



Sevenoaks Walk - Parkland and Parakeets

A circular walk from Knole Park

4 miles (6.3km) allow 2 hours

Knole historic deer park, at Sevenoaks, straddles the Greensand Way and is the perfect place for walkers of all ages to enjoy long views across to the North Downs.



Trek through Knole Park taking in glorious views across the historic deer park.

How to get there -

By Car: From A25, follow A21 to the Sevenoaks Bypass. Turn off on Buckhurst Lane.

Parking: Paid parking is available at the Sevenoaks Leisure Centre.

Train: Nearest station: Sevenoaks (1 mile)

National Rail Enquiries: 03457 484950

Bus: Sevenoaks Bus Station. Traveline: 0871 200 22 33

S/F	Start/Finish	Sevenoaks Leisure Centre
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	Gates	1
	Stiles	0
	Steps	0
	Terrain	Mainly surfaced paths with some grassland and gentle slopes.
	Views	Some excellent views.
	Refreshments	At Brewhouse Cafe

Route Description

1. From the Leisure Centre head away from the car park into Knole Environmental Park and turn a sharp right on asphalt path along the top of the Park. On leaving the Park turn left down the steep asphalt path and pass through the metal gate into Knole Park. This is your first chance to glimpse at some of the many deer to be seen along the way. It is the only medieval deer park in Kent and one of the very few deer parks to have survived the past 500 years in England. Deer parks for hunting were most popular in the 16th century when the country boasted more than 700.
2. Turn right along valley bottom to cross an entrance drive to Knole then turn left uphill along asphalt path. A former stone ice house serving the big house is clearly visible on your right as you head up the slope and bear off to the right to walk in front of Knole's impressive façade. The path takes you along the old garden walls which are built out of Kentish ragstone.
3. Wrought-iron gates set in the walls give views in and out of the 24-acre gardens, which include formal and more naturalised plantings. Knole has always been known for its gardens. Archbishop Bourchier established a lavender garden and a small orchard near the house more than 500 years ago.
4. When the walls on the left end, go straight forward to reach asphalt path, the Broad Walk, with woodland on both sides. Elements of the medieval landscape survive here including hawthorn, oak, yew, hornbeam, silver birch, maple and ash – trees that once dominated the Weald. The flocks of parakeets that make their noisy way overhead are more recent inhabitants of the park which has, in essence, changed little from the early 17th century.
5. After a short distance, take the path on your right to follow the long, straight Broad Walk. While many landowners set about designing and 'landscaping' their parks, Knole was left virtually untouched except for the new planting of beech and broad tree-lined avenues replacing some of the older coppiced woodlands.
6. Towards the end of the Broad Walk, turn left down the Chestnut Walk with its ancient avenue of trees where sweet chestnuts and rich golden leaves scatter the path in Autumn. Newer plantings are closely fenced as protection from the deer.
7. While the Greensand Way turns off to the left, continue straight and follow the path to head gently downhill through the open woodland. On reaching another asphalt path at T-junction turn left. Pass Keepers Cottage and pond on your left and follow asphalt drive through the golf course. From the higher points there are long views across the valley to the chalk Downs beyond.
8. The National Trust tea rooms, set in a stone courtyard at the back of the main house, offer a warm welcome and the opportunity for a short break before rejoining the path across the grasslands to return to the car park.
9. Continue forward along the path through the car park to a clump of trees at the top of the hill. Follow the path downhill, across the drive and down steps, soon reaching the metal gate near the beginning of the walk. Retrace your steps back to the Leisure Centre.

Numerous paths cross Knole Park, and there are many opportunities to take diversions to extend or shorten a circular walk through this popular and peaceful landscape.

Find more walks at [explorekent.org](https://www.explorekent.org) or download the Kent Connected App.

