In Constable’s footsteps City Walk

**Route Variations**

**A** To Windmill Pub: Instead of turning left into Victoria Road continue on down Clifton Place ignoring the first left, turn left at the first crossings with Upper North Street and the Windmill Pub is about 50 yards on your left. Return the same way and rejoin Victoria Road and continue from 3.

**B** To return to Brighton Museum: If you wish to return to Brighton Museum now, turn left to find the bus stop ‘Waitrose’ on your right (opposite Gothic House), board a Brighton & Hove Buses bus nos. 1, 5, 5A, 5B, 25, 46, or 49, get off at ‘North Street’ and make your way left through the Royal Pavilion Garden to Brighton Museum.

**C** To Beacon Mill, Rottingdean: If you wish to visit Beacon Mill, the windmill in the background of Constable’s Chain Pier painting, find a bus stop called ‘Sea Life Centre, stop K’ about 250 yards on your right (north of the Sealife Centre near Charles Street) and board a Brighton & Hove Buses bus nos. 12, 12A, 14, 14C, 27 and request/ alight at the stop called ‘The Windmill’. Just ahead of the stop is a path on the left through a gateway up to Beacon Hub Café Kiosk (open Thursday-Sunday) and the windmill beyond. There is a circuit of about half a mile that can be completed on the grass to the west of the windmill. Return back to the road. It is not safe to cross the busy coast road here so turn left and walk into Rottingdean, cross over at the traffic lights opposite the White Horse pub and turn right to walk up to the bus stop ‘White Horse’. Board a bus back to Brighton and return to point 13. Or to walk back turn left in front of the pub after crossing, then right, down to the beach, and take the Undercliff Walk on your right (about 3½ miles).

**Local Information**

**Distance**
Approximately 4½ miles. Returns to the start point.

**Time**
2½ hours, without stops.
Suggested time to allow is 3 hours.

**Terrain**
Fairly flat especially along the seafront. However, the city expanded on to the surrounding hilly countryside so there are two steep climbs, up to St Nicholas’ Church and up Guildford Road but these are no more than 1½ yards each.

**Suggested refreshment stops**
The Garden Café in St Ann’s Well Gardens. The Meeting Place Café by the Peace Statue on the seafront. Lion & Lobster pub, corner of Bedford Place and Silkwood Street. Plenty of bars and restaurants along the beach and along North Street.

**Public toilets**
Southern part of Royal Pavilion Garden (northern end of Princes Place); St Ann’s Well Gardens; Beacon Hub Café, Rottingdean.

**Bus services**
All buses referred to are operated by Brighton & Hove Buses. Visit www.buses.co.uk for full details on services, timetable and fares or visit 1 Stop Travel, 26 North Street, Brighton BN1 1EB.

**Other places to visit**
West Blatchington Windmill, Holmes Avenue, Hove BN3 7LE. Open May-September on Sundays and Bank Holidays only, 2.30-5pm.

**Useful local information**
Brighton & Hove City Council: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk

Left: Cornfields with windmills near Brighton, c1824 by John Constable. Private collection
Cover: A mill near Brighton, c1829-32, David Lucas after John Constable. Mezzotint engraving
Image courtesy of Peter Booth

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**In Constable’s footsteps City Walk**

You can see sketches and paintings that Constable made of the local area on display in the Constable and Brighton exhibition at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, 8 April – 8 October 2017.

Visit our website for further information www.brightonmuseums.org.uk

Brighton Museum & Art Gallery
Admission fee payable, members free
Royal Pavilion Gardens, Brighton BN1 1EE. Tel 03000 290900
Open Tue – Sun 10am-5pm, Closed Mon (except Bank Holidays 2.30-5pm).

Visit the streets where the windmills he painted once stood, stroll along the seafront that gave him so much inspiration and pass by several of the buildings he would have known.

Perhaps bring a sketchbook along and capture your own views of the scene today. It’s also a great chance to uncover plenty of local Brighton & Hove history.

Much has changed over the last 200 years – so use your imagination to capture the scene!
**In Constable’s footsteps**

**City Walk**

6 In about 100 yards as you pass Windlesham you are crossing over a former town boundary, leaving Brighton to enter Hove. In 230 yards cross over York Avenue and go straight down Furze Hill.

5 On reaching the third crossroads with Montpelier Road/8212 look ahead over to the right to see a large detached building now part of Brighton & Hove High School. Originally called The Temple, this was the isolated home of Sussex MP and builder of Kemp Town Thomas Read Kemps. His sister Mrs Ann Sober owned the house Constable lived in, which we will see later. Continue straight over into Temple Gardens.

4 Turn left and as you walk downhill admire a good view of the i360 ahead. If you are in need of refreshments visit The Windmill Pub, named after Vine’s Mill, see (overleaf). Otherwise, take the first turning on your right, Victoria Road.

3 At the end of West Hill Road turn left, walk along Dyke Road for 300 yards, turn right and walk along Povis Grove. After 140 yards at the first crossroads with Povis Villas is where Vine’s Mill once stood, in the gardens behind the flint wall on the right.

2 After 270 yards at the first crossroads with Upper Gloucester Road go straight ahead along Buckingham Street. At the end of this road, turn left uphill into Guildford Road. (If starting at Brighton Station, exit the main entrance, turn right up Guildford Road and join the walk here). In 60 yards at the T-junction turn right and then immediately turn left into West Hill Road, where Hodson’s Mill used to be.

1 Recommended start
With your back to the entrance of Brighton Museum, turn left towards the William IV Gate. Go right around it and turn left into Church Street. Carry on for 500 yards. Cross over Queens Road and continue on uphill, still on Church Street. St Nicholas’ Church begins to appear on your left. At the top take the last turning on your right, St Nicholas Road, before you exit Church Street.

7 In 175 yards opposite flats called Wick Hall turn right up into a park called St Ann’s Well Gardens – create your own route to explore this area but return to this point to continue.

Be sure to find the St Ann’s Well itself as Constable did many paintings from this viewpoint which included gorse (furze) bushes.

Carry on down Furze Hill. Cross over to Landsdowne Road and then down Brunswick Place – you are aiming straight for the beach now. Cross over busy Western Road, down the side of Brunswick Square, use the traffic lights to cross the coast road and take the path between grassy Hove Lawns to meet the promenade. The pebbly beach is just a stone’s throw ahead.

8 This view of Hove beach especially looking west towards Shoreham was a popular subject of Constable.

Facing the sea, turn left towards a monument known at the Peace Statue 200 yards away, another boundary marker between Hove and Brighton. Stay on the path nearest the beach. Go up the steps by the Bandstand to the higher promenade, cross the road with care, turn left then take the first right into Bedford Square.

At the bottom over to the left was 3 Bedford Square; this was a school which Constable’s children attended and was run by his friend Henry Phillips.

Continue up the square into Bedford Place and right turn along Western Road/82066.

9 After the next crossroads, the Gothic House stands on your right (a better view is from outside Waitrose opposite).

The little cul-de-sac of Western Terrace, a little further along on the same side, hides the Western Pavilion, dating from the early 19th century.

10 Take the next right turn into Silkwood Road.

A short distance on the right is Silkwood Terrace, once Western Lodge where Ann Sober lived. About halfway down on the left at no.11 is Constable’s former Brighton residence with a blue plaque outside.

11 At the bottom turn left and left again into Little Preston Street, now generally believed to be the location of Constable’s ‘Houses at Hampstead’ and the view from the back of his studio. Continue up to meet Western Road again. To return to Brighton Museum now, see (overleaf). Turn right and right again down the restaurant-filled Preston Street. At the coast road use the lights to cross towards the beach.

All the paintings on this map were painted by John Constable during his stays in Brighton - from 1824 to 1828. Places in bold italic eg: Hodson’s Mill indicate a building/site/scene that Constable used as a subject for his artwork.

12 Steps next to the i360 take you down to the lower promenade. Walk along Brighton seafront in the general direction of Brighton Palace Pier, a scene much changed since Constable’s time. If you want more history about the fishing community stop off at the Fishing Museum on the lower promenade.

Where the promenade rises up a slope to the higher level is a spot where Constable often painted the beach and the Chain Pier.

13 Continue on to the modern day Brighton Palace Pier. The two little kiosks that once stood on the Chain Pier are now located either side of the first arcade building. Walk beyond the pier entrance along Madeira Drive.

14 After 250 yards turn left up the steps on the other side of the road to the ‘Max Miller Walk’ at the end of Margaret Street above. It is roughly here that the entrance to the Chain Pier stood. To avoid steps return to the pier and continue from 15. Otherwise proceed along this raised walkway and then double back up a slope to reach Marine Parade/A259. For Beacon Mill set (overleaf). Otherwise, turn left and after 300 yards pass in front of the Seafarers Centre and then the pier.

15 Cross over to the Royal Albion Hotel, turn right back into the Old Steine. Keep left and continue on past the Royal Pavilion until you reach the William IV Gate and Brightons Museum.