



Winter walk – tree bark discovery trail

At this time of year, you really notice the bark on the trees. Go on a walk to discover a variety of barks. All these trees are near to paths in Horsham Park so you don't have to get too muddy! The suggested route is 1.8km but can be shortened. If coming by car, park either at the Pavilions car park or in the North Street car park.



Things to do as your walk:

1. Try bark rubbing – place some paper against the bark and use a wax crayon to rub over the paper to reveal wonderful shapes and patterns. At home, put them together to make a collage.
2. What creatures do you think might be living inside tree bark? Can you spot any birds feeding on them?

Start at North Street entrance

1. White stemmed silver birches

Look at the stunning white, papery bark of the multi-stemmed silver birches leading from the rockery bed behind the bus shelter into the park, running parallel to the subway. On sunny days they shine. You can find single stemmed examples near the REC too.



2. Soft bark of the Redwoods

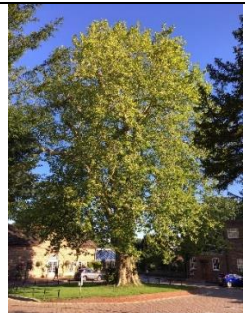
Touch the bark of the Giant Redwood at North Street. It's soft and spongy, very fibrous. This bark protects the tree from forest fires. You can find other examples in the Human Nature Garden and a couple on the perimeter path between North parade and the Pavilions. Test out some of the other large coniferous trees in the park – their bark isn't as soft.



Walk to Park House Sensory Garden go in and out the south exit behind Kaya Café to see the large tree in the centre of the car park.

3. Camouflage bark of the London Plane

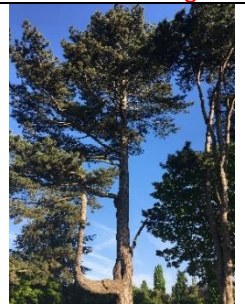
The bark sloughs off regularly, giving it a camouflage appearance. This also helps to repel parasites and pollutants and so helped the tree to survive in the sooty London and other cities following the industrial revolution.



Walk under the arch between Kaya café and Park Barn and look to the right of the bandstand.

4. Fissured Corsican pines

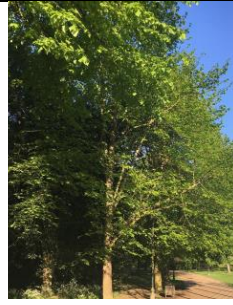
Notice the deeply fissured bark on the stately Corsican pine trees by the picnic benches. The bark can break off easily so take care.



Follow the perimeter path clockwise to the tennis courts

5. Moss covered bark of the Common Limes

Have a look at the pale grey-brown bark – it is fairly smooth but with irregular ridges. Look at the base where there are shoots that have to be cut back. Lime bark can be split to make strong rope.



Continue on the perimeter path, past the REC to North Parade car park. At the back of the Rec is a group of different species of trees – notice the variety of barks on show. If the walk is too long, cut it by walking across the park towards the pond and then the playground

6. Spikey bark of the monkey puzzle tree

Don't do a bark rubbing on this tree! Notice how the trunk, just like the leaves, protects the tree from anything trying to eat or climb it!



Continue on the perimeter park parallel to North Parade

7. Smooth barked beech

Half way along, next to a pedestrian entrance is a beech tree with its very smooth bark. The bark is thin and grey and often has horizontal markings. The smoothness makes the tree an attractive canvas for people to carve in their initials. Ouch - please don't ever do this!



Follow the path as it turns right to run parallel to Hurst Road, walking towards the Skate Park.

8. Craggy bark of the oaks

There are lots of oaks in the Park. Once you get to the part of the path near the back of the hospital you can see specimens right next to the path. Notice their craggy bark, some trunks have bulges and circles where branches have fallen. You might also see some acorns on the ground.



9. Warty holly

There are lots of holly bushes and slender- stemmed trees along the path. Notice how smooth their bark is compared to the oaks, but you'll often see little bumps like warts.



End your walk by visiting the playground – but remember to keep socially distanced!

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