

Bromley Pub Walks - Introduction

Introduction

There are many miles of footpaths in the rural parts of Bromley borough. These areas also contain many pubs and even a few clubs; Bromley CAMRA has identified a network of paths and tracks which link them all together.

Walking In Bromley

The borough of Bromley covers an area of 59 square miles (153 km²) and is the largest borough in London by area. Approximately 30% of the land in Bromley is farmland, with much of the southern parts of the borough designated as Metropolitan Green Belt. The highest point in Greater London is within the Borough, Westerham Heights, with an altitude of 804 feet (245 m).

There are many miles of footpaths in Bromley, mostly well-signposted and easy-to-follow. Bromley Council has published an excellent series of leaflets for self-guided walks around the borough, these can be purchased from Bromley Council or downloaded free of charge from the [Council's website](#).



Farnborough Church

The two circular paths around London, the LOOP and the Capital Ring both pass through the borough as does the Green Chain Walk. The North Downs Way also skirts part of the southern boundary of the borough.

By following the footpaths you will not only be able to see rural scenery and wildlife, but you can also pass places linked with the theory of evolution, the ending of the slave trade, the introduction of daylight saving time and even have a drink in what might be London's highest public house.

The rural parts of the borough contain some excellent pubs, and even some clubs, all of which are accessible by public transport. However, these pubs and clubs can also be reached on foot using the extensive network of footpaths.

The purpose of this guide is to assist CAMRA members and visitors to explore the surprisingly rural countryside and to enjoy a beer or two in what we consider to be some of the best rural pubs in London.

Be prepared to be surprised

When walking in the rural parts of Bromley, many people find it hard to believe that they are still in a London Borough. The routes will take you through areas which are working farmland, woodland, wild flower meadows, or pastures where horses graze, plus a few golf courses.

The area is mostly chalk, very close to the top of the ridge of the North Downs, and contains several 'dry valleys'; a number of the walking routes include surprisingly steep ascents/descents when crossing these valleys.



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Whilst following these walking routes you can pass or visit:

- **Down House**, home to Charles Darwin for the last 40 years of his life (Routes 13 - 15).
- **'Orchis Bank'** (Downe Bank Nature Reserve), where Charles Darwin studied orchids, and is still home to 7 varieties of orchid. (Routes 12 & 54).
- **Wilberforce Oak**, where in 1788, William Wilberforce told William Pitt (the Younger) that he intended to introduce legislation to end the slave trade. The original oak no longer exists, but a plaque and seat mark the location. (Routes 3 - 5).
- **Biggin Hill Airport**, the famous WW2 air base, now a commercial airport (Route 6 is around part of the perimeter fence, Routes 3 & 7 pass the end of the runway). You will observe the unusual shaped, and extremely low, National Grid pylons in the fields near the runway end. A number of the pubs in the area have WW2 or RAF memorabilia.
- In Petts Wood, the **Willett Memorial sundial**, is a memorial to William Willett, the main promoter of British Summer Time. The Grade II Listed Daylight Inn near Petts Wood station is named in his honour. (Routes 22 & 23).
- And, if you are very lucky, you might even see **wild deer**. Deer do still live in the area; whilst researching for these guides, members of Bromley CAMRA saw wild deer in 4 different locations.

How to use the Guides

The guides describe more than 40 separate walking routes linking more than 30 pubs and clubs in Bromley, plus a few other pubs 'just over the border' in either Kent or Surrey. *(Note that some guides are still in preparation)*

You can choose to do the walks either in bite-sized chunks (perhaps that should be pint-sized chunks?), or link several routes together to make a longer walk or 'crawl' to suit your mood and stamina. A number of possible such linear and circular walks/crawls are suggested to give you some ideas.

The Bromley Pub Walks guides are made up of:

- This introduction
- A diagrammatic map showing the walking routes
- A list of pubs and clubs on the routes
- Each of the routes is described in detail

Maps

The Bromley Pub Walks guides are intended only to suggest possible walking routes along public footpaths, tracks, roads and bridleways connecting the pubs. The guides do NOT include



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detailed maps of each walk (for copyright reasons), therefore for some routes you may need to use a suitable map, such as the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 'Explorer' maps in either paper or digital format.

- Sheet **147** covers most of the routes in this guide
- Sheet **146** covers parts of routes 62 and 63
- Sheet **161** covers parts of routes 60, 61, 70, 71 & 72
- Sheet **162** covers routes 22, 23, 30, 31 plus parts of routes 1, 21, 70 & 71

The 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey maps can also be viewed online (free of charge) via Bing Maps. A link to the relevant Bing map is included in the [WhatPub](#) listings for all of the Bromley pubs and clubs linked by these walks.

The routes of some of the Bromley Pub Walks are also covered by the walking guides published by Bromley Council, which include maps. TFL and the Ramblers have published an online guide to the LOOP, which covers part or all of routes 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 21, 23, 70, 71 & 72.

Public Transport

All the rail stations shown on the map have timetabled services on seven days of the week. Oyster Cards and Freedom Passes can be used at all the stations except Shoreham.

With the exception of the Bo Peep (Chelsfield), all the Bromley pubs and clubs are served by TFL bus services.

In addition, TFL bus services run from New Addington to Tatsfield via Biggin Hill, and from Orpington to Halstead and Knockholt.

Non-TFL bus services are also available for Crockenhill, Knockholt Pound and Tatsfield.

The information relating to public transport was believed to be correct at the time of preparation of these guides (2019 - 2023), however **you are advised to make your own enquiries prior to travelling**, especially in relation to the times of last buses and Sunday services.

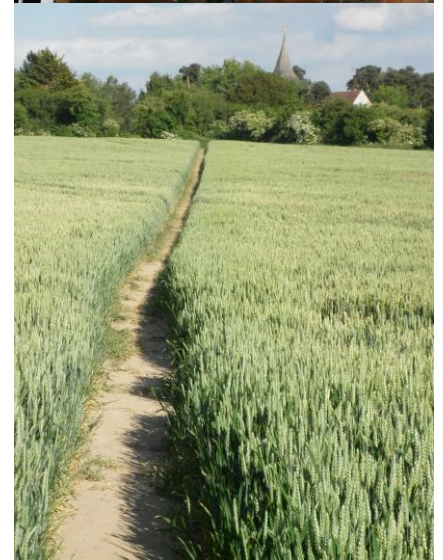
Clothing / Footwear

Some routes may be muddy during winter months, or after prolonged periods of rain, at such times walking boots are likely to be needed. Members should make their own decisions based on the weather and their personal preferences.

Some routes may also have sections where vegetation, including brambles or nettles, encroaches on to the paths.

Roads Without Footways

Most of the walks listed in this guide do not involve any sections of walking along roads where there is no footway or verge. However,



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in a few cases there is no alternative; all such locations are identified in the relevant section of the guide.

Please take very great care where walking along such roads, (especially after leaving a pub!) and be aware that traffic may appear at speed from either direction. Walking along these roads in the hours of darkness is NOT recommended.

Permissive Paths

In some places the routes follow 'permissive paths', where paths or bridleways have been created within adjacent fields, and run parallel with roads without footways. It should be noted that several of these paths are NOT marked on the OS maps.

Golf Courses

Some routes cross golf courses. You are advised to keep to the paths when on golf courses, to not stray onto the greens and to be aware of golfers and the risks of being struck by golf balls.

Visiting Pubs/Clubs on route

We do hope that you enjoy visiting the pubs (and clubs) listed in these guides. If the opportunity arises, please do tell the licensees that you have visited them because they were listed in a CAMRA guide.

If your boots are muddy after walking, please consider removing them before entering pubs; some walkers take 'overshoes' or plastic bags to cover muddy boots when in pubs. Also, please don't eat your own food in a pub or pub garden.

If you find a path is blocked

If you do find that a path with is blocked, eg due to a fallen tree, or because it has become so overgrown that it impossible to walk along it, you can notify the Council via their [website](#).

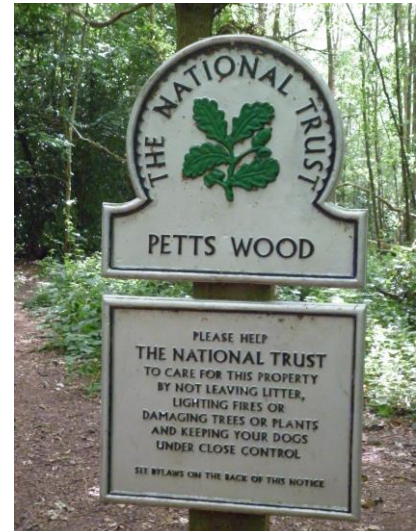
Errors and omissions

The information contained within these guides was believed to be correct at the time of publication.

Please let us know if you find that anything is incorrect, or if you have any suggestions for improvements to the guides.

Please contact Bromley CAMRA by email:

walking@bromley.camra.org.uk



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The Countryside Code

You are requested to follow the Countryside Code whenever walking in rural areas. 'Respect - Protect - Enjoy'

See: [The Countryside Code](#)

Enjoy your walking (and drinking)

We do hope that you find the Bromley Pubs Walks guides to be useful, that you enjoy your walking and visiting some of the pubs and clubs that we have listed.

Bromley CAMRA uses [Beer Scoring](#) as part of our annual Good Beer Guide selection process. If you are a member of CAMRA, please help us by submitting a beer score for each pub or club you visit. Thank you.

Interested in doing more walking?

Bromley Council have published a series of guides to circular walks and trails which can be purchased or downloaded (free). Use these links: [circular walks](#), [trails](#).

If you enjoy walking, **Bromley Ramblers** would love to see you. They run five group walks each week, of varying lengths and speeds, from easy three-mile strolls to more strenuous walks up to 16 miles or more. Many of the walks include a pub stop at lunchtime or the end of the walk, though some are 'dry'. For more information, check out their web site at www.bromleyramblers.org.uk. They are happy for non-members to join them on up to three walks before joining. By joining, you would be helping to protect and maintain the paths network for the benefit of all, as well as meeting a bunch of people with a shared interest in walking.

Many other walking groups also exist, including [EnBro](#), a Bromley based group.

Disclaimer

The Bromley Pub Walks guides are intended only to suggest possible walking routes along public footpaths, tracks, bridleways and roads, or in areas where members of the public have access. All walkers walk at their own risk.

Now please view the [list of more than 40 routes](#)

Many of the routes can be connected, to create longer one-way and circular walks

