

path levels off and meets a broad permissive bridleway. Turn left and in less than 100m look for a fingerpost to the right indicating a wide public footpath. Turn half right to follow the track but take care now in less than 20m the public path goes half left on a much narrower track ⑦.

Follow this for a further 500m and at the next unmarked crossing path turn right to the edge of the woods. Enter an open field with views of Gravetye Manor across the valley ⑧



Continue directly ahead to the tall line of trees and on reaching them turn right to follow the line downhill to the bottom corner of the field. Walk down stone steps to a plank bridge into the woods. Ignore a path to the left and continue ahead over a stile to follow the path besides the gorse bushes which leads to a kissing gate onto the stone bridge where your walk began. Turn left through the wrought iron gates and walk up to the hotel.

Points of Interest

The sandstone **STONE FARM ROCKS** are popular with rock climbers. The British Mountaineering Council purchased the site for £100 in 2001 and there are 74 established climbing routes. The site is also managed for conservation. It was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1989 and is an important site for the study and interpretation of sedimentary structures in the Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand.

STANDEN HOUSE is an outstanding example of the Arts and Crafts Movement. It was built in the 1890s for a wealthy London solicitor, James Beale. The house was designed by architect Philip Webb demonstrating his passion for traditional buildings and local materials. The interior was decorated by Morris and Co and contains examples of the work of all the major names of the Arts and Crafts period. The gardens were the work of Mrs Margaret Beale, who favoured an informal design. She supplied her family with home grown food and gave them an amazing area in which to play.

Country Walks from Gravetye Manor

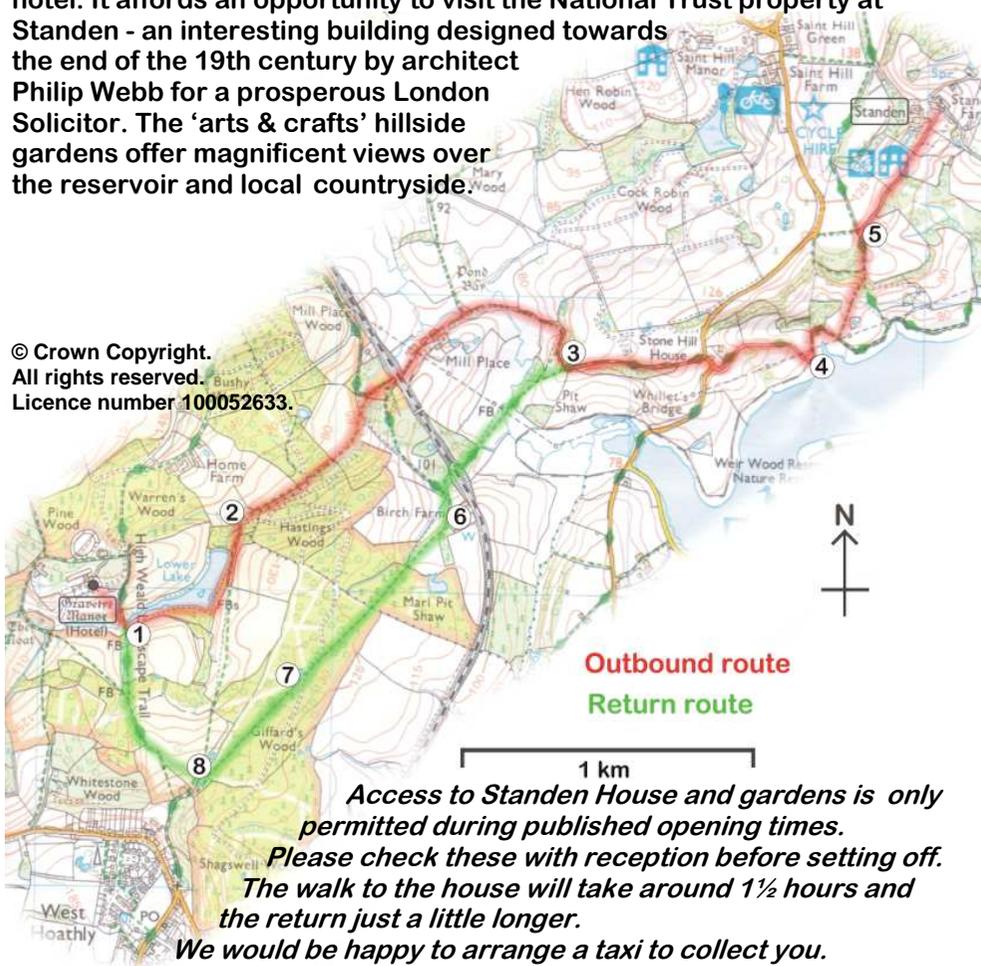


No. 4 ‘The Standen Walk’

The Standen Walk

The full circular walk is 11 kms (7 miles) and is the longest from the hotel. It affords an opportunity to visit the National Trust property at Standen - an interesting building designed towards the end of the 19th century by architect Philip Webb for a prosperous London Solicitor. The 'arts & crafts' hillside gardens offer magnificent views over the reservoir and local countryside.

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Route Directions

From the main steps turn right to pass under the pergola and through the wooden gates. Turn half left following the sign 'to the lakes' down the grassy track away from the house. Near the bottom of the hill pass through the ornate metal gates and turn right on a broad crossing track. Cross the stone bridge over the stream and turn immediately left through a wooden gate (1) to follow the lakeside path.

At the eastern end of the lake join a broader track from the right and follow it downhill. At the bottom of the hill besides an iron gate, turn right following the public footpath sign (2). A kissing gate leads into tall trees and on leaving these turn slightly left across the open field to another kissing gate in the hedge line opposite. Go straight over the tarmac drive and in a further 25m turn right on a wide bridleway over a stream to pass under the Bluebell Railway.

Walk through the buildings of Mill Place Farm and after crossing a brick bridge over the broad stream continue to the right following the bridleway signs. The track curves right and begins climbing. At the brow of the hill turn left following the fingerpost (3) through a gate into a sunken path. The path continues climbing gently with the strange shapes of Stone Farm Rocks down to your right.



The path drops to the public road. Turn right and then cross very carefully and in 30m take the quieter road to the left. Follow this downhill as it becomes a track and reaches a set of high metal gates (4). Turn left and follow the twisting path around the lakeside. Just before passing under the overhead power lines turn left over a stile besides an information board. Follow the clear path uphill across an open field. It gets steeper towards the woods as it crosses a stile and then levels off into another field. There are now clear views of Standen House away to the right.

In 30m turn right through a wooden gate following a fingerpost (5) towards the house. This pleasant, level path continues straight ahead and soon reaches a gate, which marks the entrance to the National Trust property. Access is only available during opening hours and you must immediately proceed to the ticket office at the rear of the house and pay the entrance fee or present your N.T. membership card.



Following your visit, retrace your steps to the far end of the path above Stone Farm Rocks (3). At the wooden gate now continue straight ahead heading downwards across the middle of an open field. At the bottom turn right over a solid footbridge and then immediately left towards the tall trees. Climb steeply up and over the Bluebell railway line to reach a tarmac drive and turn left. In 75m, just before Birch Farm, turn right over a stile into an open field (6). Exit the far corner over a second stile into the woods and climb steadily, ignoring crossing paths, until the