

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION London Loop Walk 2; Old Bexley to Jubilee Park 5 July 2008

This walk has been organised by David Pick

The London Loop, pioneered by the London Walking Forum, is London's first official orbital footpath, a fascinating journey around the edge of greater London, down hidden alleyways, through residential areas, along rivers and canals, across public parks, nature reserves, woods, occasional enclaves of farmland and surprisingly few roads, with many unexpected gems along the way. It is easily reachable by public transport and lies near the outer edge of zone 6. Some parts of the route on the north of the Thames still remain to be way marked but it is walkable throughout using the guide, "The London Loop" written by David Sharp, list price £12.99. This guide contains maps, directions, detailed descriptions of the local scenery and facilities on the route. I bought my copy from Amazon.co.uk at £8.44.

The whole route is about 150 miles long and Sharp's book divides it into 15 sections, starting and stopping at convenient transit points. Each section has "escape points" to a nearby bus stop or train station allowing the walk to be further sub-divided.

This section is 12.3 km of mostly level terrain with some gentle slopes. There are long flights of steps on three footbridges across railway lines near Petts Wood and there are no stiles. Escape points are at Fooks Cray (4 km) and Queen Mary's Hospital (5.5 km). Our trial leisurely stroll, including lunch, monument viewing and tea stop took about 5 hours.

This section starts by Bexley Station and follows the Cray, by Five Arch Bridge through Fooks Cray Meadows, past Cray Wanderers Football Ground!, Sidcup Place Park, Scadbury Park (nature reserve) and Petts Wood. In contrast to part 1, there are no industrial sites, breakers' yards or rubbish tips or even low quality housing, just a pleasant, quiet mixture of meadows and woodlands. On route we pass partially-rebuilt ruins of a 13th century moated house and granite pillars commemorating William Willett (advocate of Summer Time) and Francis Joseph Frederick Edlmann who "saved" the woods from developers in 1927.

Suggest we meet at Bexley Station and aim to set off at 11.00. Down the station approach, right then right again at the loop disc into Tanyard Lane and we are off. The route is then well way marked using the by now familiar direction discs. A suitable train from London Bridge (platform 4) is the 10.22, which arrives at 10.50. There is a pub / restaurant at Sidcup Place for Lunch (the only one on route) and a pub and cafes close to Petts Wood Station for post walk refreshments. London bound trains leave from platform 3.

Latecomers can contact me on my mobile number 0037253135263 to find out where we are.

You can download details of the route and a picturesque map from

<http://www.walklondon.org.uk/section.asp?section=2> and

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/gettingaround/walkfinder/walkdetails.asp?id=75>

The cost of this event is £2.00.