

The Garden Path

Godnestone Park is approximately 14 acres. The garden is divided into four sections, an 18th century parkland, a formal garden, mature woodland and a beautiful walled garden. Jane Austin was a frequent visitor to this house. The Gardens are closed on Tuesdays and Saturdays. They are normally open from 11am to 6pm. There is a tearoom serving home made cakes in the grounds. If your ride is between Tuesday and Thursday there is a second garden that you can visit, Higham Park near Bridge. The garden is set around a beautiful English Palladian home. It is renowned for its Gardinio d'italiano, profusion of water lilies, secret garden and terraced rose garden. There is a tea room and the gardens are open from 11am to 6pm. Higham Park House is now also open to the public. The property has lain derelict for some years and the new owners are restoring both the House and Garden.

1. From the station bear left and pass through a new housing estate bearing right all the time until you reach North Lane, cross and go straight ahead into the Causeway. Turn left into St. Radigunds Street, cross over the Stour River passing the Millers arms on your right and continue following this road until it meets Northgate. Turn left, pass Broad Street, on your right and turn right into the next alleyway on your right. Follow this road as it twists and turns until you reach Military Road.
2. At staggered pedestrian crossings go straight ahead into North Holmes Road. and at T junction by the side of the local prison turn left and in a very short while turn right into Spring Lane signposted Cycle Route 16/17 towards Dover. By the Chaucer School turn right into Pilgrims Way. At the end of the housing estate the route enters a private road and Cycle Track 16. Follow this route carefully through the orchards. (Straight in at the crossroads, and just after passing under high tension electric power cable fork left and climb a short incline.)
3. In a while join a lane on a sharp bend and go straight ahead passing Hode Farm and its oasthouses. Descend a hill and beware there is a T junction at the bottom. In a very short distance there is a mini roundabout, go straight ahead and enter the village of Patrixbourne. At right hand bend go straight ahead onto Cycle Route 16 towards Dover.

(4 miles/ 6.5 kilometers)

4. At unsigned T junction turn left (IGNORE CYCLE ROUTE 16). At crossroads go straight ahead signposted Bramling and Wingham. Cross over Railway Bridge and at T junction turn left signposted Bramling.
5. At T junction with main A257 by the side of the Hay Wain Public House, instead of crossing road walk with your bike across the front of the Pub

and enter lane on right just beyond the forecourt.

6. Ride along the Lane and at T junction by white cottages turn right and at T junction with main B2046 turn right and take the next turning on the left signposted Godnestone, Chillenden and Eyethorne.
7. Turn right signposted Godnestone and Godnestone Park Gardens. Enter village of Godnestone and turn right into lane called The Street. Pass the Fitzwilliam Arms public house and visit Godnestone Park Gardens.

(8.3 miles/ 13.8 kilometers)

8. On reaching the paved road turn right and then turn left into lane signposted Ratling and Aylesham. At T junction turn right signposted Aylesham and Wingham and Cycle Route 16. You will now follow Cycle Route 16 all the way back to Canterbury unless you are visiting Higham Park Gardens.
9. At T junction with main B2046 turn right signposted Wingham and Sandwich and almost immediately left into lane signposted Adisham and Bekesbourne. In centre of Adisham village turn left into The Street by the Bull Public House.

(12.4 miles/ 20.6 kilometers)

10. Follow Cycle Route 16 into the country, past a water tower on your right in the middle of a wood and at the next crossroads you have a choice of routes:

a) Visit Higham Park Garden

11. Go straight ahead signposted Bishopsbourne. Pass under the A2 and at T junction turn right, ignore first turning on left and in a short while fork left towards Bridge before you go up the slip road to the A2. At the brow of a hill turn right and visit Higham Park Garden. After your visit descend the hill into bridge and at the Red Lion Public House turn right and follow Cycle Route 16 back to Patrixbourne.

b) Continue to follow Cycle Route 16/17 to Patrixbourne.

12. At mini roundabout at the end of Patrixbourne village veer left and almost immediately fork right into Hode land and up the hill to Hode Farm. On left hand bend go straight ahead into private road through orchards. Enter Canterbury through a housing estate, Pilgrims Way. Bear right over railway bridge where road becomes Pilgrims Road. By Chaucer School turn left into Spring Lane. At T junction turn left into St. Martins Hill and almost immediately right into special Cycle lane in North Homes Road.

13. Follow special track along North Homes Road and continue straight ahead into Cycle path. At junction with busy Military Road cross road to central island, turn left and cross again. Enter alleyway and follow to Northgate.
14. At junction with road turn left and take the second turning on the right into St. Radigunds Street. Pass Millers Arms, pass over river bridge and turn right into the Causeway. At next junction go straight ahead into Station Road West and follow track through new housing estate veering left all the time until you come to Canterbury West Railway Station.

(20 miles/ 33.3 kilometers)