



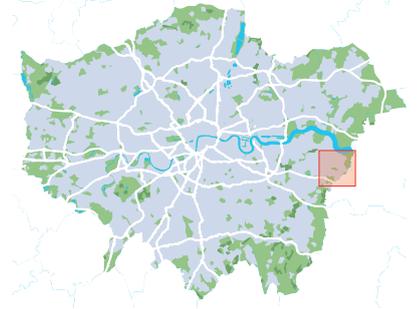
London Loop

Section 1 of 24

Erith Station to Bexley High Street



- Section start:** Erith Station
- Nearest station to start:** Erith
- Section finish:** Bexley High Street
- Nearest station to finish:** Bexley
- Section distance:** 8.5 miles (13.5 kilometres)

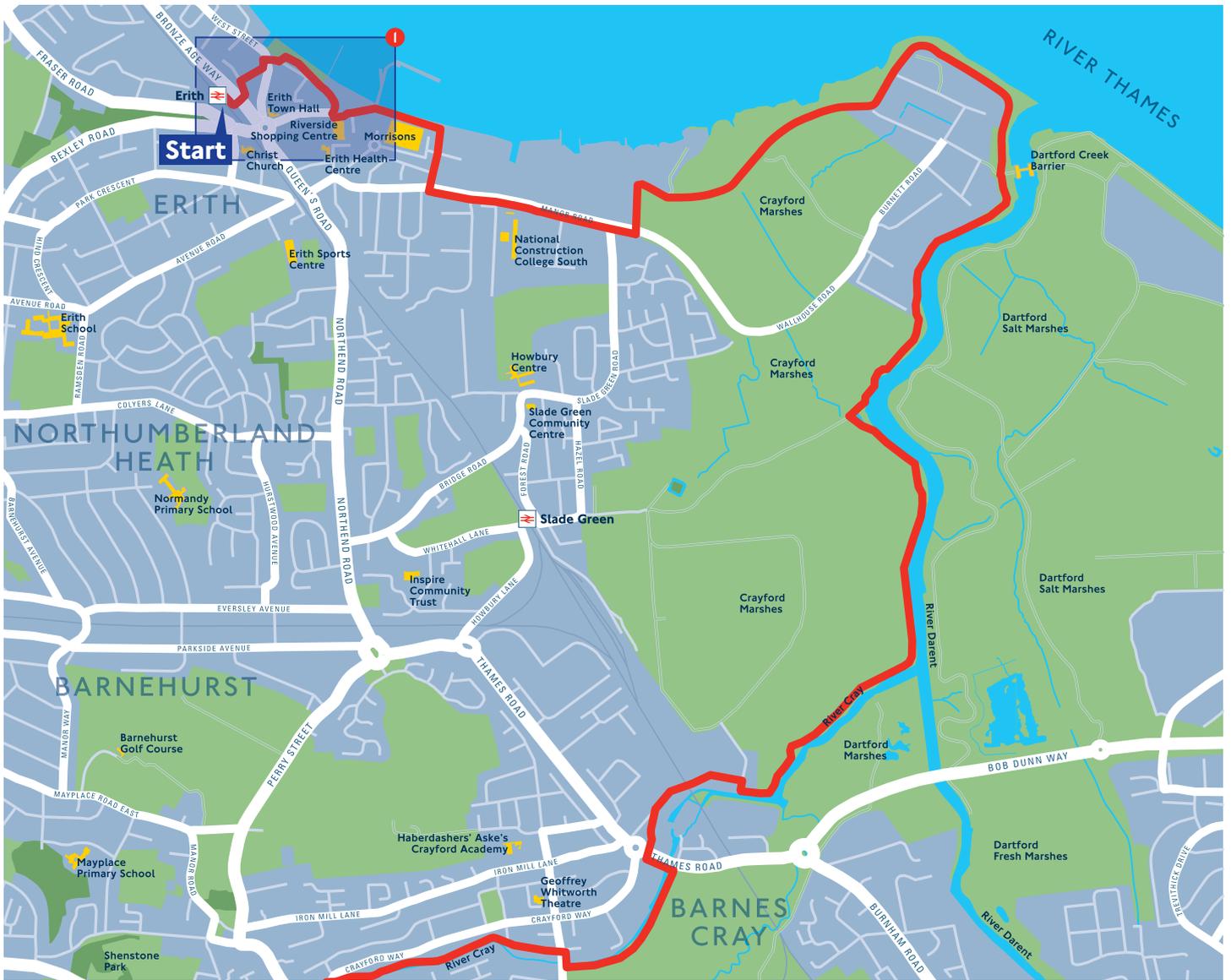


Introduction

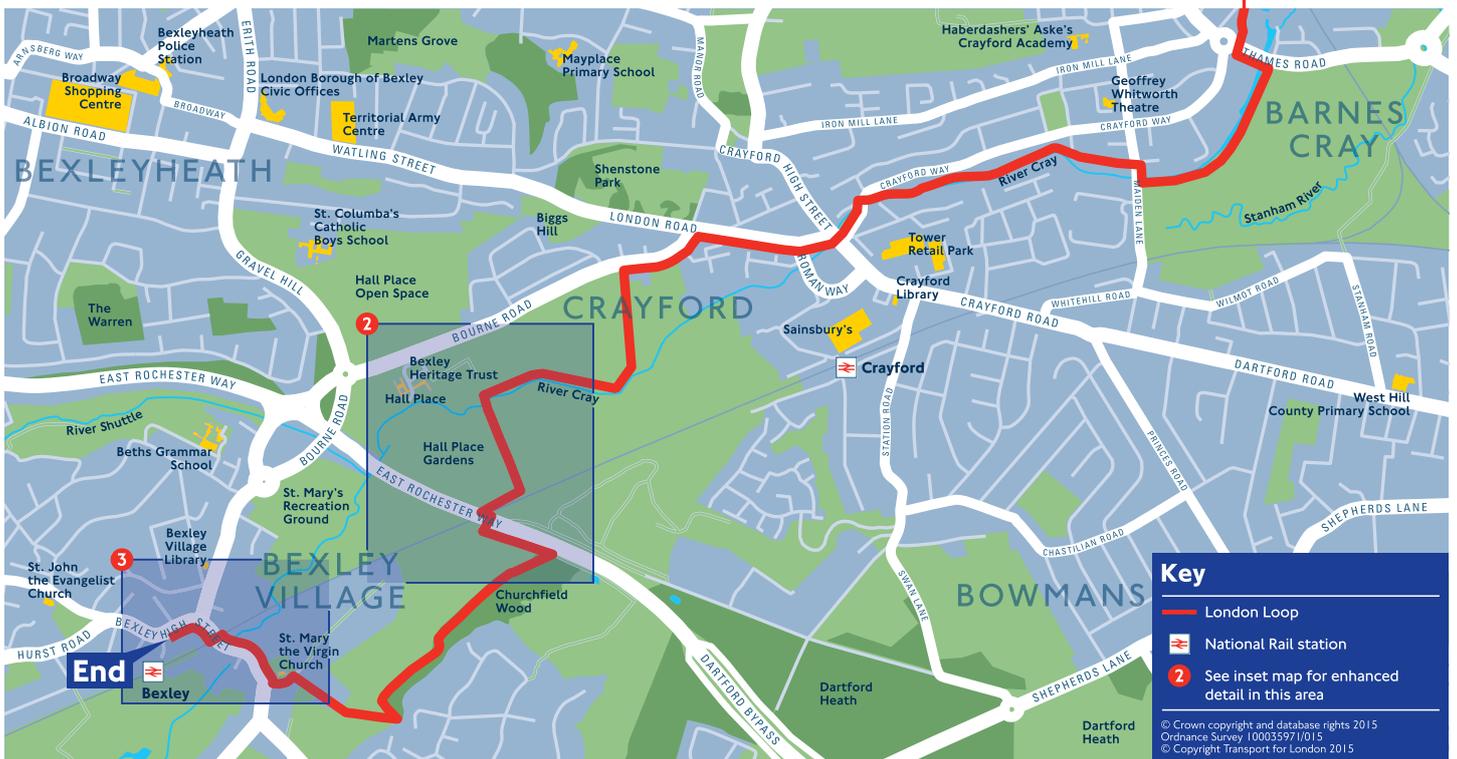
This section starts at Erith station and heads south to finish close to Bexley station in the historic village of Old Bexley. It offers easy walking, mainly level on riverside paths, with a few short climbs. Paths beside the rivers can, at times, be muddy.

There are cafes and pubs at many places along the way and you can picnic at Hall Place.





Continues ▶



Key

- London Loop
- National Rail station
- See inset map for enhanced detail in this area

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Directions

 **1** Leave Erith station and follow the station access road under the bridge to the mini roundabout. Here take a right into Stonewood Road which leads to the Riverside Gardens. Turn right and follow the path through the gardens. The LOOP follows for a while, the Thames Path.

At the end of the gardens continue along Erith High Street. Take a left, just past the Cross Keys pub, down towards the river and Erith Deep Wharf.

Carry on beside the river. At the end of the path turn right, into James Watt Way, crossing Wheatley Terrace Road, then go through the bollards, and straight ahead to Manor Road. Here, turn left past the Royal Alfred pub, and keep going along Manor Road for about half a mile. At the end of the industrial estate, after Manor Road meets Ray Lamb Way, turn left down the little tarmac lane, back towards the river.

At the end of the path go right past the Erith Yacht Club compound and straight ahead onto a raised bank. Carry on following the bank beside the river. When you reach the River Darent mouth, the path turns right heading inland, joining the Cray Riverway Walk.

Cross the Dartford Creek Barrier access road via the kissing gates and keep following the river wall inland. About three-quarters of a mile past the dam the path splits in two. The Darent curves to the left. If you want to stop here you should take the right-hand path and carry straight on to Slade Green rail station. To continue, follow the Darent round to the left and keep following the river wall. The River Cray feeds into the Darent along this stretch.

When the path reaches Crayford Creek, keep following the River Cray. At the end of the path, go through the barrier, turn right at the metal fence then immediately left down the road.

 Go under the bridge with the 'Road Liable to Flood' sign and keep going. Where the road forks, cross to take the right fork and straight ahead towards the busy Thames Road. At the road junction there is a pedestrian crossing to your left, use this to cross the road and on the far side turn left, reaching a roundabout. Soon you will reach Crayford Way, cross and turn left following the path round to the right with the green space on your right. After you cross the River Cray again, turn right and follow the riverside path with the Cray on your right.

Did you know?

The River Cray is home to common reeds - the tallest British grass which can reach ten feet high. It is still used to thatch roofs, and in previous times was harvested in huge quantities. The marshes are one of the few remaining areas of Thames grazing marsh in London, with ditches supporting a wealth of rare plants and animals, and a good range of breeding birds.

Keep walking along the path, and at Malden Lane, turn right and cross the bridge over the Cray, then take the first left up Barnes Cray Road. Where the road curves to the right, follow the track off to the left, and there on your left, is the river again. Follow the path and it pops out onto Crayford Way.

If you wish to finish the walk here, there is a bus stop across the road to your right where bus route 428 can take you back to Erith.



Cross the road and go left towards Waterside Gardens, or walk through the gardens with the river on your right. At the Bear & Ragged Staff pub, cross Crayford High Street at the pedestrian lights and bear slightly right to continue along London Road.

Did you know?

The Bear & Ragged Staff was the badge of the Earl of Warwick - the famed Kingmaker of the Wars of the Roses. He was killed in thick fog at the battle of Barnet after he'd just joined the Lancastrians.

Crayford station can be reached from here by turning left and heading down Crayford Road, past the Old Town Hall, then right into Station Road.

To carry on keep along London Road, then fork left into Bourne Road and keep going until you reach the garage on the left. The two posts either side of the garage are all that is left of the old Crayford cinema.

After the second post, turn left and go through the kissing gate and walk down the left edge of the playing field. At the bottom follow the path through the vegetation to meet up with the river - turn right and follow the bank.

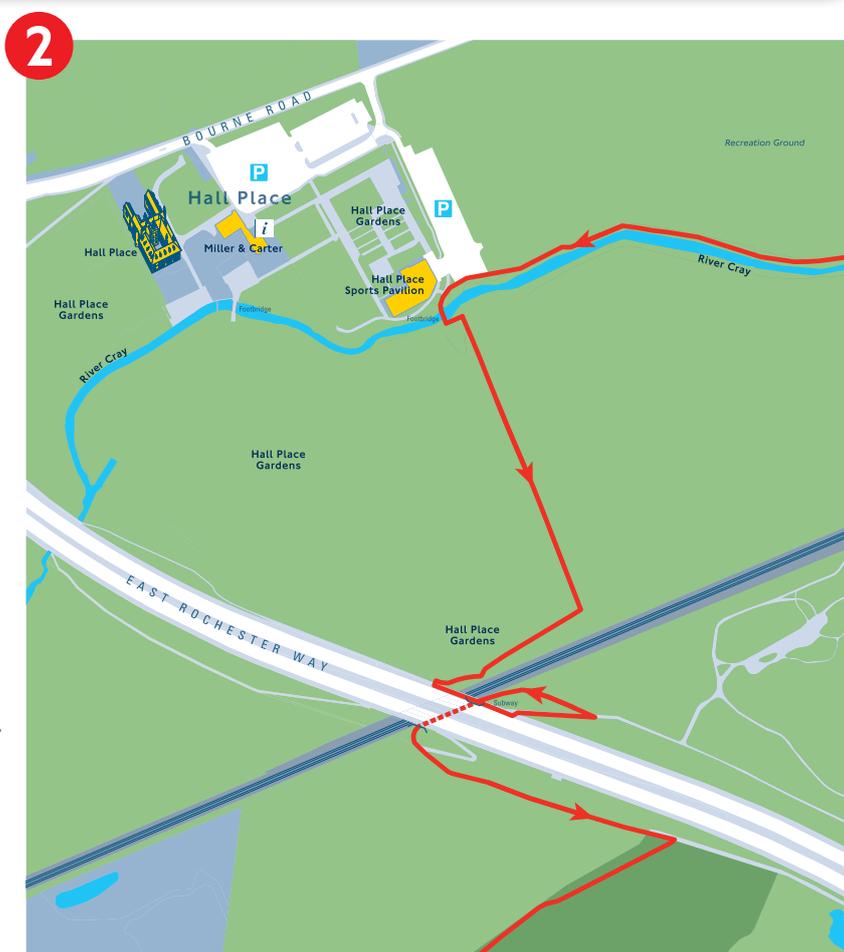
 Ignore the first bridge but cross at the second one and turn left. If you want to take a look at Hall Place, go right after the bridge, instead of left.

Did you know?

Hall Place is a fine Tudor mansion built almost 500 years ago in the reign of Henry VIII for the Lord Mayor of London. It has a magnificent panelled Great Hall with Minstrel's Gallery and fine decorative plaster ceilings, as well as award-winning gardens, a stunning topiary lawn, herb gardens and inspirational herbaceous border.

 **2** Follow the hedge, crossing the little creek (usually dry), then round to the right and head for the railway bridge which carries the A2 East Rochester Way. Go through the kissing gate and up the ramp, up the steps and at the top turn left. Stay on this side of the road and cross the railway then immediately after the bridge, fork left through the kissing gate and down the path. At the bottom, take a very sharp left and then left under the A2 bridge.

At the next fork, take the right-hand path. As you start to go up the slope towards the road, there's a stile on the right, leading into Churchfield Wood. Cross the stile and head off down the right hand path. Keep following the path, with the woods on your left. At the end is a little stile - kissing gate, which brings you out onto a tarmac path. Turn right and keep walking.



 **3** When you reach the end of the footpath with St. Mary the Virgin church opposite, turn left towards Bexley High Street, then keep right. Pass under the bridge by the Old Mill pub, then cross the road and turn left at the mini roundabout.

This section ends at the junction of Bexley High Street and Tan Yard Lane on the left.

Station Approach is just past Tan Yard Lane on your left - taking you to Bexley station.

Alternatively, bus routes 229 or B12 can take you back to Erith from stop F in Bourne Road.

