Green Chain Walk
Section 7 of 11
Shepherdleas Wood to Middle Park

Section start: Shepherdleas Wood
Nearest stations to start: Falconwood
Section finish: Middle Park
Nearest stations to finish: Mottingham
Section distance: 4.3 miles (6.9 kilometres)

Introduction
Tour the restored Winter Gardens at Avery Hill Park and the hidden delights of a bird sanctuary with its very own icewell! The 86 acre Avery Hill Park was opened to the public in 1903 and has a wide range of recreational and sport facilities. The Winter Garden which is 100 feet square is the best surviving example in London of such a steel and glass Victorian extravaganza. Today the mansion is used by the University of Greenwich.
Directions

This section starts in Shepherdleas Wood where the Green Chain divides near Eltham Park North, bear left then straight on through Shepherdleas Wood. Follow the path to rejoin Rochester Way and turn right over the railway bridge opposite Falconwood Rail Station. To reach the start from Falconwood Rail Station, follow this route in reverse until you reach the wood.

Turn right along Riefield Road and over the Rochester Way Relief Road. Follow Riefield Road down the hill. Shortly before the school entrance, turn right between numbers 71a and 73 Riefield Road which quickly widens out to form a leafy lane.

Continue down Gravel Pit Lane to reach Bexley Road. A short diversion to the left along Bexley Road leads to Avery Hill Mansion.

Did you know?

Avery Hill Park is a municipal park, but was originally a private garden of Colonel North. North was known as the Nitrate King. His house was damaged in World War II but has been repaired. It is now used by the University of Greenwich which maintains the magnificent Victorian Conservatory.

Cross Bexley Road and take the path opposite through Pippenhall Meadows and around the horse grazing land to emerge into Avery Hill Park. Follow the marker posts across the grass to reach the Green Chain major signpost.

Continue straight on to follow the marker posts along the field boundary and bear right to enter a narrow footpath between playing fields. Follow the footpath between the playing fields emerging into Sparrows Lane and continue along to its end. Turn right to follow Avery Hill Road.

Continue along Avery Hill Road, across the railway bridge and cross Footscray Road into Southwood Road.

Turn right immediately after the public library to enter Southwood Park. Walk through the gardens, turn right and follow the marker posts around the perimeter of the playing field back to the pavilion. Leave the park by the access road to reach Southwood Road again.

Turn right along Southwood Road and right again into Park View Road.

Follow Park View Road around to the end and cross Green Lane into Broad Lawn. Straight ahead and enter Fairy Hill Park, follow the marker posts to leave by Crossmead.
At the end of Crossmead opposite Mottingham station, turn right into Court Road. Cross the railway and immediately turn right into The Tarn. Follow the marker posts around the lake crossing the footbridge and leave by the gate opposite Middle Park Avenue.

Did you know?
The Tarn is a delightful haven centred on a small natural lake surrounded by woodland and gardens. Originally the lake was called 'Starbucks Pond' but the name 'Tarn' was in use by 1903. Today the tarn is home to many different types of wildlife and plants and one third of the park is a bird sanctuary.

Cross Court Road and walk down Middle Park Avenue. Just before the allotments, turn right through the 'kissing gate'. Follow the path through the wildlife area bearing left to emerge through another gate into Middle Park. Continue to reach King John's Walk.

Section seven ends here. You can turn left here to join the last part of section six, or go back the way you came to get to Mottingham station.