

9 Continue straight on along the edge of Scrogin Hall Wood, noticing several large pollarded oaks, often markers of ancient boundaries. Carry straight on until the path forks. You will be able to see Rookery Road in the distance. Take the left hand fork in to the meadow (part of Elmfield Wood) and head towards the large oak trees in the centre of the meadow. This 21 acre community woodland, with wildflower meadows, was established in 1995 by The London Borough of Bromley. In total 6,400 trees were planted with help from local residents. This area supports a host of wildlife, hunting kestrels and common blue butterflies can often be seen. At the oak trees turn right, walk diagonally towards the corner of the field and Bromley College.

10 Exit Elmfield Wood onto Rookery Lane and turn left, walk up the hill reaching the A21, Bromley Common. Carefully cross the A21 using the traffic island and turn left walking towards The Crown pub and Toby Carvery. To the left is Elmfield House a red brick mansion owned in 1727 by Anthony Ball, son of Anthony Ball senior who owned The Rookery in 1700.

11 At the roundabout turn right into Crown Lane Spur and walk straight on. Typical of this area is the Edwardian architecture of the houses that line Crown Lane. Cross the next two mini roundabouts on Southborough Lane and walk on past The Chequers pub. This old Kent style weather boarded pub is a listed building.

12 After a short while turn right at Magpie Hall Lane. At the end of the lane cross straight over Holbrook Way to return to the start of the walk.

How to get there...

BUSES:

208 Lewisham to Orpington
R7 Orpington to Bickley

TRAIN:

Nearest station: Bickley

CAR:

Turn onto Magpie Hall Lane, off the main A21, Bromley Common. Continue North east, until the junction with Holbrook Way.

PARKING:

Limited on-road parking in Magpie Hall Lane and Holbrook Way.

Please check: www.tfl.gov.uk for further details or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

All details correct at time of printing (2013).

Additional Information...

Close to the heart of Bromley, this 4 mile walk leads on through farmland, the Rookery Estate, Hayes Village and Elmfield before returning to the common.

The name 'Bromley' in Anglo Saxon is 'Bromleag' meaning the heath where the broom grows. The common would have looked similar to Hayes Common with areas of broom and gorse surrounded by woodland. Ethelbert, King of Kent in the eighth century, granted lands to his minister Dryhtwald in the boundaries of Bromleaginga Mearc – Bromley Mark. Later the land was given to the bishops of Rochester.

Walks

around the Borough

Image © David Griffiths

Bromley Common

Life is better outdoors...

Starting point: The Junction of Holbrook Way and Magpie Hall Lane, Bromley Common.

Distance: 4 miles

Duration: 2 hours

Bromley Common

1 Start at the junction of Holbrook Way and Magpie Hall Lane. Take the path to the right of the former Broomleigh estate office (c.1933 – now residential housing), towards the recreation ground. Carry straight on following the fence line and golf course on your right. The path continues past the children's play park and pavilion on your left. Follow the path out of the recreation ground towards the line of trees in the distance.

2 At the path junction, turn right along FP136. The view towards Scrubs Farm and Sparrow Wood is a reminder that this agricultural landscape is only two miles from Bromley town centre. Carry straight on past Richmall Crompton Fields, keeping the children's play area on your left and the hedgerow on your right. Hedgerows are important refuges for insects, mammals, and wild flowers. The path turns into an alleyway. Carry straight on until you reach Princes Plain Road.

3 Cross over and take the first right into Church Road and walk on to Holy Trinity Church, Bromley Common. The church building is of a traditional knapped-flint construction, c.1842, inside are monuments to the Norman family who owned the surrounding Rookery Estate. This 'closed' churchyard is an important haven for wildlife and lichen.

4 Cross over the main Hastings Road and walk up Oakley Road for 400m. You will pass a pond to your right and continue past Oakley Farm. Cross the road at the entrance to Bromley Common Cricket Club and join byway 135.

5 Follow the path for 300m round to the cricket ground. Looking to the right across Rookery Estate, which is now mainly grazed by horses, you can see the view to Bromley, which includes the spire of St Lukes Church, Bromley Common.

6 At the cricket club the path forks, take the left hand fork and enter Barnet Wood, crossing the River Ravensbourne. The river rises three miles away at Caesar's Well, Keston Common. Legend tells that a thirsty roman guard followed a raven to a spring, hence the name. Oak and birch dominate this woodland. Continue on this path to the corner of the field. Carry straight on, over the field to the woodland edge. Follow the track around, crossing the next two fields and following the edge of Woodcock Grove, Mazzards Wood and Brook Wood to George Lane, Hayes.

7 Go through the gate, entering George Lane, and walk up the road turning right between no. 35 and 37.

8 Walk on past the oak tree and slate roofed cottages to join footpath 131. Carry straight on across the fields towards Brook Wood. At the corner of the wood, turn left and follow the path round to the right where it forks. The view left is towards the centre of Bromley. You can see the Central Library across the fields and hedgerow.

