



▷ *Advice: The second bridge leads to a route which follows the western side of the lakes. There are public toilets, which have steps (not accessible for people with disabilities) and an information centre open on weekend afternoons. A herbaceous border incorporates plants which are not only attractive to look at but a food source for bees, butterflies and other insects of the park.*

Continue to the next path junction, by a shelter (there is another footbridge at this point). **5** Take the path bearing straight ahead. On the lake to the right you will see a range of water birds over the year including the coot, Canada goose, Cormorant, swan, Mandarin duck

and perhaps even a kingfisher! You'll also pass close to an island used by heron for nesting – one of the largest heronries in Greater London. At the edges of the lakes in the park, you can see willow and alder trees. Continue straight on. You shortly come to a network of paths. Keep to the path to the right that drops down and runs along the edge of the lake. This path passes another footbridge to the right and a 'Waterbirds at Kelsey Park' noticeboard. Continue straight ahead to the end of the park, passing a playground to your left and a kingfisher sculpture in the lake to your right. Go through the gate on to Stone Park Avenue (+790m). □

### This is the end of Walk 1.

#### To leave the Beck Corridor:

Retrace your steps to the start of your walk or make a return journey using the path on the western (other) side of the lakes. Alternatively catch a 352 bus on Stone Park Avenue. If you walk left along the avenue, you will reach a junction with Hayes Lane where you have access to the 162 and 358 bus routes; if you walk right along the avenue you will reach Village Way where you will have access to the 367 bus route. To continue along the Beck Corridor, please see instructions on Walk Card 2.

## BECK CORRIDOR TRAIL WALK CARD 1 BECKENHAM PLACE PARK TO KELSEY PARK



### Joining the Beck Corridor Trail at Walk 1

The following 'Links' are marked on the map.

#### From Ravenbourne Station:

Follow arrows along the Green Chain Walk/Capital Ring. On exiting the station, turn left and then turn right into Beckenham Place Park. Follow the tree lined path and on reaching the wood turn left. On your way a boundary post for Beckenham Parish can be seen. Turn right just before the building and follow the marker posts through the woods to the major signpost. Here you join the northern route from Grove Park. At this point turn left and

follow the route to Westgate Road – the start of the Beck Corridor Trail. Note that the railway station has access by steps only and parts of the route in Beckenham Place Park lies on uneven earth paths. (Westgate Road has an unmade surface). Link is 640m.

#### From New Beckenham Station:

Follow arrows along the Green Chain Walk/Capital Ring. Go left along Copers Cope Road. Turn right into Brackley Road, walking past St. Paul's Church and then turn left into Worsley Bridge Road. Follow the road, turning right into Stumps Hill Lane. Turn left along Beckenham Hill Road, taking a right along a path into Beckenham Place Park. Turn left to walk along the park drive to the car park. Just after the mansion turn left along a short path and bear left continuing across the golf course along the marker posts. You then come to the junction with Section 9 of Green Chain Walk. Turn right here and follow the path to Westgate Road – the start of the Beck Corridor Trail (Westgate Road has an unmade surface). Note that the railway station has level access in parts only. Part of Stumps Hill Lane is unmade for 100 yards and parts of the route in Beckenham Place Park lies on uneven earth paths. Link is 2.7km.

#### From Beckenham Junction Station:

Join the Beck Corridor Trail from Southend Road, omitting the route between Beckenham Place Park and along Foxgrove Road. From the exit of the station go left up to Blakeney Road, which almost immediately joins the junction between Southend Road (to the left), Albemarle Road (straight ahead) and High Street, Beckenham (to the right).



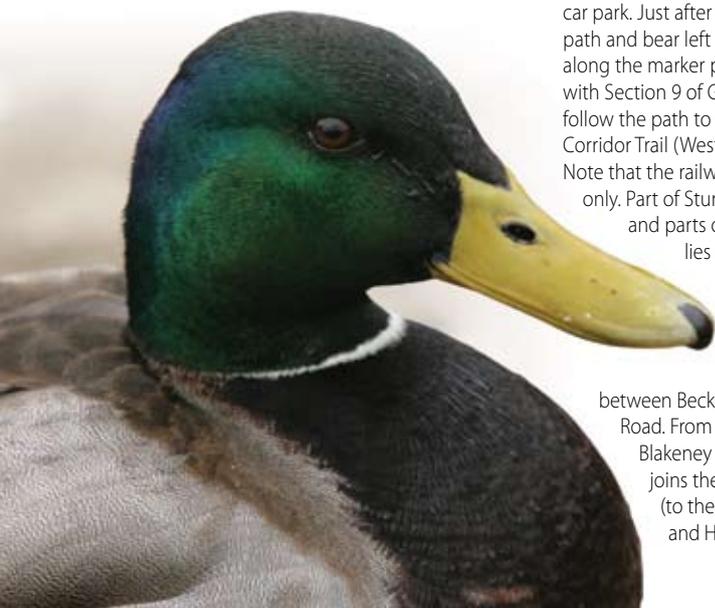
Using the pedestrian crossings, make your way over to the eastern side of the High Street closest to Beckenham Green. Note that the railway station has full level access (including Tramlink) and that the route alongside is paved or tarmac.

#### Accessibility

Westgate Road is unmade, uneven, but firm. From Foxgrove Road, route is along pavements with drop kerbs at all road junctions (one higher than ideal) and so feasible for wheelchairs/push chairs. Steep flight of steps outside police station; avoid by crossing to the western side of High Street at pelican crossing and continuing south to Kelsey Park Road. In Kelsey Park, paths are smooth, wide and gently undulating, apart from one slightly steeper section. Numerous seats at Beckenham Green and in Kelsey Park. Toilets (some RADAR) on Kelsey Park Road and in Kelsey Park.

#### Distance

Walk 1 is approximately 2.8km or 1.7 miles (See brackets in text for portioned distances along the route).



▷ **Walk 1**

Section 1 of the Beck Corridor Trail starts at the southern boundary of Beckenham Place Park.

**1** Walk ahead along Westgate Road using the footpath on the right until the junction with Foxgrove Road. (You have now walked 300m).

Turn right into Foxgrove Road and continue along it to the junction with Southend Road (you have walked a further 625m). On the way, take a look at the grasses and wildflowers growing in the verges and the trees, including the horse chestnuts. **2** Here cross over Foxgrove Road and continue straight ahead along the left-hand side of Southend Road. In this area some local residents have erected bird, bat and bee boxes in their gardens and planted horticultural plants that provide nectar and pollen for insects. Cross over a side road (The Avenue).

Continue along Southend Road, over the bridge. You soon see St. George's Church ahead of you. Cross Albemarle Road using the pelican crossing. Walk between the bollards, under the 'Non Nobis Solum' village sign, to enter Beckenham Green where there are flower beds, hanging baskets and seats. Take a look at the information board about the Green. You have now reached Beckenham Green where there are seats and flower beds. In the 1890's this was open meadowland with a view of St. Georges Church, the then Rectory and the Old Manor beyond (+360m).

*Advice: At this point you may choose to take an alternative route across to the far corner of Beckenham Green and through a gap in the fence into St. George's churchyard. Follow a short path through the lych gate and to the junction with Bromley Road. This is not suitable for wheelchairs. Yew trees are often associated with churches;*



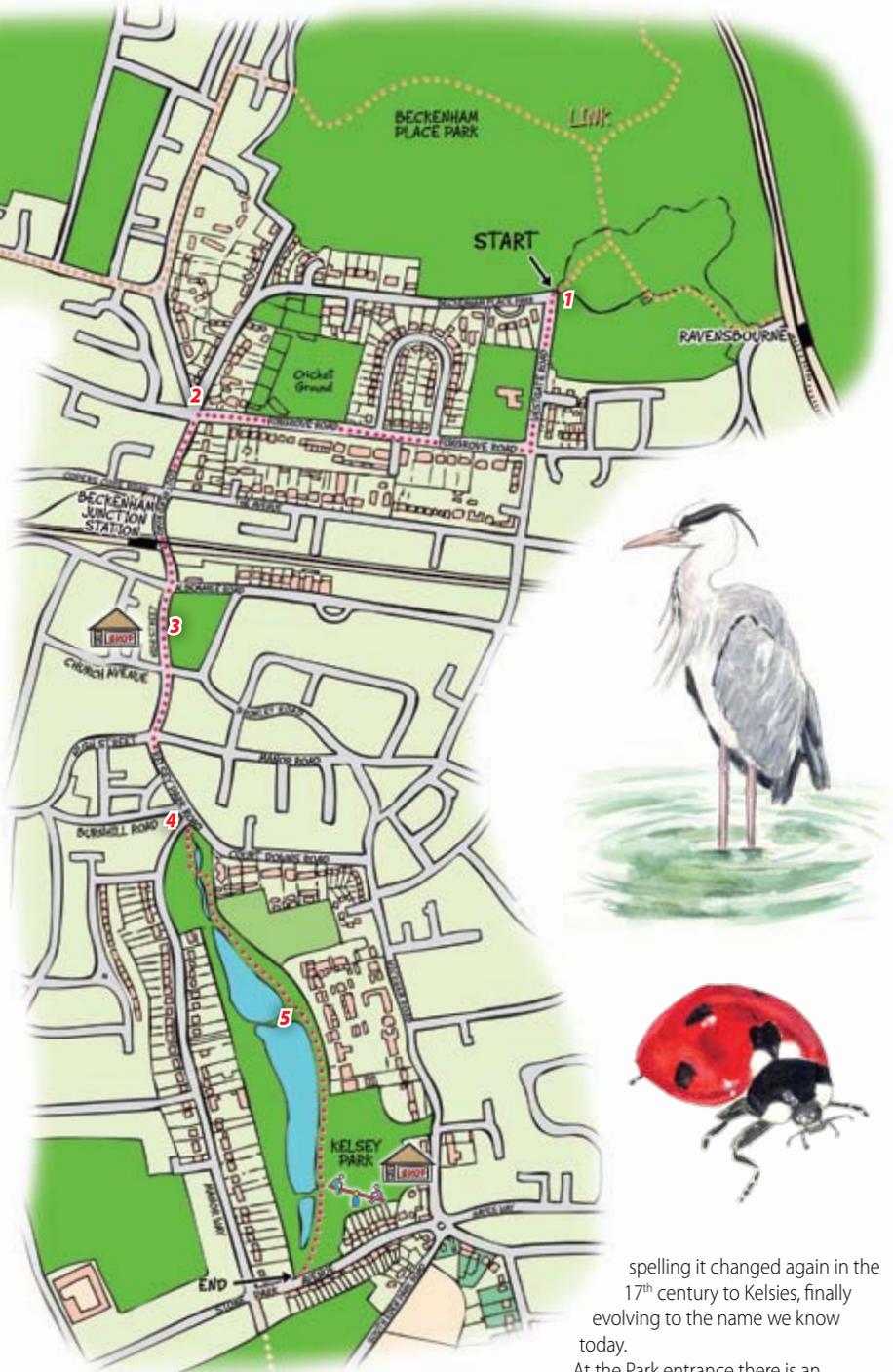
*being evergreen they are meant to symbolise everlasting life. They have fleshy red berries which are fed on by local garden birds. Native trees and shrubs, such as hazel and holly, and wildflowers, including primroses, have been planted in the churchyard. Stag beetle loggeries have been created to provide habitat for stag beetle grubs. Lichens and mosses can be found growing on the paths and gravestones. Please respect the sanctity of the grounds.*

**3** To carry on along the Beck Corridor Trail, continue along the path at the edge of the Green (parallel to the High Street). Just at the corner of the green by the churchyard, pass between the bollards to your right and continue along the High Street, with St. George's to your left. At the junction with Bromley Road, cross over to the opposite pavement, using the pelican crossing and continue along the left side of the High Street, down some steps and towards Manor Road. The corner of Bromley Road and the High Street is marked by an ancient milestone with the inscription 'London Bridge, Miles x (10) 2 Furlongs. One Mile and Half to Shortlands. Croydon Market Place Miles IV (4) 6 Furlongs Through the Town'. It was originally erected in 1713, with subsequent restorations (+160m).

*Advice: To avoid steps, do not cross Bromley Road but cross to the other side of the High Street. Cross over Church Avenue and continue down the High Street. Cross at the pelican crossing and then continue south down Kelsey Park Road.*

Cross Manor Road. Use the pelican crossing to cross Kelsey Park Road to the pavement beside the flower beds and toilets (including accessible toilet requiring a RADAR key). Continue left, straight down Kelsey Park Road.

**4** Cross over the road to enter Kelsey Park through the large gates. In 1408, the Lord of the Manor of Beckenham leased a meadow and field to William Kelshule, a citizen and fishmonger of the City of London, where he managed the land as a farm, built a house and raised his family. At the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century the family name was changed to Kelshyll. By the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Kelshule family had departed. By this time the property had adopted the title "The Manor of Kelselys" and from that



spelling it changed again in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to Kelsies, finally evolving to the name we know today.

At the Park entrance there is an information board, which shows the park facilities and some of the wildlife you may expect to see (+320m).

Continue straight ahead and turn first left over a footbridge. You will now have your first view of the River Beck. Carry on along the path passing the second footbridge to your right (+200m). A block of woodland lies to the left of your route, including ash, elm and beech. Some of the trees are large and many are covered in ivy. The flowers and fruit of ivy are important for a number of insects throughout the year, including the larvae of the holly blue butterfly. Dense ivy can provide cover for nesting birds or roost sites for bats. On some of the trees you will see that bat and bird boxes have

been erected and these form part of a wildlife monitoring programme. Old tree stumps and log piles have been created to provide habitat for invertebrates, including the stag beetle, and fungi. Some of the woodland birds you will hear are the robin, magpie, wren, magpie, blue tit, chaffinch and blackbird.

