



Essex Meadow
 Between May and August, rare wild orchids can be seen growing in the meadow area.

Hay Field

Garden Compound

Wilderness Garden

Rock Garden

Sunken Garden

Main Entrance

Car Park

Eucalyptus Field

Cedar Lawn

Team Building and Activity Area

Sports Area

Bluebell Woods

Best to be seen in March/April

Trim Trail

Triangle Field

Woods (Hall Row)

OLD FRONT DRIVE

HALL LANE



lifehouse gardens key

- 1 Peter Pan Walk and J M Barrie Summerhouse**

The Summerhouse was a favourite spot of J M Barrie who was a regular visitor to Thorpe. The plinth at the top of the slope used to carry a copy of the well-known Kensington Gardens Statuette of Peter Pan and the slope has come to be known as Peter Pan Walk.
- 2 Winston Churchill Summerhouse**

The Summerhouse has been named for Winston Churchill who served under Byng in the Boer War and became a friend and frequent visitor to Thorpe. His admiration for the General was said to be why Byng was made Governor-General of Canada in 1921.
- 3 Herbaceous Border**

The double herbaceous border leads your eye down to the Sunken Garden and has stunning displays of colour from Spring to early Autumn.
- 4 Sunken Garden and Kipling Summerhouse**

Once home of Lady Byng's collection of Iris and late perennials, the Summerhouse is dedicated to Rudyard Kipling, another friend of the Byngs and frequent visitor.
- 5 Handkerchief Tree and Middle Lake view**

The Handkerchief tree or *Davidia involucrata* is a superb specimen and is best seen in late Spring when in full bloom.
- 6 Old Main Drive**

In earlier days, you reached this point after entering the estate at Station Road and driving along the oak-lined drive. The gates that once hung here were the earliest examples of automated gates. Viscount Byng was very proud of them but on the first trial a gate shut on his Rolls Royce and since then they were kept open!
- 7 Rock Garden**

The enormous rock feature was installed in 1931 by Col. Gavin Jones. Jones is famous for building the rock garden at Chartwell in 1948 home of Winston Churchill.
- 8 Top Lake**

Standing on top of the dam that Col. Gavin Jones so brilliantly used for a rock bank, look across the most recent of the lakes, built around 1880, which Lady Byng described as The Pond.
- 9 Liquidamber styraciflua**

One of the largest of its kind in the UK and best seen in Autumn when it turns from a pale green to deep crimson - a real spectacle in the landscape.
- 10 Queen Mary's Walk and Wilderness Garden**

The long avenue that leads away from the lake is named for Queen Mary. Queen Mary was a school friend of Lady Byng who often came to the gardens and enjoyed this particular view. Her husband, King George V, was also a frequent visitor.
- 11 Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and Strawberry Tree/Pacific Madron (*Arbutus menziesii*)**

Both very large specimens, the Strawberry Tree which is native to California is probably the largest of its kind and incredibly rare to the UK.
- 12 Eucalyptus gunnii**

Probably the largest of its kind found in the UK, it was grown by Lady Byng from seed off the first Eucalyptus trees that came into the country from Tasmania.