

# Walk 13: Chislehurst-Petts Wood

Superb National Trust woodland with a great multitude of paths to explore leading to glades, heather plantations, secluded ponds and little wandering streams

**How long?** 90 mins

**3.5 miles (5km)**

**Public transport:** Excellent.

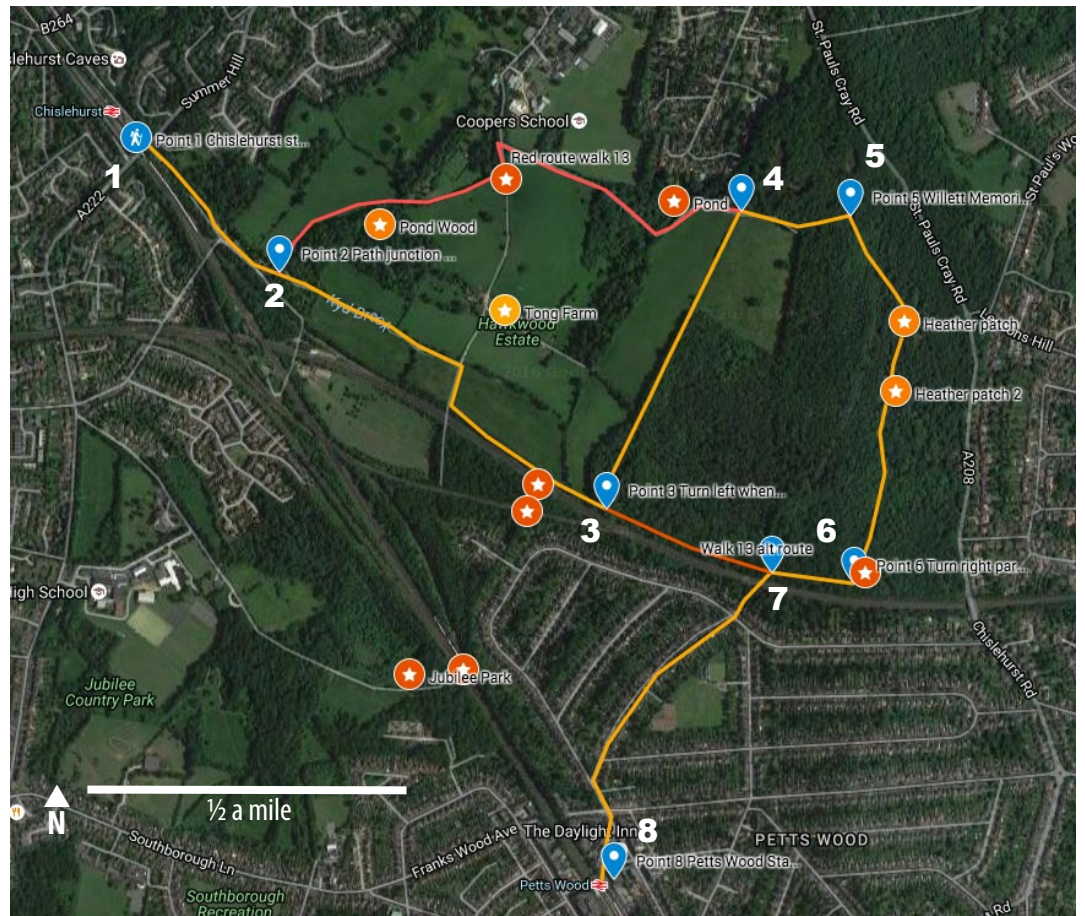
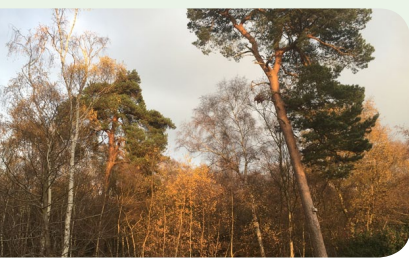
Chislehurst station is on Charing X-Orpington line. Petts Wood is on Charing X and Victoria-Orpington line. Can also start from Bickley station (on Thameslink and Victoria to Orpington lines).

**Parking:** easy at weekends

**Start of walk:** Goshill Rd, a few steps from Chislehurst Station

**Steep slopes?** None

**PRINT ME OUT** The National Trust has a great map for crosschecking this walk (showing paths and heather etc) of the woods at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/documents/maps/petts-wood-and-hawkwood.pdf>



## THE WALK IN SHORT

**Points 1-2: 500m.** Leave Chislehurst station and turn right towards Summer Hill (A222). Cross this busy road via the pedestrian footbridge (which has a ramp). Walk all the way down Goshill Road.

**Point 2-3: 1km. Along the Kyd Brook and the railway** Eventually you'll see a barrier to the right barring your way, and a footpath on the left. This path splits. The primary route, in orange on the map, follows a stream (Kyd Brook) as far as a little bridge. At this point, turn sharp right and walk towards the railway line, then follow the path left towards a pedestrian bridge over the line. Don't cross the bridge (unless you fancy going to the excellent Jubilee Country Park – see below), but continue on the path on wooden boards, over the Kyd Brook stream towards the woods.

**Point 3-4: 900m. Edlmann wood's boggy bit then go between fields** On entering the woods (called Edlmann after the ex army major who donated the land) at a rather muddy point, turn left (going north), taking a path parallel to the edge of the field, gradually uphill. After about 500m

the path goes between two fields. The field on your right has a pine clump in it and a clump of deciduous trees; on the left, the field, often with sheep in it, slopes down to a pond.

**Point 4-5: 300m. Field-pines-fine views** Turn right (head east) at top of field, so you are walking next to the field on the woods side of the fence. Note the tall pines and a superb oak just past a bench and some dilapidated old iron railings that I rather like. Enter the woods, cross its main north to south path and look for a path heading east east north through holly which brings you out into a little clearing where you'll find the Willett Memorial. . . if not sure, ask a passing dog walker. But if you think you've gone wrong, just scout around – you'll stumble across it because several paths converge on it.

**Point 5-6: 1km. Willett Memorial-heather patches-railway cutting** Exit the clearing in its south eastern corner and continue walking for about 300m in a roughly south/south easterly direction. Don't worry about being on the exact right path. . . there are many paths and you'll find your way. You may find yourself crossing a small 'valley', going over a ditch on a little log bridge. If so,

fine, not to worry, just look for one of two heather patches (marked well on the NT map) in this part of the woods and then turn right on to the path that goes through/over/past the heather going south. You're bound to stumble across one of the heather patches. You'll probably be able to hear traffic on an unseen main road not far from you at this point. As you walk south (after the aforementioned right turn) the traffic noise will be on your left. Keep going south as far as you can – you'll eventually hit another heather patch (it might be your second or third depending on which path you left the Willett clearing on). You'll soon hear the odd train ahead of you and after a few hundred metres you'll come to the railway cutting.

**Point 6-7: 300-400m. Alongside the railway to a foot tunnel** Turn right on any path heading west parallel with the railway – so the railway is on your left (mainline Victoria to Dover). Continue to walk parallel with the railway and soon the path descends to cross a stream/ditch and a tunnel under the tracks.

**Point: 7-8 900m. 1930s suburbia a-go-go** Go through tunnel under railway and emerge onto Hazelmere Rd, turn left and then

immediately right up Towncourt Crescent. Continue all the way to Petts Wood Station. The Daylight Inn pub (named in honour of William Willett) is right by the station.

## The alternative route (marked in red)

This makes for a good circular walk from Chislehurst or just an alternative way of getting to Petts Wood.

**1)** Take the footpath heading off up hill at the end of Goshill Road, skirting Pond Wood. Continue about 1km until you meet Botany Bay Lane. Turn left then immediately right on a footpath passing Coopers' School fields.

**2)** After passing the playing field, the path goes downhill then turns left alongside a large pond (Flushers Pond). It then bends right, uphill, to join the main route (in orange on my map) at Point 4.

**3)** Continue on the orange route to Point 7 then instead of going through the tunnel continue straight on, parallel with the railway (the 'upper path' though the sweet chestnut grove is the more pleasant of the two paths that do this) until you rejoin the Kyd Brook.

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