

# River View Walk and River Pool Linear Walk – Waterlink Way, Lewisham

**Starting point: Bellingham Tunnel Mural by Jasmine Parker - Moremead Road off Southend Lane (behind Bell Green Sainsbury's opposite The Railway Tavern)**

**Finishing point: The Bridge, Ravensbourne Confluence, Catford - Accessed by Catford Hill or the Halfords/Wickes carpark**

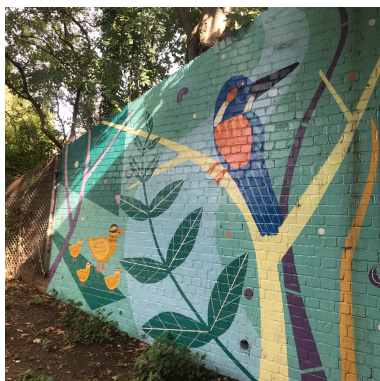
**Length: 0.9mile one way**

Escape from the south circular to enjoy sounds of the river and birdsong. Expect to see Willow trees dominating the concrete riverbanks, Moorhens, Wagtails, wild meadows, green spaces and a play park along the way. The Waterlink Way (WW) is a walking route in South East London and part of the National Cycle Network route 21. It joins the London Borough of Lewisham along the River Pool in Lower Sydenham.



The route is accessible to wheelchair users and is clearly marked using Park Totem and Finger Signs and the WW waymarker discs on the tarmac.

On this 30 minute route, you will get to explore the peaceful Riverview Walk from Lower Sydenham/Bell Green onto the River Pool Linear Park leading to Catford.



Start your walk under the Bellingham Tunnel and take a moment to appreciate artist Jasmine Park's nature inspired mural.

As illustrated in the mural, Kingfishers are often spotted along the WW, frequently along this route. Follow the path around to the right with the River Pool on your left and continue along the linear park up to the first bridge, decorated in colourful art.



You have two options here; cross over the River Pool and then turn right on the other side following the main tarmac path with the water on your right. Or before crossing the bridge, take the path down the muddy trail, with the river on your left and train tracks on your right.

I recommend walking back the opposite way so you can enjoy the different perspectives.





For this guide, I will continue along the main path with the River Pool on your right. The path takes you past what I call the 'water hole', a collection of large rocks beneath a bundle of Weeping Willows.

To the left is a small nature reserve and a hidden pond, which is where the River Pool used to flow.



Continue along the path round to the right, passing the Bellingham Play Park. Take a right over the foot bridge in the direction of the train tracks following the path round to the left. If you chose the muddy path route earlier at the first bridge, this is where you will join the River Pool Linear Park.



You have two options again here. Continue along the cycling path to the Ravensbourne Confluence, approx. 500m on. Or to explore the riverbanks more closely, and for a quieter pace, look out for one of the clearings in the brambles which takes you to the water's edge.

You can walk by the riverside pretty much until you reach the Ravensbourne Confluence.

This is the point to turn back but before you do I recommend taking a moment on the footbridge crossing the River Pool to look back up stream. You may spot a Kingfisher or an Egret.

If you can make time to explore further, wander over the bridge and on the left you will come to a clearing.

There you will find a wild meadow and a collection of small ponds, the largest has a bench for you to sit back, relax and breath - if someone else has not got there first.

If you would like a longer route, continue alongside the River Ravensbourne through Ladywell Fields, Cornmill Gardens and Brookmill Park all the way to the River Thames at Deptford Creek.

