Green Chain Walk
Section 9 of 11
Mottingham Lane to Beckenham Place Park

Section 9A start: Mottingham Lane
Nearest stations to start: Mottingham
Section 9A finish: Beckenham Place Park
Nearest stations to finish: Ravensbourne
Section distance: 4.5 miles (7.2 kilometres)

Introduction
This section runs from Mottingham Lane to Beckenham Place Park via Sundridge with an optional starting point at Chislehurst. Highlights of the walk include Chislehurst Village with its ponds and cafes, the delights of Elmstead Woods and the mansion house at Sundridge Park. The name Chislehurst is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words 'ceosal' and 'hyrsk' meaning 'gravel wood'. Prickend Pond at the northern end of Chislehurst Common was a former gravel pit and is fed by springs, of which there are many in the area. This section of the Green Chain Walk contains two parts, A and B.
Directions 9A

If starting from Mottingham Rail 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.

Section 9A is along Grove Park Road, but if you want to get to the start of the walk, 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 Green Chain signpost.

At the Green Chain signpost, follow the sign towards Elmstead Woods along Mottingham Lane to Grove Park Road. Turn right down Grove Park Road passing Eltham College gates.

Continue down Grove Park Road. At the right bend turn left to enter Mottingham Sports Ground. Follow the drive to the pavilion and continue in a straight line across the grass. At the far end of the field turn left. After 30 metres turn right to enter Lower Marvels Wood.

Follow the path, bearing right where the path forks, to emerge at Dunkery Road. Cross the road and follow the marker posts through the wood to Castleton Road. Cross straight over, go along Calcot Walk, turn left into Charminster Road and shortly right into Castlecombe Road. Turn right onto the first path to enter Marvels Wood.

Follow the marker posts through the wood, turning right where the paths cross to enter Elmstead Wood. Follow the path as it bears left, keeping the railings of Grove Park Cemetery to your right.

At the Green Chain signpost continue straight on to the metal railings alongside the railway cutting. Turn right to follow the hedge to emerge at the signpost and information board near the railway bridge.

Cross over the railway footbridge and continue straight on down New Street Hill. Take the footpath (left) opposite Oak Tree Gardens. With the golf course railings on your left, follow the path past the allotments. Continue along the path, turn right to take the path past the tennis club. Cross the footbridge over the railway and emerge onto Minster Road.
2 Cross Minster Road to the Green Chain signpost and follow the footpath ahead. On reaching Nichol Lane, cross over, turn sharp right and follow Foxbury Road as it bears left. Cross Croft Road and turn right along it.

At Burnt Ash Lane use the pedestrian island to reach Park Avenue opposite. Follow Park Avenue to the Green Chain signpost at junction with London Road and Bromley Hill.

3 Cross Bromley Hill into Oaklands Road using the pedestrian island. As the road bears left turn right into Coniston Road and left down Elstree Hill. At the bottom of Elstree Hill, cross over and turn right into Calmont Road. Almost immediately turn left and follow the footpath around Warren Avenue open space. Cross the footbridge over the Ravensbourne River and out into Ravensmead Road. Continue straight over and turn right along Ravensbourne Avenue and left into Crab Hill.

**Did you know?**
Along Elstree Hill there is an interesting porchway, dating from 1874 which was originally part of the doorway to the London School Board offices on the Victoria Embankment. The offices were demolished in 1929 but the porch was re-erected here in 1930.

4 Just past Ravensbourne Rail Station turn right into Beckenham Place Park. Follow the tree lined path and on reaching the wood turn left. Turn right just before the building and follow the marker posts through the woods to the Green Chain signpost where this section ends.

Return along the footpath you have come up to get back to Ravensbourne station, or turn left to complete section 8A, or the start of section 10.
Prickend Pond is very close to the bus stops at the start of the southern end of the High Street - get off the bus at Ashfield Lane or Loop Road and look for the Green Chain signpost at the pond.

If you are coming from Chislehurst Rail Station it is a one-mile walk (or get the bus) - turn right from the station exit and left on the main road. At a mini roundabout continue ahead on Bromley Road and very soon bear left onto Prince Imperial Road. At the end of this road turn left and you will soon see the pond on your right.

Pass the Queens Head pub to your right, follow the signs up the High Street and cross the road just past the church (on your right) and Sainsbury's opposite. Continue along the High Street turning left into a green alleyway next to the library. Go down the alley keeping the school playing fields to your right.
Shortly after the pavilion turn right into Whytes Woodland. Continue up the hill, keeping the school to your right, until you emerge onto the Recreation Ground. Continue straight on then bear left to pass Green Chain signpost. Follow the marker posts around the edge of the open space to join the tarmac footpath.

Follow the footpath, passing the college on your left. Emerge into an unnamed cul de sac and follow it to the main road, Elmstead Lane. Turn left and cross the road at the traffic island and enter Elmstead Wood. Continue straight on to follow the marker posts through the wood to the Green Chain signpost.

Did you know?
Elmstead Woods is an area of oak and sweet chestnut coppice. Hornbeams, the hairy woodrush and butterflies such as the comma can be found here. The woods were originally part of the Bishop of Rochester’s estate and used to provide timber for ship building.

Section 9B ends here. You can either continue and join section 9A or retrace your steps back to Elmstead Lane and take a right to reach Elmstead Woods station.