

# Zone 6 outer

## Section 29: Epping to Harold Wood

Distance: 12.46 mi, 19.94 km

### Introduction

This is a long section, which goes generally south-east. A short section at the beginning is shared with the Freedom Pass circuit and a rather longer section at the end is shared with the London Loop.

It is characterized by several sections where the path is rather ill-defined. There are also a number of sections along roads, but most of these are very quiet.

After leaving Epping, the route is almost entirely rural until near the end. There is a pub on the outskirts of Epping and another on the outskirts of Harold Hill, but nowhere to eat in-between. The gap between the two is about 4½ hours.

### Directions

Leave Epping station on the east side, by platform 1. If that exist is closed, leave by the main exit, and turn right twice to cross the line by means of a footbridge.

Carry on down Hillcrest Way.

At the end turn right.

Take the footpath on the left, immediately after Bower Court.

Cross one field and carry on along the edge of a second one.

About halfway, turn left and cross a culvert over a ditch, followed by another field.

At the end, turn left along a bridleway.

At the end, turn right and pass the Theydon Oak.

When the road bends right, carry straight on along the footpath to the right of Gaynes Park. Here we leave the Freedom Pass circuit.

Turn right then left after crossing the M11.

At the end, carry on straight ahead along the road.

After a left bend, on a climb, take the road on the right, then immediately turn right again onto a footpath.

Keeping alongside the edge of Beachet Wood, cross two valleys.

At the top (which is barely perceptible) of the next rise, turn left into the wood.

Follow a rough track (at first also barely perceptible) gently uphill. The track becomes grass. Keep straight ahead past a clearing on the right, with some buildings beyond.

When you reach a T junction of grass tracks, turn left. Then very soon take an obscure path right into the woods.

At this point there is no very obvious path, but if you keep going in the same general direction you should find yourself on a path that runs just inside the edge of the wood, with a field on your right.

When you come to the corner of the field, keep going.

When you reach the far edge of the wood, turn right and go over a footbridge.

Carry on along the edge of the field, with the wood on your right.

At the end of the wood, turn right over a footbridge and then left.

Go along the edge of one field, and halfway along the edge of a second one, then turn left over a footbridge and then right.

Cut across the corner of a field, then carry on across another field diagonally. If this is too difficult to traverse, you can turn left up the edge of the field and then turn right onto a farm track.

When you reach a farm track (if you are not already on it), keep going in the same direction.

When you get near to the church, turn left and cross the churchyard.

Turn right along the road.

When the road bends right, go straight ahead into a field.

Cross the field diagonally to the left. If this is not possible you can instead skirt round the field clockwise, passing a fishing lake on your left, and then going alongside a stream.

Pass into another field, and keep going along its edge with the stream on your left.

Eventually, bear left onto a rather overgrown path alongside the stream. Pass to the right of the house to reach a road.

Turn left along the road.

After crossing the stream, turn right and follow a footpath.

Turn right under the M25.

Follow the main road as far as the roundabout, then turn left along Albyns Lane.

Keep on the lane. After it bends right, enter Curtis Mill Green SSSI.

Keep on the main track.

At a fork, bear right.

Go straight ahead at the first intersection. Then bear left onto a rough track through the trees.

After a footbridge, bear right. Then bear left parallel to the edge of the wood.

On emerging from the trees, turn right over a boardwalk.

Carry on along a track past a house on the left.

Shortly, bear left onto a bridleway.

After crossing a driveway, keep to the left across a clearing, then keep going in the same general direction. The path may become rather overgrown.

Cross a road and carry on along another bridleway.

At the end, turn left.

Take the footpath on the right, opposite Watton Farm, into a former golf course. However, you may find the path is blocked by developers. If so, carry on further along the road. In a little while you should find a way through the hedge on your right.

The next part of the route is rather hard to describe, because it is not clear what is a path and what is not. In general, you need to head to the far end of the golf course. On the left-hand side is the M25. You should probably try to avoid the right hand side where there may be works going on. Halfway along there is a stream across the golf course; it can be crossed at either end (the left is preferable). Aim to the right of an encampment of holiday homes. Eventually paths start to become more obvious. And finally, the most obvious path emerges onto a road.

Turn right along the road.

Cross another road and carry on along the footpath opposite.

Keep along the left-hand edge of a field.

Descend to the corner of the field and make your way along an overgrown path into the woods.

Turn left after a stile and carry on along the left-hand edge of another field.

Cross over into the field on the left and carry on along its right-hand edge.

Bear left across a corner of the next field, and carry on along its left-hand edge.

At the end, turn left along the road. Here we join the London Loop.

At the end, turn left into Noak Hill Road, passing The Dear's Rest pub to reach Tees Drive, (the next road on the right). Turn right and go down Tees Drive on the left-hand side, passing Wincanton Road and Wrexham Road on the right.

Turn left along Priory Road. Here we briefly leave the London Loop.

Cross Carter's Brook and immediately turn right onto the grass.

Follow the left-hand edge of the grass, with Carter's Brook on your right.

Cross a tributary of the brook, and a road, and join a cycle path alongside the brook. Here we rejoin the London Loop.

Cross the next road, Dagnam Park Drive, and continue straight ahead through the gates into Central Park. Keep on the tarmac path as it turns right then left to rejoin the brook (now Paine's Brook), flowing on the right. Pass the children's play area on the left, bear right at the roundabout, and follow the path to the right of the car park to leave Central Park and arrive at Petersfield Avenue.

Cross here and continue straight ahead, with the brook still on the right, to yet another road crossing (St. Neot's Road) then pass another playground on the left before the path veers left and

then turns right through a gate to reach a crossing point of the big dual carriageway of Colchester Road, the A12.

Cross the A12.

Once on the other side of the A12, turn left and then right to enter a field. Once on the other side of the field, follow the track in the left corner. The track becomes enclosed and veers around the Paine's Brook Play Area before opening out to Church Road.

Cross Church Road and turn right along the pavement, crossing the brook and continuing straight ahead before turning down Queens Park Road (the next road on the left). Follow the road as it turns right through a line of bollards.

At the end of Queens Park Road, turn left along Station Road and go past the King Harold pub (on the right). Keep on past the shops on the right. Harold Wood station is on the left.