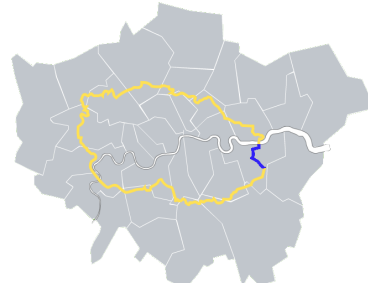




Capital Ring
Section 4
Crystal Palace to Streatham

Version 2 : October 2010



Start: Crystal Palace station (TQ340705)

Station: Crystal Palace

Finish: Estreham Road junction with Lewin Road (TQ296707)

Station: Streatham Common

Distance: 4 miles (6.4 km)

Introduction: This section is a 'rollercoaster' among the ridges and valleys of the former Great North Wood.

The surfaces are almost entirely pavements or tarmac with one short rough path. There are some fairly steep ups and downs, but there are great views at the top. The walk goes through a series of parks and woods to Norwood Grove and Mansion and Rookery Gardens, and ends at Streatham Common Railway Station.

There are pubs and cafés at Crystal Palace, Rookery Gardens and Streatham. There are public toilets at Rookery Gardens and Streatham.

Directions: From Crystal Palace station exit, turn left down Station Road. Cross at the lights and turn right past the Paxton Arms Hotel onto Anerley Hill. Shortly turn left into Pleydell Avenue, with the Crystal Palace TV transmitter up to the right. At the end, bear right and then left, through Palace Square. Keep ahead, up a steep, zig-zag footpath, beside a playground and a grass area. Cross over Belvedere Road at the end and turn right.

Number 22 has a blue plaque on it which shows that Benjamin Waterhouse-Hawkins, who created the dinosaurs in the Dinosaur Park in Crystal Palace Park, lived here.

Shortly turn left into Tudor Road and then right into Fox Hill Gardens. At the end, turn right into Church Road, cross at the refuge and enter Westow Park. **A**

Go down the hill through Westow Park to a gate, where you turn left. (For toilets, once through the gate, turn left up the stepped footpath between the garden centre and the supermarket car park).

Continue through the park, bearing right at a fork, then left to pass a playground, and go round two sides of a grass square to reach College Green. Turn right then shortly cross and turn left onto Harold Road. Turn right into Chevening Road, then turn left into Upper Norwood Recreation Ground. Soon afterwards, turn right at a path junction, to keep parallel to the road, passing the granite drinking fountain. Rejoin the road for a short distance, passing a church and a school, then turn left into the park once more. Go all the way across the middle, passing a pavilion. On the far side of the park, turn right along Eversley Road, beside the park.

At the end of Eversley Road, turn left up Hermitage Road, to the top, and then onto Beulah Hill. Cross at the zebra crossing, then turn right. Cross Downsview Road, then in 300m turn left down Biggin Hill. Pass some allotments, and cross to the opposite pavement, then in 50m, turn right along a footpath, opposite number 47. This leads past tennis courts into Biggin Hill Wood.

Continue through the wood to the gate and follow the signs to Covington Way. Continue along Covington Way. Keep ahead at the crossroads

(Norbury Hill) then cross a road called Christian Fields. Turn right at Gibson's Hill to find the entrance to Norwood Grove.

Follow the path (or the alternative route for walkers with dogs) up to the house through the garden.

The Grade II listed mansion, Norwood Grove, was built in the 1840s by Arthur Anderson, joint founder of the P & O Steam Navigation Company. It is now an education centre owned by Croydon Council.

There are panoramic views to the south of Croydon and the North Downs from the top of the hill. The Great North Wood covered all this area, hence the name Norwood.

Follow the path around the house, past the orangery and turning left continue along the fenced drive (Coggate Path) to the lodge, where Covington once lived.

The path crosses the tiny tributary of the River Graveney, which feeds into the River Wandle, and a line of 400-year-old oak trees. This is also the boundary with Lambeth.

Continue straight along the track to the Grade II listed Rookery Gardens **B** on the left.

Rookery Gardens stand on the site of an earlier guest house where Queen Victoria stayed; she came to take the waters at the three springs at Streatham Spa which were first discovered in 1659.

At the road (Streatham Common South), bear left to pass the Rookery café. Cross the road to the next part of the common, then the path goes downhill, past the horse trough. Bear left down the common to Streatham Lower Common with views across the Wandle Valley.

At the bottom of the hill bear half-right on a tarmac path, then right again to walk parallel with the road. Go past the playground **C** (behind which are more toilets). At Streatham Common North, cross ahead to Streatham

Memorial Gardens. Then cross left over Streatham High Road to the junction with Lewin Road. Carry on up here for the station link to Streatham Station.

Otherwise, turn left down Lewin Road, to the end. This section ends at the junction with Estreham Road. Turn left here for 200m to Streatham Common Station, or a little further for buses in Greyhound Lane.