

Route from East Catford and Hither Green

A family-friendly walking route to Blackheath in less than an hour



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DESCRIPTION	A pleasant route that passes through two parks, uses a new bridge over the pretty Quaggy river and has views of the Shard from the top of a hill. The route is varied, includes an urban pathway and passes a fine church and Georgian terrace. This area of Lewisham came to the fore with the opening of Hither Green station in the 1890s and the development of the Corbett estate that followed soon afterwards. <i>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.</i>
TOTAL DISTANCE	3.1 miles/5 kms
TIME	60 minutes
CONDITIONS/TERRAIN	Some steep sections. In places the path is narrow and cracked, with some low branches, poor street lighting and two parks that close at dusk. Alternative routes are provided.
WHAT TO LOOK FOR	Views of the Shard, the Quaggy river, two toddler playgrounds, a café, a fine church and a terrace of Georgian houses.

1 **Start: Rushey Green Primary School (SE6 2LA)**

From the entrance to Rushey Green Primary School on Culverly Road, **turn right** and pass Holy Cross Primary School on your left. **Turn left** into Inchmerry Road to **cross** Sandhurst Road to **continue straight on** (now called *St Filians Road*). At Brownhill Road use the pelican crossing on your right to **enter** Mountsfield Park.

Mountsfield Park opened in 1905. It gets its name from Mountsfield House, the home of Henry Tibbats Stainton in the mid 1840s, a well known entomologist.

- 2** **Climb up** the slope to **follow the path** along for excellent views across London including views of the Shard. **Continue** past a toddler playground, then Stainton Tea Room (a converted red container) and toilets (a converted green container) on your right.

- 3** Just before the exit to the park in front of you, **turn right** opposite the tennis courts to **leave the park** at Stainton Road. **Turn left** into George Lane.

 19 minutes  1.0 miles/1.6 kms

Alternative when the park is closed is to turn right after crossing Brownhill Road and take the second left up Stainton Road. Soon you will have Mountsfield Park on

your left. Rejoin route as it leaves the park near the end of Stainton Road.

- 4** **Take a right** once in George Lane, **cross** at the zebra crossing outside Jimmy Mizen Foundation Café of Good Hope and immediately **turn right** into Beacon Road (red letter box on corner) to pass Brindishe Green School (SE13 6EH) on your right. **Turn left** at the bottom into Nightingale Grove and **immediately right** into Maythorne Cottages. **Take the tunnel** under Hither Green Station (SE13 5NF) and **go straight ahead** on Staplehurst Road.

At the end of the nineteenth century developer Archibald Cameron Corbett persuaded the railway to build a booking office on the eastern side of Hither Green station and offer residents cheaper season tickets!

- 5** Take the **second left** into Longhurst Road and at the top of the street **enter** Manor Park down an alley on your right, identified by a new tall wooden fence and gravel path. **Cross** the new bridge over the Quaggy, to **continue** through Manor Park past a café and toddlers' play area on your right to **leave the park**.

The name Quaggy has existed for quite a long while and Edith Nesbit, a local Lewisham resident, used it in her book 'The New Treasure Seekers'.

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Continue up Weardale Road, with the Quaggy at first behind an ancient wall on the left.

Alternative when the park is closed is to take the first left into Leahurst Road and follow it as it becomes Eastdown Park which bears right to join Lee High Road.

6 **Turn left** at Lee High Road and **first right** onto Belmont Park to start your climb towards Blackheath.

 38 minutes  2.0 miles/3.2 kms

Bear left along Middleton Way and **right** along Blessington Road, to **turn left** at the T-junction with Brandram Road. **Turn right** at the top onto Lee Terrace with the lovely ruined St Margaret's Church on one corner. **Cross** and take the **first left** into St Joseph's Vale. At the zebra crossing, either **cross and turn left** along the narrow pathway (*recommended for those with young children*), or **continue** down St Joseph's Vale on the road facing oncoming traffic.

7 At the bottom, **continue** up the pathway (*Heath Lane*). At the top, **turn right** onto Eliot Vale, which continues as Eliot Place, with a lovely Georgian terrace on the right.

Eliot Place, a row of detached and semi-detached houses on the edge of the heath, was built between 1795 and 1802. It survives intact except for No. 9, which was rebuilt in 1911. Benjamin Disraeli went to school there and a blue plaque records the residence of Sir James Clark Ross, the polar explorer, at No.2.

Go right past the Hare & Billet pub (SE3 0QJ) into Hare and Billet Road with All Saints' Church, Blackheath (SE3 0TY) ahead.

End