**Introduction**

This section runs between Mottingham Lane and Beckenham Place Park via Downham and Chinbrook link. At this section, you can choose an alternative route shown in section 9. Wildlife lovers and artists will love this section, which reveals protected reserves whose colours transform with the seasons. The Hither Green Nature Reserve covers six acres of partly woodland and scrub on old allotments with chalk grassland adjoining the railway line. The aim is to conserve habitats and enable schools and the local community to use it for nature study.
Directions

If starting from Mottingham station, follow the station access road and turn right at the main road. At the traffic lights cross over and turn right on the busy dual-carriageway of Sidcup Road. Take the first left into West Park, crossing over to walk down the other side of the road. At the small roundabout with a war memorial in the middle, continue ahead past the petrol station, cross over Highcombe Close and turn right at the roundabout into Mottingham Lane. Use the pavement on the other side of the road and shortly after passing Mottingham Gardens (opposite) is the start of this walk.

At the Green Chain signpost, follow the sign towards Beckenham Place Park along Mottingham Lane and after a while, turn left down a footpath just before Fairmount Care Home. Follow the path between the hospital grounds and playing fields turning left at the Quaggy River to emerge by the sports pavilion.

Follow the access road to reach Marvels Lane and the Green Chain signpost. The short Chinbrook Link starts from here and it is worth adding the additional 1.7 miles to Elmstead Wood and back to this point.

To continue on the main section 8 route turn right and follow Marvels Lane past the clinic, turn right on Somertrees Avenue, passing Grove Park library. Cross the road and turn left along Coopers Lane and at the end cross Baring Road and turn right.

Follow Baring Road and turn left after 100 metres down the footpath to cross the railway by the footbridge. Continue along the path to join Reigate Road, skirting Hither Green Cemetery on the right.

Did you know?

Hither Green Cemetery includes a memorial to the 38 children and six teachers who died when Sandhurst Road School was bombed on Wednesday 20 January 1943.

Follow Reigate Road and cross Verdant Lane to the Green Chain signpost. Continue ahead following Whitefoot Terrace and turn left down the woodland strip in the centre of Woodbank Road and right along the strip between Undershaw and Shaw Roads. At the end of Undershaw and Shaw Roads, cross over Moorside Road into the Downham Woodland Walk and follow it to Downderry Road.

Cross Downderry Road and continue along the Downham Woodland Walk, bearing left to cross Oakshade Road and bearing right by the school to reach Oakridge Road.
Cross Oakridge Road and the main Bromley Road to go down Old Bromley Road, crossing Brangbourne Road. Turn right into Beckenham Place Park and follow the path, crossing the River Ravensbourne by a footbridge.

Did you know?

Beckenham Place Park was the nucleus of a park and farmland estate from the 18th century. Today it covers around 214 acres or 85 hectares. Its life as a public park began in 1927 when the London County Council foresaw a need for open space to cater for the new estates of Bellingham and Downman.

Turn sharp left to take the path leading over the railway line. Bear left and follow the marker posts along the paths skirting the golf course to reach the Green Chain signpost.

Just before this point, a short but still relatively steep alternative route is signed to avoid some steps.

Bear right and continue along the path across the golf course following the marker posts towards Beckenham Place Mansion. Just before the mansion, turn right to emerge near the car park.

Turn left along the drive and then right along a path to leave the park at Beckenham Hill Road where this section ends.

For Beckenham Hill station turn right and walk down Beckenham Hill Road - the station is on the left. Alternatively, Beckenham Junction is left at the end of the walk.

**Chinbrook Link**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section start:</th>
<th>Marvels Lane</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section finish:</td>
<td>Elmstead Woods (Sundridge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section distance:</td>
<td>0.85 miles (1.4 kilometres)</td>
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</tbody>
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The Chinbrook Link is a short branch off section 8 and can be done as an out and back extension, or as an alternative starting point for section 9.

Cross over Marvels Lane and follow the path alongside the River Quaggy, crossing Chinbrook Road into Chinbrook Meadows.

Follow the path through the Meadows bearing left at the railway foot tunnel entrance and right where the paths cross. Follow the path out of the Meadows, between the allotments and the railway line to emerge at the signpost near the railway bridge.

The Chinbrook Link ends here. Return the way you came to Marvels Lane to continue along section 8. Alternatively you can continue onto section 9 from this point.

To get to Grove Park station return along the footpath you came along and where it turns right continue ahead using the footbridge across the river. At the park exit turn left on Amblecote Road and at the end turn left. At the end of the road turn left for the station.