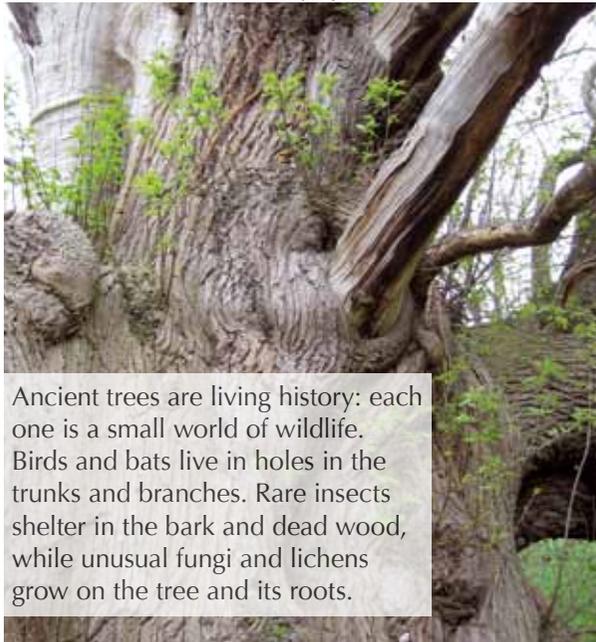


Amphill Park has been famous for its ancient trees since the Middle Ages. The park's grand oak trees were cherished until the 18th century, when John Fitzpatrick, the 2nd Earl of Ossory engaged Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to re-landscape the park.

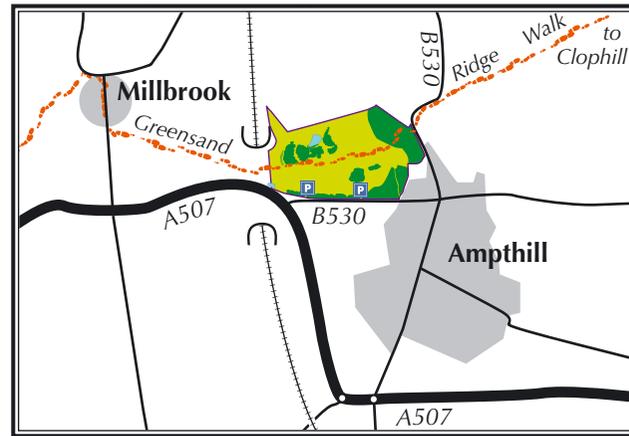
Some of the ancient oaks for which Amphill Park was famous were kept, but Brown did not like 'large old knotty trunk[s]'. Sadly, many of those ancient oaks known to have survived Brown have since disappeared, probably in the early 20th century. The Earl closed the rabbit warrens in the south of the park, and Brown planted belts of trees on the pits and spoil heaps. He used Scots Pine to shelter young broadleaves, and to provide a dramatic dark backdrop for features such as Katherine's Cross. Remnants of his clumps of beech, sweet chestnut and lime may still be seen today. This walk will introduce you to some of the surviving trees. The Town Council are pleased to dedicate the Tree Trail to Richard Woolnough in recognition of his enthusiastic work to enhance the environment in Amphill Park.

Old trees are rare and very special wildlife habitats.



Ancient trees are living history: each one is a small world of wildlife. Birds and bats live in holes in the trunks and branches. Rare insects shelter in the bark and dead wood, while unusual fungi and lichens grow on the tree and its roots.

How to get to Amphill Park



By Car: there are two car parks off the B530 (Woburn Street) at OS Grid TL024382 and TL028382.

Using Public Transport: the nearest railway station is Flitwick, on the London-Bedford line. Buses run from Flitwick to Amphill. Several Stagecoach services stop in Amphill town, the closest stopping on Bedford Street, less than 10 minutes walk from Amphill Park. For further details please contact the Public Transport Travel-line on 0870 6082608.

On Foot: the park lies on the route of several public rights-of-way and the *Greensand Ridge Walk*, which runs for 40 miles/64 km from Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire to Gamlingay in Cambridgeshire.

Amphill Park is owned and managed by Amphill Town Council, assisted by the Greensand Trust. If you have any queries about the management of the Park, or would like to organise an event or activity here, please contact Amphill Town Council, 66 Dunstable Street, Amphill, MK45 2JS. Tel: 01525 404355

www.amphilltowncouncil.org.uk



Great Amphill Park

discover ancient trees on
The Woolnough Trail





Despite its age, an abundance of new growth shows this ancient Sweet Chestnut is healthy. Dead wood is a particularly valuable habitat for the wildlife of veteran trees.

Sweet Chestnut



The full trail is a little over 1.5 miles/2.4km long; if that seems too far, there's a shorter version. Both start and finish just north of the Tennis Courts.

1 This is one of 'Capability' Brown's clumps of Sweet Chestnut, planted in an old quarry. Distinctive spiky cases protect the edible nuts.

2 This Lime Walk may have been created as early as 1680 but, sadly, these are not the original trees.

Lime



3 'The Standing' is the highest hill in the Park, thought to have been a viewpoint used by hunters in the time of Henry VIII, long before Laurel Wood existed. Eleven limes have been planted in radiating lines here, probably as part of Brown's landscaping.

4 This group of beeches and sweet chestnuts seems to have been planted in concentric circles, perhaps to highlight the different leaf colours.

Beech



5 The roof of Ampt Hill Park House is visible among trees that have grown to obscure Brown's lines of view.

6 Here limes and pines form bands of colour.

7 Look west, past the parkland oak **8** to 'Millbrook Clump', planted by Brown on a hilltop. A carriage drive from the house took parties there to enjoy one of the best views over the 18th-century park.

9 This oak may have stood here for 400–500 years: it is one of the oldest trees in the park.

Oak



10 Three of six Sweet Chestnuts planted on a low mound probably according to Brown's design.



11 Almost all the clumps dating from Brown's time have a flattened area at their centre where a tent or other structure might have been placed. Note the semicircular planting from an east-west baseline.

- Woolnough Trail; short alternative
 - Public footpath. *You are welcome to walk anywhere within the park: please avoid eroded paths.*
 - Greensand Ridge Walk
 - Trees and woodland
 - Viewpoint
 - Steep slope
 - Fence & gate
- KC: Katherine's Cross; AC: Ampt Hill Camp memorial