



London LOOP

Section 7

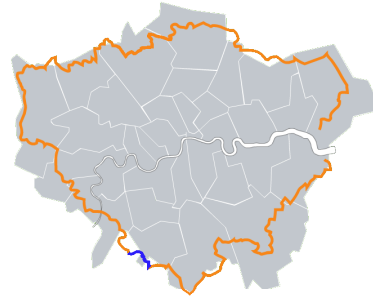
Banstead Downs to Bourne Hall Park



Transport
for London

Walk
London

Start: Banstead Downs (TQ248606)
Station: Banstead
Finish: Bourne Hall Park (TQ218627)
Station: Ewell West
Distance: 3.5 miles (5.5 km)



Introduction: Although one of the shortest and perhaps the least green sections of the LOOP, there is much of interest.

This is easy walking on mostly level ground, but with a few long slopes from Sandy Lane to Holmwood Road and two flights of steps. Sections suitable for the less mobile and pushchairs are Warren Farm and Nonsuch Park.

Points of interest on this walk are Warren Farm, which is a Woodland Trust Reserve, Nonsuch Park, Mansion House, Bourne Hall Park and the old village jail at Ewell.

There is a café and toilets at Mansion House and other places to eat along the way.

At Bourne Hall Park you can carry on to Section 8 to Kingston upon Thames.

V1 : July 09

Directions: From Banstead station, turn left into Banstead Road and head down the hill. After about 100 metres, cross the road at the Banstead Road sign and go down the footpath behind it. After about 10 metres turn right at the fork and arrive onto the fairway of Banstead Downs Golf Course. Follow the path diagonally across it and into the bushes on the far side. At the first "crossroads" of paths go straight on and turn left at the London LOOP finger post at the junction of paths.

Follow the path over two cross-tracks and on rejoining the golf course follow the line of trees towards the houses. Take the path between them, cross the road and head straight along Sandy Lane.

At Cuddington Way, turn left and after 150 metres or so turn right down Cheyham Way. At the junction with Northey Avenue turn left again and go down the hill. There is a roundabout at the bottom by St Paul's Church Centre. **A** Cross the road just before the roundabout, follow the pavement round to the right and cross Cheam Road (A232). Go down the steps in front and turn right.

This road is made up of the old Cheam Road in the middle with a Nonsuch Walk on either side of it.

At Bramley Road turn left, keep straight ahead. Cross Holmwood Road and keep straight ahead under the railway bridge to get to Warren Farm.

Warren Farm is a 53-acre site given to the Woodland Trust Reserve in 1994.

Follow the main track straight ahead. After about 100 metres there is a path to the left which cuts across the meadow towards some new houses. This goes to Ewell East station. To get to the station, walk to the end of the path and follow Seymour Avenue that becomes Nonsuch Court Avenue to Cheam Road. Turn left and the station is just across the road.

To carry on the LOOP, follow the track straight ahead into the trees and across the two concrete tracks.

This is the Ghost Road more houses were due to be built here but building was stopped by the Second World War and by the introduction of

London's green belt.

The track leads to Nonsuch Park - Henry VIII's hunting ground. There's a tearoom in the Mansion House ahead of you and toilets adjoining it.

The Mansion, **B** probably on the site of the Keeper's Lodge of the original palace, dates from the late 18th or early 19th century and the architect was Jeffery Wyatt who also worked at Windsor Castle.

To carry on, turn left down The Avenue, a tarmac road lined with horse chestnut trees. Continue until reaching Castlemaine Lodge on the right.

The lodge is named after Barbara Castlemaine, mistress of Charles II who was given the estate in 1670. Nine years later she had got badly into debt through gambling and the estate was broken up and sold.

A detour to the right just past Castlemaine Lodge will lead to concrete markers showing the site of Nonsuch Palace.

Henry VIII built Nonsuch palace to outshine anything else in Europe and spared no expense doing it; it cost him £24,536 by 1545 - a huge sum for the 16th century. Myth says that there was to be none such as this palace in the whole world - hence the name!

Take the path straight ahead after the lodge, past a concrete pillar - number 2.

These pillars lead you to the remains of Henry's banqueting house, built in 1540. During hunting in the Little Park, the Banqueting House would have been used as a grandstand to watch the sport - the deer perhaps were driven past it - and as a place for light refreshments, for that was the meaning of a banquet in the sixteenth century.

Fork right after about 10 metres onto a dirt track and continue past pillars 3 and 4. Turn right at pillar 5, past the site of the banqueting house. Keep the house on your left, follow the path at the edge of the grass round to the left and down the hill. At the fence turn right and go down the steps to the busy

road. This is the A24 Ewell By-pass. Turn right and after a couple of metres go down the steps onto the path known as Vicarage Lane. **C**

At the end of Vicarage Lane is Church Street which passes by Ewell Castle School, a castellated early Victorian building. Keep straight ahead along Church Street.

At the end of Church Street turn right into the High Street. Cross at the pelican crossing and pass through the large white archway into Bourne Hall Park. Follow the path around the lake, with the space age Bourne Hall **D** and its museum, cafe and toilets on the left.

The end of the lake is the end of this section. There is a London LOOP information board here and a finger post to direct to the station. Section 8 continues to Kingston-upon-Thames.

To go to Ewell West station turn left, fork right and keep the brick wall to the right and take the last door through the wall. Leaving the park, turn left over Chessington Road and go up the road. Ahead is Ewell West Station.