

VETERAN TREE WALK

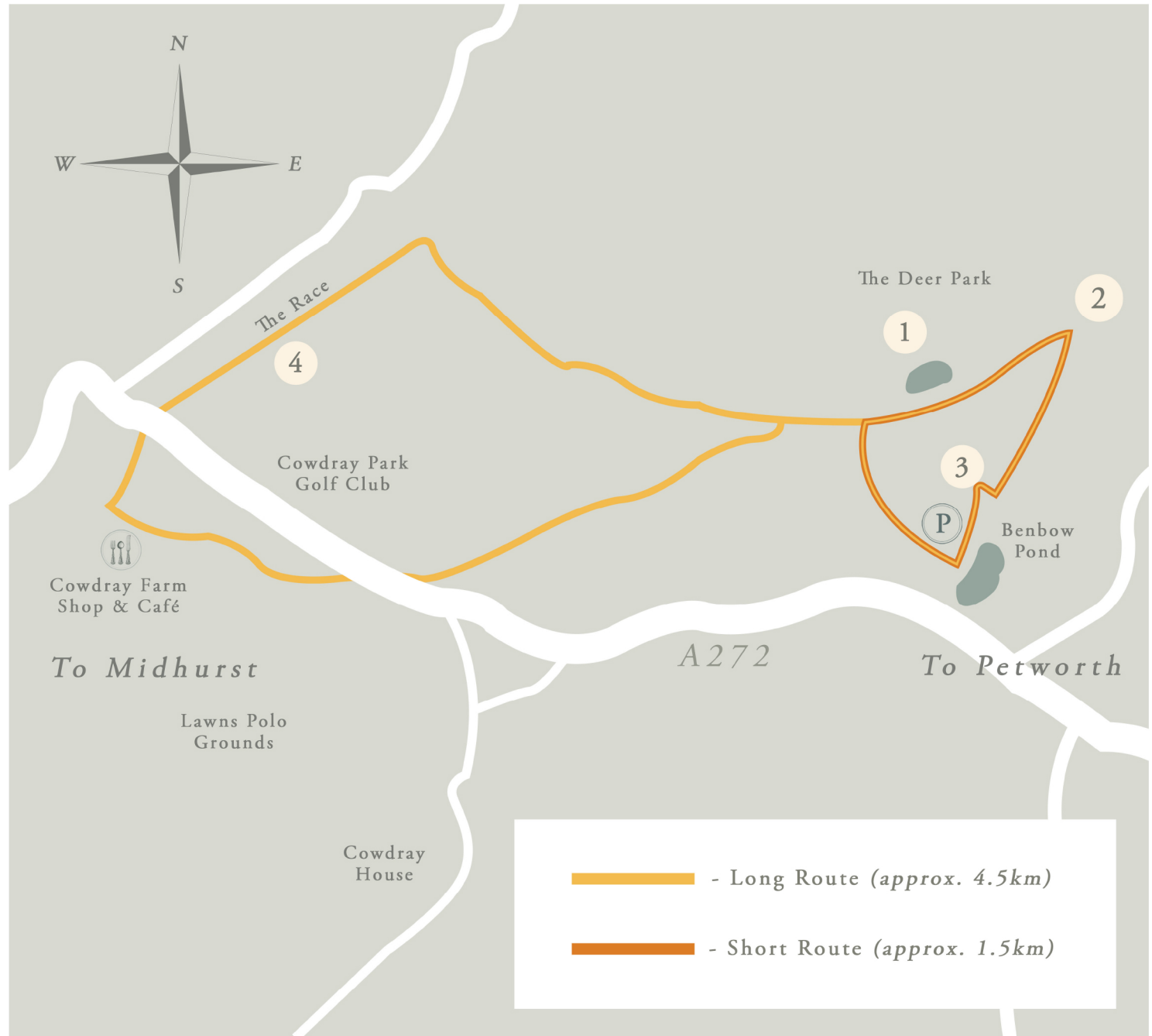
SHORT WALK

This is approximately 1.5km over gently sloping ground across Cowdray Park and the Arboretum. From the carpark head north and follow the permissive footpath along the field edge. At the top of the field turn left and head South-west along the Jubilee Avenue of 60 lime trees planted in 2012 to recreate a lost avenue shown on an Ordnance Survey map from 1808. In the small field north of the avenue is the Cowdray Colossus (2) an enormous veteran Sweet Chestnut Tree that can be identified by the post and rail fence around it.

Follow the Lime Avenue down the hill to Stewards Pond. There are many veteran Oak and Chestnut trees to see throughout the traditional parkland. Directly north of the pond is the Queen Elizabeth 1st Oak tree (3). Follow the footpath south of Stewards Pond to a gate through the fence. From here visitors can wander through the Cowdray Arboretum and back to the start point at Benbow Pond.

LONG WALK

This walk is approximately 4.5km over similar terrain. The start of the walk is the same as the Short Walk. From the gate at Stewards Pond, turn right and follow the footpath West, across Cowdray Golf Course, across the mature beech boundary and a small field to The Race. Turn left and follow the avenue of veteran sweet chestnut trees to the main road. Cross the road and follow signs to the Cowdray Farm Shop and Café, here walkers can enjoy a rest before heading along the public footpath next to the Polo Grounds. Follow the footpath East, back to the main road, before crossing the golf course North-East along the footpath and turning right into the Arboretum and back to the start point at Benbow Pond.



FIND OUT MORE

1

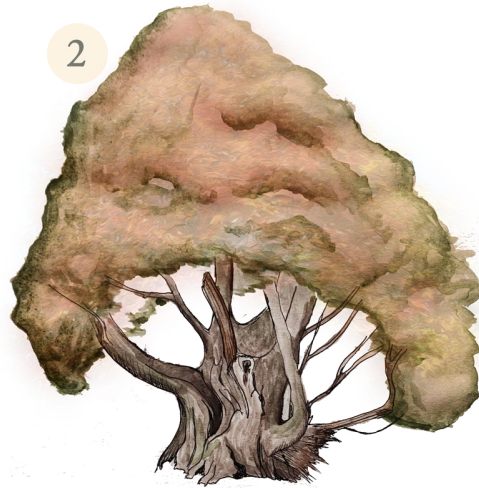


THE QUEEN
ELIZABETH OAK

So named because Queen Elizabeth I rested in the shade of this mature Oak on her visit to Cowdray Estate whilst hunting in August 1591. Now a veteran tree with a spectacular hollow trunk. The tree is estimated to be over 1000 years old. Its unusual shape with a short trunk and small canopy is from a long history of pollarding the tree throughout its life and has helped it survive for so long. In 2002 the age and importance of this tree for its contribution to the national heritage, was recognised by the Tree Council as one of 50 UK veteran trees designated in memorial to the Queen's Jubilee.

Just above the Queen Elizabeth Oak is another huge hollow veteran Sessile Oak tree known as the "Lady in Waiting". Thought to be slightly younger than the Queen Elizabeth Oak, it is still an impressive ancient tree in its own right.

2



THE COWDRAY COLOSSUS
SWEET CHESTNUT

According to the Tree Register this is the largest Sweet Chestnut tree in England. With an enormous girth of 12.36m and still growing and a height of over 26m. The trunk has grown by a metre since its discovery in 1997 and placement on the tree register. Growing an average of 8cm wider a year, at approximately 450 years old this massive tree is set to get bigger still.

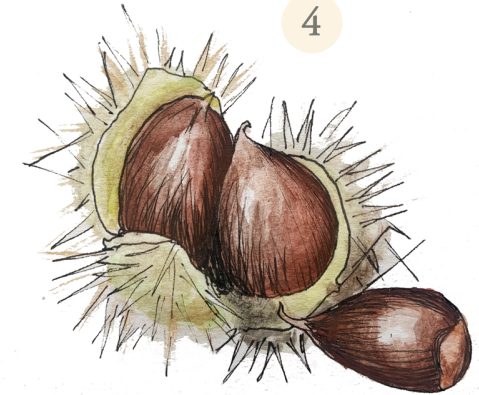
3



THE JOHN COWDRAY
ARBORETUM

This is a permanent memorial to the 3rd Viscount Cowdray who ran the Estate from 1933 until his death in 1995. The John Cowdray Arboretum has a mix of over 1000 conifer and broadleaf trees, of 126 different species, planted in a "Spoked Wheel" design. Situated next to Benbow Pond car park, visitors are encouraged to walk around and discover the variety of trees the arboretum has to offer.

4



THE
RACE

This is an avenue of large trees, mainly sweet chestnut, with some oak, on the boundary of the original Parkland and next to the remains of the Walled Deer Park. An 18th century map of the avenue shows an extensive line of trees that extended to Cowdray House. The age of the trees is unknown but many may have been added to the landscape as part of the Capability Brown remodelling of the parklands in the 1700's. 135 of the trees in the avenue are recorded on the Ancient Tree Inventory; the largest has a girth of 8m while the average is around 5m.



NOTES

- Cowdray Park is agricultural land that is at times grazed by cattle. Visitors are asked to keep dogs under control and to close gates behind them.
- Some of the oldest trees in Cowdray Park are protected by post and rail fences. This is to protect the fragile root system of these ancient trees and prevent damage from animal and visitor footfall. We want all visitors to enjoy these veteran giants but request that they remain behind the fences.
- Cowdray Golf Course. The route crosses part of the golf course and follows a public footpath. Visitors are asked to stay on the footpath across the course and keep dogs under control whilst enjoying the fantastic scenery.