

Zone 6 outer

Section 3: Crayford to St Mary Cray

Distance: 7.46 mi, 11.94 km (east diversion); 7.25 mi, 11.60 km (west diversion)

Introduction

This section, although moderately long, looks quite straightforward on the map; however, it turns out to be less straightforward on the ground. This is because some of the footpaths are not where they should be, and some of them do not appear to exist at all. There is also the difficulty of crossing the A20.

A short section near the beginning is shared with the London Loop.

There are places to eat in Bexley. But after that nothing until St Mary Cray.

Directions

Leave Crayford station on the south side, by platform 1, and turn right along the road that runs past the carpark.

After entering Braeburn Park, bear right alongside the railway line.

Follow the path, keeping right at every intersection, until you go under the A2. Here we join the London Loop.

The path then bends left. Keep right at the next fork.

A little later, turn right, by a stile, onto a path that runs along the edge of a wood.

At the end of this path, turn right onto a tarmac path.

Immediately after a cemetery on the right, turn left. Here we leave the London Loop.

Cross the main road, and turn left then right into Stable Lane.

Keep on this road. Pass through a riding establishment, keeping left alongside Joyden's Wood.

Go over a stile and enter another riding establishment.

The path should probably carry on straight ahead along the edge of the fields on the right, but there are fences. So instead cross over a ditch on the left, and carry on along the line of the ditch.

At the last of the fences on the right you come to a stile. Go over it and carry on along the left-hand edge of the field.

At the end of the field you come to another stile, followed by a stretch of path, followed by another stile.

Then strike out diagonally across the field on the right.

When you reach the other side, cross the fence and turn left.

Keep straight on past a barrier, with a bridleway on either side. However, if the path is very muddy you may find it easier to walk on the left-hand bridleway.

After a short ascent, turn right through a caravan park.

Carry on straight ahead on the road through the caravan park, and keep straight on after the exit.

At the A20, the path should carry on straight ahead. But it is impossible to cross, so instead you must divert either to the left or to the right.

East diversion:

Turn left just before the main road, after a green fence on the right.

When the path crosses a track, turn right onto it.

Turn left alongside the main road, then turn right onto the sliproad that goes under the A20.

Once on the other side, immediately turn left and cross the corner of a field.

On the other side of the field, turn right and follow the edge of the field.

Eventually there will be a sunken lane on your left.

When you see a red barrier, cross the sunken lane and take the rough path just to its right.

Keep going in the same general direction, and descend towards a golf course.

Fight your way through the vegetation onto the golf course, and turn left.

At the corner of the golf course, turn right and carry on along the left edge of the course.

When you reach the bottom of a slope, turn left out of the golf course, then right at the next intersection.

Keep straight ahead on this path, which becomes a minor road.

Halfway up a slope, go through the green barrier on the left.

Keep right at the next two intersections, then turn right into Chalk Pit Avenue.

Take the next right, which becomes a footpath.

At the bottom, cross the road and two branches of the River Cray.

Cross the main road, and proceed along Broomwood Road.

Take the second left, which is Saxville Road.

Keep straight ahead to a T junction, then turn left.

After a right bend, turn left before a grass triangle then right into Chipperfield Road.

West diversion:

Turn right immediately after an electricity transformer.

The road soon becomes a narrow path.

When you reach the main road, cross it and carry on in the same direction.

Turn left past a red barrier.

Go through the underpass and pass a waste depot on the right.

Immediately before a red barrier on the right, take the rough path on the right.

Turn right into Scarlet Close, which leads to St Mary Cray station.