



Title: The Centenary Circle - Writtle to Galleywood

Distance: 4½ miles

Time taken: 2 hours

Start Point: Writtle, junction of Bridge Street with St John's Green and Lodge Road

OS Explorer Map: 183

Grid Ref.: TL 679 063

Transport:

To Writtle: First Bus No. 45 & 46 from Chelmsford Bus Station

From Galleywood: First Bus No. 42, 100 or Regal No 14

Refreshment: The Horse and Groom, Galleywood

Walk Description

This very pleasant section of the Centenary Circle takes you along a quiet lane from Writtle into Hylands Park, then along the eastern edge of the park, before following more peaceful lanes back into Galleywood. The signage at the southernmost end of Paradise Road is misleading - stay on the cycle and pedestrian track, otherwise you will (a) have to cross the A414 and (b) miss the signpost taking you into the woods towards Hylands Park, which would be a shame as this is one of the nicest sections of a lovely route. The hill back up into Galleywood is surprisingly steep.

Directions

- A.** This section of the Centenary Circle starts in Writtle, at the junction of Bridge Street with St John's Green and Lodge Road.
- B.** Walk up Lodge Road heading south. After about 150 yards you will walk past a high brick wall on your right. Continue along the road for another 200 yards or so, passing the junction with The Priory on your right, to Paradise Road (1).
- C.** Turn left along Paradise Road. Walk along this road for around a third of a mile. As you pass Writtle Lodge on your left you will come to a gate partially blocking the road: go through a gap to the left of the gate and walk along the tarmac cycle and pedestrian path (2).
- D.** About 100 yards after the gate, the Centenary Circle is clearly signposted leaving the tarmac path and going off to the left, behind some bushes (3). Ignore this sign, and continue along the tarmac path which takes you safely through a tunnel under the A414.
- E.** About 40 yards after you emerge from the tunnel, look for a path into the trees on your right (4).
- F.** Once in the woods, follow the path around to the left and walk southwards through the trees.

- G.** After about a third of a mile you will come to a junction of paths. Looking left you can see a car park and toilet block in Hylands Park (5). Turn left towards these.
- H.** Once in Hylands Park, turn right to walk south along the edge of the park, between the play area on your left and the trees of Writtle Belt to the right.
- I.** Continue heading south through the beautiful park grounds, for almost a mile (6).
- J.** At the southern edge of the park the footpath enters some woods, known as Lower Belt (7). Once in the woods, turn left through the trees.
- K.** Follow the meandering woodland path along the southern boundary of the park (8). The path through the trees can be a bit unclear at times, but keep heading downhill with a stream and then the boundary fence on your right.
- L.** After about half a mile you will come to a gate opening onto the A414. Go through the gate and turn left to walk along the verge (9).
- M.** Keep going until you reach the Hylands Park bus stop. Cross the road here: there is a gap in the bushes in the central reservation (10).
- N.** Carry on through this gap and across the other carriageway, then walk straight ahead down a small un-named lane which is unsuitable for wide vehicles.
- O.** This lane descends for about 270 yards before passing under a railway bridge (11).
- P.** Continue along the lane through flat open countryside for a further 200 yards or so, until you cross a footbridge over the River Wid. After this the lane becomes a residential road, with houses on the left. Carry on as the lane starts to climb, then climbs quite steeply.
- Q.** Half a mile after the footbridge, at the junction with Goat Hall Lane, go straight ahead up Bekeswell Lane (12).
- R.** As you approach the top of the hill the road bends slightly to the right, and then you arrive at the eastern edge of Galleywood Common. The Horse and Groom is on your left.
- S.** Go straight on, ignoring the lanes to the right and then the left (13). Follow the road as it bends to the right again, and keep going until you reach the junction with Margaretting Road. You will see a long, low green building opposite.
- T.** Cross Margaretting Road and continue straight ahead along a 'no through road' towards the Galleywood Heritage Centre, with the low building to your left (14).
- U.** At the end of this lane, continue straight ahead along a track through the trees, until you emerge onto another section of Galleywood Common (15).
- V.** Walk south along a track across the grass for 130 yards then turn left across the common to the roadside. You should arrive at the B1007 opposite the Glebe Farm access road, where this section of the Centenary Trail ends and the next section starts.
- W.** For buses back into Chelmsford, turn left along the B1007: the bus stop is 150 yards to the north, by the car park entrance.

[ROUTE DIRECTIONS at www.essexwalks.com](http://www.essexwalks.com)

The ROUTE MAP and ROUTE PHOTOS **also** need to be downloaded and saved on your computer for printing.



The Route Map PDF can be downloaded from this page: [Description & Map](#)



The Route Photos PDF can be downloaded from this page: [Photos](#)

This route description is not meant to be used in isolation, it is one piece of a three part guide to the walk. The other two pieces are the route map, and the numbered photographs. The walks work best when the description, map and the photos PDF are printed off and used in conjunction with each other. The numbers in brackets in the description refer to specific points along the route, marked with numbered symbols and these in turn are matched to illustrative photographs which show you the lie of the land.



These symbols are shown at strategic points along the route, overlaid on a 1:50K Ordnance Survey map: [Online OS Map at www.essexwalks.com](#).