



*Estimated time*  
45 minutes

*Short loop 2.7km, Long loop 3.1km*

AND LAKE WALK

FIND HIDDEN PLACES, SECRET CORNERS  
AND SPOT WILDLIFE ON OUR GARDENS

*At Hillsborough Castle & Gardens*

# EXPLORER'S TRAIL

## *Please help us*

Thank you.

You can also donate by Text:

Text HILLS to 70085 to donate £5

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message

hrp.org.uk

Historic Royal Palaces is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (No. 1068852).

## *Your safety is important*

The safety of our staff and visitors is our primary concern. Please respect the social distancing guidelines at all times, and make use of the handwashing and hand sanitising facilities. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable visit.

Please take extra care with children when visiting areas of the gardens that contain water features, such as streams, ponds and the lake.

## *Accessibility*

We welcome visitors of all abilities and most paths are accessible but there are some steep inclines. If you wish to stay in the flat Walled Garden, there will be an anticlockwise circular route in operation.

@HillsCastle

@hillsboroughcastle

Hillsborough Castle

#HillsboroughExplorer

ANSWERS: 4. C 5. A tree 7. Water



## *6. Hidden Pinetum*

As you pass the large oak tree on the path, look carefully to your left for a hole in the trees – the entrance to our hidden pinetum, a collection of conifers from all round the world.

**Get hunting! How many different looking cones can you find on the ground?**

## *7. Hydro House*

This was built in 1926 to make electricity for the Castle. Today, we use it to power our visitor centre.

**What does the Hydro House use to generate electricity?**

## *8. Lake*

Lots of birds live here on the lake including little grebes, herons, mute swans, greylag geese, mallard and tufted ducks, moorhens and coots.

**How many birds can you spot?**

## *9. Coronation Meadow*

If you're looking for space to run, fly a kite or have a picnic, the small gate on the right takes you into Coronation Meadow. Or you can stay on the main path and ...

**Run through the willow tunnels on your right!**

## *10. Ice House*

There were no freezers in the 1780s so the Hills family shipped ice from Scandinavia and stored it here so they could eat ice cream all year round.

**Feel how cold the Ice House walls are. It used to be filled with ice right to the bottom!**



## *1. Walled Garden Pond*

Before taps and hoses, gardeners used this pond to water the Walled Garden. We've made little holes just above the water level and we hope newts might move in ...

**Have a look and see what you can find living in the pond**

## *2. Lady Alice's Temple*

This beautiful building was made for Lady Alice by her brother for her wedding in 1867. It is such a peaceful place to sit and admire the views.

**Take a photo of the view and share it with @Hrp\_palaces**

## *3. Lost Garden*

The Lost Garden stream is the perfect place to spot birds. You might be lucky enough to see a kingfisher, or hear a woodcock or the great spotted woodpecker knocking on trees.

**Wander the twisty paths, climb on boulders and carefully cross the board walk**

## *4. Lady Alice's Pond*

Look out for the huge leaved Gunnera from Brazil, sometimes called giant rhubarb. Gunnera is a really old plant. Guess when it first grew on Earth?

**A. When the castle was built**

**B. In the Iron Age**

**C. When dinosaurs walked the Earth**

## *5. Yew Tree Walk*

Yew trees can live for thousands of years. The Yew trees that line the path here are cuttings from the original Irish Yew tree, which lives in County Fermanagh.

**Look right and run to the willow hut to find out about Kate Rush. What's growing in the middle?**



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