

the hub

Waterlink Way



This route through the boroughs of Bromley and Lewisham presents some of the most appealing sections of National Route 21 in London. As the name suggests, the route follows waterways for much of its length, particularly the Pool and Ravensbourne Rivers. The route is suitable for families, if care is taken at a few points.

Starting from Kent House Station, follow the Waterlink Way and Route 21 signs through Cator Park. Just north of Lennard Road, a new path takes you along the Pool River. At this point, keep an eye (and an ear!) out for the parakeets that have taken up residence in the area.

There is a short on-road section, past some industrial units, then it's back onto traffic-free paths just north of Lower Sydenham Station. Be careful where the route crosses Southend Lane (because of the road layout it hasn't yet been possible to provide a safe signalised crossing at this point).

Between Southend Lane and Catford, the route follows the river along good quality shared paths, before coming out at a shopping centre. The signs mark the way under the busy main street and into Adenmore Road.

Continuing under the rail line, the route rejoins the river through Ladywell Fields, one of Lewisham's most popular green spaces. This is a good place to stop for a rest; there is a small café, toilet facilities and a new children's play area. The ancient elm tree nearby is perfect if you are seeking shade on a hot day.

As you head north out of Ladywell Fields, you need to take care as there is a short section of busy road and a humpback bridge. If you're not comfortable making your way along Ladywell Road into Vicars Hill with the

motor traffic, we suggest staying on the pavement and pushing your bike as it is a short stretch. We are currently working with the London Borough of Lewisham on an alternative route that would be traffic-free and remain along the river.

After passing along Algernon Road and reaching the end of Marsala Road, the route goes into an area which is currently under development. The London Cycle Guide for Area 11 will help you negotiate the section alongside the Ravensbourne River and on to the continuation of the route at Thurston Road. This leads on to some excellent cycle paths through Brookmill Park, and you can continue on segregated tracks and quiet streets to Deptford and Greenwich, where you meet National Routes 1 and 4.

To reach the Cutty Sark and the Thames, you head northeast from the roundabout at Deptford Bridge up Creekside and Copperas Street, before crossing over the A200 and turning right onto the cycle path for a short stretch. After returning to the road on Norway Street, you dogleg onto the riverside and back onto a traffic-free path by the Cutty Sark and the Greenwich Foot Tunnel.

The Route

Where: Cator Park to Cutty Sark and Greenwich

National Route: 21

Distance: 7 miles one way

Terrain: very flat with a mixture of traffic-free paths and quiet lanes

Public transport: railway stations at Kent House, Lower Sydenham, Ladywell, Lewisham and Greenwich

Nearest bike hire:

Deen's Garage, Beckenham – 0208 650 0630

Maps: London Cycle Guide Areas 15 and 10

OS maps: Explorer 161, Landranger 177

Tourist information:

Greenwich – 0870 608 2000

Places to search for on Sustrans website mapping: Catford, Lewisham, Greenwich

