

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION London Loop 5b: Coulsdon South Station to Ewell West 25 April 2009

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. The definitive guide, "The London Loop" was written by David Sharp, list price £12.99. This guide contains maps, directions, detailed descriptions of the local scenery and facilities on the route. The whole route is about 150 miles long and Sharp's book divides it into 15 sections, starting and stopping at convenient transit points. This section takes us from Coulsdon South to Ewell West

The starting point is Coulsdon South Station. Aim to be at the station by 11.00. This section is about 9 miles and has 5 stiles.

The section starts with a long, steady climb through residential roads in Coulsdon and Clockhouse, but after that the route is almost entirely level in attractive countryside, with some fine views towards London. We pass the distinctive black weatherboard houses of the smallholdings on the Little Woodcote Estate, then open fields lead to The Oaks Park, with its cafe, toilets and nature trail. It was once the grounds of the mansion of the Earl of Derby, both providing names for the classic horse races at Epsom. This is also a convenient stopping place for lunch.



After a straight track we enter Surrey, passing the walls of Highdown Prison to reach Banstead Downs and pass through a golf course. We then follow pleasant residential roads for some distance through Belmont and East Ewell. A pleasant green stretch follows, through the Woodland Trust's Warren Farm and Nonsuch Park. Nonsuch Mansion is worth a visit and houses a small café. Also in the grounds of Nonsuch Park is the remains of a banqueting hall, a fitting memorial to King Henry VIII.

Further on we pass an ancient village lock-up (with a plaque telling a humorous tale about a fire engine), and the section finishes in the small but pretty Bourne Hall Park with its pond and fountain, a source of the Hogsmill River. The pictures (from Sharp's book shows the entrance to Bourne Hall park.

Ewell West station is nearby with 4 trains an hour towards Clapham Junction and Waterloo.

Latecomers can contact me on my mobile number 07733555113 to find out where we are. Details of the route and a picturesque map can be found at <http://www.walklondon.org.uk/section.asp?section=6> and <http://www.walklondon.org.uk/section.asp?section=7>.