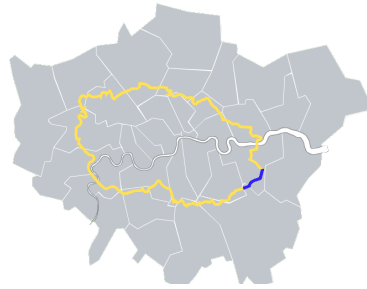




Capital Ring
Section 2
Falconwood to Grove Park

Version 4 : October 2010



Start: Falconwood Footbridge (TQ432792)
Station: Falconwood
Finish: Marvels Lane (TQ410724)
Station: Grove Park Station
Distance: 4 miles (6.6 km)

Introduction: The whole of this 4 mile walk is shared with the Green Chain, 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 and 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 Eltham and Grove Park and public toilets at Grove Park.

In contrast to the woodland routes on other sections, section 2 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: 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 - Section 2 starts at the concrete footbridge over the railway and Rochester Way Relief Road.

Cross over the bridge to enter Eltham Park South.

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

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

Continue on the path between two fences to pass, on your left, Holy Trinity Chapel. **B**

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 m turn left along North Park. **C**

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

At the end of North Park, cross over Court Road and keep ahead to Tilt Yard Approach.

Built in the 14th Century Eltham Palace **D** 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 along King John's Walk, **E** past some riding stables towards Middle Park and Middle Park Avenue.

There is a link to Mottingham Park Station along Middle Park Avenue.

Cross over the railway line by the footbridge and then over the dual carriage way of Sidcup Road. **F** Keep ahead, still on King John's Walk, to Mottingham Lane. Cross over and turn right to pass Mottingham Farm on the right.

Just past Mottingham Farm the route goes left along a narrow footpath but straight ahead is Fairmount, **G** the home for about 30 years of one of England's most celebrated cricketers, William Gilbert Grace, who died in 1915.

On the left are the playing fields of Eltham College. The College was founded as the School for Sons of Missionaries in Walthamstow in 1842 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, which eventually runs into the River Ravenbourne.

Follow the signs to Marvels Lane where Section 2 ends. To continue on to Section 3, turn right along Marvels Lane.

To reach Grove Park Station, follow the Capital Ring link on a footpath beside the Quaggy River. Go up Chinbrook Road and turn left for Grove Park Station.