

# Railway days out

## Knockholt station to Sevenoaks

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Start                   | Knockholt station (KCK) — <b>TN14 7HR</b>  |
| Finish                  | Sevenoaks (SEV) — <b>TN13 1DP</b>  |
| Distance                | 13.91km  |
| Duration                | 3 hours 07 minutes   |
| Ascent                  | 199m   |
| Transport and ticketing | Train from London Bridge; bus at Knockholt Pound for Orpington; day return to Sevenoaks      |
| Facilities              | Convenience shop and pub at Knockholt Pound; pub at London Road; all facilities in Sevenoaks |

|    |  |       |
|----|--|-------|
| 1  | Knockholt stn.   | 0m    |
| 2  | Exit stn; L on London Rd; R to Broke Hill; L then R (S) to ascend through former golf course; L on Stonehouse lane to Halstead Place.          | 1700m |
| 3  | Bear R on path opp Old Rectory, then path R (WSW) to Rushmore Hill; L, then R on Randle's Lane.  | 1610m |
| 4  | Immediately L on path to Pound Lane; L to Knockholt Pound.   | 1310m |
| 5  | Chevening Lane to North Downs Way (NDW); L on NDW to Lees Wood.  | 810m  |
| 6  | Continue on NDW to Star House.   | 1140m |
| 7  | Descend to Sundridge Rd; L, then R across M25 to Rose and Crown.   | 1910m |
| 8  | L, then R before hotel to Newbarn Bridge; R before br (Darent Valley Path) to descend to underpass beneath M26.                                | 1570m |
| 9  | Ahead; L under rly; path to Rye Lane; R past mobile home pk and fm.  | 1090m |
| 10 | Branch L on path with houses to R past lakes to Riverhead; L on Bradbourne Vale Rd, over Robyns Way, then R into Bradbourne Lakes Park.        | 1340m |
| 11 | Keep lakes on R; cross Betenson Ave; rise L to Lambarde Rd; R; L on Clock House Lane; R on Bradbourne Park Rd to Hitchen Hatch Lane; R to stn. | 1430m |

**1** This walk starts at Knockholt station, on the line between Orpington and Sevenoaks.

Trains run from London Bridge to Knockholt: at times, you may have the benefit of a faster journey by changing in Orpington.

**2** Exit the station from platform 1 (that is, across the footbridge if travelling from London), and follow the station access to the left, out to London Road. Turn left along London Road, passing a bus stop.

At the parking payment machine, cross the road and go through the kissing-gate opposite. Take the path ahead, bearing left with it at the end of the field and then bearing right to reach the corner of a car park.

This car park served the Broke Hill golf course (1993-2017), which is being reclaimed by the wild. The future of this area is uncertain, but a proposal to build 800 houses on the land was rejected on appeal in early 2022 as a considerable loss of green-belt land and its public good. Before the golf course came, the land supported orchards.

Continue southwards, initially with a hedge on your right, ascending to reach (after a left-right dog-leg) Stonehouse Lane. Turn left, and follow the lane to Halstead Place.

Halstead Place was established as a country house during the fifteenth century, and counted among its owners an Archbishop of Canterbury. The house was completely rebuilt during the second half of the eighteenth century. John Atkins, after his term as Lord Mayor of London, bought Halstead Place in 1822, and the property remained in the family for a century. It was sold and operated as a school between the wars. Following the Second World War, when the house served as a prisoner-of-war camp, the house was derelict, and was demolished in 1952. The site of Halstead Place is now covered in expensive housing of, compared to the various historic Halstead Place buildings, limited architectural merit. See <https://landedfamilies.blogspot.com/2016/10/233-burnaby-atkins-of-halstead-place.html> for further detail.

*Halstead Place*



During her girlhood, Edith Nesbit stayed at Halstead Hall (ahead in the village): she used the Hall and Knockholt station (then called Halstead station) as the location for *The Railway Children* (though film and television versions have used Oakworth on the heritage Keighley and Worth Valley line in West Yorkshire for location work).

**3** Continue along Stonehouse Lane for about 100m to reach a gate at the far end of the low

wall on your right. Go through the gate, and take the left-hand of the two paths, following the hypotenuse of a triangular field on your left. At the far end of the triangle, turn right on a crossing path, picking up a west-south-westerly line which gradually trends right towards a westerly direction. This path comes out onto Stonehouse Lane.

**4** Turn left along Stonehouse Lane to Randle's Lane, where turn right.

Immediately on entering Randle's Lane, turn left on a path which takes a bearing east of south, and leads to Pound Lane. Turn left along Pound Lane to reach Knockholt Pound with its triangle of grass at the road junction.

Here, there is a bus stop for the service to Orpington.

There is also a convenience shop over to your right, and ahead of you, the Three Horseshoes pub.

**5** Starting from the signpost in the middle of the green, with the pub on your right, make your way up Chevening Lane, marked with a *No through road* sign and taking the far left side of the pub car park.

Chevening Lane climbs out of the centre of the village for about 550m: here, the North Downs Way (national trail) joins from the right. After another 20m, the lane is barred by a gate with a superfluity of prohibitions: here, the North Downs Way takes the only alternative, and that is to go left into the adjoining field.

Make your way across the top of the field, and enter Lees Wood at the far side. Once through the wood, come out into a field. Turn right, then bear left to follow the field edge with the woodland on your right.

**6** At the far end of the field, bear right to pass along a narrow funnel of grass through the woodland, and emerge at the top of a large field. The route follows the top of the



*Knockholt Pound*



*Star Hill*





*Railway underpass at  
Dunton Green*

field, zigzagging round the trees of Star Hill Wood. Pass into the next field; then continue to keep next to the trees as the path descends to become adjacent to a road next to Star House.

**7** Turn right to walk straight downhill (with a little left-and-right halfway down, to reach a road.

Turn left along the road, which has no footway for the first 250m, and take it as far as a roundabout. Turn right here, following the sign for Sevenoaks (the A224) and cross the M25 by the right-hand footpath of the bridge. Cross to the left-hand footpath at the far end of the bridge, and follow the road to the junction at the Rose and Crown Inn.

**8** Turn left to keep the pub on your left, and follow the road until, just before Donnington Manor Hotel, the signpost points you to the right, down a narrow path. Continue in the same direction after passing the hotel grounds on your left, until you reach Newbarn Bridge over the railway (the main line between Sevenoaks and London).

**From here to Sevenoaks station, you will be following the Darent Valley Path and the Darent Valley alternative to this route.**

Do not cross the bridge, but turn right and descend the left side of the field: at the bottom, continue ahead underneath the M26.

**9** Beyond the motorway, keep close to the railway, and take a tunnel on the left, out into a large field. Press ahead on a footpath, bearing right to follow the fence at the far side. This leads out onto Rye Lane. Turn right, and follow the lane to pass a mobile home park and then a farm.

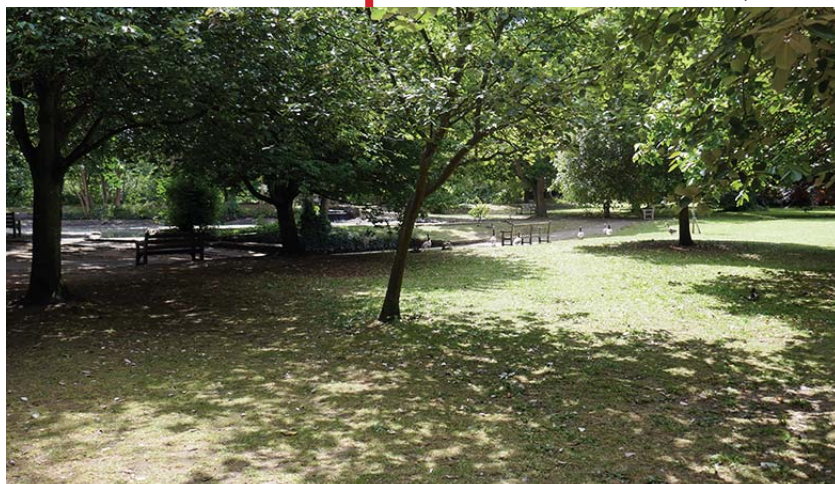
**10** Where the road bends to the right at the start of the houses in Dunton Green, bear left onto an enclosed path to keep the houses on the right.

**Should you really need Dunton Green station, follow Rye Lane and turn right immediately beyond the railway.**

The path passes some lakes on your left, and eventually emerges into a field.

Do not cut diagonally across the field, but continue ahead to

*Bradbourne Lakes Park,  
Sevenoaks*





Riverhead at Bradbourne Vale Road.

Cross the road, and turn left, past a bus stop, and over Robyns Way. After a further 60m, go through a gap in the fence on the right, into the calm of Bradbourne Lakes Park.

The series of lakes were laid out in the middle of the eighteenth century by the owner of Bradbourne Hall, Henry Bosville. They make use of waterfalls and sluices to take water from a tributary of the River Darent down to Riverhead by a sequence of steps. There is some interesting detailing on the lake walls. A watermill stood here during the Saxon era.



*Lake wall detail, Bradbourne Lakes Park, Sevenoaks*

**11** Keep the lakes on your right as you climb gently, crossing Betenson Avenue and reaching Lambarde Road. Turn right on Lambarde Road, then left into Clock House Lane. At the far end of Clock House Lane, having crossed the railway, turn right into Bradbourne Park Road and follow it all the way to its end. Turn right onto Hitchen Hatch Lane and descend to London Road at Sevenoaks station.

This marks the end of the route.

Sevenoaks is a major node on the railway system, with frequent fast trains to London.

There is a convenience shop on London Road, and a café in the station.

The main part of Sevenoaks town lies up to the left. Knole House (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole>) may be found on the far side of the town. The railway brought the idea of commuting to London, and this dominates the local economy, with local headquarters for service industries.