



▷ being called New Park in Tudor times, so as to distinguish it from the now vanished Old Park near Addington. The woodlands include large oak and ash trees with hazel and chestnut coppice. West Wickham was once described as "crowned with woodlands yielding a quick growth of underwood." Timber was known to have been cut from the area to supply firewood for London, with wagonloads of faggots being taken to the City. Woodland management, including coppicing, continues at the site today. The woodland floor is covered with bluebells and other woodland plants such as sanicle, goldilocks, yellow archangel and wood sorrel, during the spring. Bird song fills the tree tops and species such as nuthatch, redpoll, long-tailed tit, tree creeper and tawny owl occur. Three species of woodpeckers, sparrowhawks and kestrels may be seen in the area. From the information board walk left along the edge of the common for some 15m and



take a small path to your right. Almost immediately the path forks; take the path bearing right down the slope. Continue straight ahead. Cross over a main path running left/right. After a further 100m you reach another main path running left/right. This is the London LOOP (Section 4) as identified by a waymarker post (+115m). □

This is the end of Walk 3 and the Beck Corridor Trail.

(To see a marker stone and uncommon small-leaved lime at the boundary between the Boroughs of Bromley and Croydon – the old Kent-Surrey boundary – turn right and walk 100m along the LOOP path).

To leave the Beck Corridor: Retrace your steps to the start of your walk or follow Section 4 of the London Outer Orbital Path, which has an option to Hayes Station (see 'Green Travel in the Beck Corridor' for more information about the LOOP). Alternatively, make your way through Spring Park and Sparrows Den Playing Fields to the nearest bus stops on Addington Road (for the 353) or Corkscrew Hill (for the 119). For the 353, on reaching the end of Walk 3, walk straight ahead to the edge of the woodland and walk across the meadow towards the road ahead (190m). For the 119, turn left on reaching the LOOP path and follow this until you reach the corner of the wood and a fence ahead of you, ignoring any paths to the left and right. Bear right, walking down the slope. Turn left on reaching the playing fields, and walk past the café and car park to reach Corkscrew Hill (1035m): this 'link' is shown on the map. An alternative way is to continue downhill to the meadow, turn left and walk straight ahead past a pond, following the bottom edge of the woodland.



BECK CORRIDOR TRAIL WALK CARD 3 HIGH BROOM WOOD TO SPRING PARK



Joining the Beck Corridor at Walk 3

The following 'Links' are marked on the map.

To make your way to the start of Walk 3, walk from Beckenham Road, from a194 bus stop or from West Wickham Station, along St. David's Close. Enter the woodland and walk straight ahead to the River Beck, ignoring any paths to the left and right. On reaching the river, turn right and follow the path alongside the river. After 100m, you will see a footbridge crossing the river on your left. This is the start of Walk 3. Alternatively, enter High Broom Wood from South Eden Park Road (95m from its junction with Monks Orchard Road). Follow the path through the wood. Where the path forks, continue straight ahead and at the second path junction turn right. After another 85m take the path to the right until you reach the footbridge. You may also make your way to the start of the walk from Monks Orchard Road, following a path between houses No. 43 and 45. If you are simply continuing along the Beck Corridor from Walk 2, please now follow the instructions below.

Accessibility

High Broom Wood is not wheelchair accessible and also challenging by push chair. Route through High Broom is often muddy, has some significant gradients, cross slopes and obstructions caused by roots and a short series of steps. To see part of High Broom Wood, a separate visit using St. David's Close entrance in dry conditions is an option. Much of the route uses roadside pavements which have drop kerbs; route in front of West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church slightly more difficult to negotiate. Steady uphill gradient exists along Copse Avenue for 400m. No drop kerb exists at edge of Spring Park, alongside Woodland Way. Route goes down hill into Spring Park woods; paths on site are only semi-improved in places, sloping and often muddy and as such not suitable for wheelchairs, though feasible in dry conditions with pushchairs. No seats in green spaces or public toilets occur along the route.

Distance

Walk 3 is approximately 2.3km or 1.4miles long. (See brackets in text for portioned distances along the route). ▷



▷ Walk 3

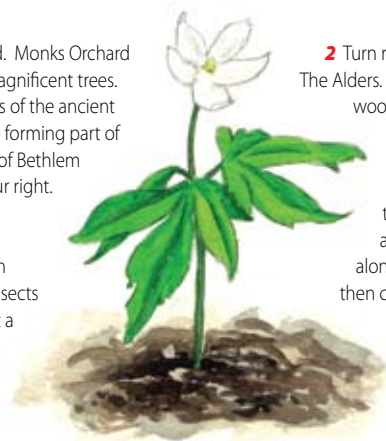
Walk 3 starts at the most northerly footbridge in High Broom Wood. Cross the footbridge, ignore the path ahead and turn left, following the right hand (western) side of the river, through the woodland. You will be able to see and hear a range of birds in the woodland, including wren, woodpecker, song thrush and jay. Walk down the steps. Continue ahead along the meandering and uneven river bank, ignoring the footbridge to your left. (You have now walked 350m).

Advice: If you would like to explore the eastern side of High Broom Wood, this footbridge is a good place to cross over.

Take a look at the plants growing at the edge of the river. They include pendulous sedge, marsh marigold and more unusual plants. Look out for dragonflies. You may be lucky enough to see a kingfisher too. Spot the purple buds, catkins, rounded leaves or spreading roots of the alder trees, which are adapted to growing beside wetlands. During spring you can see wood anemones and lesser celandines carpeting the ground in places. The river continues through to the southern part of the woodland, but the path bears right. **1** Walk up the sloped path to the exit (You have walked a further 200m). Use the footway to the left of Eresby Drive to make your way to its junction with Monks Orchard Road. Turn left along the pavement to

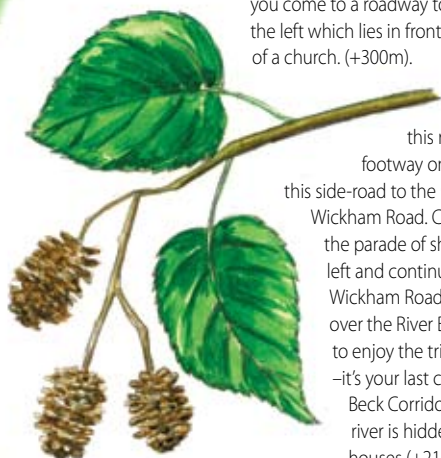


reach Wickham Road. Monks Orchard Road is lined with magnificent trees. You can see glimpses of the ancient woodland and scrub forming part of the private grounds of Bethlem Royal Hospital to your right. The hay meadows forming part of the private estate are rich in wildflowers and insects and incorporate part a tributary of the River Ravensbourne. Just before Wickham Road, you come to a roadway to the left which lies in front of a church. (+300m).



2 Turn right and walk along The Alders. Enjoy the glimpses of woodland to your right. The road name changes to Hawkhurst Way and bends gently round to the left (+215m). After another 25m turn right along Bolderwood Way and then continue along Copse Avenue, **3** which continues gently uphill for about 500m. The majority of streets in the Beck Corridor include street

Turn left into this road, using the footway on the left. Cross over this side-road to the pelican crossing on Wickham Road. Cross here to meet the parade of shops opposite. Turn left and continue walking along Wickham Road for 150m, passing over the River Beck. Take a moment to enjoy the trickling of the water –it's your last chance along the Beck Corridor! Henceforth the river is hidden from view behind houses (+215m).



trees. These are remnants of past landscapes or have been especially planted to green the neighbourhood. Some of these are native species, such as hawthorn and whitebeam, which are particularly valued by local insects, which in turn provide food for birds. Look out for old oak trees on the roadside; a hint of the previously wooded landscape.

At the end of Copse Avenue is Woodland Way and across the road lies Spring Park, part of West Wickham Commons, which has woods and open space managed by the City of London. **4** Cross over to the information board that includes a map of the area and interesting byelaws on the back (+1090m). There are records of the wood

