

Freedom Pass circuit

Section 4: Hayes to New Addington

Distance: 3.86 mi, 6.18 km (via Nash); 3.65 mi, 5.84 km (via Birch Wood)

Introduction

This fairly short section takes us south-west from Hayes to New Addington. It is quite hilly at both ends. There are two alternative routes. The more easterly one, via Nash, includes a section on two roads: the first has virtually no traffic, the second has a little traffic. The other one, via Birch Wood, follows the London Loop initially.

There are pubs and cafes in Hayes, and cafes in New Addington.

Directions

On leaving Hayes station, turn right then left up Station Hill. Take the next right to stay on Station Hill.

Via Nash

At the top, go straight ahead onto Hayes Common, then head diagonally across the grass to the second bench from the right. Carry on through the trees to the left of it.

Keep on the main path, later alongside a metal fence on your right.

When the path comes out onto Preston Road, turn right, and then cross Croydon Road and carry straight on to a bench. Then turn left.

Bear left alongside the perimeter fence. We are now briefly on the London Loop again.

Leave the Loop by turning right down Hartfield Crescent. Follow the crescent round to the left, then turn right down Hartfield Road.

At the end, turn left, and then right just after the school.

Follow this path all the way to the end.

Bear left onto the track past the sign to Rouse Farm.

This bends round to the right past

Via Birch Wood

At the top, turn right again.

At the corner, carry on along the footpath.

Keep straight ahead. At Holland Way, keep to the right of the metal fence, along Pole Cat Alley.

At the end, turn right down the main road.

Take the first left, which is Gates Green Road.

Take the footpath on the right.

At the end, carry on up Church Drive.

Carry on into and across the park, passing a marker at the Greenwich Meridian.

As you near the far side, turn right then left, cross the road and carry on along the footpath opposite.

At the end, turn right towards the church.

Go straight through the churchyard, leaving the London Loop (which turns off to the right), bear left as you descend the steps, and

farm buildings. When it bends left, take the footpath to the right.

Take the left fork, which takes you along the left edge of the field.

Keep straight ahead on the main path, passing the remains of a stile.

Follow the path down to the road, then keep straight on. Keep on this road round a bend to the right, and on to a T junction.

Turn left onto Layhams Road.

When this road bends sharp left, take the footpath straight ahead.

Keep straight ahead on the path through the wood, which gradually gets narrower and narrower.

When the path finally emerges on the right, follow the path along the right-hand edge of the field, down and then up.

Half-way up take the exit on the right.

Go along the right-hand edge of another field, and leave it at the next corner.

Keep left, first with the metal fence on your left, then with the wall on your right. When the wall ends, turn right through the gap in the fence and walk through the industrial area.

Cross King Henry's Drive by the pedestrian crossing, and carry on down Colley Down Crescent.

Take the footpath on the right between nos. 49 and 49a, then left then right down Godric Crescent.

Carry on straight ahead on the path down to the roundabout.

Take the second exit clockwise, up Ownsted Hill.

At the top turn right onto Salcot Crescent.

Keep going until you see New Addington tram stop ahead of you.

then carry on along the footpath.

After the first stile, go along the edge of one field, across a second field and along the edge of a third field.

Keep straight ahead when you enter the wood, and carry on parallel to its edge.

Keep on the main path as it bends round to the left, still with the edge of the wood on your left.

After a short ascent, when the edge of the wood takes another turn to the left, take a right fork.

Eventually, after another ascent, the edge of the wood reappears on the left.

Still keep going in the same general direction, following the line of the edge of the wood on your left.

Eventually you come out into an open area. Cross a track and carry on along the path opposite.

When you reach open grass, bear left, towards the left-hand end of a green fence.

Carry on along the path between the allotments and the wood.

Go through a fence gap, then bear left.

Follow the path round a gradual right bend, then go under a road.

Keep straight ahead, passing a playground and parallel to a road on the right, until you reach a roundabout.