

Glorious Grove Park

This short stroll around Grove Park, in Weston-super-Mare, takes in many interesting features including Jill's Garden, the war memorials and the Garden of Fragrance.

Walk information

Distance: no more than half a mile

Difficulty: easy - some slopes but the park has tarmac paths throughout and is ideal for pushchairs and wheelchairs

Duration: 1.5 hours

Refreshments: park café near Grove House

Opening times: park open from 7am to dusk

Begin the walk at Grove House, near the centre of the park (1)

The first recorded dwelling on this site is a 17th century thatched cottage. The manor of Ashcombe, which included Weston-super-Mare, was purchased by John Pigott of Brockley in 1696. In 1835, John Hugh Smyth Pigott extended the cottage and renamed it Grove House. He also added three gable ends facing west and a gabled entrance to the south. The following years saw Grove House at its finest.

In 1889 the town acquired The Grove. It was converted and opened as a public park in 1891. Grove House was bombed during World War Two and



demolished in 1954. The coach house sustained some damage and was renovated during the construction of the new bungalow. Grove House is now used by Weston-super-Mare Town Council as its headquarters.

Jill's Garden (2)

This was created in 2001 as a lasting tribute to TV presenter Jill Dando. Jill grew up in Weston and after her untimely death in 1999, friends and family enlisted the help of BBC's

Ground Force team to create the gardens. They have become one of the resort's most visited attractions and the stunning all-year-round displays of colour provide a haven of peace and tranquillity at the heart of a busy seaside town.



Bandstand (3)

The bandstand was erected in 1890 and is unique in having 10 sides instead of the traditional eight. For many years it was a focal point in Weston for celebrating national and local events. On summer Sundays, a programme of entertainment takes place here.

How to get there

The park is situated towards the north of Weston-super-Mare. Just follow the signs around the town for Grove Park. There's a small car park at the south end.

Round Pond (4)

The bust of Francis Bacon is the only remaining one of a set of 16 which included Shakespeare, Locke, Voltaire, Newton and Hannah More. In 1864 they were set up in Prince Consort Gardens, Weston's first public park, before being moved to The Grove.



Garden of Fragrance (5)

Fragrant and tactile plants were planted in this garden for its opening in 1958. The decorative iron gate, by James Blunt, leads to an avenue of entwined wisteria. The tactile four seasons sculpture was created by Philippa Threlfall and Kennedy Collins. The garden was restored in 1995, with more improvements in 2007.



War Memorials (6)

The First World War memorial, designed by renowned sculptor Alfred Drury, was installed in 1922 and the column and surrounding terraces are made from Portland stone. The bronze statue of winged Victory stands on a globe. The more austere Second World War memorial is the work of Walter Cave.



Rock Garden (7)

Several years after the park opened this former quarry was landscaped into a series of cascades and pools amid rockeries containing lush and varied vegetation. The pools have become an important habitat within the town, sustaining a healthy newt, frog, toad and fish



population, as well as being a popular feeding spot for dragonflies and grey wagtails.

Pasture (8)

The top field was used as pasture by the lord of the manor. In recent times it has been planted with sycamore, maple, English oak, sessile oak, horse chestnut, lime,

yew, rowan, holm oak and scots pine. An observatory once stood at the top of the grounds and the tower would have commanded fabulous views of the Manor, Weston Bay and Brean Down. The top entrance to the manor grounds once led to a track that formed a pleasant rural walk to Weston Hill.

Walk down the slope and you'll be at the back of Grove House, where you began the walk.

