

# Institute of **Physics**

## LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION **London Loop Walk 3; Jubilee Park to West Wickham Common 6 Sept 2008**

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This walk has been organised by David Pick

The London Loop, pioneered by the London Walking Forum, is London's first official orbital footpath, a fascinating journey around the edge of greater London, down hidden alleyways, through residential areas, along rivers and canals, across public parks, nature reserves, woods, occasional enclaves of farmland and surprisingly few roads, with many unexpected gems along the way. It is easily reachable by public transport and lies near the outer edge of zone 6. Some parts of the route on the north of the Thames still remain to be way marked but it is walkable throughout using the guide, "The London Loop" written by David Sharp, list price £12.99. This guide contains maps, directions, detailed descriptions of the local scenery and facilities on the route. I bought my copy from Amazon.co.uk at £8.44.

The whole route is about 150 miles long and Sharp's book divides it into 15 sections, starting and stopping at convenient transit points. Each section has "escape points" to a nearby bus stop or train station allowing the walk to be further sub-divided.

This section is 16km and is mostly level, but with some steps and slopes. It is mostly on rough paths, tracks and grass. The route passes through several woods and open country with many good views. There is one easy stile. The route goes via Jubilee Country Park, Crofton Wood, Darrick Wood, Farnborough village (lunch stop), Gypsy Lee's grave, farmland, High Elms Country Park (a splendid park with good selection of exotic trees), Wilberforce memorial seat (he of abolish slavery fame), Caesar's Well (source of the Ravensbourne), Keston Ponds and West Wickham Common. Altogether a varied and interesting mix on well defined tracks. There are no industrial sites, dumps or scrap yards!

The section from Farnborough to Keston is uphill in open countryside and I suggest you bring water.

"The Changes of Horses" pub at Farnborough is a suitable "half-way" lunch stop. It has a variety of sandwiches, pies and chips, salads, baked potatoes etc and also a fair size garden. The Greyhound at Keston could be refreshment stop about 2 km from the end. We did not find any thing at Hayes.

There are escape points at Farnborough (6km) and buses at Keston Ponds. There are public toilets at Farnborough, High Elms Country Park and Keston Ponds (~10 km).

Suggest we meet at Petts Wood Station and aim to set off at 11.00. Trains go from London Victoria, the 10.21 arrives at 10.54 or London Bridge 10.23 or 10.34 arriving at 10.56 or 11.00. The return train is from Hayes to London Bridge, Waterloo East and Charing Cross. Please check for timetable changes! We took about 5 hours including stops to complete this section.

Latecomers can contact me on my mobile number 0037253135263 to find out where we are.

You can download details of the route and a picturesque map from

<http://www.walklondon.org.uk/section.asp?section=3> and

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/gettingaround/walkfinder/walkdetails.asp?id=76>

The cost of this event is £2.00.

