

# A garden undressed

Distance: 2.7km

Blow away the cobwebs on a crisp winter walk as you take a moment to pause and reconnect with nature. Look out for different sights and sounds as you explore the garden undressed for winter.



1. Touch the bark of the London plane trees along **Pegg's Terrace** with its multi-coloured camouflage-style pattern and large scaly plates which peel away.
2. As you walk around the **Eleven Acre Lake** listen out for the laughing sounds of green woodpeckers as they fly over meadows in their dip-dip shaped flight.
3. Look out for the towering tulip tree, one of our Senior Gardener Anna's top picks. Come back in the spring to see the tulip like flowers which give the tree its name.
4. Pause for a moment on one of the benches on the edge of **Eleven Acre Lake** to quietly absorb the world around you.
5. **Gurnet's Walk** is lined by an avenue of sweet chestnut trees – look at the trees on the left with their mature, twisted bark and compare it to the bark of the trees on the right which are considerably younger.
6. As you reach the **Rotunda** with a golden statue of Venus at its centre, see how it perfectly lines up with the **Temple of Venus** across the lake. The area around the Rotunda is known as **Home Park** and in the future this will be restored to grazed ornamental meadows.
7. From the South Front of **Stowe House** you can take in far-reaching views across the **Octagon Lake** and out to the parkland beyond. The Ha-ha around the edge of the garden creates an unseen boundary. This allowed the owners of the house to 'steal' the views of an idyllic rural scene without the livestock getting into the garden.
8. Pause in the **Elysian Fields** to take in the reflections of the **Temple of British Worthies** across the calm waters of the **River Styx**.
9. Standing by the **Cascade and Artificial Ruins**, experience the feeling of tranquil infinity as water trickles down the Cascade. Look back to the framed view of the **Palladian Bridge**. This is a particularly magical spot as the sun begins to set over the **Eleven Acre Lake**.

