



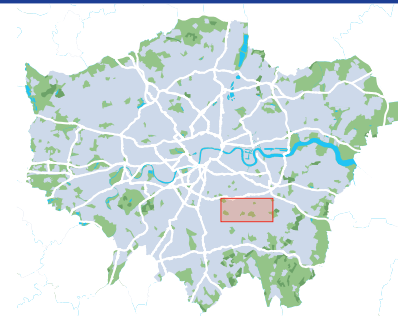
Capital Ring

Section 3 of 15

Marvels Lane (Grove Park) to Crystal Palace



Section start:	Marvels Lane (Grove Park)
Nearest station to start:	Grove Park
Section finish:	Crystal Palace
Nearest station to finish:	Crystal Palace
Section distance:	8.5 miles (13.6 kilometres)

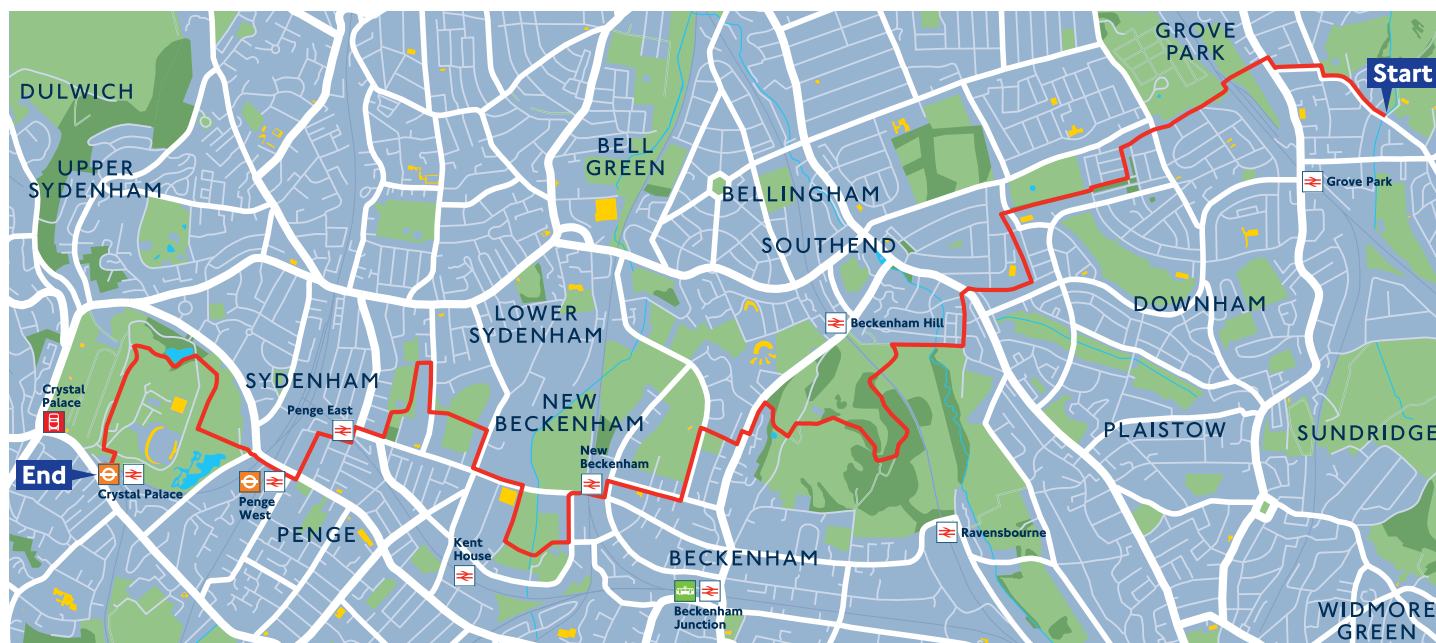


Introduction

Much of this longer section is shared with the Green Chain Walk. It is generally fairly easy walking but there are a variety of surfaces - road, tarmac paths, rough paths and tracks, and some of them may be muddy in wet weather. The terrain is generally level with some long and quite steep slopes and steps at the railway bridges, but there are alternative routes.

There are pubs and cafes at Grove Park, Beckenham Place Park, Penge and Crystal Palace Park. Public toilets are at Grove Park, Beckenham Place Park and Crystal Palace Park.

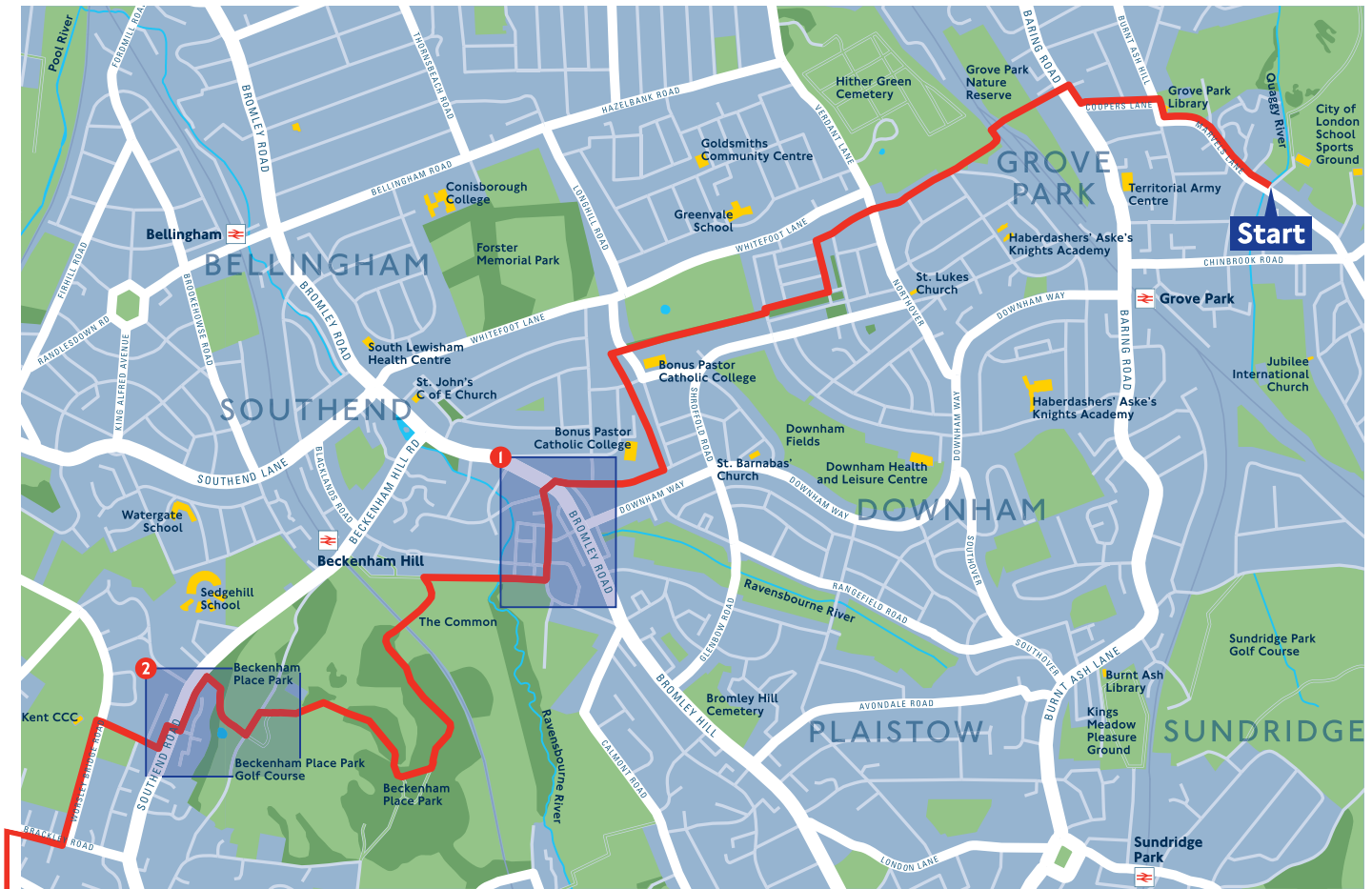
Follow the route with the distinctive Big Ben Capital Ring signs and look out for Crystal Palace Park on the signs. There are railway stations and bus stops along the route.



Directions

If starting from Grove Park station, turn right from the station, then first right into Chinbrook Road. After Amblecote Road (on your right) cross over the road at the pedestrian crossing and take the right-hand path ahead alongside the Quaggy River. Where this comes out at the next road, cross over and turn left to start this section.

If continuing from section two, at the end of Marvels Lane turn right into Somertrees Avenue and then almost immediately left up Coopers Lane. At Baring Road, turn right then immediately turn left into the Railway Children Walk footpath.



Continues ▶

Key


- Capital Ring
- - - - Capital Ring alternative route
- London Overground station
- National Rail station
- Tramlink stop
- Bus station
- 2 See inset map for enhanced detail in this area

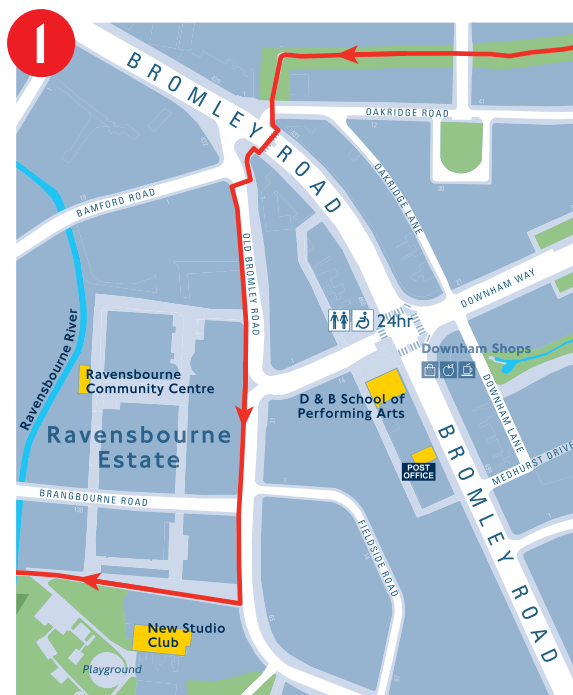
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Cross over the 24 steps of the railway footbridge. Follow the signs, past a children's playground and Downham Fire Station (on Reigate Road) and once over Northover Road, take the next left into Woodbank Road, then right into Undershaw Road, keeping to the right.

Cross over Moorside Road and go straight ahead to join the Downham Woodland Walk. This runs for over a mile (1.6 kilometres) and covers one of the remaining parts of the Great North Wood.

 **1** The Woodland Walk crosses four roads. At the first, Downderry Road, keep ahead along a lane serving cottages on the left to re-enter the wood then turn sharp left, crossing the Greenwich Meridian Line. Passing between garden fences, cross Oakshade Road, Haddington Road and Oakridge Road to reach the shops at Downham and Bromley Road. Cross Bromley Road, then turn half left along Old Bromley Road, crossing to the right-hand pavement.



Pass Downham Way and Brangbourne Road, then in 60 metres turn right into Beckenham Place Park. Follow the tarmac footpath along the right-hand edge, crossing a humped footbridge over the River Ravensbourne and shortly afterwards the route turns left and over the railway line.


 **2** Follow the signs towards the house up some steep steps - there is an alternative step-free route signposted - and past a golf green. There are toilets and a cafe at the mansion, which is also the golf club house.

Leave Beckenham Place Park following the path after passing through the car park and turn left along Southend Road. Cross the road and turn right down Stumps Hill Lane. Keep ahead as Stumps Hill Lane becomes unmade and turn left along Worsley Bridge Road at the bottom. At the T junction cross over and turn right along Brackley Road.



The route becomes more urban with residential streets and goes past St. Paul's Church. At the end of Brackley Road cross Copers Cope Road, turn left and then shortly right along Park Road to follow the ramp down under New Beckenham Rail station.

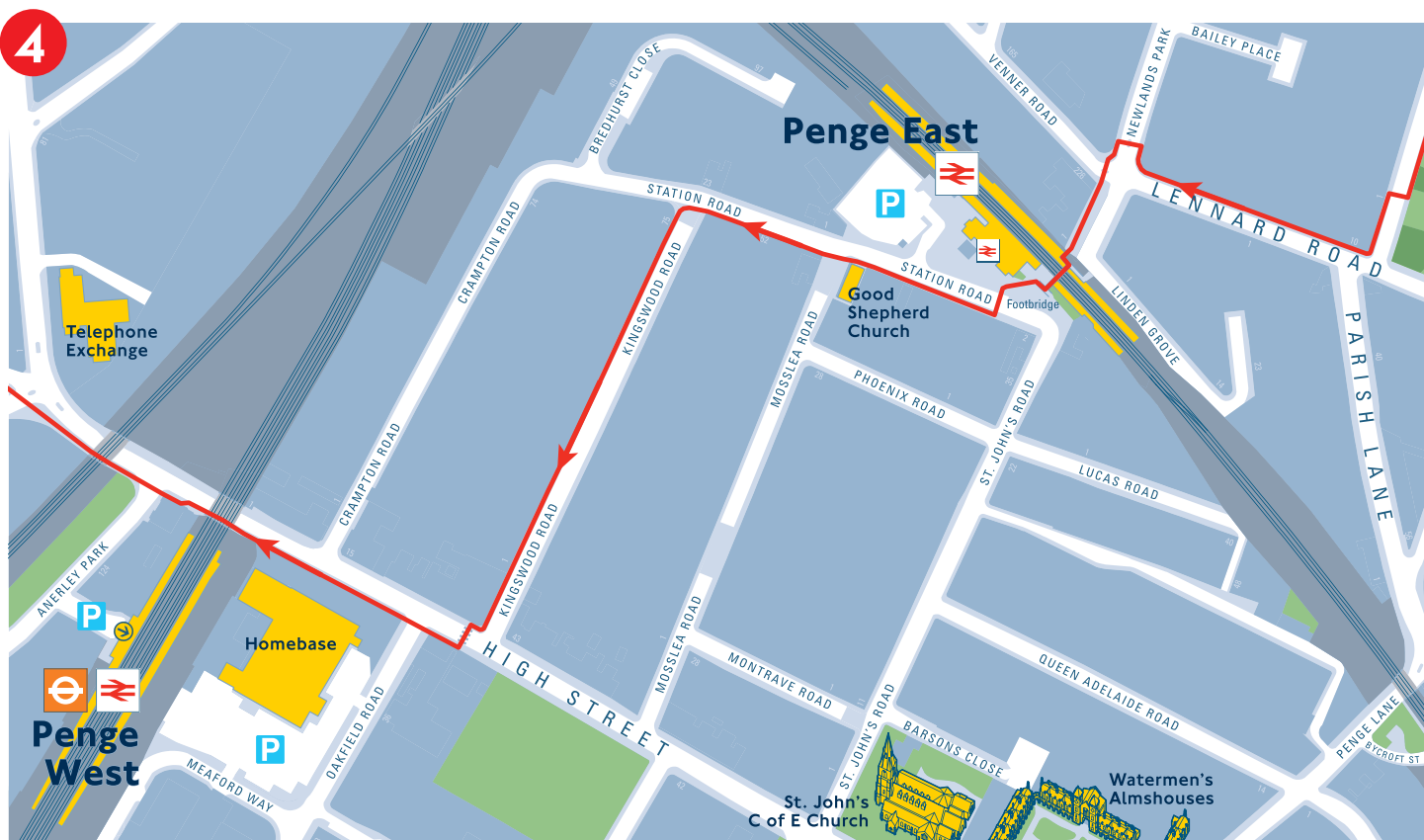
Go straight ahead with the HSBC sports centre on your right. Turn left into Kings Hall Road and then right down an alley (opposite Bridge Road) which takes you into Cator Park. There's a shared walking / cycle path in the park, so keep to the left.


 **3** At Cator Park Montessori School, there is a route to Kent House Rail station ahead. Otherwise take the path to the right alongside Aldersmead Road. At the park exit turn left and follow Lennard Road up to the crossroads.



Turn right into Kent House Road and look out for left turn signs into another alleyway - this is a straight, fenced path that crosses playing fields. At the end turn right onto Cator Road. A little way up the road the route turns left between houses to another park, Alexandra Recreation Ground - named after Queen Alexandra, wife of King Edward VII.

Follow the recreation ground path around to the bottom, turning left into Maitland Road with a wide green between terraces of attractive houses with carved details.




 **4** Turn right, back onto Lennard Road and then left towards Penge East Overground and Rail station. Cross the footbridge near Penge East station. Turn right along Station Road and then left along Kingswood Road. At the end cross High Street at the pedestrian crossing. Turn right after the crossing and head along High Street.

Did you know?

Straight ahead are two railway bridges: the first, built in 1839, carries the main line from London Bridge to the Sussex coast. The second bridge was built in 1854 for the branch line to Crystal Palace.

 **5** Cross Thicket Road and enter Crystal Palace Park. Once inside Crystal Palace Park the route goes up the central avenue of plane trees, known as Main Avenue. On the left is a cafe and on the right are toilets.

There are several routes throughout the park with an interesting but winding path around the north side.

 At the top of the avenue is the huge bust of the remarkable Joseph Paxton, the designer of the 1851 Crystal Palace.

Did you know?


The Crystal Palace started life as the home of the Great Exhibition in 1851. The building was only supposed to last for the life of the Great Exhibition but instead of demolition in 1854 it was moved to Penge Park, as it was then called, and re-erected there on a larger scale. It was a great public success but never made money and went bankrupt in 1911. The building was destroyed in 1936 by a fire which, because of its elevated position, could be seen from many parts of London.



The main Capital Ring route passes through Dinosaur Park, with an alternative route signed when the gates are closed.

Did you know?

The park and surrounds is dominated by the 900 foot Crystal Palace Transmitter which still sends out radio signals.

 The park includes a famous collection of 1850s animal sculptures and their surrounding landscape, known as the Dinosaur Park. This is to be found on the south side of the park, between Main Avenue and the famous athletics stadium.

After your walk around the park follow the signs to Crystal Palace Overground and Rail station and the end of Section three.

Section four to Streatham starts from the station.

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