



London Loop

Section 6 of 24

Coulsdon South station to Banstead Downs



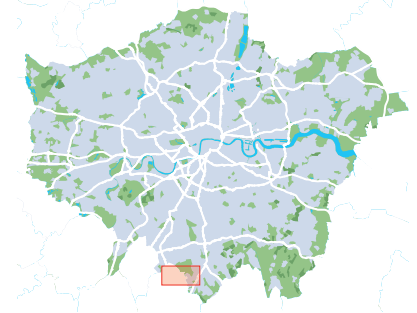
Section start: Coulsdon South station

Nearest station to start: Coulsdon South 

Section finish: Banstead Downs

Nearest station to finish: Banstead 

Section distance: 4.5 miles (7 kilometres)



Introduction

This 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.

You 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.

This is easy walking on mostly level ground. There are some stiles and kissing gates and only Oaks Park is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

At Banstead station you can carry on to Section seven to Bourne Hall Park, Ewell.



Directions



1 Leave Coulsdon South station by the exit on platform 1 near the footbridge. Cross the car park and head towards the main road (Brighton Road). Cross at the pelican crossing and turn right.

Did you know?

Before the railway bridge is a milestone - with the distance to Westminster Bridge in Roman numerals and to Brighton in familiar Arabic numerals.

This was the site of the one of the first public railways in the world - the Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Railway, which opened in 1805. It was an extension to the Surrey Iron Railway (the first railway). The lines closed in 1846 following competition from the current railway.



Walking under both the rail and road bridges follow the Brighton Road on its left-hand side until you get to Lion Green Road, fork left and carry on past the car park. At the junction next to the post office cross Chipstead Valley Road and bear left up Woodman Road.

The road bends left, and immediately after take a turning onto a footpath on the right. Take the left-hand turn through the metal chicane between the two fences and then go over the railway bridge.

At Woodmansterne Road, turn left, cross over and take the right fork with a steady climb - this is a continuation of Woodmansterne Road.

Keep to the pavement on the left and cross Bramley Avenue and keep going up the hill. Keep going across Beechwood Avenue, up to The Mount with a parade of shops.


Buses from the stop by the oak tree go to Coulsdon or Wallington. To carry on, go straight on down the road, past the pub on your left. On the right is an ancient hedgerow. Take the first bridleway off to the right, past the metal post. Along this sunken path there is an old Carshalton Urban District Council boundary marker, dated 1898. At the set of black iron boundary gates go through and bear left. To the right are the Woodcote Smallholdings.

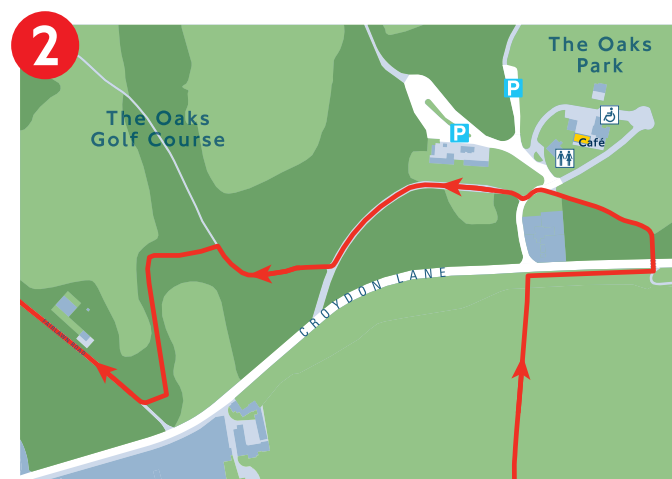
Did you know?

The houses you see here, all in the same style, were built for the troops coming back after World War I - to what Prime Minister Lloyd George described as "a land fit for heroes!" The scheme was not very successful but vegetables are still grown on some of the plots today.

From the top of the hill there is a great view of London, including the masts of Crystal Palace.

Follow the hedge line to the left, as the path heads down a gradual slope. Carry straight on, keeping the burning area to your right. Go straight on the obvious path and at a crossing of paths continue ahead through the bollards into a tree-covered lane. A few metres further on there is a motorbike barrier on the left with a footpath sign to Carshalton Road. Go through it and head diagonally across the field following the waymarker posts, with a travellers' camp on the right.

 **2** At the far side of the field, pass through the barrier and turn left up the road (Carshalton Road), walk with care as there is no footpath. At the field gate on the right-hand side about 180 metres up road (by the 30 mph sign) cross over the stile and keep to the left-hand field edge. At the first corner of the hedge, where there is a signpost, turn right. Walk across the field, heading towards a stile in the tree line opposite. Cross a double stile near the large beech trees entering a field growing lavender and follow the obvious grassy path straight ahead. Before reaching the road (Croydon Lane) cross a stile on the right and follow the grass path parallel to the road until reaching another stile leading to a light-controlled crossing on the left.



Go straight over into The Oaks Park and follow the path to the left towards the cafe and toilets. Here there is a large LOOP information board.

Did you know?

It was at The Oaks Park - after which the Oaks classic horse race was named - that Lord Derby and Lord Bunbury tossed a coin for who would name the classic horse race on Epsom Downs. If it had gone the other way we'd now have the Epsom Bunbury!

Keep following the tarmac path past the ornamental gardens, which eventually turns into a footpath, as it winds round to the right past two barriers on the left. At the next junction, turn left and go downhill to some steps. At the second set of steps, fork left through the gap in the fence and follow the path down, keeping the edge of what used to be a walled garden on the left. Continue round the wall and eventually turn right onto a track called Fairlawn Road.

Continue on this track until reaching a house on the left and a golf course on the right. Turn left onto a bridleway (called Freedown Lane). Keep following the track, past the stables. Carry straight on along the main track with the high-tech walls of the prison on the right until reaching Sutton Lane at the end of Freedown Lane.

About 80 metres up the road to the left is a bus stop for buses to Banstead or Sutton. This could be a good place to finish on a Sunday, as there are no trains from Banstead station on this day.


To continue, cross the road and go straight down the track onto Banstead Downs (with the car park on the right) and continue straight on past a right-hand turning path.

Did you know?

John Totland, a local author, described the Downs as "being covered with grass finer than persian carpets" and in the eighteenth century considerable quantities were shipped to France to form the lawns of the Palace of Versailles. As you walk across the Downs, look out for Britain's smallest butterfly - the rare small blue, which lives here.

Keep left and continue down the hill. At the bottom is a little brick bridge over the railway line - cross it and follow the path round to the left. Eventually the path reaches Banstead Downs Golf Course and heads out across the fairway. This is a public right of way, but it is advisable to agree with the golfers who is doing what, and when. Follow the waymarks straight on and leave the course by the bridleway sign which heads out onto the A217 Brighton Road, known locally as the 'Mad Mile'.

Cross the road with extreme care at the gap in the central reservation.

 **3** At the other side of the road take the entrance drive straight ahead, then turn immediately right by the information board. This leads back to the golf course - follow the path across the fairway and into the trees on the far side.

The next junction in the path marks the end of this section.

To leave the LOOP turn left and keep following the path ahead across yet another fairway towards Banstead Road. Cross and turn left. At the top of the hill is the railway bridge and Banstead station.

On Sundays, when trains do not run from Banstead, the nearest bus service is from Banstead Village - carry on past the station and turn left at the end. Take care crossing the busy dual carriageway as there is no pedestrian phase (green man light). Carry on ahead into Bolters Lane following the road right at the mini-roundabout. Continue up Bolters Lane for about one-third of a mile to a roundabout and turn left here into the High Street where you will find the bus stop. Bus route 166 will take you to Coulsdon Town station (close to the start of this section), or route S1 to Sutton.

