

Freedom Pass circuit

Section 39-40: Rainham to Beckton

Distance: 10.83 mi, 17.33

Introduction

This section was created before Barking Riverside Station existed. It has now been split into two: Rainham to Barking Riverside and Barking Riverside to Beckton. However, this original section has been retained as an alternative, because the route via Barking Riverside is not altogether satisfactory.

This section takes us across three zonal boundaries westwards towards central London. Unfortunately there is no path along the north bank of this part of the Thames, and a little north of it is the A13, which one would obviously not want to walk along. So the route has to run in a wide northward arc.

There are pubs in Rainham and Barking.

Directions

Leave Rainham Station on the west side, by platform 1, and take the footbridge over the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

On the other side, take the ramp straight ahead, which leads down into the marshes.

Near the bottom, turn right and go down two flights of steps.

Carry straight on along Lamson Road.

Cross over to the left-hand pavement.

Just before the rail bridge, take Creekside and carry on under both bridges.

Then keep going, alongside the main road.

Just before the road goes over the Ingebourne, bear left alongside a housing estate.

On a left bend, go straight on and cross a footbridge. [Better to bear left before the footbridge?]

Turn left along the main road.

Turn right at the first pedestrian crossing, then keep straight ahead along Greenstone Walk.

Carry on straight ahead into Gisborne Gardens then Burwood Gardens.

At the end, turn left.

At the end, turn right then left into Stanley Road South.

At the end, turn sharp left into Philip Road.

Take the first right into Frederick Road.

Cross Betterton Road, then take the footpath on the right between nos. 50 and 52.

At the end of the tarmac, keep going along the left-hand edge of the grassland.

At the end, go through one of the gaps in the green metal fence ahead, then turn right up the slope.

Shortly before the brow of the hill, bear left twice, and descend.

Cross the bed of a stream, then bear left along a grass path.

Turn right onto a tarmac path.

Turn left at the T junction after the footbridge.

Turn right after the next footbridge.

Go up the steps on the left, and then turn right along the top of the embankment.

Just after the embankment bends right, go down the steps on the left, and carry straight on along the leftmost of two mown grass paths.

At the tarmac path, turn left and then immediately right.

Leave the park, and carry straight on.

Cross the main road at the pedestrian crossing and turn left along the pavement.

Take the second turning right, which is Orchard Road.

At the end, turn right and then left into Lower Broad Street.

Cross the main road, and carry on along Downing Road.

When the road bends right, turn left by the grass patch along Rowdons Road.

At the end, turn right and immediately right again into Goresbrook Park.

Bear left over the stream.

Carry on straight ahead, and cross the next road.

Keep straight ahead, along the edge of the park.

Turn right and leave the park at the next exit.

Turn left and then right along Lullington Road.

At the end, turn left.

Keep straight ahead, and take the footbridge over the railway.

On the other side, carry on straight ahead into Parsloes Park.

Turn left out of the carpark.

Take the next turning on the right.

At the next intersection, go straight on through the gate, then bear right immediately after.

Follow the path out of the park.

Carry straight on into Wykeham Avenue.

Skirt round Wykeham Green anticlockwise to the far right corner.

Then turn right.

At the main road, turn left and then right along Kirklees Road.

At the end turn left.

Take the third right, which is Markyate Road.

Bear left along Neasham Road.

At the end, turn left then right into Mayesbrook Park.

Keep straight ahead to the far side of the park.

At the fork before the exit, bear left.

Follow the winding path until you have the lake on the left, then leave the park by the exit on the right.

Turn right along Clare Gardens.

At the end turn left.

Take the third right, which is Melford Avenue.

At the first crossroads, turn left.

At the end, turn right then left before the church.

Keep going along this road, which is Salisbury Avenue. Eventually it comes alongside the railway line.

When you reach Barking Station, turn left in front of it.

Carry on straight ahead through a pedestrianized section to the churchyard.

After crossing the main road, before the entrance to the churchyard (Curfew Tower), bear left.

Bear right past the corner of the churchyard.

At the fork, bear right, cross the main road, and go straight ahead.

Cross the River Roding and then take the footbridge over the North Circular Road.

On the other side, carry on along the tarmac path parallel to the road.

Take the first right.

At the end, turn left along Folkestone Road.

At the end, turn left.

At the end, turn right along the track.

Take the footbridge over the dual carriageway.

On the other side, cross the sliproad and cycle track, and turn left.

Turn right just before the underpass.

Cross the next road and carry on along the track opposite.

Keep straight ahead across Bazalgette's Northern Outflow Sewer.

The track runs next to the main road on the left for a while, and then diverges from it.

Keep left at the next two intersections.

After a short ascent, bear right at the next intersection.

Keep straight ahead when you get to the road.

Take the next turning right, over the DLR, and then turn left along Stonewall.

Bear left onto a footpath.

You will shortly reach Beckton Station on the left.