Introduction

Highlights include the impressive facade of the 18th Century Royal Artillery Barracks and stunning views towards the North Downs at Oxleas Meadows. One branch of this section goes from Plumstead Common to Oxleas Wood, whilst the other from Charlton Park to Bostall Woods. The name Plumstead comes from the large number of orchards which once covered this area. The land around Plumstead originally belonged to the Monks of Lesnes Abbey but it was taken from them by Henry VIII and changed hands a number of times before becoming part of Queens College, Oxford in 1736. After the local population expressed upset about their rights to use the common, in 1876 the Local Authority of the time bought the Common for £9,000 so that it might be preserved as a public open space.

This section is split into two parts, A and B, with separate directions - see next page for a more detailed view.
Directions 4A

If starting from Charlton station, turn right out of the station and walk up Charlton Church Lane. At the end turn left after St. Luke’s Church, and through The Village, find the entrance to Charlton Park on the right. Bus 486 also runs from Charlton station (towards Bexleyheath) to Charlton Park Road.

Follow the path into the park and after 100 metres turn right, continuing along this path past the school on the left. Turn right to exit the park and follow Cemetery Lane to its junction with Charlton Park Lane.

Turn left along Charlton Park Lane to Repository Road. Cross Repository Road and follow the path parallel with Ha-Ha Road to the junction with Woolwich New Road.

Did you know?

A Ha-Ha is a sunken lane or wall built to prevent cattle wandering. The remains of the Ha-Ha, constructed to keep cattle out of the military areas when most of the area was common land, is now a grade II listed structure.

Cross Woolwich New Road at the traffic lights, go ahead down Nightingale Place and continue as it becomes Plumstead Common Road.

Turn left into St. Margaret’s Grove then take the first path on the right to enter Plumstead Common. Pass the war memorial and the children’s playground. Cross Blendon Terrace, pass the tennis courts and bowling green to reach Waverley Crescent.

To continue towards Bostall Woods cross Waverley Crescent to reach the Green Chain signpost. Alternatively turn right here to head south along Waverley Crescent to walk to Oxleas Meadows (see section 4B directions on page 4).

From Waverley Crescent cross the green to Warwick Terrace, bear right, cross Old Mill Road then immediately left to cross Warwick Terrace. Turn right then left along the path behind the shelter. Turn right and follow the marker posts parallel with Old Mill Road. Descend the steps to the pond at 'The Slade' and up the other side.
Cross Lakedale Road and turn left, bearing right to follow around the children's playground. Cross the Common to reach Winn Common Road and turn right just past Purrett Road to the open grass and follow around the sports pitch to the Green Chain signpost at the top of the steps and turn left.

3 Descend the steps into Great Bartletts Woods. Follow the path on to Wickham Lane, cross to Rutherglen Road then immediately left down the steps into the open space. Follow around to the right and enter Bostall Woods.

4 Climb the steps crossing a number of paths. Turn right and follow the marker posts through the woods to emerge eventually on to Longleigh Lane at the Green Chain signpost where this section ends.

Section two also ends here and is the start of section three.

If you are finishing your walk here the nearest bus stops are on Bostall Hill. From the car park on Longleigh Lane turn right and right again at Bostall Hill. On this side of the road bus route 99 will take you to Plumstead Rail Station, or the stop opposite bus 99 back to Erith Rail Station.
To get to the start of this walk from Plumstead station, turn right out of the station and immediately right again on to Griffin Road. Walk up this road and bear left at the end, which is Waverley Crescent. At the Common follow the road round to the right and just past the bus stop cross over the road near the railings.

At the Green Chain signpost on Waverley Crescent, Plumstead Common follow Waverley Crescent south and cross over Plumstead Common Road at the crossing. Turn right then immediately left and follow Ennis Road, crossing the end of two roads before taking the steps or slope to the left leading up to Upton Road. Turn left along Upton Road and after the bend bear left up the steps and follow the marker posts along the path between the allotments. Cross the unmade Dothill Road and enter Shrewsbury Park, climbing up to the Green Chain signpost.
At the Green Chain signpost, turn left along the fence to cross the open space and leave Shrewsbury Park by turning right up Mereworth Drive. At the cross-roads, turn left into Kinlet Road and continue straight ahead into Eaglesfield Road keeping the tennis courts on your left.

At Foxcroft Road bear right and cross Eaglesfield Recreation Ground and around the rear of the play area. Leave via Cleanthus Road.

Turn left and follow Cleanthus Road to Shooters Hill, there is a short section of footpath connecting two sections of this road. Turn right on Shooters Hill and then left to cross the road at the bollards. Bear left and then right into Kenilworth Gardens and immediately left into Crown Woods Lane.

**Did you know?**

Shrewsbury Park takes its name from the first house, built in 1789 by the Earl of Shrewsbury. The house has a long list of residents including Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte, only child of George IV and Queen Caroline. The estate was sold in 1923 to a local builder who demolished it and erected a new one for his own use nearby.

Walk down Crown Woods Lane as far as the car park and follow the path to the Green Chain signpost alongside the pavilion to meet section three and section five.

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 route 486 to Woolwich Arsenal Rail and DLR Stations. 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.