

13 Follow this path for 120m and turn left at the wooden gate into Scadbury Park, which dates back to Saxon times. For more information on the area a booklet entitled 'Scadbury Manor' is produced by Orpington & District Archaeological Society. Continue for 200m where a path joins from the right, take the left hand path up the hill.

14 Follow the main path for 35m through the woods until you reach a sign to the moated manor. Turn right to view this site which has records dating from 1254. To continue the walk bear left following the path and at the main track turn right. A little further up the path and to your right is a pond dating back to the 17th century and referred to as a fishpond in an inventory of that time.

15 Continue along the path, which opens into a woodland glade with an avenue of fine old yew trees off to your right. At the foot of a steep rise and steps stands an ancient oak estimated to be in excess of 600 years old. Walk on and after 60m turn left, signposted to St Paul's Wood Hill. Here, birch and bracken indicate poorer soils than elsewhere on the estate. Look out for woodland birds like the green woodpecker and jay and butterflies like speckled wood and brimstone.

16 Turn left and on leaving the estate walk straight across St Paul's Wood Green. Follow the school boundary and bear left, the car park is directly ahead.



How to get there...

BUSES:

R1 St Paul's Cray to Green Street Green
R11 Sidcup to Green Street Green
B14 Bexleyheath to Orpington

TRAIN:

Nearest station: St Mary Cray

CAR:

Turn off St Paul's Cray Road A208, at Leasons Hill, St Paul's Cray and then immediately north onto St Paul's Wood Hill.

PARKING:

St Paul's Wood Hill car park, St Paul's Cray.

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 energetic walk taking the walker through the old village of St Paul's Cray, water meadows, Scadbury Estate and Paul's Hill Wood - with excellent views to North Kent.

Short cut from Point 5:

Turn left here and continue along Main Road to enjoy old St Paul's Cray Village. Turn left again at The Bull Inn to rejoin the main walk at point 11.

St Paul's Cray is derived from the Saxon word crecca or brook and the shortening of the name St Paulinus. Simon de Cray, Lord of the Cinque ports in 1275 took his name from St Paul's Cray.

Walks



THE LONDON BOROUGH
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around the Borough

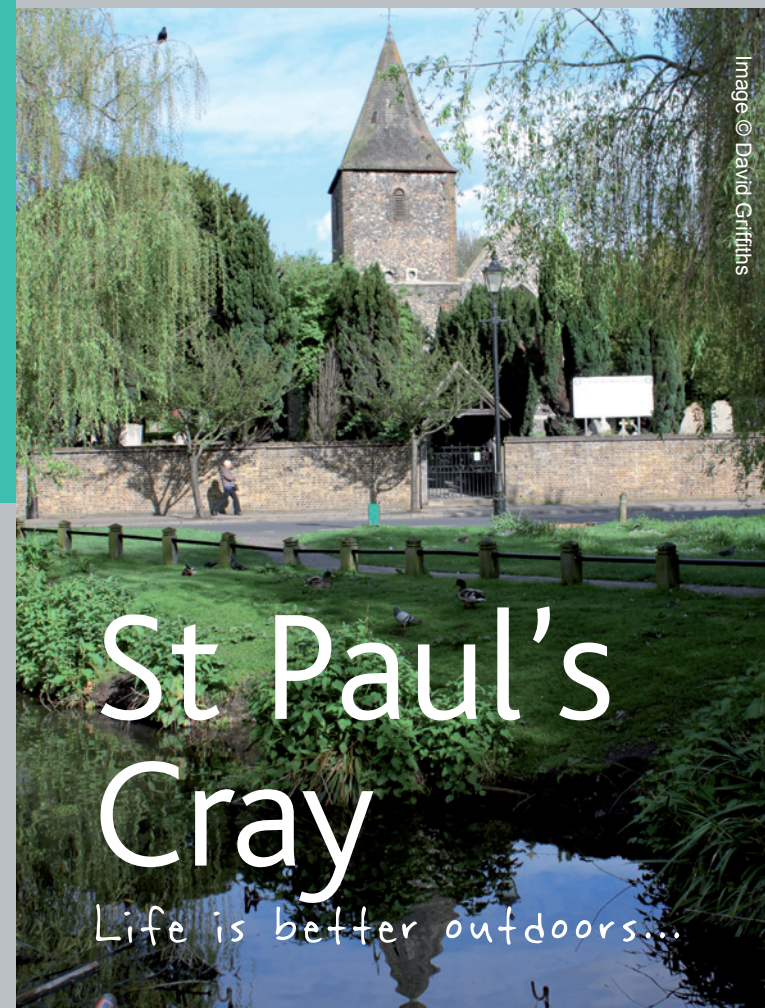


Image © David Griffiths

Starting point: St Paul's Wood Hill car park, St Paul's Cray

Distance: 5 miles

Duration: 3 hours

Short cut route: Point 5 to Point 11

St Paul's Cray

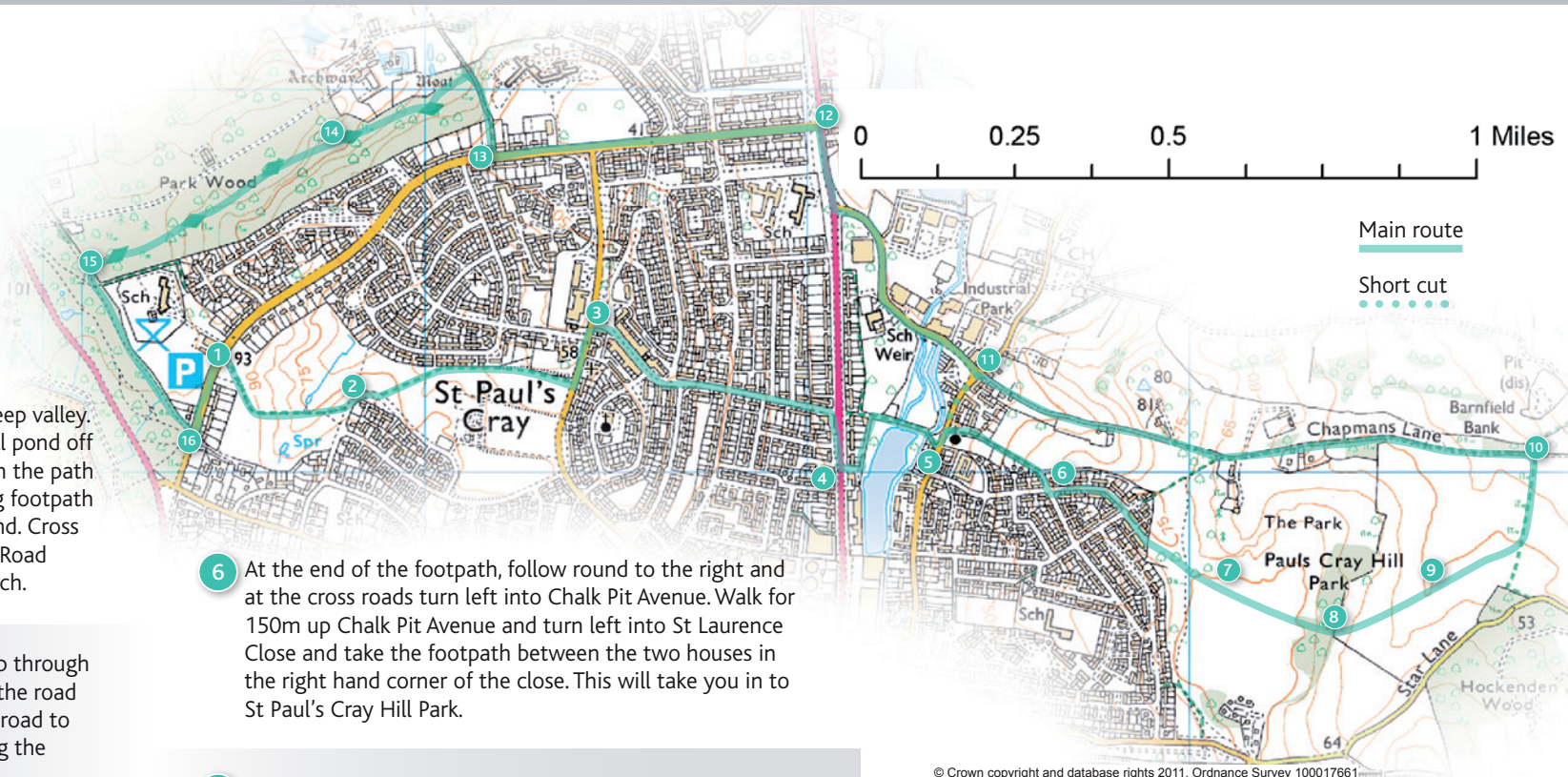
1 From the car park beside the school, cross the road to St Paul's Wood Hill and follow the tarmac footpath. This area is Hobblingwell Wood and was clear felled in the late 1950's and has since been allowed to regenerate. A few mature oaks are all that remain of the original broadleaved woodland.

2 Walk on following the tarmac path through a steep valley. At the bottom runs a small stream fed by a small pond off to your right. At the top of the hill bear left down the path for 100m and then turn right and continue along footpath 152 for 130m to St Paul's Cray Recreation Ground. Cross the recreation ground and head for Chipperfield Road opposite. Turn left and continue past King's Church.

3 Turn right into Cotmandene Crescent and walk up through the 1960s shopping centre. At the top of the hill the road changes into Broomwood Road, continue on this road to the end reaching Sevenoaks Way. Cross here using the pedestrian crossing.

4 Turn left onto footpath 156, Brooks Way, this takes you through St Paul's Cray Water Meadows. A large lake formed by gravel extraction is on your right. The River Cray flows off to the left, a little further on you can see the remnants of a mill stream and pond as you cross the small footbridge. Take the tarmac path on your left towards the church.

5 Here you can take a short cut - see additional information, or to follow the main route, cross the road and take footpath 157 to the left of St Paulinus Church. The church is constructed of flint, a traditional Kentish building material. A church could have occupied this site as early as the 7th century.



6 At the end of the footpath, follow round to the right and at the cross roads turn left into Chalk Pit Avenue. Walk for 150m up Chalk Pit Avenue and turn left into St Laurence Close and take the footpath between the two houses in the right hand corner of the close. This will take you in to St Paul's Cray Hill Park.

7 Continue along the alleyway and down the slope into the park. Continue straight ahead following the made path as it bends round to the right. At the junction, take the left hand fork up hill.

8 At the top of the hill, there is another junction. Here, continue straight on bearing round to the left. This area was once a council refuse tip, which was reclaimed to provide a local amenity and wildlife area. Look out for cow parsley, teasel and ox-eye daisies. From the top of the rise there are fine panoramic views of the Cray valley and on towards Dartford Bridge over the Thames.

9 At the next small fork, bear right and begin to follow the path down hill, following the made path at all times. At the bottom of the hill, turn right, coming off the made path and over a small footbridge. Cross over, go through the squeeze posts and down the steps and walk on through the small belt of woodland.

10 At the end of the path turn left onto the track (Chapmans Lane) and walk back up to St Paul's Cray Village. At the end of the lane you reach a mini-roundabout. Cross and continue straight ahead past The Bull Inn. Close by is the site of Nash Paper Mill, the adjacent mill pond flows into Cray lakes. The village cottages to your left, are the remains of old St Paul's Cray.

11 Continue up the path on Main Road to Sevenoaks Way. Turn right and cross at the pedestrian crossing, turn right again and continue for 100m. Take the first left into Midfield Way.

12 Walk along Midfield Way passing a school and the Link Youth Club to your right. Continue past the youth club for 100m and turn right onto footpath 44, running between two houses.