



London LOOP

Section 2

Old Bexley Village to Jubilee Country Park,
Bromley

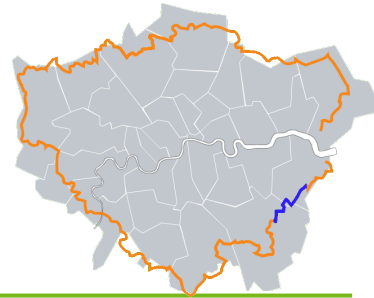


Transport
for London

Walk
London

V2 : April 10

Start: Bexley High Street (TQ494735)
Station: Bexley
Finish: Jubilee Country Park (TQ440680)
Station: Petts Wood
Distance: 7 miles (11.3 km)



Introduction: This section offers a very green and mostly easy route through the suburbs of southeast London.

It starts in Old Bexley High Street, close to Bexley station. At first, it shares the route of the Cray Riverway through sports grounds and open areas, then beside the River Cray in Foots Cray Meadows, possibly one of the most charming sections of the whole London Loop.

There are cafes and pubs at Sidcup Place and Petts Wood, where there are also public toilets.

Directions from Bexley Station: Leave Bexley station, and head downhill; when you reach Bexley High Street, turn right then immediately right again up Tan Yard Lane.

From Tan Yard Lane: Follow the track under the bridge and beside the railway embankment. Where it opens out, keep the fence on your left and head towards the Bexley Cricket Club and on towards the landfill site - ignore the road to the right. At the cottages, follow the unmetalled path straight on, up the hill and past the landfill.

Follow the path downhill towards the water pumping station. At the bottom of the hill go straight on, heading for the residential area in front of you. After the pumping station on the left, **A** take an immediate left down the little walled alleyway just beyond the first semi-detached house. Follow the path until you come to the River Cray. Cross the bridge, turn right and keep following the river.

In the trees above you, you're very likely to see, and hear, some of London's Parakeets

Keep walking with the river on the right, and ignore the first bridge. Five Arch Bridge, **B** a brick bridge over a weir built around 1780, leads to Foots Cray meadows.

Keep going past the bridge, with the river still on the right. Cross the little creek, and keep following the river. At the end of the meadow, go through the kissing gate by the metal fence then cross the little brick bridge **C** on your right. After around 100m fork left and follow the path towards All Saints Church. Where the path opens out, with the church on your right - bear right, and head for the entrance in the fence.

This leads to Rectory Lane. Turn left and keep going until you reach the traffic lights, or take a short detour to your right to visit the church.

To stop here take the road to the left (Foots Cray High Street) where there is a bus stop with services to Bexley or Swanley, alternatively on Cray Road, straight ahead is a bus stop which can take you to Orpington, Sidcup, Woolwich, Foots Cray or Eltham.

To carry on, go straight over Foots Cray High Street, then immediately right to cross over Cray Road and turn left. Take the second right up Suffolk Rd. At the end, turn left into the playing fields and follow the hedge round to the right, keeping the playing fields on your left. Where the path turns right, follow it through the concrete bollards and metal kissing gate.

On your left is the ground of Cray Wanderers Football Club **D** - one of the very first football clubs in the country.

Go through the metal kissing gate, then bear left passing the entrance to the football club. Follow the path straight on, past the allotments and then through another kissing gate. At the end of the path is an open grass area with Queen Mary's Hospital on your left. Walk straight ahead up the hill towards majestic giant redwood trees, past the adventure playground on your right. At the top is a great view back into the valley.

Turn left and pass the pub at the top, and the walled garden. **E** Just past the garden, turn right, keeping the wall on the right. Pass the tennis courts and go straight ahead to Chislehurst Road. Here, turn left.

The bus stop here can get you to Bexley, Foots Cray, Sidcup or Bromley.

Follow Chislehurst Road, and cross the hospital entrance. Just past the bus stop, fork left down the ramp, then right, into the underpass. Take a left up the steps, left again up the ramp and cross the road bridge. Follow the curve; go down the steps and through the next underpass on your left.

After the second underpass, head up the ramp to the left. At the top of the ramp walk right for 10 metres to find a sign for Scadbury Park Local Nature Reserve, managed by Bromley Council, cross the stile and follow the edge of the field to the left - ignore the path leading off to the right.

Follow the path through some woods, and out into a meadow. Head left across the meadow, follow the path into another wood and over a stream. Keep going up hill, and ignore the path off to the right. At the edge of the wood go through the gate, and take the metal path beyond, which curves round to the right. At a gate marked "Private", take a left then after around 200m, take the first right. Take the next right uphill, onto the main path. A

short detour to your right takes you to the old moated manor. **F**

Follow the path past a huge oak on the right, up some steps and into a birch wood. Take the second path to the left, after the steps. Go through the wooden barrier, and at the major path which crosses from left to right - turn right. When you reach the road take a left. This brings you out onto St Paul's Cray Road. Cross and go past the metal barrier and down the path the other side. After around 50 metres fork left and keep following the path straight ahead.

The route now passes through land owned by The National Trust. On the left is the Willett Memorial Wood. William Willett was largely responsible for British Summer Time.

Stay ahead past the National Trust sign, open fields are now to the right.

Carry on along the main path - ignore all the side paths as it drops gently downhill - until the railway line. Turn right about 30 metres before the underpass.

At the next main fork take a left and keep going following the railway line. Ignore all the turnings to the right and left - keep straight ahead. The path comes out by the railway lines and takes you over Kyd Brook. Keep following the railway. Cross the bridge over the railway, and head for the next one. Cross that as well, and keep following the tarmac path. At the road, go straight over, and carry on down the path opposite. Cross one final footbridge, and follow the path beyond it. At the next kissing gate is Jubilee Country Park, and the end of the section.

Keep following the path into Jubilee Country Park to start LOOP section 3, or, follow the station link by taking a left up the footpath leading to Tent Peg Lane, and another left at Crest View Drive, leading to Queensway. Petts Wood station is in West Approach, a few hundred metres down Queensway, on the left.