



This guide has been created through the Portals to the World programme, a partnership between the University of Cambridge Museums and Dementia Compass.

Dementia Compass is a social venture with over a decade of experience supporting individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias and their families.

Dementia Compass builds and provides resources that reduce the impacts of dementia and to help people stay connected with who and what matters.

For more information visit the Dementia Compass Website:
www.dementiacompass.com



Or contact them on
07876 350 638
hello@dementiacompass.com

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ENGLAND**



Why a garden walk?

Visiting the garden is a great opportunity to meet friends and have some gentle exercise as you explore the collections.

How long will the walk take?

With time to stop and look, the walk should take you approximately 50 minutes.

How far is it?

It's approximately 1000 steps or half a mile.

Are there places to sit?

There are benches at regular intervals throughout the Garden and wheelchair accessible tables in most of the picnic areas.

What access support is available?

Brookside Entrance Gate is fitted with a low-level counter.

Path surfaces are mostly gravel, however there are large stretches of lawn with sloped paving ramps to allow access. Manual Wheelchairs are available to borrow free of charge at both the Brookside Gate and Station Road Gate. These can be pre-booked by phone or email (see below).

Please be aware that The Tropics House has some bark paths unsuitable for wheelchairs.

Is this walk wheelchair accessible?

The walk is wheelchair accessible. There are some low hanging branches along the route which can be avoided by going onto the grass. Some bark paths unsuitable for wheelchairs.

There are accessible toilets behind the Glasshouses, in the Café, and at the Brookside Gate.

Trained assistance dogs are permitted to visit the Garden, when supporting a disabled handler.

Contact us:

E. enquiries@botanic.cam.ac.uk
T. 01223 336265

Garden Walk

Giants of the Botanic Garden



The Stump and Trunk of the Mammoth Tree. 1862 Lithograph, 1862

How Giant Redwoods have created awe and wonder

In California, it took five men 22 days to fell a badly burned 90-metre, 1244-year-old tree. Its stump was used as a dance floor large enough for 40 people, as well as a two lane bowling alley.



1

Giant Redwood
Sequoiadendron giganteum

The tallest tree in the Garden, and amongst the first to be grown outside of its native California.

It was grown from seeds brought back to the UK by Victorian plant hunter, William Lobb, in 1853. Cambridge University Herbarium has the first samples of the Giant Redwood that Lobb collected.

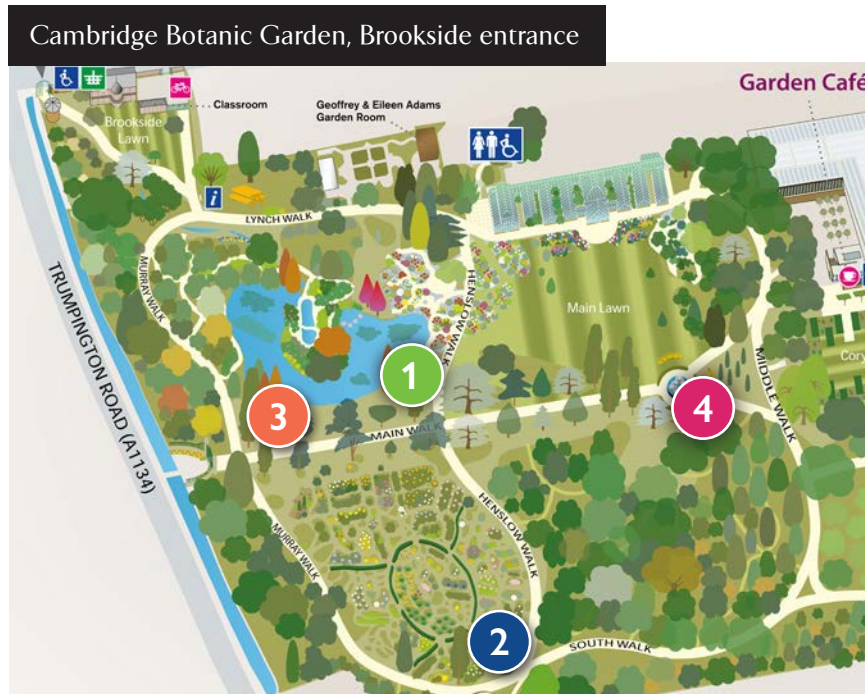


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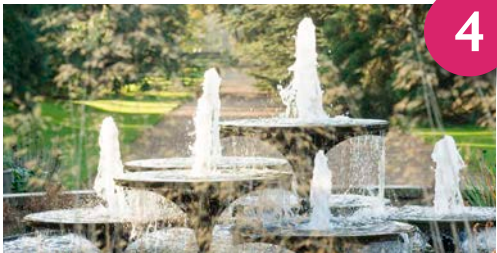
Dawn Redwood
Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Dawn Redwood was rediscovered in China about 80 years ago, having been believed to be extinct for approximately 5 million years.

The Dawn Redwoods in the Garden are the first to be grown in the UK, possibly outside of China. Dawn Redwood sheds its leaves in the autumn with the foliage turning from lime green to a copper red before falling.



Cambridge Botanic Garden, Brookside entrance



4

The Fountain
By David Mellor, 1970

The Garden's Fountain was designed by David Mellor, a silversmith from Sheffield. He was famed for cutlery designs, bus shelters and traffic lights in the UK.

The frothing columns of water echo the forms of the neighbouring Giant Redwoods. Looking down the Main Walk, can you see the trees that may have inspired David Mellor?



2

Coastal Redwood
Sequoia sempervirens

Coastal Redwoods are the tallest tree species in the world and can live for thousands of years. The oldest recorded being 2,200-years-old.

How do they survive for so long? The secret is in the bark. The thick, fibrous bark gives protection against fire damage and contains tannin which protects against insect and fungal attack.