

Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

Walk Title	Sevenoaks	Walk No.	391
Area	Kent	Type	Circular
Date	Wednesday 7 December 2022		
Distance	10.1 miles (16.3 km)		
Timing	6.5 hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Therefore expect to be back in Islington by 5.00pm latest		
Meeting up & travel	Meet on platform (usually 6 or 7) at 9.40am to catch the London Bridge 9.49am (train to Dover Priory) to arrive at 10.12am Buy cheap day return Knockholt - Sevenoaks £3.45 with usual travel cards		
Route	Sevenoaks – Knole Park - Ightam Mote – Knole House – Sevenoaks. More detail see below under interesting facts.		
Lunch	Food is available 10.00am – 4.00pm at the Ightam Mote NT Café (unreserved seating).		
Dropping out	From Ightam Mote you can walk the well indicated Greensands way South for 1.4ml to Shipbourne from where there is a bus opposite the Chaser Inn pub. Hourly buses at xx.26 take you in 18 min to Tonbridge on the line to Sevenoaks/LB/CX. Please check if you wish to take the bus and bring a map or printout of this sheet or from SWC webpage.		
Suitability	Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker. There will be stiles but no particular difficulties. Terrain: could be muddy after rain Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/boots. Waterproof jacket. Walking sticks in case of mud to prevent slipping or even falls. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain. Wear, or carry, an extra layer.		
Facilities	There are loos on the train, at the beginning at Sevenoaks station, the pub in the middle, and at the end. Plenty of trees too.		
Walk	SWC 21		
Map	OS Explorer 147 or OS Landranger 188		
Leader & contact details	<u>Walk Leader: Pia Rainey</u> phone: 07775 7782860 (leave text message) e-mail: piarainey@icloud.com		
Interesting facts	<p>This walk goes through a lovely slice of Kentish countryside, starting by passing through the deer park of the National Trust owned Knole House and then carrying on into a gentle area of fields and woods.</p> <p>You then descend through newly coppiced woodland to Ightham Mote, a rare, moated manor house, also owned by the National Trust, where we will have lunch in the self-service restaurant.</p> <p>The real glory of the walk comes next: a wonderful stretch of the Greensand Way which slowly climbs the escarpment of the Kent Downs with superb views over the Weald to the south. In late October or early November the walk offers lovely leaf colour, with plenty of</p>		

golden beeches and a wide range of other trees. Particularly common in this area are sweet chestnuts, whose leaves turn a lovely yellowy-gold and whose nuts litter the ground in late October. Finally the walk finishes by passing through Knole Park once again. In winter many paths on this walk have relatively firm surfaces, though there is inevitably some mud.

