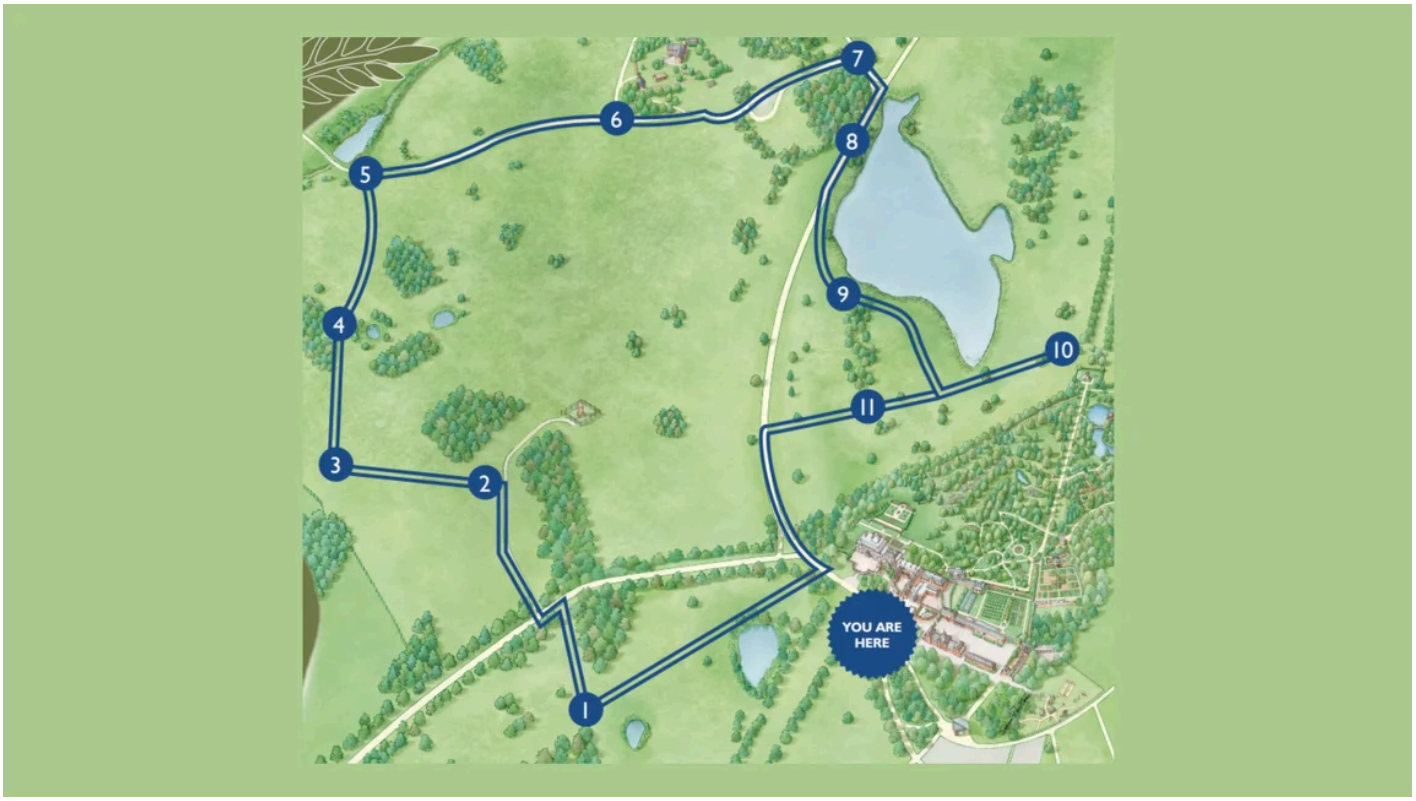
National Trust

CHESHIRE & GREATER MANCHESTER

Beech Avenue Conservation Trail

This trail is approximately one and a half miles and will take around forty five minutes. Whilst walking this trail you'll learn about this historic avenue of Beech trees (Fagus sylvatica) which was planted in 1739 by Samuel Egerton. It was featured in Humphry Repton's Red Book of 1791 when he worked as a 'landscape gardener', a term he introduced.



Information

Address: Tatton Park Knutsford Cheshire WA16 6QN

Activity: Walking

Easy

Dog friendly

Full trail: Miles: 1.5 (km: 2.4)

Duration: 0.5 hour - 1 hour

Total stages: 10

Start point: Starting from Knutsford Gate, walk along the left side of the road until the first board is visible adjacent to the avenue of trees.

1. Keep to the path alongside Beech Avenue Conservation Trail to discover how this unique landscape will be protected for future generations.
2. Thanks to the many veteran Beech trees and dead wood, Beech Avenue is a thriving habitat for insects.
3. The remaining trees from the original 1739 planting of Beech Avenue are nearing three hundred years old and are entering the ancient phase of their lives. They have passed beyond maturity and are losing vigour, often looking stunted with extensive damage, decay and die-back.
4. The veteran trees of Beech Avenue are a valuable habitat for the park's birdlife.
5. To help vehicles and aircraft move over difficult ground, several 'Tank Bridges', like this one, were built to allow access over gullies. Two of these can be seen along the track running parallel to Beech Avenue.
6. Common Beech (Fagus sylvatica) is part of a group of eleven species in the Fagaceae family, which also includes Oak and Sweet Chestnut.
7. Look out for fungi growing on the trees as you walk along.
8. Deer love to eat the lower branches of Beech trees, creating a 'browse line' where all the branches start at a certain height. You can see this easily on the avenue of trees.
9. Trees provide roosting sites for many of Britain's bat species.
10. The Ice House was built in 1856, in a shady spot to keep it cool.

End point: The Ice House