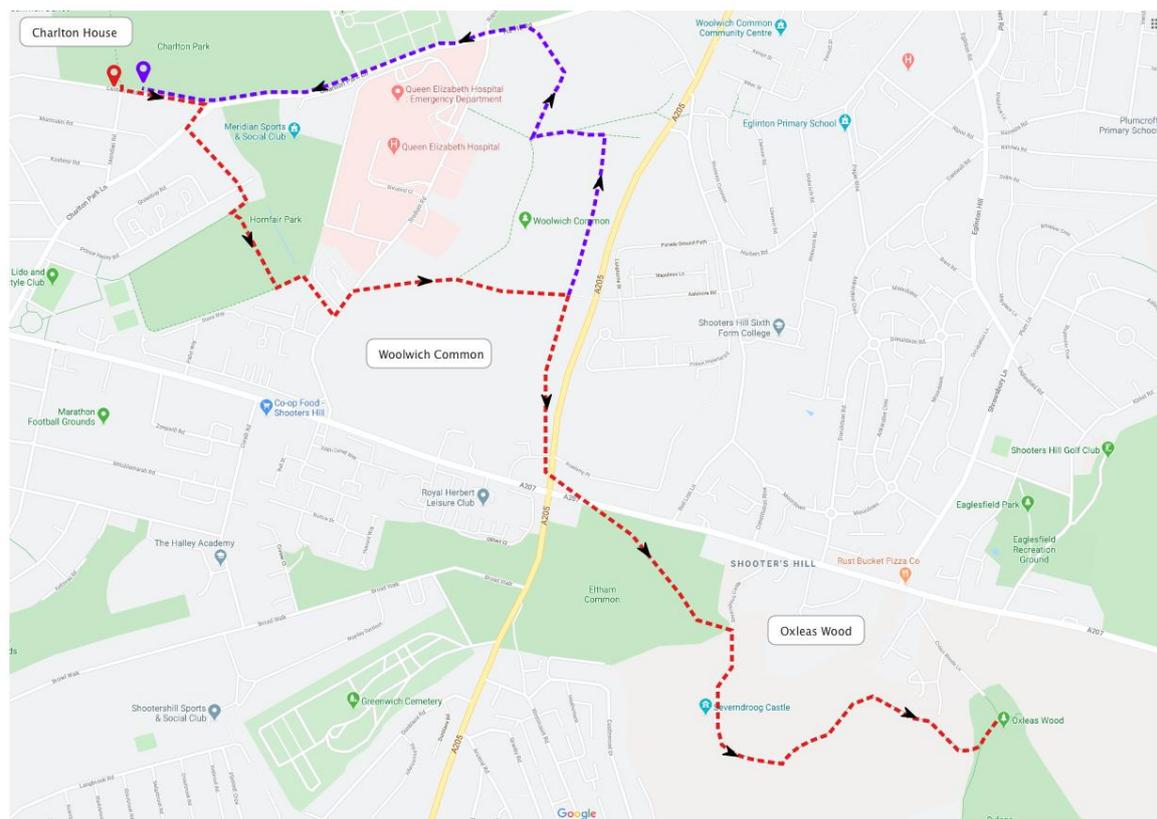


CHARLTON HOUSE to OXLEAS MEADOWS... at the top of Shooters Hill via Woolwich Common

Charlton House to Oxleas Meadows (via Green Chain Walk)

NB: Look for the yellow waymark arrows

Length: 2.6 miles | Time: 1 hour approx



Route 1 
Route 2 

The top of Shooters Hill is the highest point locally. At Oxleas Meadows there are great views towards the south and on the way up Eltham Common you can look back over much of London. If you've got the family with you, the meadows are great for play and a picnic and the ancient Oxleas Woods have endless paths and tracks that can be explored by the more energetic. The café is normally open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for tea and ice creams or a meal, but you need to pay by cash. On route you pass Severndroog Castle where you can

currently get afternoon tea at weekends from 10-3, and wander about in Castle Woods down below.

Two different routes across Woolwich Common to the junction of the South Circular Road and Shooters Hill are included, so this can also be used as a circular walk of about 3 miles. To the café at Oxleas Meadows and back is about 6 miles but the 486 bus stops close by and you could be dropped off at the car park and walk back. But if you're not pressed for time and the weather's good, there and back using both routes over the common is a good day out. Much of the walk is fairly flat, but going up to Severndroorg Castle is good exercise for your heart.

The map shows the two routes across Woolwich Common to the cross roads where Shooters Hill crosses the South Circular Road; at that corner of the common the two routes come together. So for a shorter circular walk you can return by the other route and, if you wish, explore the common a bit more. and the map shows the rest of the walk from there to Oxleas Meadows.



If you start your walk in front of Charlton House you go round the side and along to the Old Cottage Café. Go along the side of the skate park and from there the routes diverge, **one** heading for the gate on the other side of the park into Charlton Park Lane where it meets Canberra Road and **the other** the along the side of the floodlit area and the children's playground to the gate into Cemetery Lane next to Charlton Park School.

Route 1 is part of the long established Green Chain Walk and there are signs to help you.

From the café you go past the skate park and straight on towards the other side of the park. You can stick to the metalled path and turn left inside the park

until you reach a narrow gate where Canberra Road meets Charlton Park Lane, or you can cut across the football pitches. You can identify where the gate is by a change in the height of the trees at the edge of the park.

After you go through the gate cross the road and turn right. After 20 metres turn left into Inigo Jones Road. At the end go across to the gate into Hornfair Park. Turn right and you will see a sign ahead of you pointing left towards the corner of the park, or you can cut straight across the park direct to the corner. Here an almost overgrown marker post shows you a narrow track through an overgrown area which takes you out to a parking space for Mansergh Close. Cross the car park to Baker Road, the road which passes the front of QE Hospital.

At Baker Road turn left and cross the road at the zebra crossing onto a path leading on to Woolwich Common; after about 20 metres take the path to the right across the common. Cross another path and before you reach the road, you will meet the other route where a major path comes in from your left. Turn right and it takes you out to the road shortly before the traffic lights.

Route 2 slightly longer but with great views from Woolwich Common

Go to the far end of Charlton Park through the gate into Cemetery Lane. When you leave the park turn right, cross the road and follow the line of the cemetery wall round the corner as far as the traffic lights near the hospital. Cross carefully to the Woolwich Common side of Stadium Road. Almost opposite the first entrance to the hospital is a hard path next to a line of tall trees. Near the end of this path turn right on to a major track which goes the full length of Woolwich Common towards the main cross road junction at Shooters Hill. Shortly before the end of the common you join Route 1 coming in from the right.

This crossing at the bottom of Shooters Hill is difficult with no pedestrian sequence, so extra care. There are pedestrian crossings a little way back down Shooters Hill Road and some way down Well Hall Road, which you might find helpful.

Once you're across, wherever you are, your target is near the top corner of the open space known as Eltham Common. From the corner of the lights by the old police station, the official route takes you a short distance up Shooters Hill, where a sign points you diagonally across the common. At the top another sign indicates a path through the woods until you come out by the car park. It's a

short walk up to Severndroog Castle or you can go straight on to avoid some steps, rejoining the main route a little further on.



From the castle descend the steps to a formal garden then left on a path round the boundary of what is called Jack Wood. You've done a semi-circle around the back of the grounds of the Memorial Hospital. You're nearly there! Keep on the main track past some more formal garden, turn right through a clump of woodland out on to Oxleas Meadow

The café at Oxleas Meadow is where a number of South London's Green Chain Walks come together. You've come along part of the walk up from the Thames Barrier. You could now go through Oxleas Woods through Bostall Woods and down to Lesnes Abbey to the riverside at

Thamesmead or over towards several Eltham parks and across the A20 into parts of Lewisham and Bromley and beyond.

But from where you now are, going down the other side of the hill, between Shooters Hill, Welling Way, and Rochester Way there are acres of woodland and meadow and endless paths which you can safely explore.

PARKING Charlton House near the front of the house .

Oxleas Meadows Turn right at the top of Shooters Hill into Crown Woods Way and sharp left down to the car park.

BUS 486 From Charlton Station or Village to the top of Shooters Hill near the Bull. Cross the road to Crown Woods Way, then as above.

CAFES and LOOS Charlton Park: by The Old Cottage Coffee Shop or in Charlton House itself

Oxleas Meadows Café

Severndroog Castle at weekends (but toilets closed during Covid-19 emergency)