**Green Chain Walk**

Section 6 of 11

Oxleas Wood to Mottingham

**Section start:** Oxleas Wood

**Nearest stations to start:** Oxleas Wood (bus stop on Shooters Hill / A207) or Falconwood

**Section finish:** Mottingham

**Nearest stations to finish:** Mottingham

**Section distance:** 3.7 miles (6.0 kilometres)

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**Introduction**

Walk in the footsteps of royalty as you pass Eltham Palace and the former hunting grounds of the Tudor monarchs who resided there. The manor of Eltham came into royal possession on the death of the Bishop of Durham in 1311. The parks were enclosed in the 14th Century and in 1364 John II of France yielded himself to voluntary exile here. In 1475 the Great Hall was built on the orders of Edward IV and the moat bridge probably dates from the same period. Between the reigns of Edward IV and Henry VII the Palace reached the peak of its popularity, thereafter Tudor monarchs favoured the palace at Greenwich.
Directions

To reach the start of this section from Falconwood Rail Station, turn right on to Rochester Way and follow the road to Oxleas Wood. Enter the wood ahead and follow the path to the Green Chain signpost. Alternatively, take bus route 486 or 89 to Oxleas Wood stop and take the narrow wooded footpath south to reach the Green Chain signpost.

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 Rochester Way at the traffic lights and enter Shepherdleas Wood. Follow the marker posts as far as the Green Chain signpost.

Turn right and follow the marker posts through Shepherdleas Wood, turning left to emerge on the open ground of Eltham Park North. Turn left, follow the marker posts to and around Long Pond bearing left at the far end of the pond to skirt the edge of the large meadow before re-entering the woodland. Follow the path parallel to the railway and 'Relief Road' to reach the 'Green Link Bridge'.

Did you know?

The ancient long pond was probably excavated between 1800 and 1830 and was a private boating lake in the mid 19th century. Today it is the home of several varieties of wildfowl. From Long Pond there are distant views towards the City of London and Crystal Palace.

Turn right to cross the railway and road into Eltham Park South. Follow the path along the eastern and southern boundaries of the park to emerge into Glenesk Road.

Turn left and follow Glenesk Road to the end and cross Bexley Road. Go straight on down Butterfly Lane, the narrow lane opposite, bearing right just before the sports club and right again at the Green Chain signpost into Conduit Meadows.

Follow the path through the meadow past Conduit Head to the Holy Trinity church and Southend Crescent.
2 At Southend Crescent turn left and at the fork cross the road and turn right up Footscray Road. Turn left from Footscray Road into North Park.

Follow North Park to the end, cross Court Road into Tilt Yard Approach opposite. Follow Tilt Yard Approach and then turn left down Court Yard to the entrance of Eltham Palace.

Did you know?

Eltham Palace is one of the few important medieval royal palaces in England to survive with substantial remains intact. In the 1930s an important private house, boasting an ultra-modern design was built adjoining the Great Hall by a wealthy couple, Stephen and Virginia Courtauld. It’s now one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in England.

3 From Court Yard, turn right into King John’s Walk and bear left where the four paths meet at the Green Chain signpost.

Continue along King John’s Walk crossing Middle Park Avenue and head along the path over the railway footbridge to Sidcup Road. Cross the dual-carriageway at the traffic lights and follow the path opposite to Mottingham Lane. The Green Chain signpost is on the other side of the road (to the right) where this section finishes.
To get to Mottingham station from the path, turn left along Mottingham Lane, bear left at the roundabout passing the petrol station, then bear left again at the next roundabout with the war memorial into West Park. At the end of West Park turn right, crossing over the dual-carriageway and then left at the traffic lights into Court Road. The station is just a few minutes walk on your left.