



Octavia Hill centenary trail east

Toys Hill car park on Chart Lane, Brasted, Nr Westerham, Kent TN16 1QG

TRAIL

Walking

GRADE

Easy

DISTANCE

4 miles (6.5km)

TIME

2 hours 30 minutes

OS MAP

Explorer 147;
Landranger 188

Contact

01304 207326

kentcountryside@nationaltrust.org.uk

Facilities

Refreshments and toilets at Emmetts Garden, when open

**National
Trust**

nationaltrust.org.uk/walks

Celebrate the life of Octavia Hill (1838-1912) on a walk to the picturesque village of Ide Hill and her commemorative seat, passing Emmetts Garden on the way back. Founder of the National Trust in 1895, she was a social reformer, philanthropist, artist and writer. A remarkable woman, her vision has led to her being a major influence on our lives today. Why not also download Octavia Hill Centenary Trail West, a 6-mile (9.6km) walk that can be done separately or together with this one to make up a figure-of-eight trail.



Terrain

The terrain varies throughout the route; some areas are quite rough and have steep slopes and some steps, including rough paths through woodland. Some sections are on the road so be aware of traffic. Dogs are welcome on the trail but not in the garden at Emmetts.

Things to see



Octavia Hill well

Octavia Hill lived nearby at Crockham Hill and in 1898 she gave us one of our first properties. All that remains of this house in Toys Hill is the terrace with a sunken well. Since then, through the generosity of many different people, our ownership of Toys Hill has expanded to create an outstanding area of woodland for public access.

Ide Hill

The area of woodland at Ide Hill is one of the spaces saved by Octavia Hill for posterity. Octavia once said 'the poor should never be denied beauty', and certainly her commemorative seat affords a most beautiful view across the Weald. The inscription reads 'To the honoured memory of Octavia Hill who loving nature with a great love secured this view for the enjoyment of those who came after her'.

Emmetts

Emmetts Garden was laid out in the 19th Century as part of an Edwardian estate and the much loved home of Frederic Lubbock. It contains many exotic and rare trees and shrubs from around the world and has stunning displays of spring flowers and autumn colours.



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Start/end

Start: Toys Hill car park on Chart Lane, grid ref: TQ470517
End: Toys Hill car park on Chart Lane, grid ref: TQ470517

How to get there

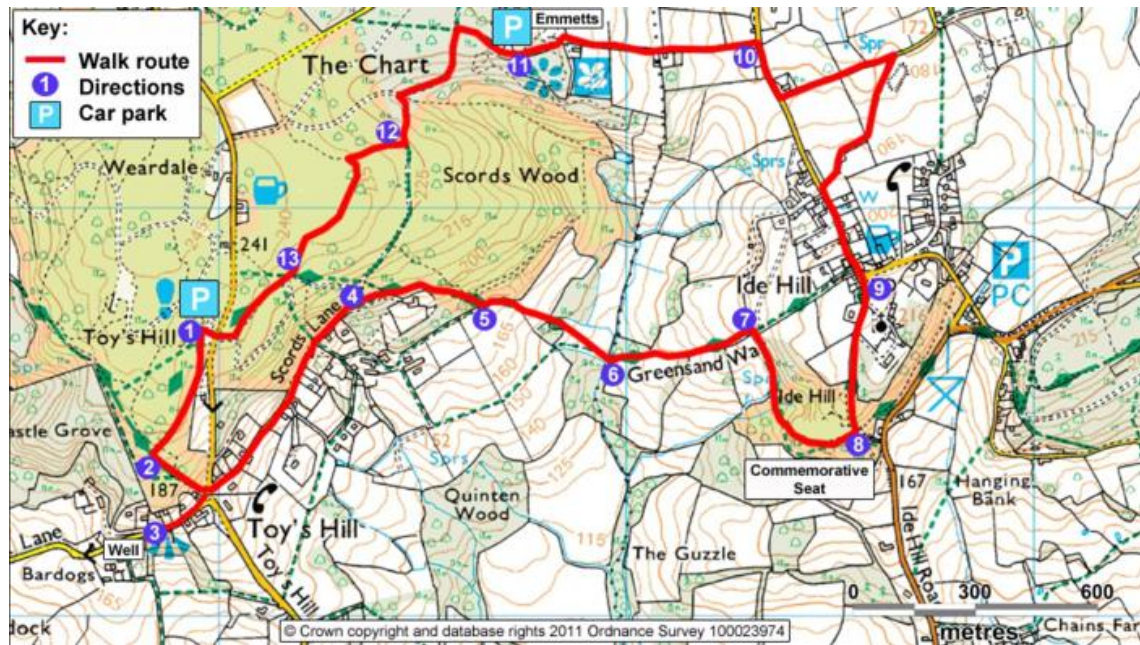
By bus: service 404, Sevenoaks to Ide Hill (very limited service)

By train: Sevenoaks station then 404 bus to Ide Hill

By bike & by car: From A25 in Brasted village take Chart Lane leading to Toys Hill car park (National Trust)

National Trust

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1. In the top left-hand corner of the car park by the information panel, go up the steps in the direction of the arrow on the Octavia Hill Centenary Trail waymarker disc.

2. At a crossing track and waymark post turn left, go downhill through a wooden barrier and fork left to drop down to Puddledock Lane and a grass triangle with a seat. Turn right through the hamlet and soon reach a low stone wall on the left, with steps leading down to a covered well and a viewpoint with extensive views over the Weald of Kent.

3. Retrace your steps and, keeping to the left of the grass triangle, cross to Scords Lane opposite. Passing the beautiful old Toys Hill farmhouse and Old Cottage farm, maintain direction at a signpost. The lane finally ends at a private driveway by a metal National Trust sign for Scords Wood.

4. Bear left onto a footpath and immediately right onto a small footpath with a fence on the right. On reaching a wide track turn right and continue downhill. At a waymark post keep straight ahead on the small path marked Greensand Way to emerge via a squeeze stile into a field. The views here are magnificent.

5. Turn left past a seat to follow the boundary of the wood. Ahead can be seen the spire of St Mary's church at Ide Hill. At the corner of the wood bear slightly right to a gate and maintain direction down to the corner of the next field and a small footbridge over a stream.

6. Continue straight ahead up the next field and under telegraph wires to the start of a dirt track. Follow this track through a metal kissing gate and past a solitary oak tree. Very soon on the right is a metal kissing gate in the hedge. Go through, leaving the Greensand Way.

7. Passing between woods on the left and a field on the right, enter woodland. After an uphill section at a fork bear right and continue uphill. The path levels out at a junction of paths. Keep straight ahead to a stone seat commemorating Octavia Hill.

8. Return to the junction of paths and take the second on the right, just to the right of a waymark post. Soon cross an open space with seats and at the end turn left by another waymark post to follow a field fence. On reaching a drive turn left to come out to Ide Hill village green.

9. At the roundabout bear left onto Sundridge Road and, after the last house on the right, turn right onto a sign-posted footpath. Continue straight ahead to a gap in the hedge and then bear diagonally left across the field to a stile in the hedge by a telegraph pole. Turn left onto a small lane and on reaching a T-junction turn right. Take care on this section.

10. Shortly, on the left next to South Lodge, take the sign-posted footpath onto a private drive. After some distance the drive passes between the north and south gardens of Emmetts Garden to arrive at the tea-room and shop. If you wish to visit the gardens you will need a ticket.

11. To continue, take the footpath next to the tea-room and at a stile go straight ahead to a waymark post. Turn left onto a wide track. In a while, at a crossing track, continue straight over on a sunken path.

12. At the next waymark post turn right uphill, shortly passing through a wooden zigzag barrier. As the path levels out and at a waymark post turn left and follow this wide path for some distance.

13. At a junction of five paths continue straight ahead on the level, ignoring two paths on the left and one leading up on the right. Eventually, the path bears right and comes out to a road. Cross to Toys Hill car park.

14. If you wish to continue walking there is another walk - Octavia Hill trail west - that is 6 miles (allow 3 and a half hours) and includes her burial place at Crockham Hill, passing through the charming hamlets of Froghole and French street, with the option to stop at Chartwell.
