

# Bromley Pub Walk No. 5

## Keston to Farnborough

Via The London Outer Orbital Path (LOOP)

An almost entirely rural walk through woods, farmland and High Elms Country Park. There are views across the valley, and the route passes the source of the River Ravensbourne and Wilberforce Oak

Please read the Bromley Pub Walks [introductory notes](#) for explanation about information provided in these walking guides



### Approx. Distance:

- 4.1 miles

### Approx. Time:

- 1.5 hours

### Gradients:

- There is a gradient up to Wilberforce Oak from either direction

### Type(s) of path(s):

- Mostly gravel paths, also paths adjacent to or through cultivated fields, and grass in the country park

### Stiles / Gates:

- This route has several kissing gates

### Road Walking: (ie. roads without footway)

- Some sections of this route include walking along roads without footways:
  - Farthing St, for approx. half a mile
  - North End lane, approx. 100 yds.



### Livestock or crops:

- This route includes some fields which may contain livestock or crops

### OS Grid References:

- Keston: TQ 413645
- Farnborough: TQ 443643

### Maps:

- OS 1:25 000, No. 147
- The entire route is covered by the [online guide to the LOOP](#), published by Inner London Ramblers. Section 3 of that guide covers Route 05, including detailed maps and description.

### Connections to other Bromley Pub Walks:

- From Keston:
    - 01 to Hayes Station
    - 02 to Leaves Green via Nash
    - 03 to Leaves Green via Wilberforce Oak
- Continues...*

The **Bromley Pub Walk** guides have been prepared and published by Bromley CAMRA to encourage members and others to enjoy walking in the rural areas of Bromley and to visit the many pubs and clubs on the routes.

If you have any comments about the Bromley Pub Walk guides please send an email to:  
[walking@bromley.camra.org.uk](mailto:walking@bromley.camra.org.uk)



# Bromley Pub Walk No. 5

- 04 to Downe
- 63 to Fickleshole
- 71 to Shirley (via LOOP) (*not yet published*)
- From Farnborough:
  - 07 to Leaves Green
  - 08 to Downe
  - 09 to Cudham
  - 10 to Pratts Bottom
  - 21 to Petts Wood (via LOOP)
- On route:
  - This route follows the same paths between Keston and Holwood Farm as:
    - 03 Keston to Leaves Green
    - 04 Keston to Downe
  - This route follows the same paths between Holwood Farm and Farnborough as:
    - 07 Leaves Green to Farnborough
    - This route also crosses 08 Downe to Farnborough

## Pubs / Clubs:

- Keston
  - [Fox Inn](#), Heathfield Road, Keston. BR2 6BQ
  - [Greyhound](#), Commonsides, Keston. BR2 6BP
- Farnborough
  - [Woodman](#), 50 High Street, Farnborough. BR6 7BA
  - [Change of Horses](#), 87 High Street, Farnborough. BR6 7BB

## Public Transport:

- Keston
  - 146 Bromley North/South to Downe
  - 246 Bromley North/South to Westerham
- Farnborough
  - 358 Crystal Palace to Orpington Stn, via Bromley

## Notes:

- This route follows the London Outer Orbital Path (The 'LOOP'), the 150 mile long path around the edge of Outer London, sometimes described as '*the M25 for walkers*'.
- The route takes you past Keston Ponds, at the head of which is Caesar's Well, the spring defined as being the source of the River Ravensbourne; the river makes its way through Bromley (mostly in culverts), and south east London, eventually joining the Thames at Deptford Creek.
- The route also passes Wilberforce Oak, where in 1788 William Wilberforce announced that he intended to introduce legislation to end the slave trade. Although the original oak no longer exists, a commemorative stone bench and plaque mark the spot.
- High Elms, a 250 acre estate, once the home of the Lubbock family is now a country park managed by Bromley Council, which includes a golf course. The path crosses the site of the former house, which was destroyed by fire in 1967.
- Sadly, the life-sized plastic cow, which stood outside Holwood Farm for many years and had become a local landmark, is now no longer in place.

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## The Route:

The entire route follows the LOOP, which is generally well sign-posted, although the section within High Elms Park can be difficult to follow due to the multiplicity of other paths and signage.

*We recommend that you use the excellent [online guide to the LOOP](#) published by Inner London Ramblers, Section 3 of which describes the Route No 5 in considerable detail, including maps.*



## Starting at Keston

- Follow LOOP signs via Heathfield Rd, into Lakes Rd
- Continue along the track at the end of Lakes Rd. past Keston Ponds, the source of the River Ravensbourne and then on through the carpark and Keston Common to Westerham Rd (A233) near the junction with Heathfield Rd (B265)

## Westerham Rd

- Cross the busy Westerham Rd with care and continue on LOOP path up the hill, passing Wilberforce Oak, and the down to Holwood Farm
- At Holwood Farm, the LOOP takes a sharp left via a kissing gate
- *Continue ahead to the road junction for Routes 04 to Downe, and 03 & 07 to Leaves Green*
- Route 05 now follows field perimeters until the path joins Shire Lane

## Shire Lane

- Cross the road with care into Farthing St. Note, there is no footway in this section. Follow the lane, which takes a zig-zag course, until the path resumes (after approx. half a mile) 
- Continue to follow the LOOP signs across a field, and into a track between hedgerows, where you will cross Route 08 (Farnborough to/from Downe)
- *Here turn right for Downe, or left for an alternative (shorter) route to Farnborough via Route 08*
- Follow the path to North End Lane (no footway), where the path turns left and follows the road for a short distance 
- Follow the path onto a golf course to High Elms Lane, where the path turns left and runs parallel to the road for a short distance, then cross the road into High Elms Country Park

## High Elms Country Park

- Note that some of the LOOP route signs can be difficult to spot within High Elms Park. However the route both enters and leaves the main part of the country park via the main car park and golf club car park
- Exit the country park and cross (the busy) Shire Lane, from where it is a short walk through woods and then along the edge of a meadow to Farnborough Church
- Walk through the churchyard into Church Lane, which leads into the High Street and the centre of the village. Turn left along the High St for both of the pubs

## Starting at Farnborough

- The route starts in Church Lane

## **Suggested Routes to Link with this route to make longer circular or one-way walks:**

There are currently five other *Bromley Pub Walk* routes to/from Farnborough, plus another four from Keston, as listed above.

There are several possible options to combine Route 05 with other *Bromley Pub Walk* routes. All routes could be walked in either direction, (possibly, depending on where you want to have your final pint...). Some options include:

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## 1. Farnborough / Keston / Hayes Stn.

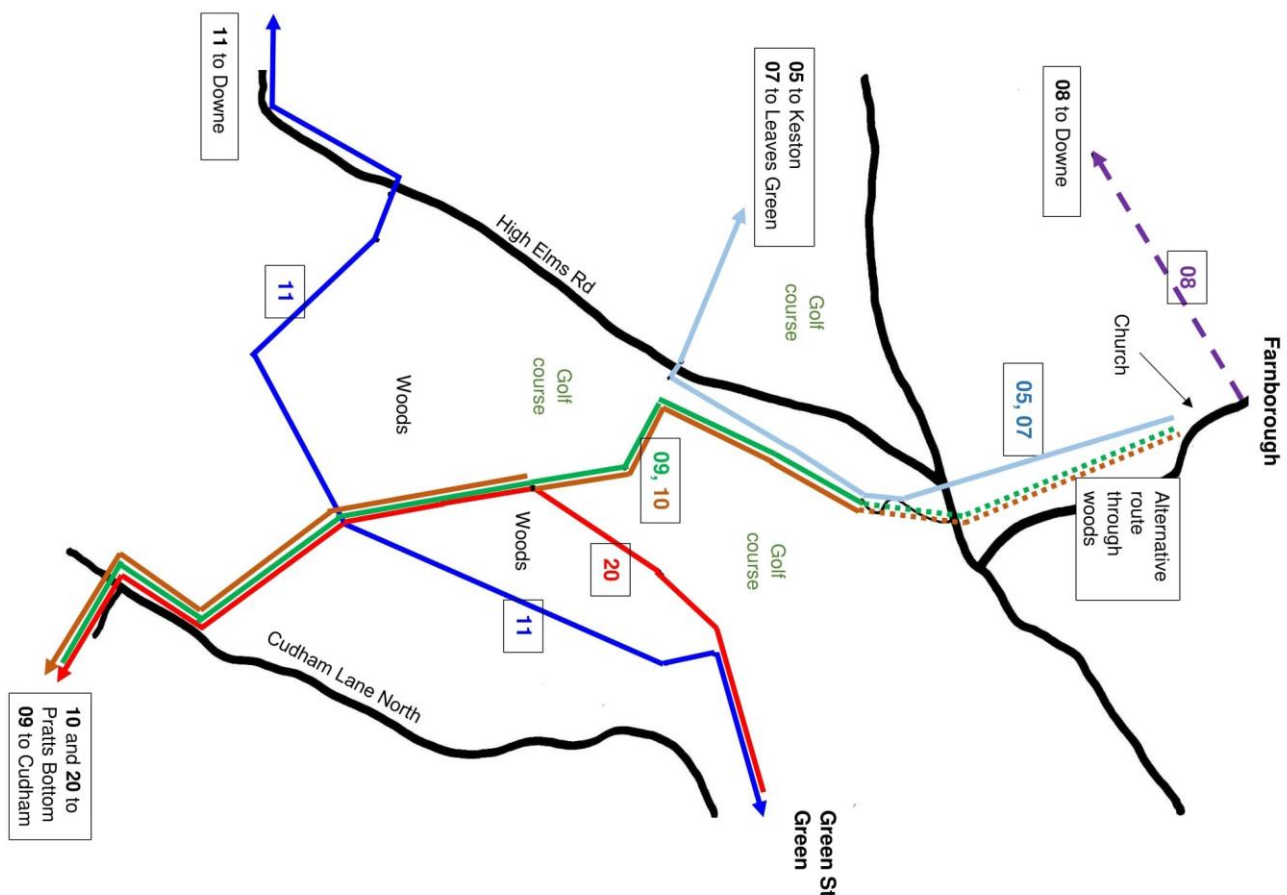
- One way
- Routes 05 / 01
- Approx. 5.4 miles
- 6 pubs and 1 club on route
- This route follows the Loop and Loop Link

## 2. Petts Wood / Farnborough / Keston / Hayes Stn.

- One way
- Routes 21 / 05 / 01
- Approx. 8.8 miles
- 9 pubs and 2 clubs on route
- This route follows the Loop and Loop Link

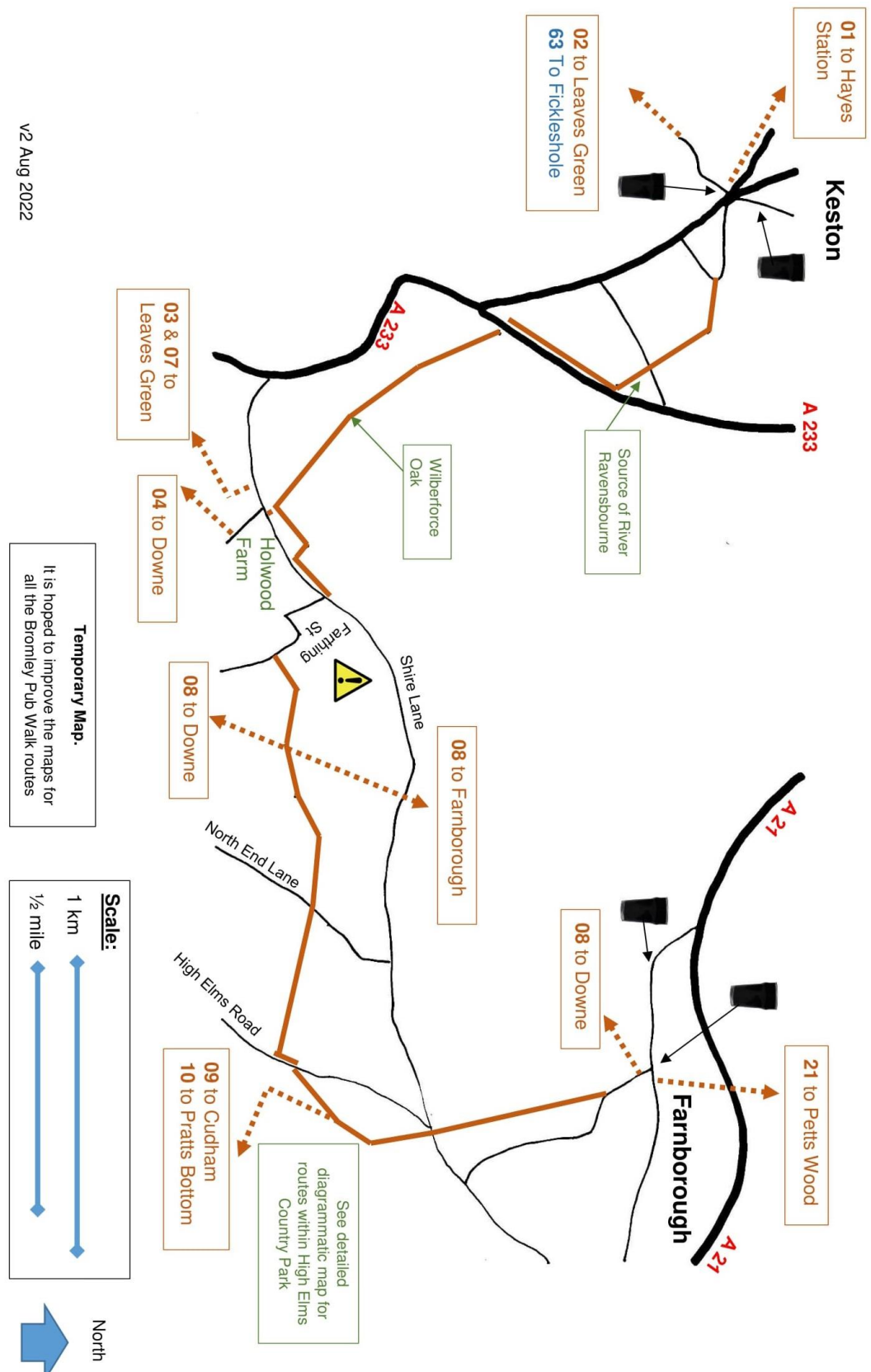
## 3. Hayes Stn. / Keston / Farnborough / Petts Wood / Chislehurst

- One way
- Routes 01/ 05 / 21 / 22
- Approx. 11.1 miles
- More than 10 pubs plus 2 clubs on route
- This route mostly follows the Loop and Loop Link



# Bromley Pub Walk No. 5

Sketch Map for Route 5



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