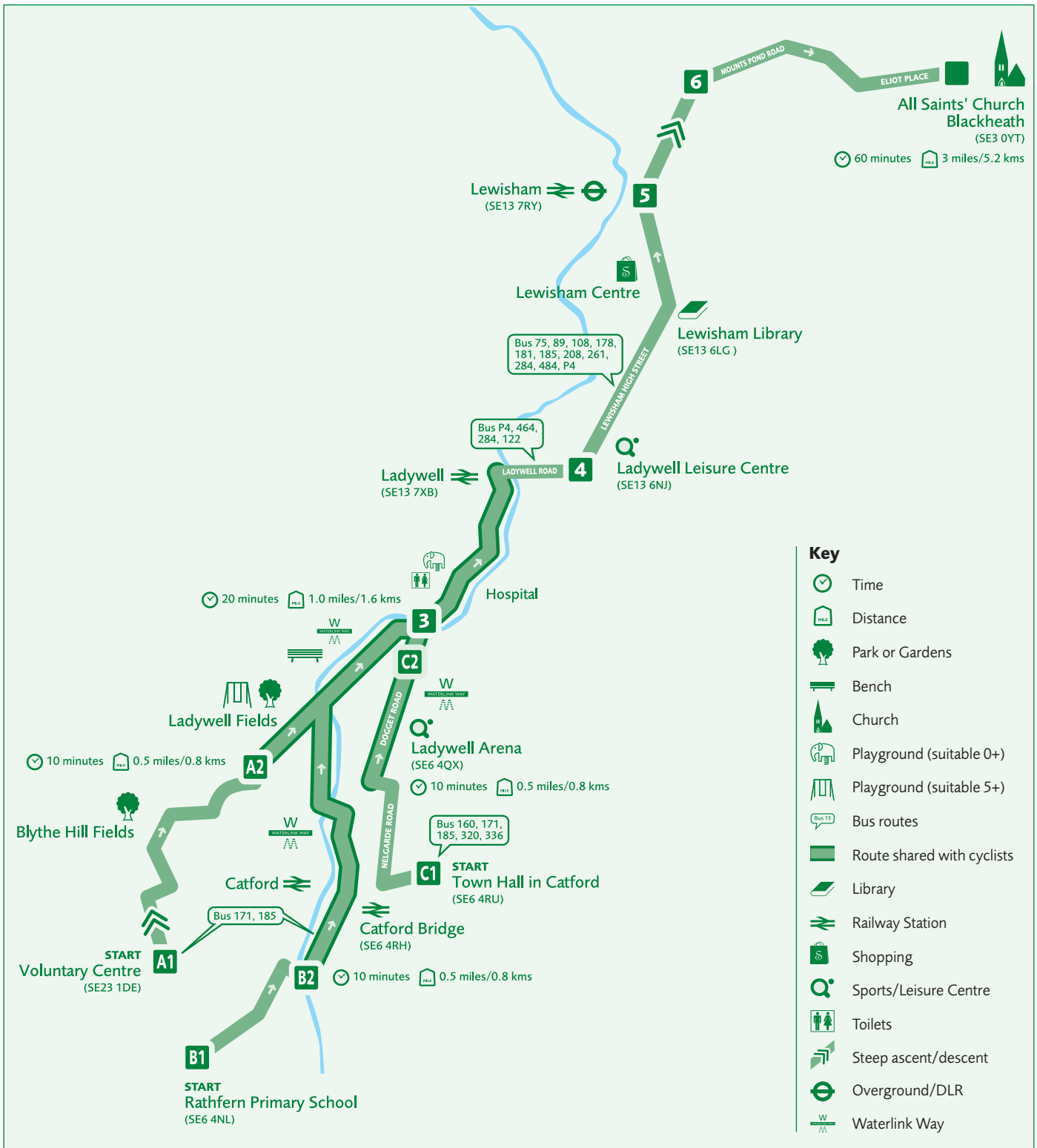


# Routes from Catford and Ladywell

Family-friendly walking routes to Blackheath in less than an hour



## Routes from Catford and Ladywell

Family-friendly walking routes to Blackheath in less than an hour

### DESCRIPTION

One of three starts, the others are from Rathfern Primary School (SE6 4NL), and from the Town Hall (SE6 4RU) in Catford. Each follows the Waterlink Way, a key walking and cycling route that runs from Beckenham Place Park to Deptford Creekside and the Thames, following the Pool and Ravensbourne rivers. This route is shared with cyclists and much of it is green space with lots of opportunities for children to play. *Bus service information is provided so if you live off the route, you can choose to take the bus to the walking route, and walk from there to Blackheath.*

### TOTAL DISTANCE

3 miles/5.2 kms

### TIME

60 minutes

### CONDITIONS/TERRAIN

Some narrow footways and parts of the Waterlink Way are not lit. There is a steep ramped corkscrew bridge over the railway – this can be avoided by following the route from the Town Hall (SE6 4RU) in Catford.

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Countless play opportunities include riverside paddles, an adventure playground and lots of play equipment for all ages.

### A1 START - Voluntary Centre (SE23 1DE)

**Cross** Stansted Road at the zebra crossing and go up Blythe Hill Lane (*take care here as the footway is narrow*) and **turn right** up Blythe Hill and then **left** into Montecute Road. As you pass an alleyway entrance to Blythe Hill Fields, look to your right, and continue down Montecute Road, and then **left** into Ravensbourne Park Crescent.

 10 mins  0.5 miles/0.8 kms

*A Blythe Hill House stood at the top of Blythe Hill Lane. It was demolished in the 1890s but its lands became Blythe Hill Fields.*

**A2 Turn left** at the T-junction with Ravensbourne Park and at the raised cushion **cross** into Ladywell Fields. Take the path that bears diagonally downhill to your left to **cross** the Ravensbourne river on a wide wooden bridge. *This is the Waterlink Way and Ladywell Fields which offer a huge variety of play opportunities.* Follow the Waterlink Way signs for Lewisham, past one of the last surviving Dutch elm trees on your left and an adventure playground on your right. **Cross** the railway by the corkscrew ramped bridge

 20 mins  1.0 miles/1.6 kms

*Now go to Point 3 >*

### B1 START - Rathfern Primary School (SE6 4NL)

**Turn right** down Rathfern Road and then **left** at the T-junction with Catford Hill to **cross** at the traffic island to the far side of the road. **Continue** up a gentle slope with a green space to your right. After 300 metres, **turn right** (*signed Poole River Park*) to join the Waterlink Way, **turning left** alongside the river.

 10 mins  0.5 miles/0.8 kms

*Waterlink Way runs from Deptford Creekside all the way to Beckenham Place Park – an almost traffic free walking and cycling route and linear park with plenty of play opportunities.*

**B2 Cross** the river and **pass beneath** a railway arch to emerge in a retail park. **Bear right** just prior to the exit and follow signs and shared route with cyclists beneath Catford Road, beside Catford Bridge rail station (SE6 4RH).

*Catford Bridge station dates from 1857 on the original Mid Kent Line. It retains its original Italianate entrance building on the 'down' side. The building on the 'up' side, with the covered steps up to Catford Road, was added c1870. In 1968 the Ravensbourne flooded and the platforms were underwater.*

## Routes from Catford and Ladywell

Family-friendly walking routes to Blackheath in less than an hour

Walk along Adenmore Road to its end in front of the entrance to the now derelict dogs stadium, then **turn left** beneath the railway and over the river to continue along the Waterlink Way signed for Lewisham.

*Catford Stadium was a historic greyhound track. It staged its first meeting in 1932. In 1973 it became the first track in Britain to stage eight-dog racing and was famous for holding a Boxing Day meeting where up to 80 bookmakers would line up to take punters' money. The track was closed in 2003 and burnt down in May 2005.*

**Cross** the river to your right, **pass beneath** the railway to continue past one of the last surviving Dutch elm trees on your left and an adventure playground on your right.

**Cross** the railway by the corkscrew ramped bridge

 20 mins  1.0 miles/1.6 kms

Now go to Point 3 >

### **C1** Start: Town Hall (SE6 4RU) in Catford

**Turn right** along Catford Road signposted Catford stations, and then **right** along Nelgarde Road (*beware the footway is narrow in places*). **Turn left** along Holbeach Road, **cross** at the raised paving and then **right** at the T-junction with Doggett Road.

*Hidden between Nelgarde Road and Thomas Lane is Elmwood, a house built in 1736, with 19th and 20th century extensions. It was built by Nelgarde Doggett who gave his name to Nelgarde and Doggett roads.*

**Continue straight** on beyond the end of Doggett Road, with the railway on your left and the Ladywell Arena athletics track (SE6 4QX) on your right. *This section is shared with vehicles.*

 10 mins  0.5 miles/0.8 kms

**C2** At the far end of the athletics track you join the Waterlink Way. Just beyond the corkscrew ramp **turn left**, **cross** the bridge and follow signs to Lewisham.

*Waterlink Way runs from Deptford Creekside all the way to Beckenham Place Park – an almost traffic free walking and cycling route and linear park with plenty of play opportunities.*

Now go to Point 3 >

**3** **Turn immediately left** to **cross** the river and **fork right** in front of the playground, to follow the path shared with cyclists, beside the river (*now to your right*).

*This route takes you behind the hospital and through the refurbished Ladywell Park. The Lady Well, which was used until the 1850s, was beside Ladywell Road, near the approach to the station. It was probably a holy well dedicated to the Virgin Mary, as is Lewisham's ancient parish church nearby. The well is marked and named on a map of 1592.*

Leave the park, **turning right** on Ladywell Road railway bridge signed Blackheath (*just to your left here is Ladywell rail station SE13 7XB*).

**4** **Turn left** at the T-junction with Lewisham High Street (*opposite you is Ladywell Leisure Centre SE13 6NJ*). Follow the High Street beneath the railway and just before the roundabout **cross** to the library (SE13 6LG) at the pelican crossing. **Continue** along the high street with the shopping centre on your left, and **cross** back to **bear left** towards the clocktower, through the street market, to the T-junction with Lee High Road.

*Lewisham Clock Tower was erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897. The clock was moved in the 1990s when the high street was remodelled.*

**5** **Continue straight** along Lewisham High Street and **cross** at the pelican crossing to your right just before the roundabout. Enter a little park, and **turn left**, with the Quaggy river in a cutting below. Keep up Lewisham Road, on the opposite side to the bus station, beneath the railway, and then **turn right**, just past the petrol station,

[Directions continue >](#)

---

## Routes from Catford and Ladywell

Family-friendly walking routes to Blackheath in less than an hour

---

up Lewisham Hill with its avenue of trees. (*Lewisham rail and DLR station SE13 7RY are just beyond the bus station.*)

- 6** **Take the third right** up Eliot Hill, which continues as Mounts Pond Road. **Fork right** along Aberdeen Terrace (*ignore a right turn at Aberdeen Terrace*) **continue** forward to join Eliot Vale.

*Aberdeen Terrace was the scene in the early 1900s of suffrage protests – May Billingham of Blackheath and Grace Mitchell of Lewisham were charged with having posted a white package of a 'deleterious fluid (black dye), and thereby injuring the said letter-box and its contents' in Aberdeen Terrace, Blackheath, as part of the campaign for votes for women.*

**Continue** along Eliot Place past the Hare & Billet pub (SE3 0QJ) to the right and the spire of All Saints' Church, Blackheath (SE3 0TY) as your beacon.

**End**