

# towneley sculpture trail

**1.** Start from the Hall, walk down the steps and turn right, and then left towards the car park. If you look up there is a tawny owl carved by Richard Colbran in the place of a lost limb of a Cedar of Lebanon tree. (2001).

**2.** If you then go into the car park you can follow signs to the sculpture trail which starts in Thanet Lee Wood. The first sculpture is the face of a badger by Martin Heron in black and white on a large beech stump to the right of the path. (1998).

**3.** On the felled tree between the stump and the bridge is a hand carving of a mouse, also by Martin Heron. (1998).

**NATURE NOTE:** In the stream area you can look out for several water loving species such as the dipper, a bird with the unique ability to walk under water, and insects like the caddis fly. Caddis flies are moth-like insects whose larvae spend their infancy in the water after the eggs hatch. You may see also the colourful green woodpecker, which sometimes feeds on insects on the ground with its very long tongue.

**4.** Over the bridge and further along the track on the right a felled tree has been carved by Jon Cocking with a snake wrapped around the trunk. (2002). To your right of the stump look for the Hand carved by Jon Cocking in October 2005.

**5.** The next hand carving is of a beetle by Martin Heron on the stump of a tree to the left of the path. (1998).

**NATURE NOTE:** There are many types of beetle and other insects in the wood. The leaves of the sycamore, the predominant tree introduced because of its timber use, are home to the aphid. This insect feeds by stealing food from plants with its straw-like mouthparts. When the aphid takes too much it produces a substance called Honeydew that makes the sycamore leaves sticky. The main predator of aphids are ladybirds. Some have two or seven spots, and some checks or stripes.

**6.** The Magpie stealing an egg, part chainsaw carved by Thompson Dagnall, is very obvious standing on the stump of a beech tree opposite the bridge. (1997).

**7.** Nearby there is a hand carving of an adder by Martin Heron if you look carefully from the path on the left. (1998).

**8.** The next carving also by Martin Heron, is an acorn at the end of a felled tree trunk on the right of the path. This sculpture had a small squirrel but, unfortunately, this was stolen. (2002).

**9.** Martin Heron's kingfisher, quite a way from the path on the left, is colourful and obvious. (1998).

**NATURE NOTE:** Close to the path near the kingfisher are the remains of the ha ha wall built 200 years ago to keep animals from straying into the woods. Other things to see are birds like the Jay, a brightly coloured member of the crow family that helps the spreading of trees by hiding seeds and forgetting about them. You can also see dragonflies like the brown hawk from July to October.

**10.** If you look carefully on the left of the path you can see a hand carving of a butterfly by Martin Heron on the stump of a tree. (1998).

**11.** The grasshopper is another large sculpture by Jon Cocking off the side of the path. It is also on a stump, grasping a large carved piece of grass. (1998).

**12.** The Hedgehog and Badger are close to each other on the corner. These were carved by Jon Cocking using wood from the big tree that now forms the large sculpture near the hall. (2001).

**NATURE NOTE:** Around the park a lot of the rhododendron, a brightly coloured pest introduced from the Himalayas, has been removed. This allows other species to grow, like the tall pink-bellied Foxglove and dense thickets of Brambles provide a habitat for large numbers of insects and other animals. Another plant is Bracken, though it is toxic to animals and dangerous even to inhale the spores.

**13.** If you turn to the right off the main path you will see the Green Man by Martin Heron, covered in carvings of other creatures. In the summer he has a head of green hair! (1998).

**14.** Back down the main path, if you look carefully on the right you will see a hand carving of a hedgehog by Martin Heron on a stump. (1998).

**15.** The next sculpture is a woodpecker, by Martin Heron. (1998). Also worth mentioning is the natural sculpture behind it – a Birch tree growing on top of another fallen tree, a Sweet Chestnut planted in 1799.

**NATURE NOTE:** Although Thanet Lee was created as a sycamore plantation for timber, other types of tree are present. These include an interesting species of beech, the fern leafed beech, and the false acacia (Locust Tree), a member of the pea family from America.

**16.** The Green Woman, carved by Martin Heron, is further down the path on the left. Also in the same carving are images of birds and squirrels, as with the Green Man. (1998). Unfortunately she is slowly going back into nature and lost an arm last year!

**NATURE NOTE:** Near the Green Woman sculpture you may see rabbits grazing with the sheep. After being introduced from Europe, rabbits were almost wiped out by mixomatosis in the 1950's, but now they flourish again with foxes as their main predator. You will also see the silver birch trees, with their bright bark. This fast growing tree rarely lives more than 80 years.

**17.** Further down the path, if you look down the slope you will see a carving of a crocodile by Jon Cocking climbing out. This area is very wet in winter and can look like a swamp for the crocodile. (1999).

**18.** Looking right from the path you can also see a barn owl white against a tree. This was also done by Martin Heron. (1998).



