

BECK CORRIDOR CIRCUIT WALK CARD 5: CREASE CIRCUIT



Links with Walk 2 of Beck Corridor Trail

Accessibility

Circuit is 3.1 km (1.9 miles) long and lies mainly on level to more sloping ground. Two-thirds of the route has paving and/or tarmac. Push chair users are warned of uneven/potentially muddy route through Harvington Estate and along Kelsey Lane and of steep slopes at Crease Park. It is suggested that wheelchair users enjoy Crease Park at the Village Way entrance (upper part of the park) and then proceed along Village Way (with drop kerbs/drive entrances) to Croydon Road Recreation Ground, continuing through the park and along the High Street (where there are drop kerbs) to Kelsey Park Road. Limitations of using the full walk for wheelchair users are: entrance to Harvington Estate (off uneven Manor Road) is narrow; route through Harvington Estate is on woodland paths and grassland, passable only in dry conditions; drop kerbs are absent from crossing at Crossways Road; crossing of Wellhouse Road and Village Way (close by 4) only possible by use of driveways; slope through Crease Park is quite steep; Kelsey Lane is muddy and uneven along much of its length; footway initially very narrow at junction of Burnhill Road/High Street. (Drop kerb here higher than ideal).



Numerous seats in Crease Park and Croydon Road Recreation Ground (which also has toilets).

Walk 5

Where Walk 2 enters the Harvington Estate at the end of Manor Road (No Through Road), turn immediately right after the entrance. 1 Harvington Estate comprised several large houses, the oldest and largest being Harvington itself, built in 1871. The whole Estate was purchased in 1901 by the then Beckenham Council. Walk through the woodland, ignoring the paths to your left and keeping the rear of the household properties to your right. This mixed species woodland, incorporating the River Beck, is designated for its nature conservation interest. Look out for different tree leaves and bark textures along the way. You soon walk out onto grassland forming part of the recreation ground. Continue straight on to Leaveland Close. At it's junction with Village Way, cross over the road and turn left and then right along Eden Park Avenue. 2 At the end of the road, to the right, there is a pedestrian island on Crossways Road. Cross here and head right. At Wellhouse Road, turn left. Continue along the pavement, crossing over where the parkland path opposite meets Wellhouse Road. Wellhouse Road takes its name from an old well house that stood near this site; the well and ruins of Eden Park (formerly Eden Farm) remained



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CIRCUIT



- ▷ up to the time when the estates known as Beckenham Heights were developed in the 1920's. Walk up the tarmac path through Crease Park, ignoring the paths to your left and then the one to your right. Crease Park comprises grassland and mature trees that provide a shady canopy. Look out for daffodils in spring, squirrels, kestrels and blue tits in this tranquil setting with pleasant views over the rooftops. The park was opened to the public by Alderman James Crease JP in July 1936 and named after him to commemorate his continuous and devoted service as a member of the authority from 1898.



Continue walking uphill towards the metal gates, where you exit the park. Turn right and by the traffic lights cross over Village Way. Continue a little way along Stone Park Avenue, turning left along Kelsey Lane (track just before house number 60). Initially passing some private garages on the left and being careful of any moving vehicles, continue straight ahead. **3** The route is unmade and includes occasional trees and grass verges, passing alongside sports fields to your right. Look out for the old oak trees and birds within the bramble. This lane was once a driveway for Kelsey Manor house.

At the junction with Kelsey Way (on your right), turn left between the metal bollards to rejoin Village Way. Enjoy the view ahead of you! Turn right and cross over the road to the entrance of Croydon Recreation Ground, by the short GR post box. You have spectacular views across the tree-ed landscape of the park and beyond, towards Crystal Palace. In 1890 the Local Board purchased a seventeen-hectare meadow in Croydon Road next to the Cottage Hospital for the purposes of providing a recreation ground. It was formally opened to the public the following year and signalled an explosion of sporting activity. The annual cricket match between the coachmen and gardeners of the local gentry became an important annual event and bowls commenced as early as 1902. Part of the park was given to allotments during the Second World War. **4** Walk straight down, along the edge of the park. Pass by the toilets on your



left, ignoring the path to your right. Continue straight on and take the path to your right through the trees. Listen out for birds here and look out for the variety of trees that have been planted over the years. You will also see the bandstand to your left. You emerge by an large oval of grass by a lime tree. Follow the left hand edge of the oval. Along the path you soon come to a fountain on your right. Note the nearby Victorian Lodge, previously inhabited by the first park keeper and the spectacular flower beds. Follow the path round to the right. On reaching the corner of the playground, bear left and carry on along the path, keeping the playground on your immediate right. You soon see a field ahead of you. Keep to the tarmac path to the left of the field. Follow the sharp turn in the path to the right so as to exit by the public car park at its junction with Village Way. **5** Turn left and then right along Beckenham High Street and right again down Burnhill Road, which rejoins the Beck Corridor Trail at the northern end of Kelsey Park. □

