Green Chain Walk
Section 3 of 11
Bostall Woods to Oxleas Meadows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section start:</th>
<th>Bostall Woods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nearest stations to start:</td>
<td>Bus route 99 to Longleigh Lane from Erith or Welling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section finish:</td>
<td>Oxleas Meadows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest stations to finish:</td>
<td>Oxleas Wood bus stop on Shooters Hill or Falconwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section distance:</td>
<td>2.9 miles (4.7 kilometres)</td>
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</tbody>
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**Introduction**

Delightful stretches of ancient woodland reveal nature in all its variety and splendour. This section begins at Bostall Woods, originally known as ‘Old Park Wood’. In 1906 the woods were described as picturesque and charming beyond description, densely planted with Scots Pine. By 1939 they had been ravaged by a beetle infestation and only a few tree’s survived. The route ends near Oxleas Wood, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserve, it contains a variety of trees including oak, birch, hornbeam and alder.
Directions

If you have come on bus route 99 from Erith or Plumstead stations get off at Longleigh Lane bus stop on Bostall Hill and turn left at the nearby junction, which is Longleigh Lane. Just after the car park on your left take the path to the right to enter Bostall Woods.

At the Green Chain signpost take the left hand path and continue straight ahead. Follow the path down the hill taking the middle option where the path splits into three. Follow the marker posts through Bostall Woods, keeping the open glade on your left, to emerge at the lodge called Woodside at the end of the driveway.

At Woodside turn left down the track to Cemetery Road and then right to follow the cemetery wall. Continue along Cemetery Road and left into Wickham Lane.

Cross the road and turn right at the Foresters Arms. Follow Highbanks Close until it turns to the left, at this point enter East Wickham Open Space. Climb to the top of the hill and the Green Chain information board. Continue straight on to the Green Chain signpost.

Did you know?

East Wickham Open Space provides an open grassland corridor between the ancient woodlands of Bostall and Oxleas. Surveys have recorded 34 bird species, 17 butterfly species and 115 flowering plant species.

At the signpost bear right along the edge of the planting and then turn right to follow the wooden marker posts across East Wickham Open Space, through the areas of recently-planted trees and out on to Glenmore Road.

Turn left along Glenmore Road and right into Dryden Road. Follow Dryden Road to the end of the road and enter the open space called Woodlands Farm (where Dryden Road bends to the left to become Keats Road).

Continue along the footpath through the open space to the metal fence. Pass through the gate to the open field and bear to the right to follow the field boundary along the hedgerow and stream. As you near the far end of the field turn right and cross the stream and then after a short distance turn left, cross the small area of scrubland to emerge on to Bellegrove Road / Shooters Hill / near the filling station.

Please be aware that a number of walkers have experienced locked gates on the Woodlands Farm section of the Green Chain, Bostall Woods to Oxleas Wood. We advise you to contact the farm on 020 8319 8900 in advance of your visit to ask if the gates will be open.

If the gate is locked walk back to Keats Road and continue along it, turning right on to Chaucer Road. Walk past the public house on the right and turn right to take the path signposted Footpath 245. Take this footpath and follow it all the way until it emerges into Hill View Drive, passing Hillview Cemetery. Walk straight down Hill View Drive and at the end, turn right onto the main road, Bellegrove Road. Continue past the public house and the petrol station and at the traffic island cross Bellegrove Road to rejoin the Green Chain.
If you have successfully crossed Woodlands Farm and emerged on to the main road, cross at the traffic island and turn right. When the pavement runs out turn left to enter Oxleas Wood, past number 415 Bellegrove Road.

Take a right turn a short way inside the woods and follow the marker posts through the woods to reach the wider horse ride track. Turn left along this track and continue for some distance to reach the Green Chain signpost. The path joins the Capital Ring Walk here.

Bear right and follow the path to Oxleas Wood Cafe where this section ends. Sections four and five also finish here and Section six starts at this point.

Did you know?
The name 'Shooters Hill' is popularly accepted as a reference to highway robbers and thieves operating on the hill. A more likely explanation is a combination of the ancient words 'shaw' (a wood) and 'tot' (a hill), or it may be a reference to the archers who practised their shooting here. In 1661 Samuel Pepys reported riding under the "filthy remains" of a man hanging on a gibbet, a public display used as a warning to highway robbers.

If you are finishing here, the nearest bus stops are on Shooters Hill road. Walk back down the path you came up and, where the Green Chain Walk turns right, carry on ahead to the main road. Here you can get bus route 89 to Blackheath Rail Station or bus 486 to Woolwich Arsenal Rail and DLR Station. On the opposite side of the road you can get buses to Welling Rail Station.
For Falconwood station; from the Green Chain signpost in the middle of Oxleas Wood follow the marker posts south, turning left to emerge at the junction of Welling Way and Rochester Way. Cross over and head south on Rochester Way to the station.