

9 Turn left down Edgington Lane for 100 metres to a footbridge, cross and turn right to head back to the roundabout and turn left into Maidstone Road. Walk on 400 metres to Foots Cray High Street. Cross the road to the Seven Stars public house c.1753 on the right. In 1814 a red lantern was hung outside this pub to guide travellers through the ford and it was once an important staging post for coaches from Maidstone to London.

10 Continue past the Tudor Cottages on the left to the end of the High Street. Turn right into Rectory Lane, the listed Georgian Terrace on the left c. 1737 bears the original road plaques. Continue on to Harenc School c.1815, a clock tower was added to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

11 Walk on 300 metres. Ahead is the parish church of All Saints Foots Cray. Originally a wood and thatch building c.900 AD, it was rebuilt in 1330. Take the signposted footpath before the church to continue on the Cray River Path through the water meadows. Alternatively take a bus back to Orpington from Footscray village Centre.



How to get there...

BUSES:

R6 Orpington to St Mary Cray
R4 St Paul's Cray to Locksbottom
51 Woolwich to Orpington
61 Chislehurst to Bromley
273 Lewisham to Petts Wood
R1 St Pauls Cray to Green Street Green
R11 Sidcup to Green Street Green
B14 Bexleyheath to Orpington
R2 Petts Wood to Biggin Hill
R3 Locksbottom to Chelsfield

TRAIN:

Nearest station: Orpington

CAR:

Turn into the High Street, Orpington at the junction with Station Road (A232). Continue north along the High Street and turn into Church Hill.

PARKING:

Orpington museum car park - PAY AND DISPLAY, or limited on road parking in the surrounding roads (restrictions may apply).

Please check: www.tfl.gov.uk for further details or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

All details correct at time of printing (2013).

Additional Information...

An attractive 3.5 mile walk along the River Cray taking the walker from Priory Gardens and through the villages of St Mary Cray, St Paul's Cray and Foots Cray.

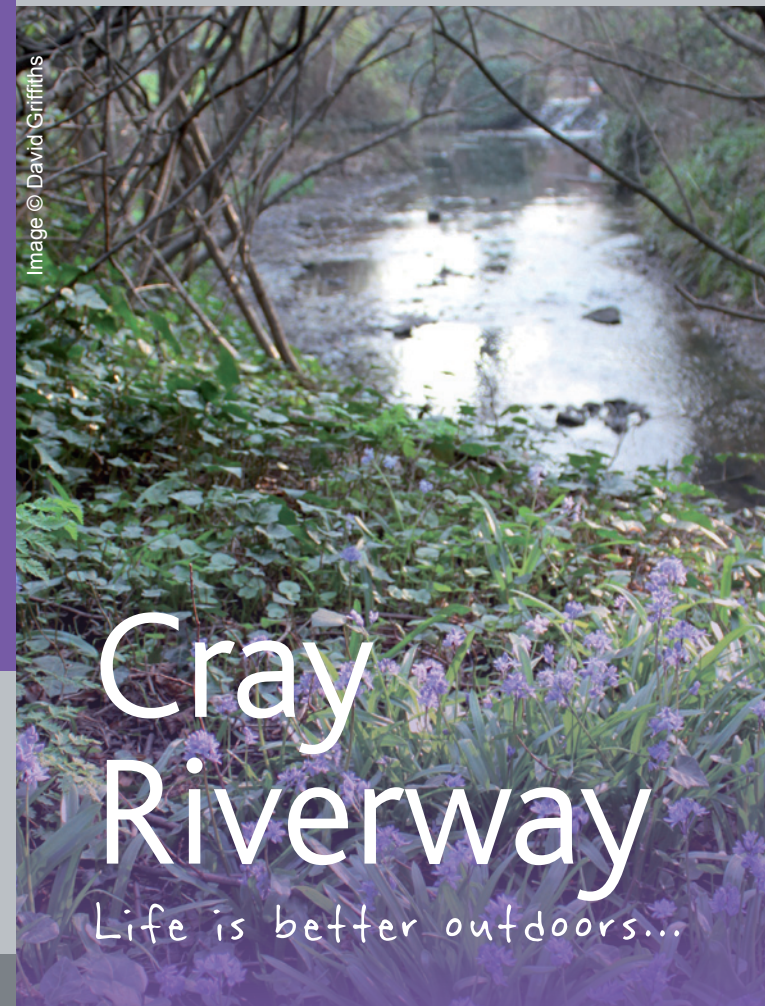
This first section of 3.5 miles in Bromley, is part of a 13.5 mile walk continuing through Bexley.

Cray comes from the Saxon word 'Crecca' meaning a small river – Orpington, where the river starts, means 'village of rising springs'. The River Cray winds its way through the parishes of St Mary Cray, St Paul's Cray, Foots Cray, North Cray, Crayford and then joins the River Darent before finally reaching the Thames.

Walks



around the Borough



Starting point: Orpington museum
Distance: 3.5 miles

Cray Riverway

- 1 Start at Orpington museum. Once a rectory, it was first recorded here in 1270, later known as the Priory because it belonged to the Priory of Christchurch, Canterbury. Take the tarmac path to the left of the museum and enter the ornamental gardens. Continue along the path for 200 metres to the lakes, look out for swans, coots, moorhen, ducks and geese.
- 2 Follow the path to the left, skirting the lakes, and leave the gardens via the elaborate gates on to Court Road. Cross Court Road and turn left then first right into Lower Road. Walk on 150 metres to the 'Royal Albert' pub and then cross into St Andrew's church taking the path to the right through the gardens. At the end turn right into Riverside Gardens and continue walking along the footpath, first northwards and then west towards the road.
- 3 Skirt clockwise around the pond and turn right onto the tarmac path towards the boating pool some 200 metres ahead. Follow the river and look out for musk mallow, campion and wild carrot. Kingfishers, Little Egret and Grey Wagtails are also seen along this stretch. Artefacts found in the river valley reveal prehistoric settlements. Later many mills and market villages sprung up along the Cray.
- 4 Cross Kent Road (here used to be a ford beside a wooden bridge, giving the area to the west across the main road the name Fordcroft, where digs reveal a Saxon Cemetery and Roman bath house) and continue along the Riverside walk opposite for 400 metres. At the river crossing, bear left, with the Temple URC Church across the High Street to the right. The small waterfall to the left is all that remains of the Snelling Water Mill – once a flour mill, it ended it's days powering the ornamental fountains in the gardens of the Rookery, a large 18th century house across the High Street demolished in 1980. Continue along the path for 100 metres to where it meets the High Street.

- 5 Cross at the road crossing then turn left towards the village. Blacksmiths Lane to the right was a medieval pilgrim route to Canterbury. Pass the old Police Station, the Cray Valley Hub, previously the 'Black Boy' public house then cross Sandway Road to the Mary Rose Hotel which dates back to the 17th century.
- 6 Pass under the viaduct c.1858 and into St Mary Cray old village dating from 1032. 50 metres on is the 13th century church of St Mary's, note the macabre grave stones. The old buildings on the right include a 16th century Wealden House with jettied front and The Blue Anchor public house, another 16th century wooden framed building with later alterations and now converted to housing. At the end of the village on the left is Lime Tree Cottage, this 16th century cottage; with later additions and alterations has a bake house with adjoining chimney. Continue along Main Road for 800 metres to St Paul's Cray Village.
- 7 On entering old St Paul's Cray notice the village green to the left and the water meadows, a site of amenity and wildlife interest. Swans, ducks and Kingfishers can be seen around the mill stream and lake, opposite the 12th century St Paulinas church.
- 8 Continue for 100 metres to the mini-roundabout. Cross at Chapman's Lane and continue into Sandy Lane passing the 'Bull Inn' on your left. Just 200 metres further on the right is Ruxley Golf Course. Keep to the path which runs to the right of the hedge in front of you for 500 metres then reappears at the Health Club. Keep on the right hand side of the road facing the traffic and continue up the lane until the footpath by the overpass. From along the road, there are views of Sidcup and Footscray across farmland.

