

# The White Hart and Knole Park, Sevenoaks, Kent



Moderate Terrain

3.5 miles  
Circular  
1.5 hours

161213



## Access Notes



1. The walk has a few gentle gradients throughout and the paths are a mixture of tarmac drives/pavements plus grassy rides within the park, which tend to be pretty firm all year round.
2. There are two kissing gates and no stiles. There is one short section of road walking so take care of any traffic at this point.
3. Dogs are welcome in Knole Park but must be kept on a lead as the park is home to a large herd of fallow deer.
4. Allow extra time to visit Knole House if you wish. Note: entrance fees apply for the house and formal gardens and dogs are not allowed in this part.

The White Hart is a beautiful old coaching inn which has been serving the needs of travellers for more than 300 years.

A 3.5 mile circular pub walk from the White Hart in Sevenoaks, Kent. The walking route follows a circuit around the adjacent Knole Park, a 400 year old deer park. The beautiful landscaped grounds make for easy walking with great views and plenty to see including wildlife, veteran trees and long ancient avenues.

## Getting there

Seveoaks is located in Kent, a few miles south east of the point where the M25 and M26 meet. The walk starts and finishes from the White Hart on the main A225 Tonbridge Road, just south of the town. The pub is on the right-hand side of the road if you are travelling south. The pub has its own large car park alongside.

Approximate post code **TN13 1SG**.

## Walk Sections



Start to Knole House



Turn left out of the pub car park and follow the pavement alongside Tonbridge Road, passing a bus stop on the left. After a little distance the pavement ends and you must cross over to join the pavement on the opposite side – do this with extreme care, listening for traffic on this bend. Continue along the pavement with tall wire fencing on your right.

Opposite the side road called The Rise on the left, turn right through a tall kissing gate in the wire fence which leads you into Knole Park. (Keep dogs on leads as you're likely to come across deer). Pass to the left of a beautiful old twisted Sweet Chestnut tree, go down the slope and keep ahead to join the footpath which runs along the top of a small embankment. A few yards in, ignore the path forking off left, just keep ahead on the embankment path.

The path soon slopes down to become a wide grassy



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ride between sections of trees. You'll come to a crossroads with another wide grassy ride. Cross straight over to take the narrower path opposite which climbs between bracken. At a small crossroads of paths, go straight ahead and you'll see the estate house a little way ahead. Keep ahead and then swing right to join the tarmac drive which leads you to the main gates of Knole House.

## 1 → 2 Knole House to Chestnut Walk



You may visit Knole House and the formal gardens should you wish. (Note: entrance fees apply and dogs are not allowed.) The house is one of the largest country houses in England. The National Trust, the current owners, believes at one point it may have been a Calendar House, built with architectural features in the exact numbers to reflect the calendar. At this point in time the house had 365 rooms, 52 staircases, 12 entrances and 7 courtyards. In 2008 Knole House was used as one of the sets for the filming of *The Other Boleyn Girl*.

When you are ready to continue your walk, stand facing the main gates and turn right back along the tarmac access drive. After just a few paces fork left onto a stone track and then keep ahead on the grass path with the walled gardens of the house on your left. At the wall corner, turn left again to follow the public footpath running alongside the wall (part of the Greensand Way).

A few yards in, there is a section of railings set within the wall which gives you great views of the formal gardens of the house. Keep ahead on the grass track which now runs parallel to the wall (about 50 yards away from it). When the wall on the left ends, keep straight ahead on the main track, ignoring the smaller paths off left and right.

At the next crossroads keep straight ahead on the smaller path heading into trees, marked again as the Greensand Way. You'll emerge to a T-junction with Broad Walk, a small tarmac drive. Cross over and take the path opposite, also a tarmac lane. Follow this tarmac lane for some distance, passing the Knole House Golf Course on the left. Continue until you reach a T-junction with another tarmac drive, Chestnut Walk.

## 2 → 3 Chestnut Walk to End

Turn right along Chestnut Walk. Each side you'll see beautiful rows of old Sweet Chestnut trees, the origin of the walk's name. Knole Park extends to more than 1,000 acres and is Kent's last medieval deer park. It is home to a herd of more than 500 fallow deer, direct descendents of the deer hunted by Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. In 1967, the park was used in the filming of the Beatles video that accompanied the release of *Penny Lane*.

Follow the drive for some distance and, at the end, you'll reach a staggered T-junction with another tarmac lane. Bear left onto this and you will reach a tall kissing gate which you need to pass through to exit the park.

Cross over and turn right along the left-hand edge of the quiet tarmac road, taking care of any traffic. Just before the end of the road, cross back to the right-hand edge and keep ahead to join the pavement alongside Tonbridge Road. When you reach the Sevenoaks town sign, cross with care to the left-hand side of the



road and continue for just a few yards more where you'll reach the White Hart for some well deserved hospitality.

### Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

### Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.



