

## ROMAN TEMPLE, FARLEY HEATH TO BLACKHEATH CIRCULAR ROUTE 1HR TO 1½HRS

The countryside at Blackheath and Farley Heath offers some of the best riding in the South East. It is criss-crossed by a network of sandy tracks that are fantastic for horses. The area is very popular with dog-walkers too so beware - it can get quite crowded but the scenery is beautiful and the going is brilliant and almost bicycle free because of the thick sand. This circular ride can be started either from the huge Farley Heath car park or from the small Blackheath car park, which is unsuitable for trailers. It takes roughly 1½ hours.



Start at Farley Heath Roman Temple car park, off Farley Heath Road: Facing the road, take the bridleway on the left by the large log with the temple foundations on your left.



Keep straight on over three sets of crossroads down a hill until at the bottom, the path splits either side of some bushes. Take the narrow right hand OR the wider left followed by a sharp right. You will emerge facing a row of cottages called Home Villas.



Turn left past the houses and then take a narrow gap to the side of No 1 (marked on a milk churn to your right).



The left side of this track through the trees is better. It comes out on a wide drive. Turn left.



After about 40 yards the track splits. Take the right hand path up onto Blackheath, past a wooden barrier.



This is a major bridleway that leads all the way to the car park at Blackheath Village.



birch. Turn left through a tall pine plantation, ignoring small side paths until you reach a junction with a jumping ring on the right.



Enjoy the jumps and then take the wide sandy path up the slope, passing a bridleway sign on the right.



Keep on the main path (the old racehorse gallops) with the seat on your right. Continue through a wide clearing until you reach a wide open cross-roads. Turn right.



You will shortly come to the gallops again - a wide cross roads. To continue the circuit, go straight across the gallops.



The path weaves through the pine trees until you come to a junction surrounded by silver



*(If you turn right up the gallops, the path takes you straight to Blackheath Car Park.)*



*This shows the car park looking towards the heath. You can start the circuit from here, but the car park is unsuitable for trailers. Ride straight down the gallops past the lone pine tree on your left and turn right at the second crossroads.)*



Once on this track, turn left at the next crossroads by the blue brideway sign down through the pine trees. There is a simple bench on the right. Keep straight on this inviting sandy that narrows through the trees.



Keep close to the fence on the right of the track until finally it merges with a metalled drive past Candleford Cottage and Heathfield.

At the Y junction at the end of the road surface, bear left onto the sand track following a line of telegraph poles.



You will shortly come to a junction of several paths. Go past the central tree and take the bright yellow sandy path to the right up the hill, bearing right.



Keep going. At the crossroads go right following the golden sand. Cross over the next junction with logs to your right and this lovely sandy track takes you all the way back to Farley Heath Car Park with the temple foundations now on your right hand side.

*(If you started the ride at Blackheath, simply turn around when you arrive at the carpark and follow the directions back to Blackheath as if you were starting from Farley Heath.)*