

Map of the park



Our Walk Information

Please note that the pathways in the woodland and ridge sections of the walk are not suitable for pushchairs/wheelchairs.

Please remember to wear suitable footwear and clothing for the weather conditions.

Reigate Priory Park is 58 hectares in size and is a Grade II listed park. This leaflet will guide you along a circular walk through Reigate Priory Park and woodland. Follow the purple way marker arrows that you will see along the route.

This walk will take about one hour to complete.

Reigate Priory Park Circular Walk



- 1 **Pet Cemetery** – Laid out early in the 20th century, there are six tombstones to dogs from 1903 and 1904, the last years of Lady Henry Somerset's ownership of the Priory.
- 2 **Sunken Garden** – The fountain and sunken garden have been restored in the style introduced by Lady Henry Somerset in the late 19th century.
- 3 **Tea Garden and Monks Walk** – Walk through The Tea Garden where afternoon tea was 'taken' outside the original library now the museum. Follow The Monks Walk which was first indicated on the 1896 Ordnance Survey map. The sundial installed half way down reflects the style of the original.
- 4 **The Monks' Seat** – The Monks' Seat is a listed feature and is one of the few original items that remain in the park. Look to your right here where cherry trees were planted to reflect the site of the original monks' orchard. Now walk down towards the lake.
- 5 **The Lake** – Look out for the birds that live on the lake. If you are lucky you may see a Kingfisher. There are at least six different species of bat that live in the woodland around the lake.

- 6 The lake was originally a collection of fish ponds. The earliest evidence of a pond is 1391. By 1770 five ponds were shown but by 1860 they were amalgamated into one. The area to your right was the original site of Lady Henry Somerset's secret garden. Follow the path around the lake until you see an unmade path on your right.
- 7 **The Woodland** – Head up into the woodland - look out for the ancient Beech trees.
- 8 Turn right again and follow the path. This woodland is home to many different trees including the tallest Hornbeam in the UK.
- 9 Turn left and head up the hill – take time to look at the Bluebells (April/ May).

- 10 When you reach the highest point of the path take a left and carry on up to The Ridge which is the highest point of your walk and has fantastic views. It is an area of acid grassland and a great natural habitat for wildlife.
- 11 **The Ridge** – To your left you will see the path of Break Neck Hill. Stop at the memorial bench on your right to look at the amazing views to the North.
- 12 In 1920 Mr Randall Vogan who owned the woodland and ridge area of the park donated them to the people of Reigate "for their quiet enjoyment".
- 13 **The Woodland** – After the memorial head straight ahead down the hill through the woodland which is home to lots of wildlife including deer, rabbits, moles, grey squirrels and field voles.
- 14 **The Beacon** – Take a right at the bottom of the hill. Look to your left to see the Beacon which since 1988 has stood in the Priory grounds to celebrate Lord Howard's Armada success in 1588.
- 15 **The Arboretum** – As you head across the parkland look to your right at the arboretum. There are a number of unusual specimens in the arboretum including a Black Walnut, Cut Leaved Oak and Wingnut Tree.
- 16 **Parkland** – As you near the sunken garden you will go over a small ditch this is called the Ha Ha and is an old architectural feature which stopped deer from entering the formal gardens but did not interrupt the great view.

