



GREEN CHAIN

Section 8 of 15 Mottingham Lane to Stumps Hill



Section start:	Mottingham Lane
Travel to start:	Mottingham (Rail) – see page 11
Section finish:	Stumps Hill, just outside Beckenham Place Park
Travel from finish:	Beckenham Hill (Rail) or Beckenham Junction (Rail and Tram) – see page 11
Section distance:	4.8 miles

Introduction

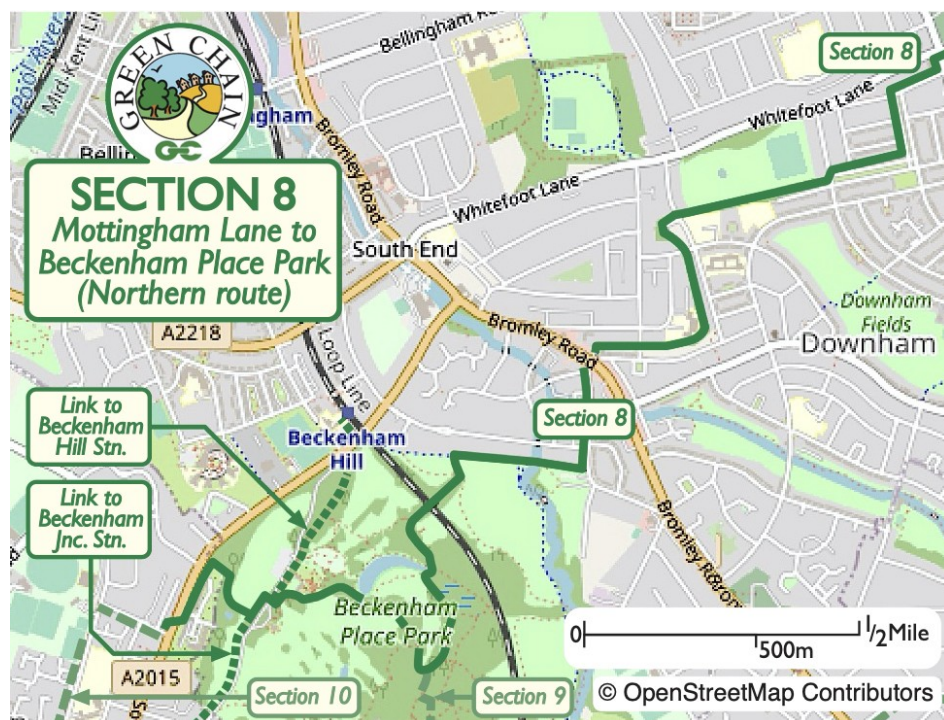
Section 8 is one of the two sections that lead to Beckenham Place Park from Mottingham Lane, the other being section 9. Section 8 is the northerly of the two and the route is shared throughout with the Capital Ring. The section extends west from the park to Stumps Hill to connect with section 10.

Most of the section is surfaced. Muddy conditions are rare except in the woods of Beckenham Place Park. There are no significant gradients outside Beckenham Place Park but there is a stepped footbridge. Note that on our maps the chevrons (black arrow heads) show where the route is steep. The chevrons point uphill.

There are shops and a café next to Mottingham station. Along the way there are shops at Marvels Lane (after 0.85 miles) and Downham (after 1.9 and 3 miles). There are two cafés in Beckenham Place Park. There are toilets within Mottingham station. Grove Park Library also has a toilet but has limited opening hours. There are two toilets in Beckenham Place Park.

Updates: before setting off on this walk, please check with the *Green Chain Walk* news page on the [Inner London Ramblers web site](https://innerlondonramblers.org.uk/green-chain-walk) to make sure that there are no obstacles that might affect your ability to complete the section as described. If you come across a problem on the walk, [please let us know by email](mailto:info@innerlondonramblers.org.uk)

Overview maps of section 8



Green Chain connections

The 52 mile *Green Chain Walk* is a branching network of 15 sections which offers many opportunities for circular and linear walks. You can download an [introduction to the whole network](#) from the Inner London Ramblers web site complete with a map showing how the sections are interconnected.

Section 8 east of Marvels Lane can be part of a 3.4 mile circular walk when combined with the northern part of section 9 and section 8a. A 7.1 mile option is to combine most of section 8 west of Marvels Lane with section 8a and the western part of section 9. Both circuits can start and finish at Grove Park station. The longer circuit passes Ravensbourne station.

Section 8 can also be part of a 19.7 mile linear walk from the River Thames to Crystal Palace Park made up of sections 2, 3, 6, 8 and 10.

Points of interest in the walk guidance

Railway Children Walk (page 5)

The path called Railway Children Walk is named after the *The Railway Children*, written by E. Nesbit (Mrs Edith Bland). A successful film version of the novel was made in 1970. One of the film's stars has helped to publicise the *Green Chain Walk*.

[Downham](#) (page 6)

The former London County Council created Downham by building 7,000 homes on 600 acres of land here between 1924 and 1930. The houses are built of brick and each has a garden. The area is served by the tramway system.

[Beckenham Place Park](#) (page 7)

Beckenham Place Park was originally the grounds of Beckenham Place – the home of the wealthy 18th century timber merchant, Sir John Cator. He was an MP for three constituencies and High Sheriff of Kent. He and his successors were property developers who created many of the most affluent South East London suburbs.

[Beckenham Place](#) (page 10)

Beckenham Place was built in 1760-62 by Sir John Cator who also owned the Wricklemarsh estate at Blackheath. In 1806 his successors demolished Wricklemarsh house and added its huge portico to Beckenham Place. The portico is out of proportion to the rest of the house. The building is a Grade II* listed building now contains artists' studios and is open to the public.

Walking directions

Section 8 begins at a large *Green Chain Walk* sign in Mottingham Lane (grid reference TQ 41828 73108). Be sure to begin on the same side of the road as the sign because the pavement is not continuous on the other side.

Walk west, slightly uphill, passing the attractive houses in the road and note Mottingham Farm Riding Centre to the right which boasts old buildings from its agricultural days.

When Eltham College's Junior School appears to the left look out for *Green Chain Walk* signs indicating a left turn into a narrow, fenced path. This path has no junctions and continues for almost half a mile between the playing fields of Eltham College to the left and rough, wooded horse pasture to the right. It ends with a 90 degree turn to the left where it meets the River Quaggy.

Keep ahead with the Quaggy immediately to the right until the path becomes a driveway and meets Marvels Lane and a very large *Green Chain* signpost (grid reference TQ 41069). This is the junction with section 8a. It is also the junction for the Capital Ring's step free route via Grove Park Station to avoid the stepped footbridge ahead on the main route.



Step free alternative route

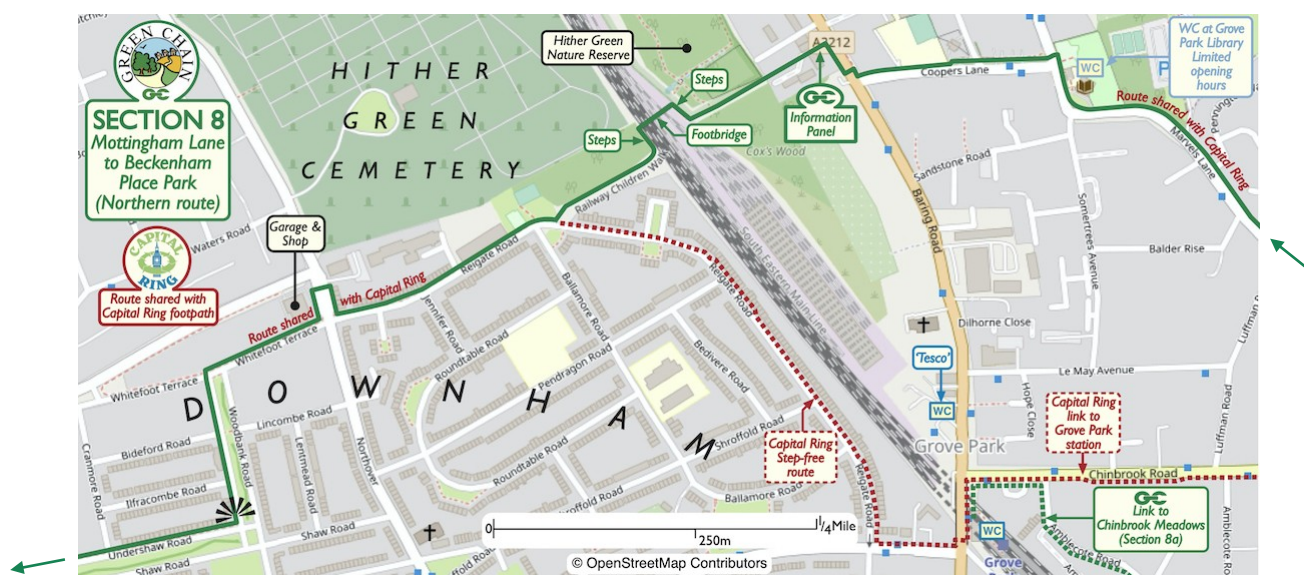
Cross Marvels Lane and walk beside the Quaggy to turn right into Chinbrook Road at the next bridge. Turn left at the end of Chinbrook Road to pass Grove Park station and cross the main road outside the station to enter Downham Way. Take the first right, Reigate Road, and continue to the children's playground at the end to rejoin the *Green Chain*.

To stay on the main route, turn right along Marvels Lane and continue to find the small Grove Park Library on the right which is run entirely by local volunteers and is thriving.

At the library follow the road around to the right and take the first left into Coopers Lane. Walk to the end of Coopers Lane and turn right into the busy Baring Road. Cross Baring Road at the first pedestrian refuge and continue to the right.

Very shortly there is a block of flats to the left called Stratfield House. Immediately after the flats is a footpath turning to the left, **Railway Children Walk**. There is a *Green Chain* information panel just inside the turning.

Turn left into the gently descending Railway Children Walk. At the bottom, to the right, is the highly regarded Hither Green Nature Reserve which is worth visiting. Cross the lengthy stepped footbridge which has good views over London to the right. At the bottom of the steps down from the footbridge, turn right to continue along Railway Children Walk.

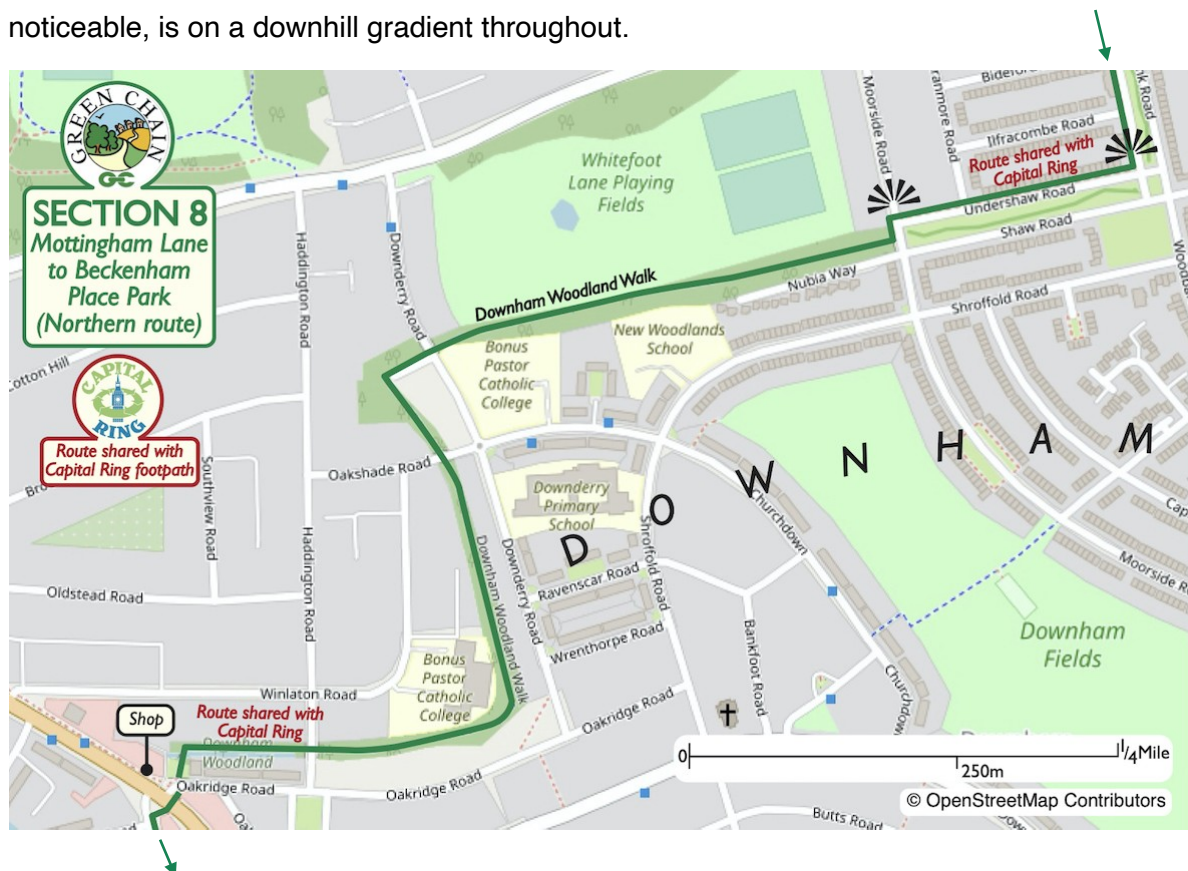


The raised bank to the right is the edge of the vast Hither Green Cemetery. As the bank lowers, the path passes through a gate where there is a playground to the right and enters **Downham**.

You are now in Reigate Road, turn right, and continue to meet the busy Northover Road. The route is straight ahead along Whitefoot Terrace, to the left of the filling station opposite but it is wise to turn right and use the pedestrian crossing.

Keeping the filling station to the right continue along Whitefoot Terrace to the first turning on the left, Woodbank Road. Turn left and continue up the gently rising road while keeping to the right of its grassed central strip. Take the third turning to the right, Undershaw Road and pause to turn around and admire a fine view towards the Canary Wharf development.

After turning into Undershaw Road, continue to its end where there are trees behind a fence. Go through the gate in the fence, which is locked at dusk, to enter the Downham Woodland Walk. This is a very old route that keeps to the pre-development field boundaries. It is pleasantly well wooded. When there are leaves on the trees it is often difficult to realise that you are in an urban environment. The walk is three quarters of a mile long and, although barely noticeable, is on a downhill gradient throughout.



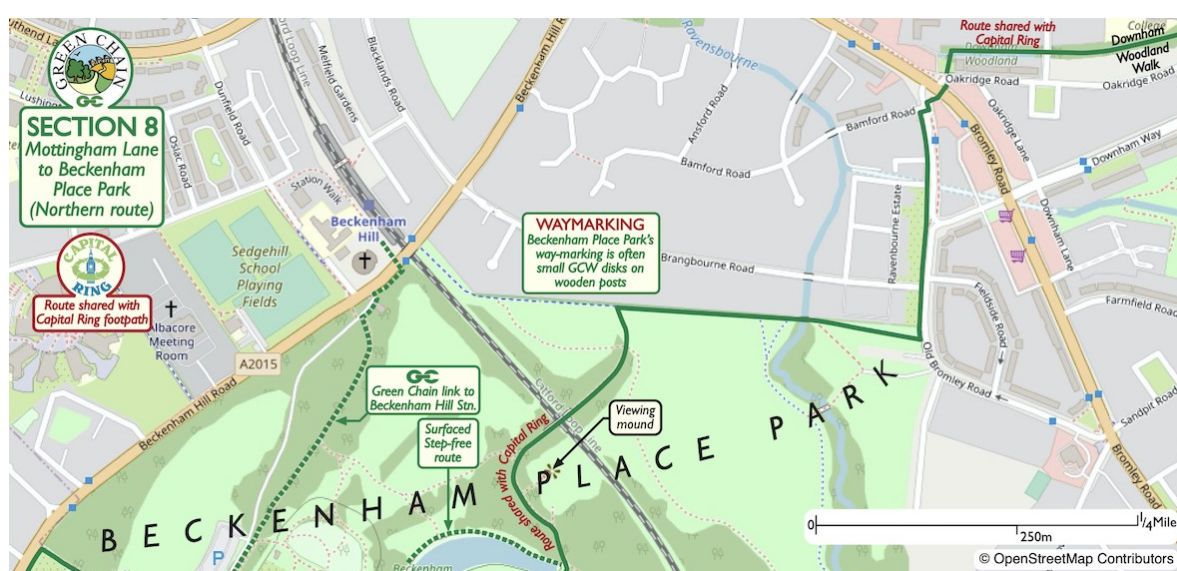
The first road crossing is with Downderry Road. Go straight across to continue along the Woodland Walk. Shortly turn sharp left to continue ahead and cross Oakshade Road. After a further 260 yards the path turns sharp right. Follow the path round to the right ignoring a more worn path that goes straight ahead.

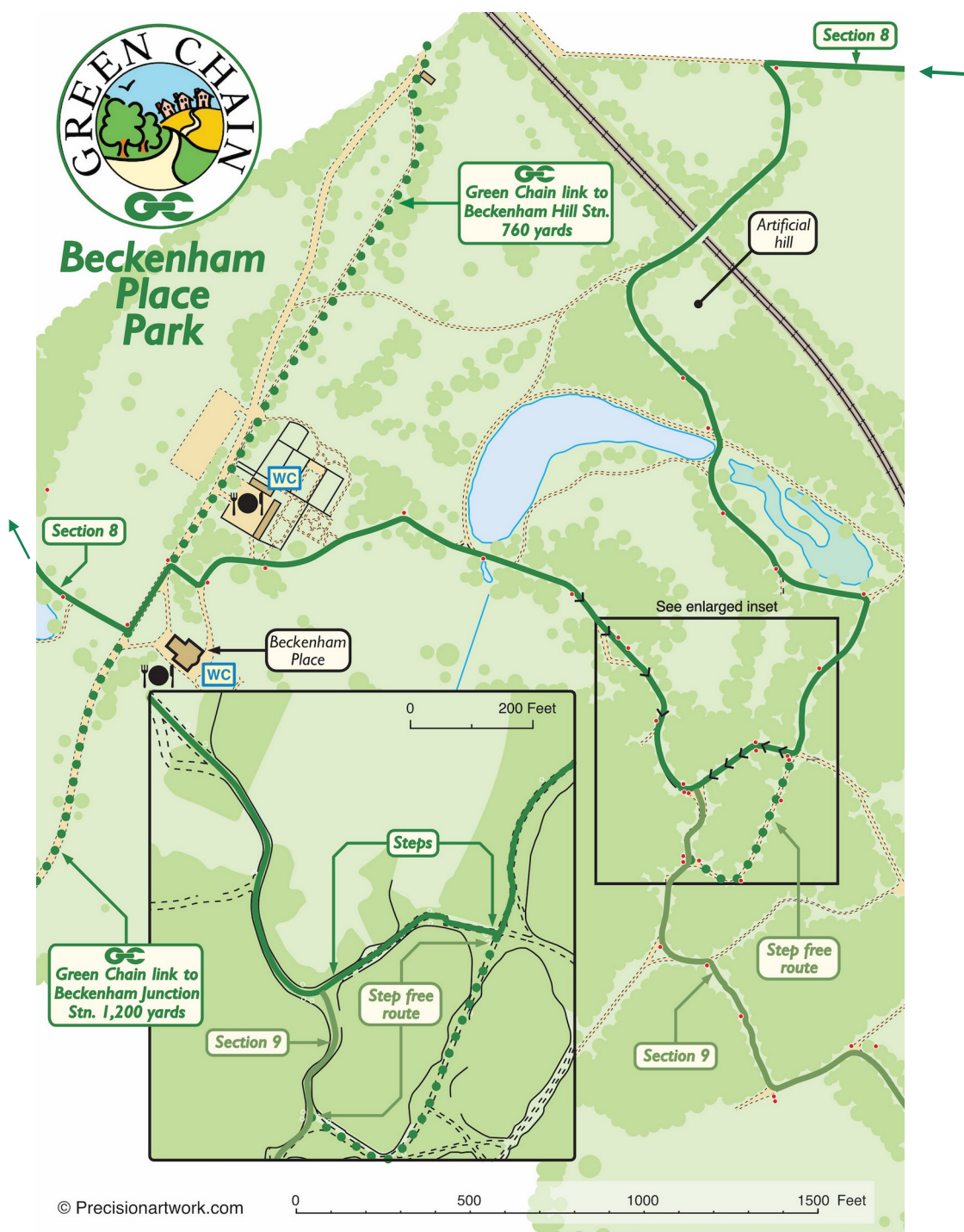
Continue through the trees to cross straight over Haddington Road. Eventually take a sharp left turn to the end of the Woodland Walk. There is a small area of grassland here. To the right, just before the gate, is one of the very few surviving wooden waymarkers from the creation of the *Green Chain Walk* in 1977. Through the gate is a pedestrian crossing, cross here, to go through, or around, the car-wash site opposite.

Once past the car-wash site, to turn left into Old Bromley Road and follow that road south. Keep ahead on the right hand side of the road for 350 yards to reach the fence of **Beckenham Place Park**.

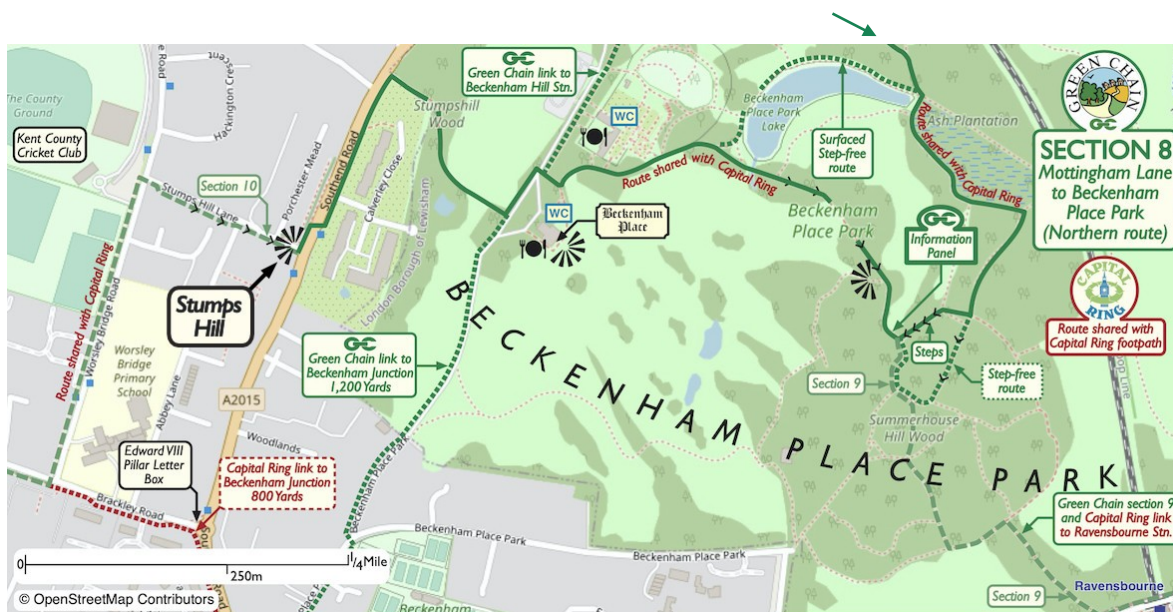
Turn right through the gate and continue straight ahead on the surfaced path, crossing the River Ravensbourne, and keeping the housing to the right for a quarter of a mile.

Note that in 2018/19 the waymarking in Beckenham Place Park was largely changed to a style that is not used elsewhere on the *Green Chain Walk*. It consists of stout wooden posts with small *Green Chain* and Capital Ring directional disks affixed just above knee level. A few of these recent waymarks are inaccurate so follow our guidance carefully with the help of the large scale map of the park on page 8.





About a quarter mile after entering the park, look out for a short post to the left that directs sharply left (grid reference TQ 38382 71222). There are a few trees at this point. Take a sharp left turn here, almost a reverse turn, and follow the less well surfaced path into increasingly dense tree cover.



The path begins to rise and becomes broad as it makes its way up onto a bridge over a railway. Cross over the bridge and after about 75 yards the path begins to swing left (grid reference TQ 38258 71029). It is important to keep left here as a more well developed path goes straight ahead and the turn may not be obvious.

Keep left and note an artificial hill to the left as you continue. Walk ahead within woodland to arrive at a junction of paths where it is important not to turn left or right but to go straight across at an angle. The path now begins to swing left. Continue forward for about 230 yards on a low embankment with marshy ground to the left. Watch carefully for waymarking from this point.

At the next junction, turn right and go ahead through the dense woodland for about 170 yards to another junction. At this junction, ignore any large wooden signposts ahead of you and turn right. From this turn, the path begins to run uphill with occasional shallow steps.

Step free alternative route

Instead of turning right continue ahead towards the tall wooden signpost. Turn right there and climb the gently ascending slope which is waymarked. At the top is a large *Green Chain* signpost where you turn right. You soon come to another large signpost where you rejoin the route.

The path begins to turn left becoming steeper with steps. At the top there is a large *Green Chain* signpost (grid reference TQ 41828 73108). This sign marks the junction with the end of section 9.

Turn right at the large *Green Chain* signpost and follow the now descending path after passing a *Green Chain* information panel to the right just after the signpost.

The path comes to the bottom of a valley. To the right you can see the newly reinstated lake.

The path now begins to ascend left, with the greensward to the left. Continue ahead to pass entrances to the right into attractive formal gardens and one of the park's two cafés.

The path swings left, still with the grass to the left until you are facing the side of **Beckenham Place**, home of the Cator family.

Watch carefully for a stubby waymark on the grass to the left, which directs you to your right through a thin belt of trees to a road. Go through the trees and turn left onto the road. At this point there are waymarked link routes to Beckenham Hill and Beckenham Junction stations.

Waymarked link to Beckenham Hill Station

Upon arriving at the road, turn right and stay on the right hand side. After about 180 yards, a path which is initially parallel with the road, diverges to the right, fork onto this path and follow it through the trees. Eventually it swings left to rejoin the road. Turn right onto the road and leave through the park gates to turn right again into Beckenham Hill Road. Just before the railway bridge cross Beckenham Hill Road and turn left to take the path parallel to the railway. The station is immediately ahead and the link is 760 yards long.

Waymarked link to Beckenham Junction station

Upon arriving at the road, turn left and ignore the large wooden sign to the right. Continue south west along the road to leave the park after about 750 yards. The road you now enter is called Beckenham Place Park. Follow the road to the first junction and turn right into a road that is also called Beckenham Place Park. At the end of that road bear left to join the busy Southend Road. Continue in the same direction to the bridge over the railway, Beckenham Junction station is now to the right. This link route is 1,200 yards long.

To continue to the end of the section, keep left along the road as far as a high wooden signpost on the grass to the right, almost opposite the front of the mansion. Turn right at the signpost to follow a surfaced path. The path curves to the right towards trees passing a pond to the left. Follow the path through the trees until it meets a gate onto a main road, Southend Road.

Turn left along Southend Road and cross as soon as it is safe to do so. Once over the road, keep on in the same direction and continue to the first turning to the right. This is Stumps Hill Lane which is 260 yards from the exit from Beckenham Place Park. Section 8 ends here at the start of section 10 (grid reference TQ 37551 70685).

Travel to and from section 8

Travel to the start of the section

By train: to reach the section from Mottingham station, leave by either entrance and walk to the road bridge over the railway. Turn right and continue to the first turning on the right. This is the junction with the major A20 Sidcup Road. Turn right to walk beside Sidcup Road on the right hand side for half a mile to the first pedestrian crossing. Use the crossing and enter the path on the opposite side of the road. It can be a little difficult to see the opening. The path leads to Mottingham Lane. The distance from the station is 0.8 miles.

Travel options from the end of the section

By train: Beckenham Hill station is to the north along Beckenham Hill Road. It is served by Thameslink rail services.

By train or tram: Beckenham Junction station to the south has rail services to London Victoria and London Bridge. The tramlink platforms outside the station are used for trams to Wimbledon via East Croydon.

Both stations can be reached by the 54 bus. The stops for both directions of travel are easily within sight of the end of the section at Stumps Hill. Both stations can be reached by walking straight along the main road but it may be quicker to take a bus.

There are also waymarked links to both stations from outside the park's mansion, Beckenham Place (see page 10).

