

Zone 6 outer

Section 5: Knockholt to New Addington

Distance: 10.30 mi, 16.48 km

Introduction

This long section is almost entirely rural, and also very hilly. The first hour and last half-hour are shared with the Freedom Pass Circuit (parts 3 and 4 respectively).

An important highlight, near the midpoint, is Down House, the house of Charles Darwin.

There is a pub in Pratt's Bottom, a restaurant in Leaves Green and cafes in New Addington. There are minimal refreshments available in the cafe at Down House. The gap between Pratt's Bottom and Leaves Green is about 2¼ hours.

Directions

Turn left out of Knockholt station, then left at Sevenoaks Road.

Cross the road and take the footpath on the right, just after the bus stop on the left.

Follow this path up the hill, and continue round to the left and then right. At the junction keep straight ahead alongside the abandoned golf course.

When you get to the end of the golf course, turn right before the kissing gate.

At Stonehouse Lane, turn right then immediately left.

Cross the field. Keep straight ahead on entering the wood on the far side. This takes you downhill. Towards the bottom, a wooden fence appears on your right, with a meadow beyond it. When the path starts to ascend, bear right.

At the top, go over the stile, and carry on straight ahead, initially along the edge of the field, then later diverging slightly to the left.

Go over the next stile and turn right, and over the next stile and turn left.

At the bottom of the steps, cross the road and go straight across the triangular green to Norstead Lane. Turn left.

When the track splits three ways by the village hall, take the central track. And again, when the track splits three ways by Woodhill Farm, keep on the central track.

Keep straight on up the hill, then past fields.

On reaching the road, turn right. Just before the bottom of the hill, take the road (not the footpath) left, by the grass triangle.

Keep on the road, bearing right at Norstead Manor Farm and left at Norstead Manor.

At Sumachs, take the footpath right, which soon bends left and takes you over a stile.

Cross the valley, aiming slightly to the left. Carry straight on into the wood on the other side, with a wire netting fence on your right.

At the junction turn right. Then take the next left. Here we leave the Freedom Pass circuit.

Bear right onto a path that cuts a chord across the field.

On the other side, go down some steps then bear left onto a track.

Keep straight ahead along a concrete track and then a tarmac road.

After a left bend, take the footpath on the right.

This takes you between two fields, then bends left alongside a hedge, on your left.

Keep straight ahead, crossing a driveway, to a road, then turn left along it.

Take the next right.

At the right bend, go straight on.

Keep straight ahead at the next intersection, and descend.

Cross the road and turn right onto the path that runs alongside it.

Briefly rejoin the road on a right bend, then go up the steps on the left.

Climb up through the woods, and then keep straight on.

Keep straight ahead at the next intersection and straight ahead across the road.

After crossing a meadow diagonally, bear right round the end of the walled garden (or enter the garden, if you wish to visit Downe House).

Turn left along the road, and follow the road through a golf course, and out the other side along Milking Lane.

Turn right at the red gate.

Skirt round the perimeter of Biggin Hill Airfield, up the east side and round the north end to the north-west corner.

Then take the diagonal path, which diverges away from the west side of the airfield.

At the end, turn left along a bye-road.

Turn right at Milking Lane and cross the main road.

Carry on along the bye-way opposite.

Keep straight ahead. Carry straight on when a tarmac road joins from the right.

Carry straight on to the left of Ashmore Farm, and rejoin the track a little later.

Follow the track round to the right as it descends.

When the track bends left, go straight ahead over a stile and across a field.

On entering the woods and going over another stile, go straight ahead across another track.

Bear left shortly after, then bear left again onto a farm track and climb another slope. Alternatively you could try taking the a footpath alongside the track on the left, but you may find it very hard going.

A little before the top of the hill, turn left onto another track.

Go over a stile and cross a road.

Go over two more stiles.

Keep going in the same general direction, although at first there is no obvious path.

Go over another stile,

Turn right then immediately enter the field on the left via a 5-bar wooden gate.

Carry on along the left-hand edge of the field.

Carry straight on.

Go through a gap and carry on along the left-hand edge of a field.

Follow the field's edge round to the right, and halfway down take the exit on the left. Here we join the Freedom Pass circuit.

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

Turn left, then keep straight ahead, 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 Calley Down Crescent.

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

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

Continue straight ahead up Ownsted Hill. At the top turn right onto Salcot Crescent.

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