



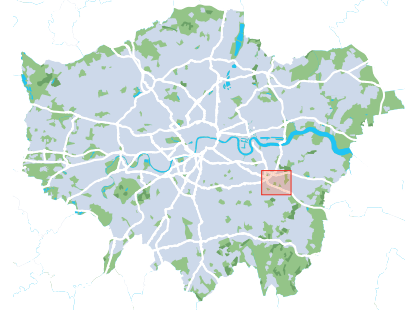
Capital Ring

Section 2 of 15

Falconwood Footbridge to Marvels Lane (Grove Park)



- Section start:** Falconwood Footbridge
- Nearest station to start:** Falconwood
- Section finish:** Marvels Lane (Grove Park)
- Nearest station to finish:** Grove Park
- Section distance:** 4 miles (6.6 kilometres)

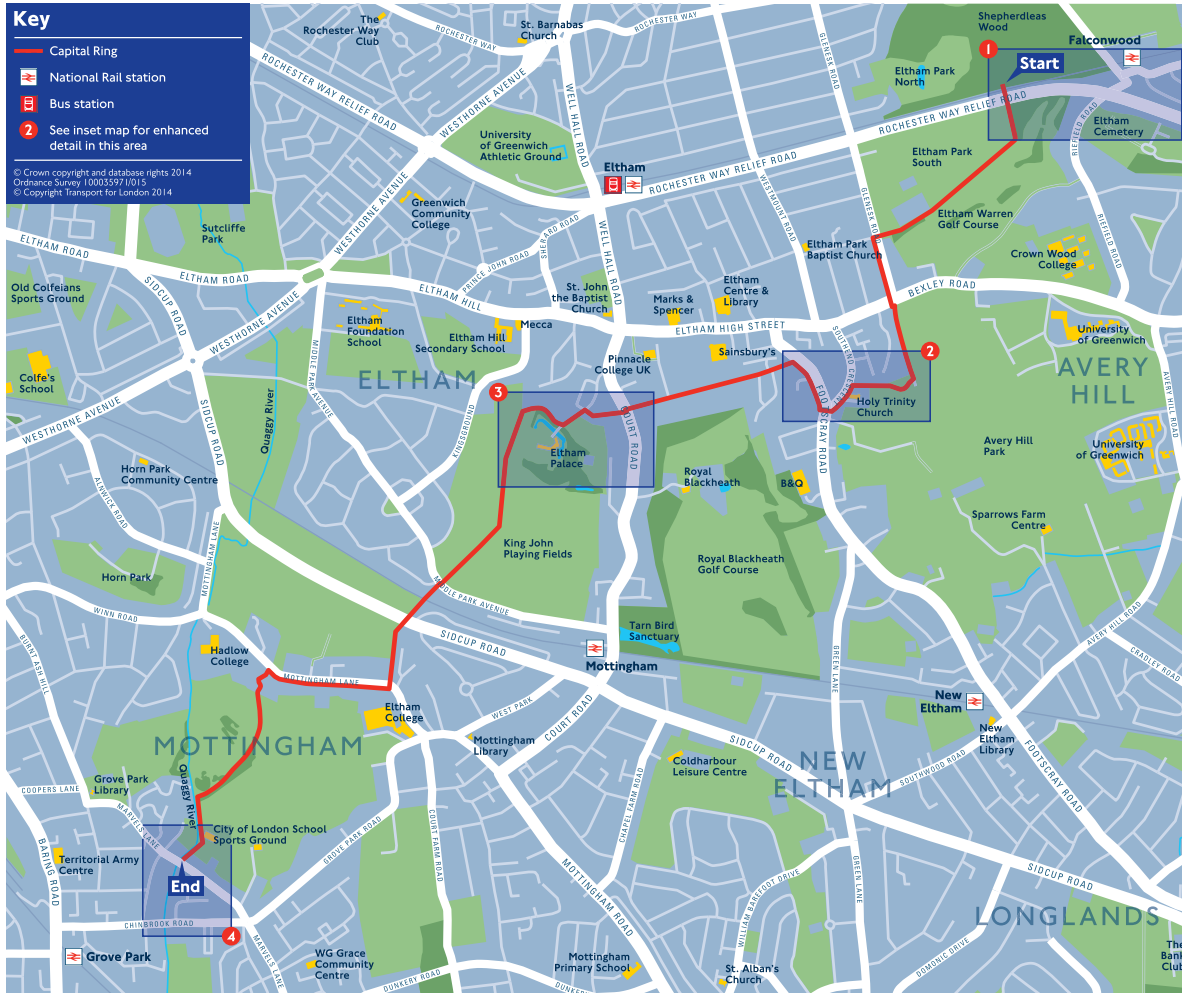


Introduction

The whole of this four mile walk is shared with the Green Chain Walk, although it is waymarked with distinctive Big Ben Capital Ring signs.

The route passes Eltham Palace (the highlight of this walk), which is open to the public. Other interesting locations include Eltham Park South, the house where the celebrated cricketer W G Grace lived, as well as Eltham College.


The terrain is generally flat with some short gentle climbs; surfaces are generally firm. There are pubs at Falconwood and pubs and cafes at Eltham and Grove Park. Public toilets can be found at Grove Park.



In contrast to the woodland routes on other sections, section two of the Capital Ring passes through open areas with parks and playing fields linked by pleasant residential areas.

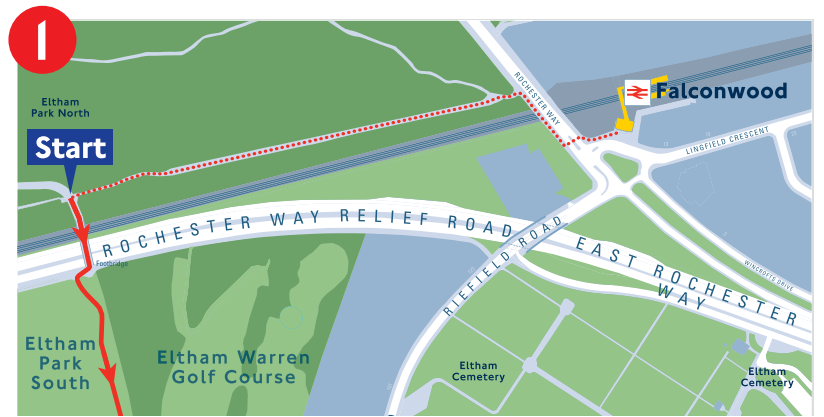
There are railway stations and bus stops along the way.

Directions

 **1** From Falconwood station follow the link across Rochester Way. Turn right over the railway line and almost immediately left into the woodland of Eltham Park North.


Follow the path alongside the railway line - section two starts at the concrete footbridge over the railway and the very busy A2 Rochester Way Relief Road. Cross over the bridge to enter Eltham Park South.

Take the left tarmac path which heads along an avenue of horse chestnut trees to Glenesk Road. Cross the road and turn left. At the end cross over Bexley Road and then go straight ahead along Butterfly Lane. At a hollow oak tree, bear right along an earth path to a grassed triangle. Turn right again into Conduit Meadow.



Did you know?

The red brick vaulted structure is known as Conduit Head, built in the 16th century to provide water for Eltham Palace.


 **2** Continue on the path between two fences to pass (on your left) Holy Trinity Chapel.

Turn left at Southend Crescent and go past the church and the mini roundabout and continue on a little way to cross the road. Turn right and walk up Footscray Road past St. Thomas More Catholic School. After 200 metres turn left along North Park.



Did you know?

Eltham was the birthplace of the great comedian Bob Hope, who died in 2003 just after celebrating his 100th birthday.

 **3** At the end of North Park, cross over Court Road and keep ahead to Tilt Yard Approach. Bearing left at the end into Court Yard that leads to Eltham Palace.



Did you know?

Built in the 14th century Eltham Palace was a favourite country residence of the Kings and Queens of England, who used it for 250 years. It later fell out of favour and was ransacked by Cromwell's forces during the 17th century Civil War. In the 1930s the textile magnates, the Courtauld family, bought the estate and built a new Art Deco mansion. During and after the Second World War the estate was used as a military college and in 1995 was opened to visitors by English Heritage.

On leaving the Palace go back along Court Yard and quickly turn left into King John's Walk, taking the left fork of the path heading past some riding stables towards Middle Park Avenue. (There is a link to Mottingham Rail station along Middle Park Avenue if you turn left when reaching the road).

To carry on, cross over the railway line by the footbridge and then over the dual carriage way of Sidcup Road. Keep ahead, still on King John's Walk, to Mottingham Lane. Cross over and turn right to pass Mottingham Farm Riding Centre on the right and Eltham College Junior School on the left.

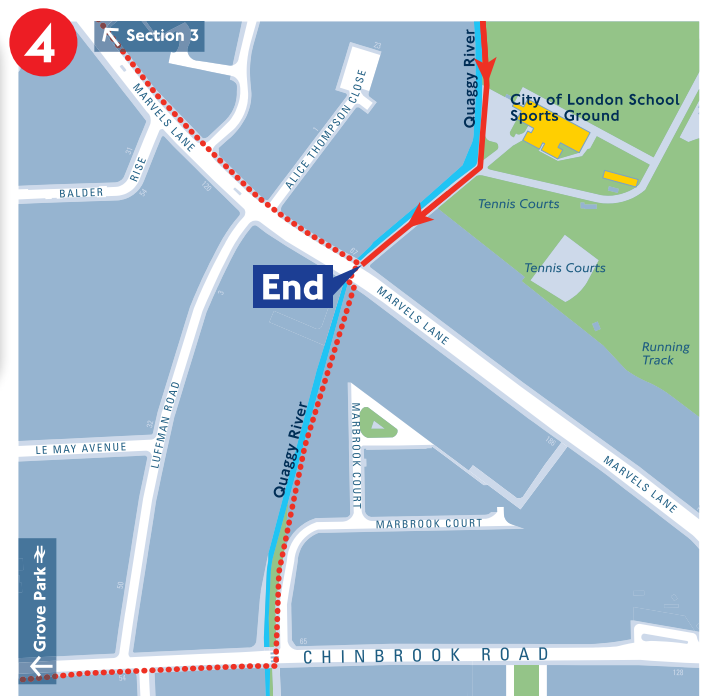
Just past the junior school, the route takes a sharp left along a narrow footpath (straight ahead is Fairmount, the home for about 30 years of one of England's most celebrated cricketers, William Gilbert Grace, who died in 1915). On the left of the path are the playing fields of Eltham College.

Did you know?

Eltham College was founded in Walthamstow in 1842 as the School for Sons of Missionaries and moved to its present site in 1912. Former pupils include Eric Liddell, athlete and missionary of Chariots of Fire Fame, Mervyn Peake, author of the Gormanghast Trilogy and Fenner Brockway, politician and campaigner.

Bear right between more paddocks and playing fields. As the path reaches a railing it bears left, now accompanied (in a concrete channel below) by the Quaggy River. Follow the signs along the river to Marvels Lane where Section two ends.

 **4** To continue on to Section three, turn right along Marvels Lane.



To reach Grove Park station, follow the Capital Ring link on a footpath beside the Quaggy River. Turn right on Chinbrook Road and at the end of the road cross over and turn left for the station.