateur botanist. This plant is a climber with very strong vines and uses other trees to support its growth.

In this case, it is using the Bhutan (or Blue) Pine, which is an evergreen tree native to the Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountains.



4

Cedar Drive

Himalayan Cedar: *Cedrus deodara*

This is an evergreen tree with branches that hang vertically (to prevent a build up of snow). It is native to the western Himalayas and can grow up to 50m high and 3m in diameter. This tree is also sacred to Hindus and 'deodarus' means "*tree of the gods*".

Cedar of Lebanon: *Cedrus libani*

Unlike the other cedar, its branches hang horizontally which makes it a very striking tree in a landscape.

In native Lebanese folklore the tree represents protection, incorruptibility and eternal life.



5

Ash - *Fraxinus excelsior*

This is the third most common tree in Britain, and is found across Europe.

Unfortunately huge populations are currently suffering and dying from a fungus (ash dieback). Otherwise the tree can reach a height of 35m and live to be over 400 years old.

Celts believed it was a healing tree and pagan uses of its wood included magical staves and wands. Most notably, according to legend, Merlin the wizard's staff was made entirely of ash wood!



6

Woodland facts 1

You are standing in the woods of Oak and Hazel. And you may even be standing in a city of dormice!

They love the dense canopy and connected branches which they can scurry across (just like squirrels).



7

Woodland facts 2

As you have been walking, have you noticed any changes? Is the undergrowth more or less bushy?

You may spot evidence of the rangers' management of the woods.

They cut some trees back to allow different light levels to encourage a variety of native wild flowers and insects which in turn feed birds — essentially supporting greater biodiversity.



8 Monkey Puzzle - *Araucaria araucana* and Camellia - *Camellia elegance*

Look out for the Monkey Puzzle tree. It's native to Chile and Argentina and this particular one was likely planted by Staunton 200 years ago.

The base of the tree looks like an elephant's foot because the weight of the tree squashes the bark at the base.

Next to it is the lovely *Camellia Japonica* which is believed to be one of Staunton's early additions to the parkland. Its lovely flowers bud from March until July.



9

Lady Oak - *Quercus robur*

Compared to the oaks down in the woods, this tree is a giant and the Lady Oak (we're not sure why she's called this!) is thought to be over 500 years old.

The Lady Oak is potentially a trace of the Forest of Bere which stretched from Portsmouth to Winchester.

She's had plenty of room to grow and little competition!



10

London Plane - *Platanus × acerifolia*

A cross between the American Sycamore and the Oriental Plane, this tree is very popular in cities because of its ability to soak up pollution in its mottled bark, which it then sheds.

This one is likely old enough to have been planted by Sir George in the 1820s.



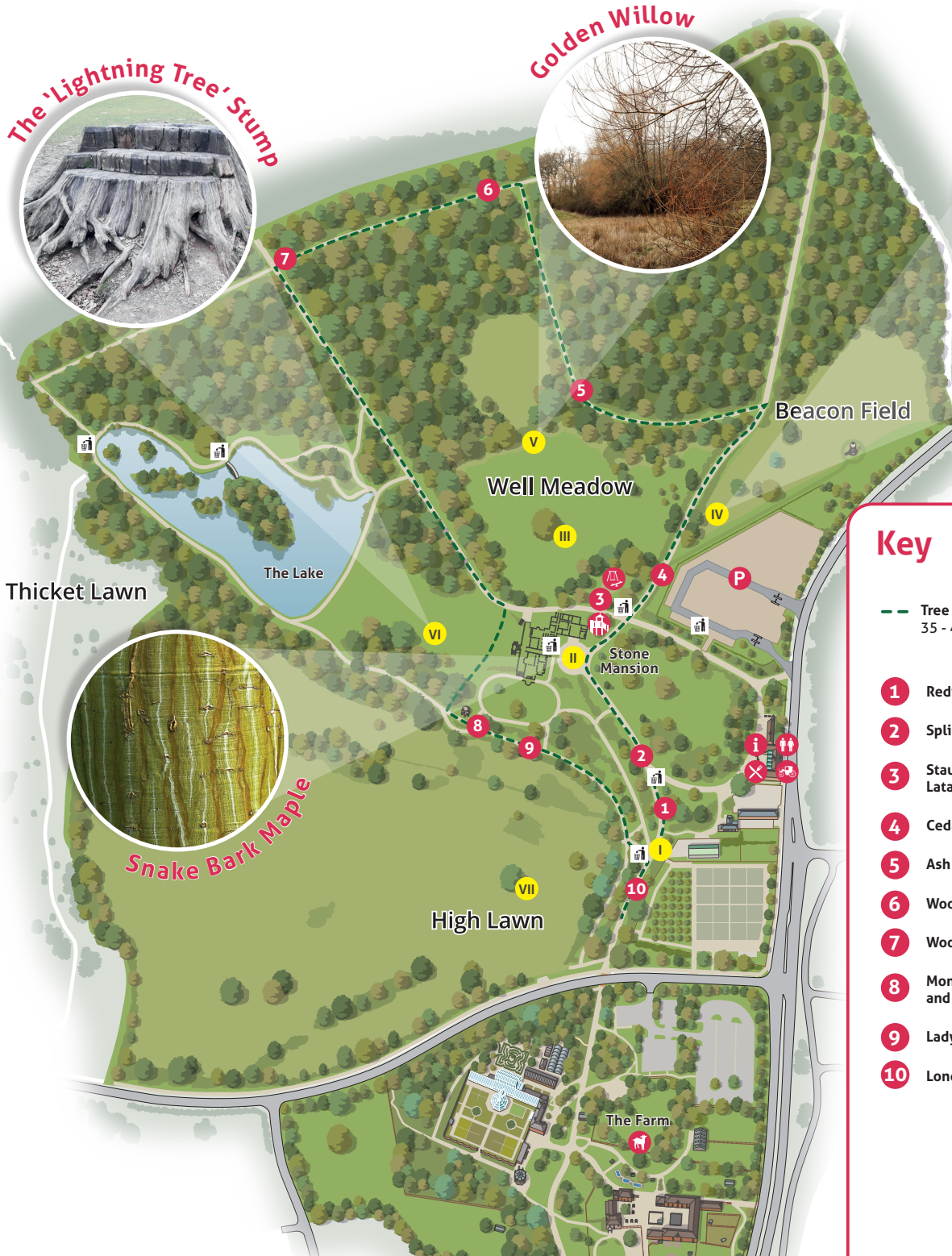
The 'Lightning Tree' Stump



Golden Willow



Sweet Chestnut



Key

Tree Trail
35 - 45min walk

- 1 Redwoods
- 2 Split Beech
- 3 Stauntonia Latafolia
- 4 Cedars
- 5 Ash
- 6 Woodland fact 1
- 7 Woodland fact 2
- 8 Monkey Puzzle and Camellia
- 9 Lady Oak
- 10 London Plane

Notable trees

- I Willow and Black Birch
- II Snake Bark Maple
- III Oak
- IV Sweet Chestnut
- V Golden Willow
- VI The 'Lightning Tree' Stump
- VII Poplar
- i Information Point
- Toilets
- Coach House, Tea Rooms, Shop and Visitor Centre
- The Coach House
- Lookout
- Parking
- Play area
- Bins