



Green Chain Walk guidance on toilets and refreshments

General

This document gives more detail about the facilities along the sections of the Green Chain Walk than we are able to include in our [PDFs of walk guidance](#). We have found that the information about toilets, sources of refreshment and places to sit and rest changes more rapidly than the walking route itself. This separate document allows us to update the details more rapidly. We include a date for each section to show when it was last updated.

Note that station toilets are usually behind ticket barriers and so only available to travellers.

Toilets at some stations are closed when the ticket office is closed or there are no staff on duty.

Except where otherwise stated, cafés and toilets are open during daylight hours. We give more details where we can, but precise timings often differ according to the season; they can generally be checked from web sites.

Before setting out, please remember to check the [Green Chain Walk news page](#) on our web site for an update about the latest issues that might affect the section that you are about to walk.



Section 1 Thamesmead to Lesnes Abbey

Toilets

There are toilets:

- in the Thamesmead Social Café at the Lakeside arts centre open from 10 am to 4 pm (after 1.3 or 1.4 miles)
- at Lesnes Abbey (after 2.3 miles)
- beyond the ticket barriers in the ticket hall of Abbey Wood station, 0.4 miles from the route via a way-marked route.

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshments include:

- the Thamesmead Social café at the Lakeside arts centre open from 10 am to 4 pm (after 1.3 or 1.4 miles)
- a small parade of shops next to the footbridge over Yarnton Way (after 1.8 miles)
- the 'Chestnuts' café/kiosk at Lesnes Abbey open from 10 am to 4 pm on weekdays and from 9 am to 5 pm at weekends with no indoor seating (after 2.3 miles.)
- a shopping parade to the south of Abbey Wood station and a large supermarket to the north of the station, 0.4 miles from the route via a signposted link.

Benches and picnic spots

Places to take a pause while sitting down include:

- seating overlooking the Thames at the beginning of the section
- many benches overlooking Southmere Lake with some barbecue facilities (after 1.3 and 1.6 miles)
- many picnic tables in Lesnes Abbey park.

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Section 2 Erith to Bostall Heath

Toilets

There are no toilets on this section but after 2.5 miles a 200 yard diversion into Lesnes Abbey Park leads to facilities. They are next to the café/kiosk in the park's only building.

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- two convenience stores and also one café (which closes at 3.30 pm) at number 115 West Street on the way-marked link from Erith station at the start
- a convenience store at the corner of Upper Abbey Road and Heron Hill (after 1.6 miles)
- the 'Chestnuts' café/kiosk 200 yards off the route at Lesnes Abbey, open from 10 am to 4 pm on weekdays and from 9 am to 5 pm at weekends with no indoor seating (after 2.5 miles).

Benches and picnic spots

- After 2.5 miles a 300 yard diversion into Lesnes Abbey Park leads to plentiful picnic tables.

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Section 3 Bostall Heath to Oxleas Meadow

Toilets

There are toilets:

- 180 yards to the west of the start of this section along section 4 of the Green Chain Walk, just past the bowling green – but only open occasionally
- just inside Charlton Cemetery (after 0.6 miles)
- at the end, next to the 'Oxleas Wood' café (after 3.4 miles).

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- the 'Green Man' public house in Chaucer Rd (after 1.8 miles)
- the 'We Anchor in Hope' public house in Bellegrove Road (after 2.5 miles)
- the shop in a filling station next to the 'We Anchor in Hope' public house.
- the 'Oxleas Wood' café at the end of the section (after 3.4 miles).

Benches and picnic spots

Places to take a pause while sitting down include:

- a number of picnic benches 180 yards to the west of the start of the section, just past the bowling green along section 4
- many benches outside the 'Oxleas Wood' café which have splendid views (after 3.4 miles).

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Section 4 Bostall Heath to Charlton Park

Toilets

There are toilets:

- in buildings to the right of the path near the start after 180 yards but these toilets are only open occasionally
- next to the 'Old Cottage Coffee Shop' in Charlton Park, a quarter of a mile beyond the end of the section along section 5.

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- the 'Old Mill' public house on Plumstead Common (after 1.8 miles)
- the 'Plumstead Pantry' café next to the 'Old Mill'
- a supermarket 200 yards south west from the 'Old Mill' public house across Plumstead Common
- shops, cafés and the 'Fox and Hounds' public house along Plumstead Common Road (after between 2.3 and 2.6 miles)
- the excellent 'Old Cottage Coffee Shop' in Charlton Park, a quarter of a mile beyond the end of the section along section 5.
- a café in Charlton House (850 yards beyond the end of the section) that closes at 3.30 pm and is closed on Saturdays.

Benches and picnic spots

Places to take a pause while sitting down include:

- a number of picnic benches just to the right of the route (near the start after 180 yards)
- benches overlooking Winn Common (after 0.9 to 1.1 miles)
- benches overlooking Plumstead Common (after between 1.6 and 1.8 miles)
- benches in the western part of Plumstead Common (after 2.2 miles).

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Section 4A Plumstead Common to Oxleas Meadow

Toilets

There are toilets at the 'Oxleas Wood' café where this section ends.

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- the 'Old Mill' public house on Plumstead Common at the start
- the 'Plumstead Pantry' café is next to the 'Old Mill'
- a supermarket a few yards to the left where the route crosses Plumstead Common Road
- 'The Bull' public house on Shooters Hill Road almost opposite the junction with Kenilworth Gardens (after 1.5 miles).
- at the 'Oxleas Wood' café where the section ends.

Benches and picnic spots

Places to take a pause while sitting down include:

- benches to the left, near the top of the climb in Shrewsbury Park, reached by leaving the route for 150 yards to enjoy one of London's very finest views; this is an outstanding picnic spot (after 0.7 miles)
- a handful of picnic tables in Eaglesfield Park also with a superb view (after 1.2 miles).

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Section 5 Thames Barrier to Oxleas Meadow

Toilets

There are toilets:

- in Maryon Park a little way to the left of where the route becomes stepped (after 0.7 miles)
- in Charlton Park, 150 yards off route next to the 'Old Cottage Coffee Shop' (after 1.7 miles)
- inside the Severndroog Castle tea room that is open Thursday to Sunday from 9 am to 3.30 pm (after 3.5 miles)
- next to the 'Oxleas Wood' café (after 4.3 miles).

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- the excellent 'Old Cottage Coffee Shop', 150 yards off route in Charlton Park (after 1.7 miles)
- a café in Charlton House (600 yards beyond the 'Old Cottage Coffee Shop') that closes at 3.30 pm and is closed on Saturdays
- the also excellent tea room in Severndroog Castle that is open Thursday to Sunday from 9 am to 3.30 pm (after 3.5 miles)
- the 'Oxleas Wood' café (after 4.3 miles)
- 'The Bull' public house on the opposite side of Shooters Hill Road at the end of the approach road to 'Oxleas Wood' café.

Benches and picnic spots

Places to take a pause while sitting down include:

- many benches and picnic tables overlooking the river at the Thames Barrier. (Note that the Thames Barrier café is closed.)
- plentiful benches in the very pleasant Maryon Park (after 1.7 miles)
- benches in Charlton Park (after 2.4 and 2.6 miles)
- benches with a particularly good view just past Severndroog Castle (after 3.5 miles)
- many benches outside the 'Oxleas Wood' café which have splendid views over west Kent and Surrey (after 4.3 miles).

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Section 6 Oxleas Wood to Mottingham Lane

Toilets

There are toilets at Eltham Park South, 180 yards north of the route next to the café (after 1.4 miles)

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- a café in Eltham Park South, 180 yards north of the route (after 1.4 miles)
- a small parade of shops in Footscray Road (after 2.2 miles)
- a lengthy parade of shops with two cafés just over a quarter of a mile from the end of the section in Mottingham Lane reached by turning left (south) at Mottingham Lane and then left again into Mottingham Road (after 3.9 miles)

Note that the toilets at Eltham Palace are only accessible to English Heritage members or to people that have paid the entry fee.

Benches and picnic spots

- There are benches next to the path in Eltham Park South (after between 1.1 and 1.6 miles)
- King John's Field to the right (west) of the path, just past Eltham Palace stables, is a popular site for picnics; there are no benches but the view is superb (after 3.4 miles).

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Section 7 Shepherdleas Wood to Middle Park

Toilets

There are toilets in:

- the booking hall at Falconwood station that are only open when the station is staffed (after 0.3 miles)
- Avery Hill Park next to a café that is one third of a mile east of the route (after 1.5 miles)
- New Eltham station on platform 1 (after 2.2 miles)
- New Eltham library on the ground floor (after 2.2 miles)
- Mottingham station on platform 1 (after 3.5 miles).

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- a small parade of shops and a large ‘carvery’ style pub next to Falconwood station (after at 0.3 miles)
- a café in Avery Hill Park that is one third of a mile east of the route (after 1.5 miles)
- two cafés, shops and food takeaways in Avery Hill Road (after 2.0 to 2.1 miles)
- many cafés and shops in Footscray Road at its junction with Avery Hill Road (after 2.2 miles)
- a shopping parades with cafés found by continuing along Southwood Road for 100 yards where the route turns into Parkview Road (after 2.8 miles)
- shops and a café next to Mottingham station in Court Road, with ‘The Royal’ public house opposite. (after 3.5 miles).

Benches and picnic spots

Places to take a pause while sitting down include:

- benches outside the remarkable Avery Hill glasshouses with a fine view that are one third of a mile from the route through Avery Hill Park (after 1.5 miles)
- many benches around the Tarn (Lake) Bird Sanctuary (after 4.0 to 4.2 miles).

King John’s Field, on the opposite side of the hedgerow at the end of the section, is a popular site for picnics; there are no benches but the view is superb (after 4.8 miles).

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Section 8 Mottingham Lane to Stumps Hill (Beckenham Place Park)

Toilets

There are toilets in:

- Grove Park Library with limited opening hours (after 1.1 miles)
- Beckenham Place Park by the 'East' café, 100 yards off route (Summer only after 3.4 miles)
- Beckenham Place Park next to the 'Homestead' café, 70 yards off route (after 4.5 miles)

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- a small shop in Marvels Lane (after 0.9 miles)
- a filling station with shop in the road called Northover (after 1.9 miles)
- a parade of shops in Bromley Road, Downham with at least three cafés (after 3.2 miles)
- the 'East' café in Beckenham Place Park, 100 yards off route (Summer only after 4.5 miles)
- the 'Homestead' café in Beckenham Place Park, 70 yards off route (after 4.5 miles)
- the 'Mansion' café in Beckenham Place Park (after 4.6 miles)

Benches and picnic spots

There are benches in:

- Grove Park Nature Reserve (after 1.6 Miles)
- Beckenham Place Park around the mansion and overlooking the park (after 4.8 miles).

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Section 8A Marvels Lane to Elmstead Wood

Toilets

There are toilets next to a café/kiosk in Chinbrook Meadows, 100 yards off the route, reached by turning right (west) over the River Quaggy (after 0.3 miles).

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- a small shop in Marvels Lane that is 80 yards north west of the section's start.
- a café/kiosk in Chinbrook Meadows, 100 yards off the route, reached by turning right (west) over the River Quaggy; open 11 am to dusk each day with no indoor seating (after 0.3 miles).

Benches and picnic spots

There many benches in Chinbrook Meadows, reached by turning right (west) over the River Quaggy (after 0.3 miles).

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Section 9 Mottingham Lane to Beckenham Place Park

Toilets

There are no toilets in this section, however at the end you can continue west along section 8 for a further 0.4 miles in Beckenham Place Park to reach the toilets next to the 'Homestead' café.

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- a lengthy parade of shops with two cafés reached by turning left (east) along Mottingham Road (after 200 yards from the start)
- the 'Prince Frederick' public house in Nichol Lane; uniquely named and highly regarded but no food (after 2.7 miles)
- a supermarket reached by diverting south for 150 yards past the 'Prince Frederick' along Nichol Lane; turn left at this supermarket to reach a shopping parade in Plaistow Lane with at least two cafés
- the 'Homestead' café beyond the end of the section reached by continuing west along section 8 to Beckenham Place Park (a further 0.4 miles).

Benches and picnic spots

There are no seats in this section, however at the end you can find benches overlooking the park by continuing a further 0.5 miles west along section 8 to Beckenham Place Park mansion.

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Section 9A Elmstead Wood to Chislehurst

Toilets

There are toilets in the Sainsbury's supermarket on Chislehurst High Street (after 1.7 miles).

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- independent shops including both cafés and high quality restaurants along Chislehurst's excellent High Street (after 1.8 miles)
- 'The Queens Head' public house and opposite a good 'full English' style café where the section ends on the High Street (after 1.8 miles).

Benches and picnic spots

There are benches:

- in the Walden Recreation Ground (at 1.2 miles); one has a plaque to commemorate Mark Budd's service to the Green Chain Walk
- close to the Chislehurst Pond, also known as the Prickend Pond, immediately after the end of the section (after 1.8 miles).

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Section 10 Stumps Hill (Beckenham Place Park) to Crystal Palace

Toilets

There are toilets in:

- Penge East station on platform 1 (after 2.9 miles)
- Crystal Palace Park, just inside the Penge gate (after 3.4 miles)
- Crystal Palace station on platform 1 (after 4 miles).

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- a small parade of shops at Penge East station (after 2.8 miles)
- a long parade of shops with cafés in Penge High Street (after 3.2 miles)
- the 'Bridge House' public house (after 3.3 miles)
- the 'Brown & Green Life' café in Crystal Palace Park just inside the Penge gate (after 3.4 miles)
- the 'Brown & Green Brunch Kitchen' café at Crystal Palace station (after 4 miles)
- a variety of shops and cafés at the end of Crystal Palace station's approach road.

Benches and picnic spots

There are benches scattered around Cator Park (after 1.3 miles).

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Section 11 Nunhead to Crystal Palace

Toilets

There are toilets:

- in Camberwell New Cemetery at the Brenchley Gardens gate, open intermittently (after 1.6 miles)
- in Camberwell Old Cemetery, 100 yard off the route (after 2.4 miles)
- in the Horniman Gardens, two facilities that are 100 yards and 250 yards off the route (after 3.2 miles)
- in Sydenham Wells Park, 100 yards off the route (after 5.0 miles)
- in Crystal Palace station on platform 1 (after 6.0 miles).

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- a small parade of shops next to Nunhead station
- a convenience store immediately to the left when leaving Camberwell Old Cemetery on the opposite side of the road called Wood Vale (after 2.4 miles)
- two cafés (and one more in the summer) in the delightful Horniman Gardens, often busy and 100 yards or 250 yards off the route (after 3.2 miles)
- the 'Brown & Green Brunch Kitchen' café at Crystal Palace station (after 6.0 miles)
- a variety of shops and cafés at the end of Crystal Palace station's approach road.

Benches and picnic spots

Places to take a pause while sitting down include:

- a bench with a fine view at the top of One Tree Hill, (after 2.0 miles)
- the many benches in Horniman Gardens often with superb views (after 3.2 miles)
- benches in Sydenham Hill Wood Nature Reserve (after 3.6 miles)
- benches in Sydenham Wells Park (after 4.5 miles)

The recently restored terraces in Crystal Palace Park offer picnic opportunities with fine views but few benches (after 5.3 miles and a diversion off the route).

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Section 11A Dulwich Park to Sydenham Hill Wood

Toilets

There are toilets:

- in the renowned Dulwich Picture Gallery, two sets of facilities (about 80 yards south of the start of the section)
- next to the Dulwich Park café (after 0.3 miles).

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- two cafés in the Dulwich Picture Gallery (about 80 yards south of the start of the section)
- the Dulwich Park café, less than 60 yards off the route (after 0.3 miles)
- a parade of shops at the end of the road called Dulwich Common in Lordship Lane (after 1.0 mile).

Benches and picnic spots

There are very many benches overlooking the lake in Dulwich Park (after 0.3 miles).

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Section 12 Eltham to Greenwich (not waymarked)

Toilets

There are toilets:

- in a McDonalds restaurant, 80 yard off the route over a road junction (after 1.0 mile)
- in the Sutcliffe Park Sports Centre, 0.3 miles off the route (after 1.2 miles)
- inside the gates of Greenwich Park (after 4.2 miles)
- next to the 'Pavilion' café within Greenwich Park to the right (east) of the route (after 4.4 miles)

Note that in central Greenwich the only, small, public conveniences are often overwhelmed. The 'Gate Clock' public house in Creek Road, next to the Docklands Light Railway station apparently permits non-patrons to use its facilities. There are facilities in the many, busy public houses

Cafés, pubs and shops

Sources of refreshment include:

- a McDonalds restaurant, 80 yard off the route over a road junction (after 1.0 mile)
- the Sutcliffe Park Sports Centre, 0.3 miles off the route (after 1.2 miles)
- shops reached by continuing for 80 yards along Plowden Road (after 2.0 miles)
- a good parade of shops with a café in Rochester Way (after 2.6 miles)
- a filling station with shop (after 2.9 miles)
- the 'Princess of Wales' public house reached by turning left along Prince of Wales Road for 200 yards (after 3.8 miles)
- the 'Pavilion' café within Greenwich Park to the right (east) of the route (after 4.4 miles)
- a coffee stand in front of the National Maritime Museum (after 4.8 miles)
- numerous shops, pubs and cafés in central Greenwich beyond Romney Road (after 5.0 miles) including Goddard's pie shop in King William Walk that is highly recommended.

Benches and picnic spots

Places to take a pause while sitting down include:

- many benches in Queenscroft Park (after 0.3 to 0.5 miles)
- many benches and opportunities for picnicking as the route crosses Blackheath and then Greenwich Park (from 3.3 miles onwards).

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