

Petts Wood Circular walk

Easy and pleasant walk through woodlands nestled in the middle of London's South-Eastern suburbs

Length 12km (8m)

OS Map Explorer Map 162

Toughness 1 out of 10

Features This is an easy and pleasant walk through woodlands nestled in the middle of London's South-Eastern suburbs. Petts Wood was saved by locals from developers in the early part of the 20th century while [Scadbury Park](#) has been in private ownership for centuries until it was bought by Bromley Council in 1983. Bromley Council declared it a Nature Reserve and opened it to the public. In Petts Wood there is a memorial to William Willett who built many houses in South-East London and campaigned for the introduction of Daylight Savings Time. Scadbury Park was for some time owned by the Walsingham family who had close relationships with Tudor monarchs including Elizabeth I. The ruins of their moated manor house can still be seen.

An optional extension leads you to the [Chislehurst Caves](#) (also see [here](#)), old flint and chalk mines which were dug starting in the 13th century until mining stopped in the 19th century. More recently the caves have been used as air raid shelters in WWII, for locations for TV and film and concert venues. The caves are open Wed to Sun, 10:00 to 16:00 with hourly tours.

Travel Take the train nearest to 10:00 from London Charing Cross or London Victoria to Petts Wood. Petts Wood is in Zone 5 and Oyster Cards can be used.

Lunch [The Bull's Head](#) in Chislehurst (02084671727)

Tea Various cafes, tea rooms and pubs in Petts Wood. Cafe X on the eastern side of the station is recommended.

Help Us! After the walk, we would love to get your [feedback](#)

You can upload photos to the [SWC Group on Flickr](#), and [videos to Youtube](#). This walk's tags are:



By Car **Start** BR5 1NA

Help National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Travelline SE (bus times): 0871 200 2233 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234

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Walk Directions

1. Walk up onto the railway bridge, turn right and exit the station towards the East.
2. Follow the row of shops on your left hand side.
3. Turn left into Fairway.
4. Cross Petts Wood Road.
5. In 100m turn right into Towncourt Crescent.
6. In 600m at a T-junction turn left into Hazelmere Road.
7. In 50m turn right onto a public footpath.

8. Walk underneath the railway lines and take the first path on your right when entering the woods.
9. Ignore the first path to the left but in 100m after a path joined from the left take the left fork.
10. In 120m fork left.
11. In 150m at a 4-way junction turn right.
12. In 130m at a 4-way junction turn left.
13. In 110m at a 4-way junction go straight and pass a bench.
14. In 150m at a 4-way junction go straight.
15. In 30m take the right fork.
16. In 40m at a T junction turn left.
17. In 100m turn left up onto a mound. Continue on this path ignoring all cross paths until in 240m you turn left.
18. In 180m ignore a right fork and in another 100m just when you reach the opening with the William Willett memorial sundial turn right, cross a 4-way junction and follow that path ignoring all turnoffs.
19. In 190m at a junction with a path continuing straight slightly offset to the right, turn right.
20. In 260m cross St Paul's Cray Road with care.
21. After crossing the road take the first path on your right and immediately cross another path. If you see a yellow Bromley Ranger Service marker on a tree on your right you are on the right track.
22. In 240m turn left and pick the path between a concrete pillar and a wooden post in the path.
23. In 30m turn left into Scadbury Park through wooden barriers.
24. In 40m turn slightly right joining a wide track.
25. In 850m turn left between wooden fences to the ruins of the 15th century moated manor house.
26. After the view of the manor house turn right at the panel in the corner to rejoin the main path in 20m by turning left.
27. In 50m take the left fork.
28. In 120m turn left and walk through an avenue of trees. Follow the path for 800m as it turns left and up a hill towards a house. Pass the house and cross a lane through a metal kissing gate.
29. In 450m you come to a car park. Follow the Acorn Trail sign.
30. In 750m cross a lane.
31. In 80m turn sharp right.
32. In 100m at a T junction turn right.
33. In 60m cross a lane.
34. In 250m take the path in the middle towards a wooden barrier on the other side of a lane.
35. In 400m you reach the Bull's Head in Chislehurst the recommended lunch pub. St Nicholas Church 100m behind the Bull's Head along Church Road is worth a visit.
36. Coming out of the pub return the way you came for 500m crossing two tarmac lanes until come to a fork where you can see a more open green space ahead of you. Here take the right fork.
37. In 100m turn right and cross the road. In further 50m take the right fork.
38. In 140m cross a path.
39. In 150m where a small path crosses turn right into the woods.
40. In 50m at a T-junction turn left.
41. In 80m cross a path and 10m further on turn right downhill with a field on your left.
42. In 100m turn left in between fences. Follow this path for 700m.
43. At a T-junction with a lane turn left.
44. In 50m turn right through a metal barrier.

45. In 300m take the right fork with a field on your right. For adventures types you could also take the left fork and continue to take the left option wherever possible until you come to the main path at the edge of the wood again where you turn left and continue until you come to the stream in the next item.
46. In 350m cross a stream and turn left through a metal barrier. Here you can extend the walk to visit the Chislehurst Caves. This is a 1km-there and 1km-back again deviation. To do so, instead of turning left continue straight, in 50m at the T junction with a lane turn right, in 450m cross a busy road or, more safely, use the bridge to the station and walk up past Chislehurst station, in 350m at the Bickley pub turn right and then follow the signs to the caves (they close at 16:00). You can either return from Chislehurst station or retrace your steps to pick up the walk at the stream again.
47. In 500m at a T-junction turn right.
48. In 400m cross the railway lines over a bridge.
49. In 250m cross Little Thrift Road.
50. In 350m after crossing another railway bridge turn left. If you feel like walking a bit further you can loop through Jubilee Park ahead of you. A suggestive loop is outlined by the gpx data.
51. In 250m turn left out of the car park.
52. In 80m turn left into Crest View Drive. You reach the station on your left in 350m.

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