

# IOP | Institute of Physics

**London and South East Branch**

**Retired Members Section**

**Thames Path Extension**

**Erith to Woolwich**

**Saturday 27 July 2013**

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This walk will be led by David and Gillian Pick.

This section, while not part of the formal Thames Path National trail, was opened in 2001. It connects the Thames Path National Trail to the London Outer Orbital Path. This walk starts at Erith Station at 11.00 and ends at Woolwich Arsenal Station, a distance of some 12 km (7 ½ miles). (REMS walkers have already walked from Erith to Crayford Ness on the first part of the London Loop.) Apart from short sections at the beginning and end, the traffic free path follows the south bank of Thames. While there are several escape paths leading to bus stops, there is no obvious suitable lunch stop along the route. Therefore lunch will be at the end of the walk at the Dial Arch Pub <http://www.dialarch.com/> located at Royal Arsenal Riverside, Woolwich. Besides hosting 8 draught beers and ciders, the pub also has a selection of typical pub fare, which is served from noon till 23.00 (in case we are staggering in a little late). The walk takes about 3 hours and there are no public facilities on route.



Inland, before Thamesmead, is a not very inspiring mixture of miscellaneous industrial activity. However two facilities stand out. The modern Riverside Resource Recovery (RRR) Facility at Belvedere, which processes waste from households and businesses in central London. In October 2011 it started generating electricity from burning rubbish, which is supplied to the National Grid. The resulting ash is used in road construction.



The Crossness Pumping Station was built by Sir Joseph Bazalgette as part of Victorian London's urgently needed main sewerage system. It was officially opened by the Prince of Wales in April 1865. The Beam Engine House is a Grade 1 Listed Industrial Building constructed in the Romanesque style and features some of the most spectacular ornamental Victorian cast ironwork to be found today. It also contains the four original pumping engines (although the cylinders were upgraded in 1901), which are possibly the largest remaining rotative beam engines in the world, with 52 ton flywheels and 47 ton beams. Although modern diesel engines were subsequently introduced, the old beam engines remained in service until work on a new sewerage treatment plant commenced in 1956. In 1987 the Crossness Engines Trust, a registered charity, was set up in 1987 to restore the installation

. The public steaming days in 2013 are Sundays April 21<sup>st</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, and October 13<sup>th</sup>. 10.30am until 4.00pm and the admission charge will be £5.00.

<http://www.crossness.org.uk/visit.html>.

However the main attractions of this section are the various birds foraging in the mud banks and the view across the river. We will also, as is usual, walk past a golf course!

I can be contacted on the day on my mobile phone number 00447733555113

