

1. From the Town Meadow cross the footbridge towards Waitrose and turn right and a little further on left between two hedges. Cross the busy road at the traffic lights to the left with care to a kissing-gate. Follow a short stretch of made-up path to a second kissing-gate. Turn half left to make for the railway bridge over the river.

*Amongst many other events, a great Fete was held here in 1859 to mark the opening of the Railway and early Baptists had their open air meetings in the fields, using the Stour for baptisms.*

2. Go under the railway bridge, left across a narrow footbridge over the river Stour and then bear right into Millenium Wood.

*This was planted in 1999 as part of the Three Rivers Project with the help of GANG (Gillingham Action for Nature Group) and the North Dorset Rangers.*

Follow the path to a ditch and hedge ahead. Turn right after the ditch. The path now follows the course of the river in a wide arc right the way round to a gap in the hedge. Go through the gap to an 'Irish Ford' (large diameter pipes covered with turves designed to lessen the danger of flooding). Turn right over the ford and follow the path which eventually becomes a passageway alongside Madjeston Farm house.

*Madjeston is from the old English 'farm belonging to a man called Maiger'.*

3. At the end of the passage turn right along the road. After about 250 yards turn left up a track. Follow the track right up to the metalled Folly Lane, around many right-angled bends: "the Crooked Mile"
4. Turn right along Folly Lane and again right into Bleet Lane. At the T junction at the bottom of Bleet Lane turn left.

*The old Eccliffe Mill is straight ahead. This is now a private house, but externally looks much the same as it did when John Constable sketched it during one of his visits to Gillingham in the 1820's.*

5. Cross the mill waters and where the road bends left go through the gate straight ahead and follow the path under the railway. Cross several stiles and come out onto the road opposite entrance to Thorngrove, the EmployMyAbility Garden centre.
6. Turn right and use the path behind the hedge then turn right again into a lane.
7. This lane leads to the electricity substation and the sewage works. Before reaching these turn left through a kissing gate, then bear right to another gate in the hedge. From here follow the path along two sides of the sewage works and go through the kissing gate at the end.
8. Go straight ahead across two fields and then through two more kissing gates back to the main road. Retrace your steps to the Town Meadow.

