

# Canterbury Beyond the Campus

A guide to some of Canterbury's most scenic routes, hidden just behind your student house.



With lockdown #2 well underway and university teaching mainly online now, many of you are probably find yourself either with a lot of time on your hands (with everything else being cancelled) or (like me) sitting in front of the screen all day.

With that in mind, getting out and about is more important than ever. Despite the temperature dropping, the days shortening, and the amount of friends you're allowed to see dwindling, I urge you to put on a warm jacket and go and see some of the beautiful places that Canterbury has to offer, hidden literally minutes from the City or the Campus.

If you're worried about not getting enough exercise over lockdown, feel free to use this as a 'running routes' ideas book as well. These routes are designed to be explored in any way you see fit. So, grab your housemates, or that friend from your course, and go get lost in the woods.

These tracks can be cut down/extended to fill whatever time you have. If you have an hour break for lunch, great, there's still time to get out, if you have an afternoon to fill, then you can see how far you can go before the sun starts to set, and of course, at the weekends, bring a packed-lunch, (and, if you're a budding photographer, your camera) and make a day of it.

I guess as a safety note, if you are going alone on any of these walks then let someone know where it is you're going and how long you expect to be. Wear appropriate footwear, bring a suitable jacket and a bottle of water. Make sure your phones charged/bring a portable charger, and make sure you can get in touch with someone if you need to. I also strongly recommend the app AllTrails, for helping you navigate routes off the main roads, and routes back to them.

All the photos in this guide were taken by me over the weekend just gone, and so if nothing else, I hope this guide inspires you to and go get some yourself.

## Some quick notes on running

If you are intested in running some of these routes, I've also made a Team Kent Strava club. That can be a good way to stay motivated, encourage your peers, and even spot some new routes you can tackle.

If you're an experienced runner, there's enough variety in these trails to see you through the next few weeks for sure.

If you're completely new to running, I can't recommend the Couch to 5K programme enough. You can use the official app to stay on course with what runs you're doing, and track your progress on something like Strava as well. I also really recommend checking out a few [online guides](#) to getting into running!



That's all from me, I hope you enjoy the guide and if you have any questions/comments/ideas/complaints/feedback, just drop me an email (p.stillman@kent.ac.uk). I'll be working to improve this as the year goes on and hopefully by end of the year have included more of Kent in here as well!

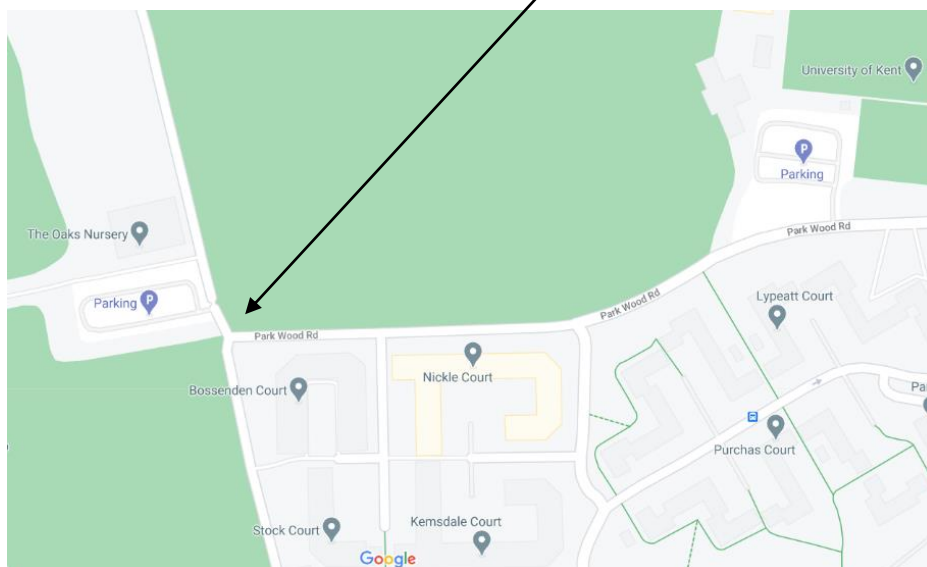
Take it easy,

Pat



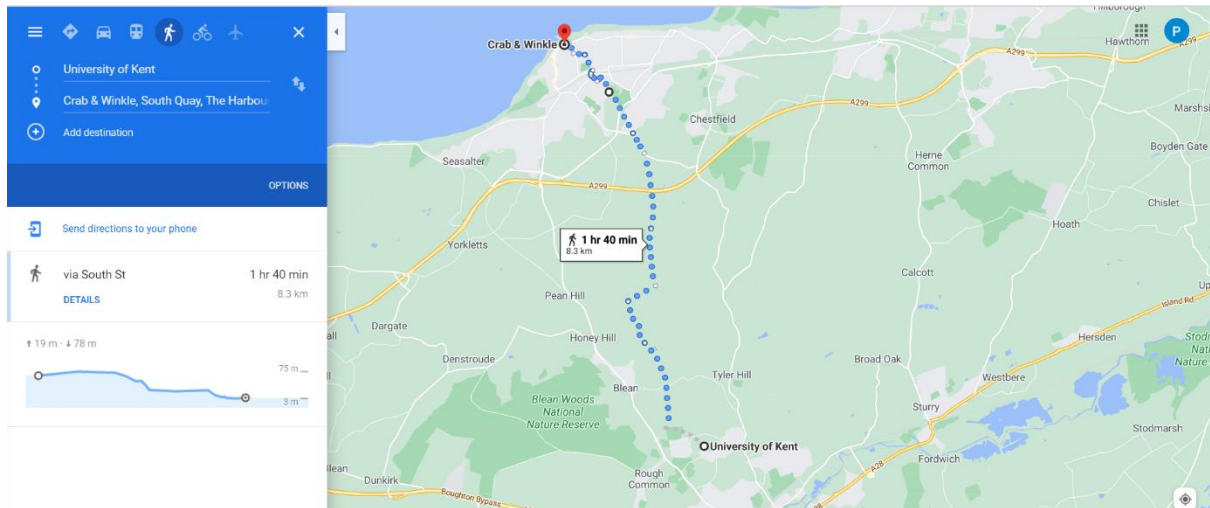
## 1) The Crab and Winkle Way

The Crab and Winkle way is (from campus) an 8.5km woodland walk to the charming seaside town of Whitstable. The start point can be found out the back of Parkwood:



The last picture, by the Rugby Pitches, shows the beginning of the route dropping down hill on the left of the frame. I've marked it on the map for you so you have a clear idea of what to look for when heading there. If you stick the [Oakes Nursery](#) into your maps, you can't go far wrong.

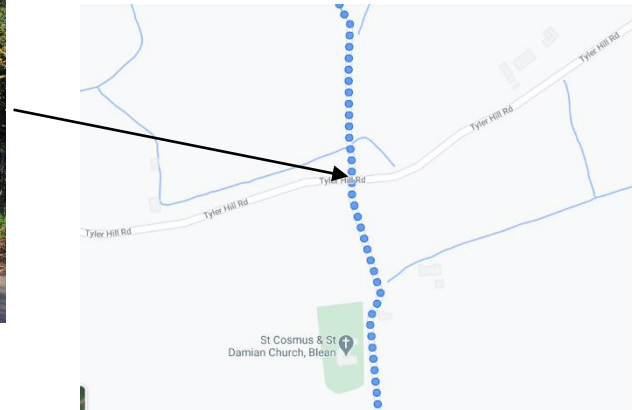
From there, you can head all the way to Whitstable by simply following the signs, or the route below:



If you don't want to head all the way to Whitstable, (though I do think it's a must do for any Kent student!) just 10 minutes or so down the path and you can still get some great views, and make it back to campus in time for your next seminar.







The last photo I've included here corresponds to the map on the right, from the Uni to here is just 10 minutes, and if you want to follow the track further from there then you're well on your way.

I haven't included any photos further than this, but I'm sure you can go out and fill in the blanks between here and the beach!

## 2) Hiding Beyond Westgate Gardens – Hambrook Marshes

I'm sure that everyone who has lived in Canterbury for more than 5 minutes knows about Westgate Gardens – the incredible pretty gardens next to Westgate Towers with the River Stour running through. But plenty who know of them rarely venture beyond them.

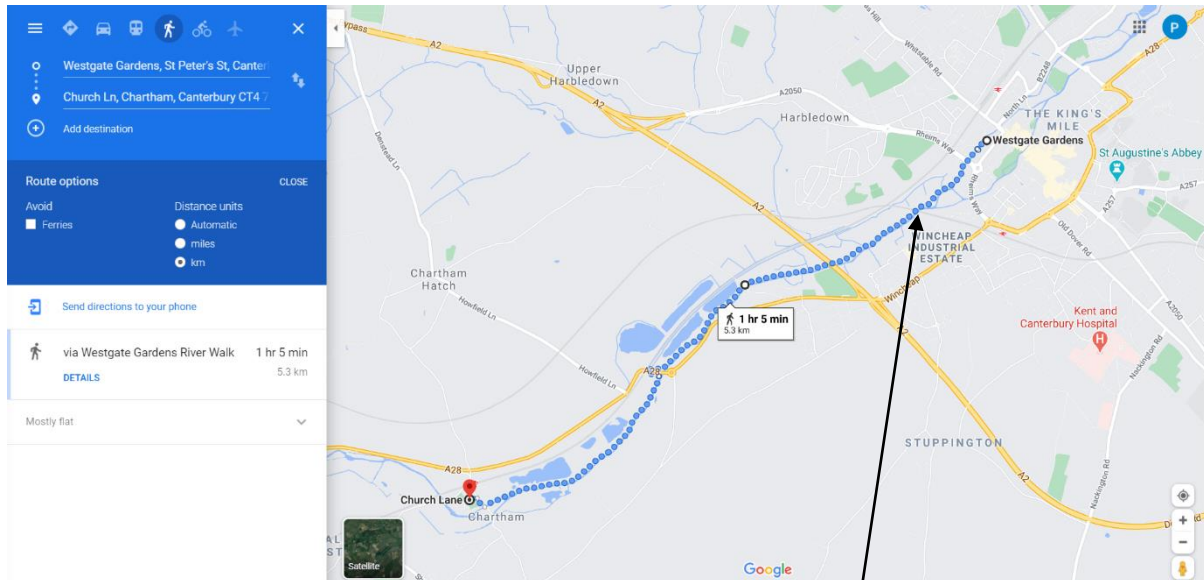


If you head through the gardens, you'll reach a bridge over the footpath. Beyond there is the Toddler's Cove play area. From there, you'll see the path continues on over a small bridge and into Hambrook Marshes.





The footpath follows the Stour all the way to Chartham, a small village about 5km SW of Canterbury, offering some stunning views along the way. As with the Whitstable route, there is plenty of opportunity to turn off and head back to Canterbury at any point, and the photos below show approximately the first 10 minutes beyond the gardens.







As you can see from the final picture, there are also places where you can sit and rest along the route, it's about an hour to Chartham at a walking pace, but for the runners reading this, Chartham and back makes a brilliant, flat 10k!

There are plenty of stunning views beyond this point, but don't take my word for it, go and see for yourself.

### 3) Where the F\*\*K is Fordwhich?

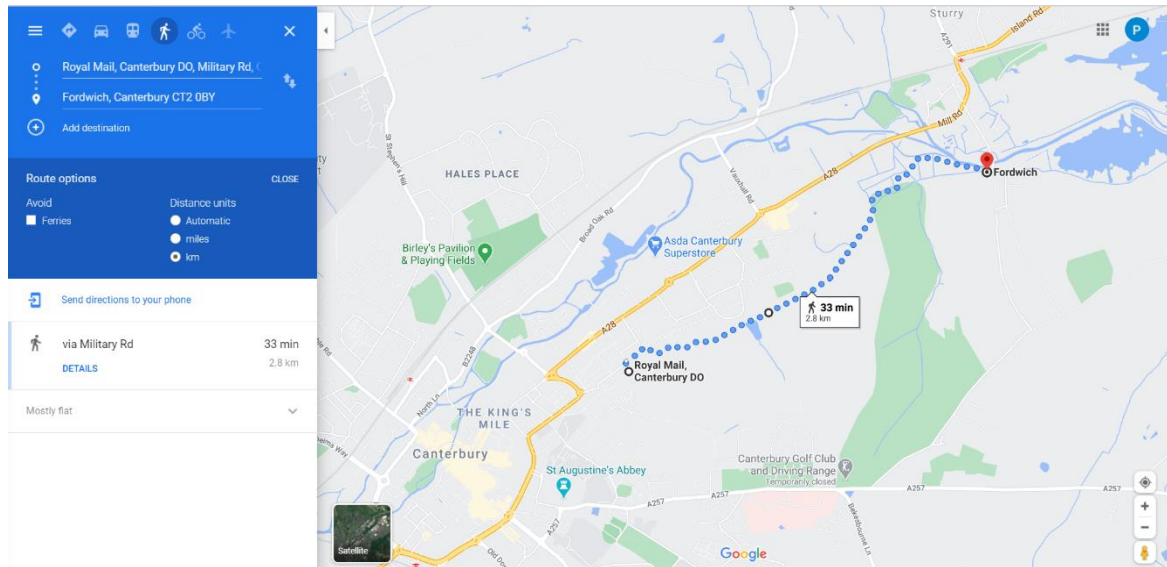
Fordwhich is a town just outside of Canterbury that boasts the record of being the “Smallest Town in Britain”. It’s an incredibly picturesque town right on the Stour, and about 5km from Canterbury. It can either be reached by following Sturry Road to Sturry, and turning right, or by following a little known woodland walk.

The start of this trail can be a little tricky to find, and it certainly feels like you’re trespassing – I assure you you’re not – so I’ve included a few photos to help. From the Post Office on Military Road:



Beyond the last photo and the fence either side, you end up in woodland which emerges, 5km later, in the little town of Fordwhich. Like all the other routes so far, feel no obligation to go the whole way, but it is certainly somewhere worth exploring:

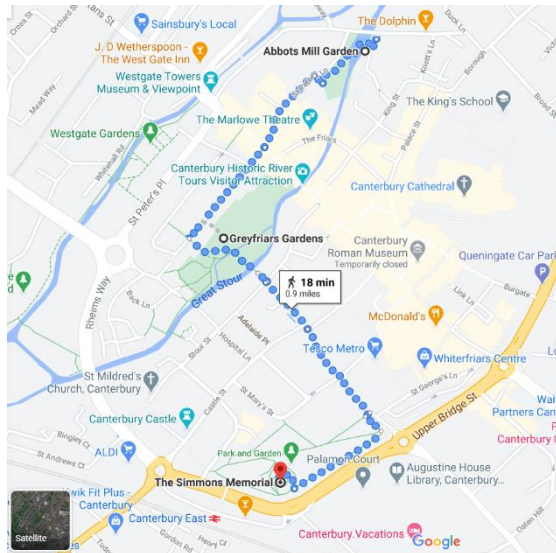




As always, these two photos are just 10 minutes into this route. If you live on the East side of Canterbury, it's the perfect place to disappear for your lunch.

## 4) In – and Along – the Walls of the City

I thought I would also include in here a few spots within the city centre that I feel are worth checking out for a variety of reasons. Either to head out for a walk, or to sit and have a coffee in, or to jog/walk through as part of a longer route.



As you can see, all of these spots are within a few minutes of each other and make up some of the hidden gems of Canterbury city. They can easily be found by putting the names as above into your maps.

Here's a few photos from around the city, see if you can find some of the spots yourself:

### 1) Simmons Memorial / On the City wall by Dane John Gardens' Bandstand





## 2) Along the Stour / Abbots Mill Gardens



## 3) The Friar's Bridge – next to the Marlowe

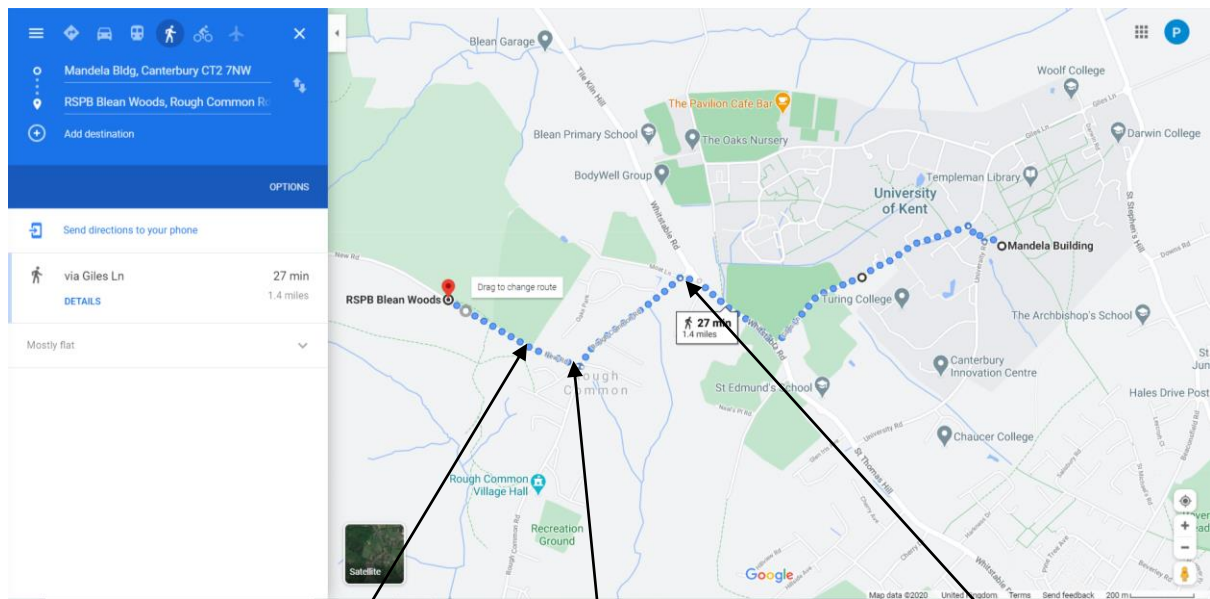


I mentioned Coffee in the comments above, and thought it worth noting that if Coffee's your kind of thing then there are loads of places in Canterbury to get great coffee beyond the high-street chains.

Fond Coffee or the Micro-Roastery are both worth checking out, as well as the Chocolate Café or Tiny Tim's tea rooms. I think a lot of them are still doing takeaway for the time being, but Canterbury has so many great places worth a visit, that I can really recommend taking some time to find your favourite and heading down when you want a change of scenery whilst doing some work/writing. Make the most of the city while you're here!

## 5) Blean Woods Nature Reserve

The final walk on this guide (for now) is the Blean Woods Nature reserve. This can be easily accessed from Central Campus, but is probably best saved for a free afternoon or a weekend with housemates to make the most of it.



The woods here make up a series of woodlands expanding north of the University, including Blean Woods, Thornden Woo, Clowes Wood and East and West Blean Woods. Much of it is classified as ancient woodland or areas of special scientific interest.

Throughout the woods there are several marked trails for you to follow, but I'd still recommend some welly-boots if the weather gets any wetter. You'll see plenty of wildlife. Aisha (Welfare VP) and I wandered about 5 minutes into the woods and could already see the potential for getting lost and going for a wander.





Thanks for taking the time to read this. As I said, I'll be adding to this as the year goes on and hoping to expand it further and further.