

Severndroog Castle



cross at the pedestrian crossing going on up an earth path leading to a tarmac path across Woolwich Common. A few hundred yards later, before reaching the main road (Academy Road), turn right and follow the path as it bears left, eventually joining Academy Road. Cross at the refuge and continue to the junction. Cross at the traffic lights and turn left up Shooter's Hill (Dover Road). You soon come to Eltham Common, opening out to the right. Bear right across the grass to a point at about one o'clock, where you can see a small sign and recently constructed steps leading up the hill into the wood. Go up the steps to the top (a long steady climb) and turn right along the paved access road. Continue to the top of the hill where you bear right to the strange derelict building known as Severndroog Castle, a folly built in the late eighteenth century. This is the highest point of Capital Ring walk. Go past the castle and down some steps

where there are some benches with fine views across south London to the Downs.

4. Follow several flights of steps down through old rose gardens almost the bottom and take the left (signed) path along through a gap in the wall and into the woods. Follow the windy dirt path up to a tarmac path and continue along this for several hundred yards forking right past the ornamental garden of Jackwood House. At the end of the gardens, bear left and soon after, take a sharp right turn down the hill to Oxleas Meadows. At the bottom, bear left and up the hill to the pavilion, where there is a café and toilets, and there are further good views.

Oxleas Pavilion



5. When you are rested, continue on the path down the hill, past the small gym area and into Oxleas Wood. From here on there is an excellent display of bluebells through April. Shortly, you should fork right, then right again down the hill to the bottom. Turn right along the path back to the bottom of Oxleas Meadows, where you should turn left and follow the path to the junction of Rochester Way and Welling Way. Cross Rochester Way at the traffic lights and go straight across into Shepherleas Wood opposite. Take the path to the right and continue as it arcs round to the left through the wood, where again there is usually a magnificent show of bluebells. Where the path forks right (to the next leg of the Capital Ring), you should continue straight on following the link signs to Falconwood station.

Return

There are regular trains from Falconwood station. You can go to London Bridge station and catch the Jubilee Line to Stratford. Or it is just three stops to Lewisham, where you can get the DLR to Stratford (usually changing at Canary Wharf). An alternative from Lewisham is to take the DLR on to Limehouse where you can catch a mainline train to Barking (two stops) and then the Overground to Woodgrange Park or Wanstead Park.