



Walks around the Parish of Knebworth



Knebworth Parish Council
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Walk 1 (4 ¼ miles)

A This walk starts at The Lytton Arms in Old Knebworth. Leave the pub car park and turn right. Walk along the road, past the junction with Old Knebworth Lane. Turn left before housing on the left **B**. Pass by King George V Playing Field. Enter a field and proceed straight ahead and turn left, following a hedge on your left. Cross over Old Knebworth Lane and go through a kissing-gate. Head for St Mary's Church and pass through the churchyard and out through the iron gate. Proceed along the road towards the barns and then turn right down the avenue of lime trees to the edge of the wood **C**. Turn left along the edge of the wood and then **D** follow the footpath around to the right along a dam wall and through a gate into the woods. Bear right and follow waymarkers through the woods and then follow a path straight ahead, through fields. Turn left, then right, around two sides of a paddock, until you emerge on a farm track, where you turn right. Before the farmyard, take a kissing-gate on the left **E** and pass a small stand of trees on your left and then walk on a grassy path between fields. At a wood edge, turn left until you reach the B556 by steps. Cross this busy road and descend steps on the far side. Go right through a kissing-gate and then round the right-hand edge of a small wood to another kissing-gate. Then head across open fields to emerge on a lane near Rustling End Cottage **F**. Turn left in the lane and then exit to the left, following a footpath sign into the woods. Bear right and then keep on the path (ignoring side tracks) through the woods until you reach a track, on which you turn left until you reach the B556. Cross this road again to a kissing gate and go through, back into Knebworth Park **G** where deer are a common sight. Ignore two footpaths 90° and 45° left and go up the hill, passing to the right of a stone memorial to Elizabeth Bulwer-Lytton. Continue through another two kissing-gates to emerge, via the drive to a house, on Park Lane. Turn left and walk back along the road to The Lytton Arms **A**.

Walk 2 (5 ½ miles)

A and **C** This walk also starts at The Lytton Arms and the combine elements of Walks 1 and 2 to make a longer walk. At the bottom of the avenue of lime trees **C** go through the gate immediately in front. Follow the track and waymarkers to the concrete road. Cross the road and follow the track, with the wood on your left, past the wood carvings, until you come to a metal barrier **H**. Go through the waymarkers along the edge of the wood to a kissing gate **I**. Enter the wood through the gate and immediately turn right and follow the telegraph lines to the road; this is Norton Green Common. Turn left down the road and then right before the metal barrier. Proceed to a metal kissing gate and turn left and immediately right. Walk through the wood to Figeonswick Cottage. Keeping the cottage on your left, walk around the road to a metal barrier. Go through the barrier and then follow the track through the wood to a kissing-gate into a field **J**. Go through the gate and turn left to walk round the edge of the field, keeping the wood on the left. Follow the hedge to a small access gate, half-way along a field edge. Go through this gate and walk diagonally across the field to a kissing gate **E**. Exit the field and turn right, walking up the permissive route to a hole in the hedge on the left, opposite a footpath sign. Go through the hedge, over the ditch, and straight ahead to the telegraph pole, then turn left and then right, across the field to the wood. Enter the wood and follow the waymarkers, crossing a track, to a metal gate into Knebworth Park. Walk along a dam wall and then branch right up the hill to join a footpath going right **D**. Walk along this footpath until you meet **G** a footpath that emerges from a metal gate on your right. Turn left and follow the instructions for Walk 1 back to the pub **A**.

Walk 3 (4 ¾ miles)

K This walk starts at Knebworth railway station. Cross the road and turn left to enter Gun Lane. Walk the full length of this road to a T-junction. Cross the road and turn left towards a bridge. Enter a footpath on the right by a barrier. Walk between gardens and the railway until you reach an open field and then along the left edge of the field until you reach a road **L**. Turn left and under the bridge to a T-junction (B197). Cross the road and turn left. Take a footpath by a speed camera. Follow this footpath, past a play area, until you emerge on a road. After 150 yd take a footpath on the right. Walk diagonally across a field until you pass through a kissing gate into another field. Walk diagonally across two paddocks, passing through a kissing-gate en route, and then through a third, emerging onto a narrow lane. Go past the entrance to 'Cave Wood' and cross the road to take a footpath on the left, signposted 'Datchworth'; crossing a field and emerging on a road, opposite Datchworth Primary School. Turn right past the staff car park and then take a footpath on the left. Walk along this, past the church, ignoring a footpath off to the right. On reaching a road **M**, turn left and take care as you walk about ½ mile along this road, past a turning signposted to Knebworth, until it takes a sharp bend to the right **N**, just after Ridge Cottage. At the bend take a bridleway on the left and continue on this until it reaches a road. The path then follows the verge until just before the entrance to a crematorium. Cross the road and take the public bridleway until it goes under the railway and emerges in a road. Follow this road to the right to a T-junction **O**. Cross the road and turn left, past a junction, and then take a public bridleway on the left just after Braemar Close. Follow this bridleway across an open field and then turn left **P** onto a footpath into a Recreation Ground. Head towards the pavilion (low building on the far side) and take a footpath between gardens to a main road. Turn left onto this road and then right at the mini-roundabout. Walk along Station Road until you pass under a bridge. You will see Knebworth station **K** on your right. Featured throughout this brochure are examples of the flora and fauna that you may see on these walks. Look out for black squirrels near Norton Green Common.

About Knebworth



Robin Knebworth traces its history back to the Domesday Book of 1086, where the settlement is referred to as Chenepworde. The manor was sold to Robert Lytton in 1492 and the house and grounds of Knebworth House have remained in the family ever since.

The village of Old Knebworth grew around the house and the Parish Church of St Mary and St Thomas of Canterbury in Knebworth Park. The main London to Scotland coach route, the Great North Road (now the B197), passed about a mile to the east of Old Knebworth and, with the advent of the railway and the opening of a railway station in 1884, it was inevitable that housing and shops would develop around that new axis; this is the current village of Knebworth.



Ramsoms As you will see, from the map overleaf, the parish of Knebworth comprises not just the village of Knebworth (both new and old) but also extends north to Norton Green and straddles Three Houses Lane almost all the way to Kimpton.

The map is based on the Ordnance Survey map of the area and shows all of the footpaths, bridleways and other rights of way. We have suggested three walks

which take you to some of the less frequently visited parts of the parish. Walk 2, for instance, takes you to Norton Green Common, which, if you are travelling by car, can only be accessed from the Gunnells Wood industrial estate in Stevenage. Walk 3 takes you out of the parish to Datchworth and then along the parish boundary before returning to central Knebworth.

As you walk along these paths please follow the Countryside Code, particularly with regard to closing gates, controlling your dogs and not dropping litter.



We hope that you will enjoy the suggested walks and would welcome your feedback (clerk@knebworthparishcouncil.gov.uk).

How to get to Knebworth

By Train

Trains from Cambridge to London Kings Cross stop at Knebworth Station, which is at the bottom of Park Lane, about 1 ½ miles from the Lytton Arms pub. For timetable details visit www.greatnorthernrail.com.



By Car

If coming from the north, the village of Knebworth is located on the B197, about 2 ½ miles from Junction 7 on the A1(M). If coming from the south, it is about 3 ½ miles from Junction 6.

By Bus

Buses 300, 301, 379 and 44 stop in Knebworth. For timetable details visit www.bustimes.org. Routes 379 and 44 are operated by Centrebus and 300/301 is operated by Arriva.



The drawing of the Parish Church of St Mary and St Thomas of Canterbury is used with the kind permission of Madeleine Macdonald.

Photographs by Colin Stringer.



This brochure was produced by Knebworth Parish Council as part of the Parish Paths Partnership, a programme funded by Hertfordshire County Council www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/cms.