



London Loop

Section 4 of 24

Gates Green Road,

West Wickham Common to Hamsey Green



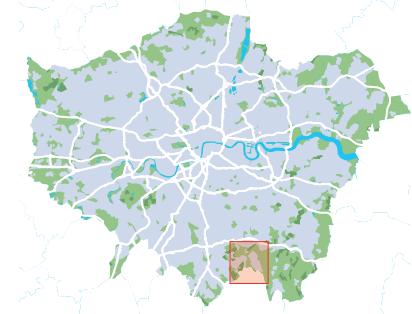
Section start: Gates Green Road, West Wickham Common

Nearest station to start: Hayes

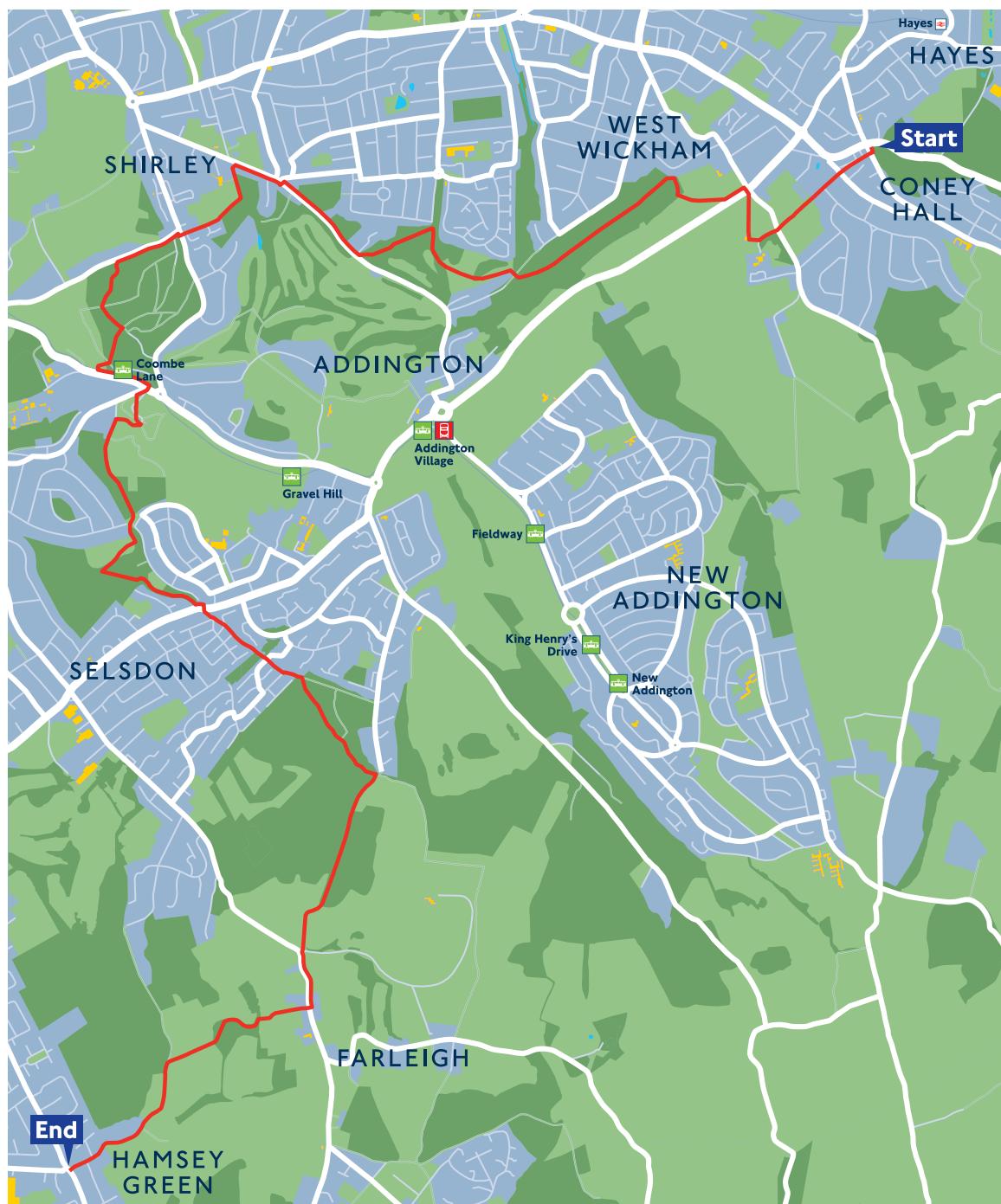
Section finish: Hamsey Green

Nearest station to finish: Sanderstead (by 403 bus from Hamsey Green)

Section distance: 10 miles (16 kilometres)

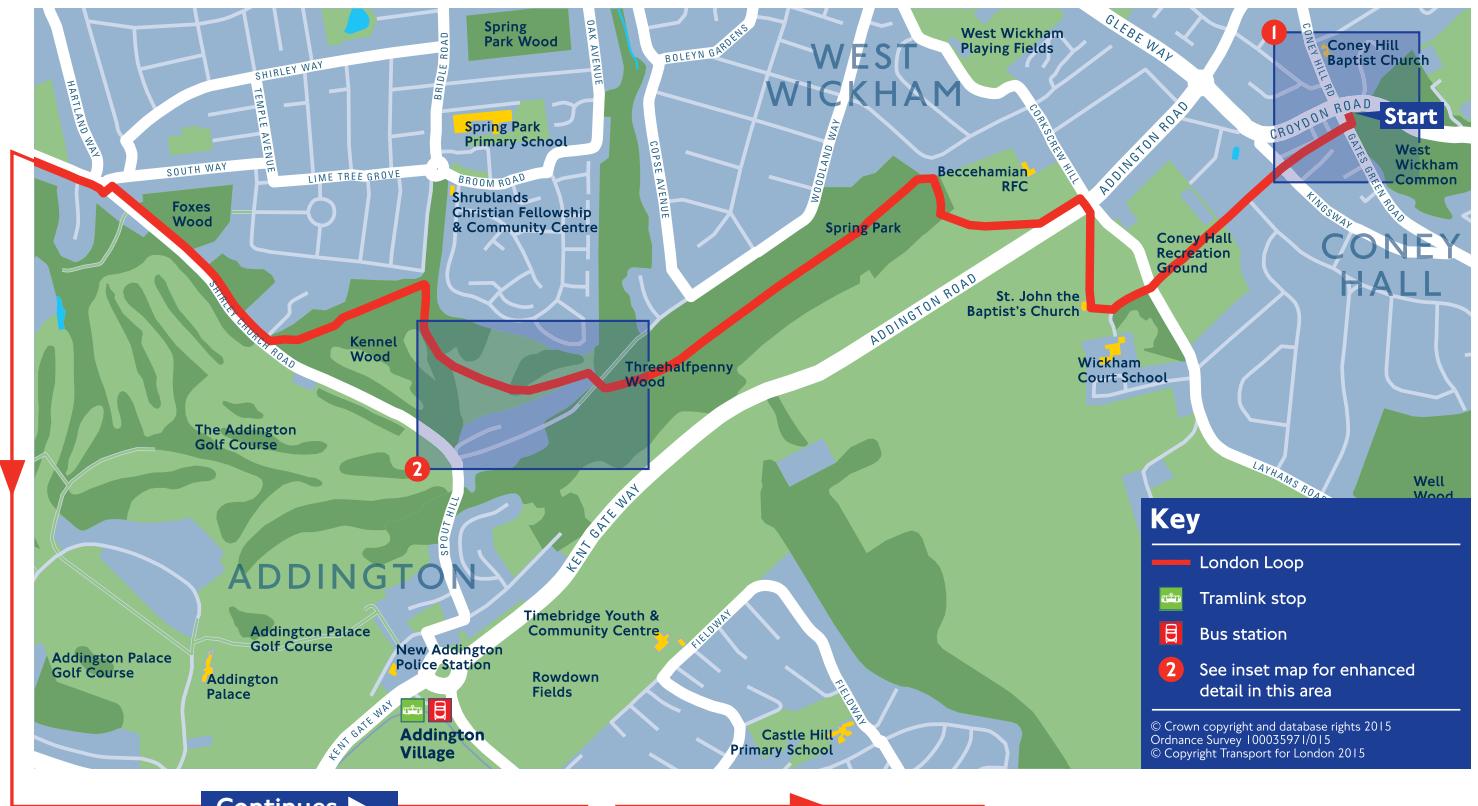


Introduction

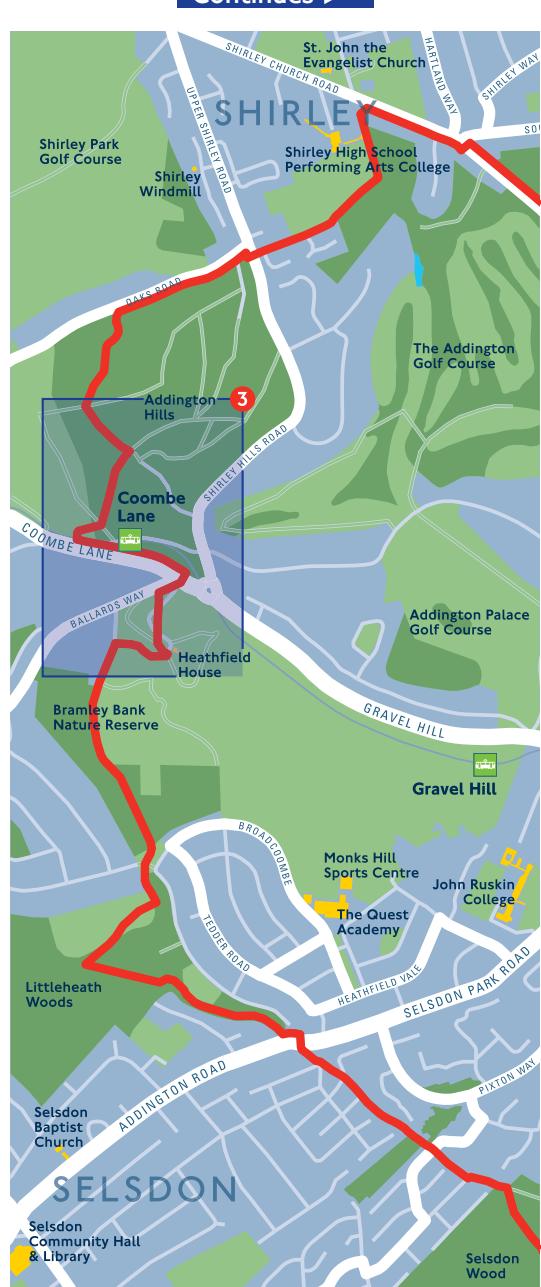


This well-wooded section has a fair amount of climbing, rewarded by some splendid views. The route also passes through commons, gardens and nature reserves.

There are numerous pubs and you can picnic at many places along the way. There are public toilets and a restaurant at Addington Hills.



Continues ►



Directions

1 To reach the start of this section of the LOOP, from the main entrance of Hayes Station, turn right and walk to Bourne Way. Turn left at Bourne Way and continue until reaching Warren Road. Turn right and continue on to Warren Wood Close with Hayes Common to your left. After Nash College on your right you will join Croydon Road, turn right and cross the road at the junction. You have now joined the LOOP at West Wickham Common.

Did you know?

On West Wickham Common are two gnarled Domesday Oaks which are thought to be over 700 years old. They've been pollarded, which literally means 'beheaded' to encourage new growth.



Walk for 50 metres along Gates Green Road, turn right and take the footpath between house gardens, then passing the car park on the right. Cross the road (Kingsway) and keep going along Church Drive, then continue straight through Coney Hall recreation ground.

Did you know?

The route passes The Greenwich Meridian stone in Coney Hall Recreation Ground, marking 0 degrees longitude, the basis for calculating standard time for Britain and throughout the world.

Cross Layhams Road and make for the Church of St. John the Baptist. Go into the churchyard, turn right in front of the church and follow the path through a kissing gate, continue across the field to another kissing gate and to the busy roundabout.

Cross the road and enter Sparrows Den Playing Field, there is a small entrance on the corner of Addington Road and Corkscrew Hill. Turn left and follow the fence for 250 metres. Turn right across the field and head for a bench and the corner of the wood.

Do not go straight into the woods but take a small footpath up between two fences, almost at the top go through the gap in the wooden fence on your left and continue right up the path to the wooden garden fences. Follow the track round to the left and continue straight, passing through Spring Park, past the boundary stone and into Threehalfpenny Wood. Ignore all the little paths off to the left and right and keep going to reach a bridleway with houses ahead.

The boundary between the borough of Bromley and the borough of Croydon is between Spring Park and Threehalfpenny Wood. It is marked not only by the boundary stone but also with an ancient bank and ditch boundary, and a line of rare small-leaved lime trees.

2 Cross over the bridleway to Shirley Heath and turn left, following the edge of the open space. Go through a belt of trees, cross another open, grassy area and head slightly right for the opening in the belt of trees on the other side. Go into the wood and turn right onto the bridleway (briefly sharing the path with the Waterlink Way). After 100 metres turn left at the holly trees crossing a small ditch. After about 30 metres turn left again.



Following the LOOP waymarker posts through Kennel Wood keeping just within the woodland edge with the houses in sight to the right continue to Shirley Church Road.

Turn right and follow the road for just over half a mile, crossing the road at the first island and keeping left at both mini-roundabouts. Cross straight over Pinewood Close. When you reach a small group of trees with the Shirley Church recreation ground tennis courts on your right turn left into Pinewoods (a wood, not a road), then follow the footpath round the school branching right to Sandpits Road that leads on to Upper Shirley Road, passing the Sandrock pub on the corner.

From here bus route 466 goes to East Croydon stations.

Cross Upper Shirley Road into Oaks Road then turn left at the second post, through a gate, into Addington Hills. Turn right - the path runs parallel with the road for 300 metres, then bears left into a clearing. Climb up the steps, with patches of heather on both sides, to the viewing platform.

Did you know?

Addington Hills is London's largest surviving piece of heathland. The viewing platform provides excellent views over London. On a clear day you can see Windsor Castle, 26 miles away, as well as the arch of Wembley Stadium, The O₂ (the former Millennium Dome), Canary Wharf and the Telecom Tower.

Leave the viewing platform along the broad path towards the car park (there is a restaurant here with public toilets). Turn right before the car park and soon fork left, then turn right on a crossing track. Just before the track comes to a steep descent, turn sharp left on a footpath that leads to Coombe Lane station on the Tramlink line (with frequent services into Croydon). Cross the tram lines, then go left on a path that follows near the road.

Continue until you can cross the road via the lights, then retrace your steps to the junction of Coombe Lane and Ballards Way and go through the gates into the gardens of the late 18th century Heathfield House.

❸ Go past the lodge, take the left fork, and down the steps. At the bottom, pass the pond keeping it on your right and bear right up the steps to the car park. Exit the car park into Riesco Drive, turn left and continue to reach Bramley Bank Nature Reserve.



Enter the reserve and keep on by the left-hand edge of this ridge-top wood staying on the main track. Leave the reserve via a gate into an area of open grass and cross diagonally right to a path on the other side of a metal hand rail. At the end of the fence turn right and cross another grassy field towards a group of five birch trees, bearing left enter the woods. A short way into the woods turn left. Here the path joins the Vanguard Way.

Did you know?

The Vanguard Way, from Croydon to Seaford in Sussex, was developed by the Vanguards Rambling Club. They got their name from a rambling excursion in 1965 when they had to sit in the guard's van of the train on their return journey.

Follow the path up and over the brow of the hill, then left at the junction. Pass the water tower (on your left), turn right at the corner and continue with the playground on the left, then fork right down the hill and leave the wood. Follow the verge round to Addington Road. There is a crossing approximately 100 metres to the left.

From here the 64 bus route goes to East and West Croydon stations.

To carry on, cross the road and head off down the left-hand side of Ashen Vale.

At the gate and driveway to the modern church on your left, find the grassy path alongside the metal fence of the church and follow this path for 750 metres across two roads to a gate at Selsdon Wood.

Once through the gate and up a few steps, turn right and then immediately left to take the middle of three paths, and follow the path up over the hill, ignoring paths to the left and right until you reach the wooden gate at the end of the wood. With houses on your left and green fields ahead turn right up Baker Boy Lane into Puplet Wood, another ancient woodland.

Did you know?

You have now entered one of the oldest remaining parishes on the LOOP - Chelsham & Farleigh. In spite of being so close to London, this part of the parish is designated as an area of great landscape value.

Eventually the path emerges from the woods and arrives at the entrance to Farleigh Court Golf Club. Cross straight over the entrance to the golf club, leaving the Vanguard Way (which turns left) and go straight ahead.

Follow the often muddy horse path beside the road until it emerges opposite Elm Farm. Cross the road to the path under the weeping willow next to Elm Farm. It runs steeply down the hill and on to Mossyhill Shaw, keeping fences to your right to the bottom of the hill.

Did you know?

Sunny glades in Mossyhill Shaw attract all sorts of butterflies, including the speckled wood and the common blue.

You now have to climb back up. At the top of the slope cross the stile and carry straight on along the field edge following the line of trees and cross a stile at the far side. Turn left along Kingswood Lane, with King's Wood itself on your right. Keep going for another 950 metres, until you come out onto Limpsfield Road.

Section four ends here. From the bus stop opposite on your right, you can get a 403 bus that can take you to Sanderstead station.

For Section five to Coulsdon South station, Croydon, continue ahead along Tithepit Shaw Lane.



24 hour travel information

0343 222 1234*

*Service and network charges may apply. See tfl.gov.uk/terms for details.



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