

# Walks

around the Borough

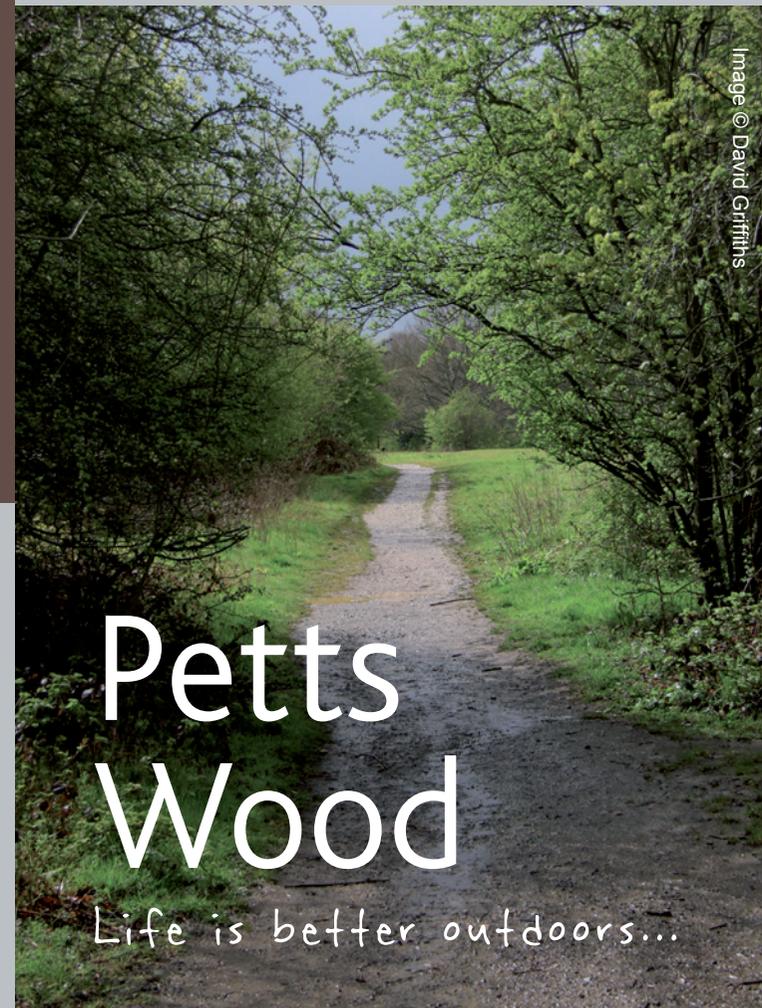


Image © David Griffiths

## Petts Wood

Life is better outdoors...

**7** Turn left and then take FP 120B, 50m on the right to remain on the walk (continue straight down the road for the short cut - see additional information.). This footpath is also known as Birdcage Walk because of the style of wire fencing that originally enclosed it. There are fields to your left and on the right are the garden walls of what was once Hawkwood House, an 18th century mansion that was demolished around 1960. On reaching the woods, bear slightly right and take the descending path round the edge of the woods, with a view of St Georges Church spire on your way down, until you reach a small bridge over the Kyd Brook.

**8** Cross the bridge and exit the Hawkwood Estate. Continue to the end of the path and turn right at the metal bar way into Gosshill Road. After 100m turn left under the bridge and continue to the end of Barfield Road.

**9** Turn left into Blackbrook Lane and immediately left again into Thornet Wood Road. Along here on your right is the elegant Bickley Manor Hotel. Continue past Bromley High School, where the road turns into a track and leads to Jubilee Park.

**10** Continue along this track into the park, through an area of oak woodland and out into an open meadow area (please note, this is a shared pedestrian and cycle route). This area had been a golf course but during WW2 it became the Thornet Wood anti-aircraft gun battery, a major defensive site for London. It was purchased by Bromley Council in 1978 and became a park covering 62 acres of meadows, woodlands, hedgerows and scrub. In 1996, in recognition of its wildlife status, it was also declared a Local Nature Reserve. Look out for a signboard with information on wartime use. At the end of the path turn right at the gate and follow footpath 120 back to the car park in Tent Peg Lane.

### How to get there...

#### BUSES:

208 Orpington to Lewisham  
R3 Chelsfield Village to Locksbottom  
R7 Bickley to Orpington

#### TRAIN:

Nearest station: Petts Wood

#### CAR:

Turn onto Crown Lane Spur, off the main A21 at Bromley Common. Continue east onto Southbrough Lane and continue until the junction with Crest View Drive. Continue until the junction with Tent Peg Lane.

#### PARKING:

Tent Peg Lane car park, off Crest View Drive, Petts Wood.

Please check: [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://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...

This 4 mile walk starts at Jubilee Country Park and takes the walker through the Hawkwood Estate, across the Kyd Brook River passing the Edelman and Willett Memorials and Bickley Manor.

#### Short cut from Point 7:

Continue to the end of Botany Bay Lane (byway 120) through Hawkwood and Tong's Farms and onto footpath 120. This takes you across the Kyd Brook and over the field to the railway track. Once here turn left to arrive back at the footbridges and rejoin the route at point 3. From here, retrace your steps back to the start of the walk.

The name Petts Wood is thought to have arisen from William Pett, shipbuilder to Queen Elizabeth I. Oaks from Petts Wood were cut to supply local shipyards.

**Starting point:** Tent Peg Lane car park off Crest View Drive, Petts Wood

**Distance:** 4 miles

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Short cut route:** Point 7 to Point 3

# Petts Wood

A short way along in a clearing on the right is the Willett Memorial, a sundial erected in 1927.)

- 1 Start at Tent Peg Lane car park, (so named by the local Scouts) and exit the car park along the 'Nature Trail' path on the right. Continue for 50m through the woodland, at the path junction continue round to the left for a further 130m. This was an allotment area until the 1970's and now has a variety of trees including Aspen and Birch. At the end of the footpath, turn right and cross the footbridge over the railway.
- 2 Continue along the fenced footpath. Garlic smelling, white flowered ransoms grow here in spring. Cross over the road (Little Thrift) and continue along the footpath crossing two more bridges. Before you descend the second bridge, there are extensive views of Petts Wood and Hawkwood estates. In the distance are Tongs and Hawkwood Farms. Between them, the red brick building with arched windows is Goodlands cottage, 17th century and Grade 2 listed.
- 3 After descending from the bridge turn right and follow the path alongside the railway line, until you reach a bridge crossing the Kyd Brook and into the Petts Wood Estate (owned by the National Trust). Beyond Sundridge the river changes its name to the Quaggy and then continues to Lewisham where it joins the Ravensbourne and flows to the Thames. Continue to follow the path parallel to the railway line until reaching woodland, at which point, take the right hand fork. The damp woodland here is characterised by patches of pendulous sedge and sections of this path can get very muddy. After 45m the path forks again. Take the right hand fork and continue to the bridleway at the end.
- 4 Turn left, uphill along the bridleway (marked with blue and white stripes on the trees). Staying on the bridleway, you will eventually pass 'The Edelman Monument' in a clearing on the left. Francis Edelman saved the woods from development in 1927. You may also notice from this point, on the left hand side, that there is a sunken track, parallel to the bridleway, which is thought to have linked the farmhouse with strawberry fields once on the estate. Further along the path, you will pass by Petts Field on your left, also known as 'Soldiering Field' because during the 19th century, drills for military volunteers were carried out here. Sheep now often graze this field. (For an optional short detour, continue on the path until it forks, take the right hand fork and follow the blue and white marked trees.

- 5 Follow the bridleway to the end of the field to continue on the circular walk and turn left along the upper field boundary leading to FP120A.

- 6 Follow the footpath and on reaching a junction, turn right and then immediately left to take the path going downhill. Continue down this path, passing Flushers Pond on your right. The path skirts around the pond, up the hill through some scrubby woodland and out on to pasture land. You will pass Coopers School on your right and there are magnificent views across the valley at this point. Continue for 250m along this path to Botany Bay Lane (Byway 120 - vehicles occasionally use this lane).

