Dulwich and its Castle

5.5 mile ride around Dulwich. Some gradual uphill at the start; mostly on quiet roads. Route at <https://bit.ly/2QJzf3Z>. If Dulwich Park is still closed, start at College Gate, opposite the Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Start at Dulwich Clock Café (closed) (but hopefully the toilets are still accessible). Warm up by doing an anticlockwise circuit of this fine park.

Exit by College Gate and turn left up College Road. Follow this across the South Circular and ride uphill (gently) to the Tollgate. College Rd belongs to the Dulwich Estates, who own most of the land in this area, and this road. It is the last tollgate in London and still exacts tolls – but not on cyclists.

Turn back to Hunts Slip Rd and ride down over the railway then immediately left through a filter to Bowen Drive. Ride up this for 400m then take a driveway into the Kingswood Estate, bear left then through bollards to Seeley Drive. Look left for another driveway that takes you to Kingswood House.

If you miss this turning just keep peddling round a long left-hand bend and you will soon arrive at the House.

Kingswood House is also known as Bovril Castle. The inventor and manufacturer of Bovril, John Johnston, bought the house around 1891. He added the castellations. Hence the nickname.

Turn downhill then left into Lyall Avenue and right on to Bowen Drive (that you just peddled up). Continue back to Hunts Slip Rd then cross the junction and turn right on to Alleyn Park. Stay on this turning right just before the railway.

At the South Circular you have a tricky manoeuvre. Turn left, get across to the right turn lane, then turn right into Gallery Rd. Look immediately for a driveway on the left into the car park. Take the path next to this into Belair Park.

In Belair Park look for a right turn at the tennis courts. This is quite a narrow path, so give way to pedestrians. Stay left at the first junction then follow the windy path with the lake on your right. The path turns right over a bridge then skirts a meadow with nice views of Belair House. Follow the path to the house, then exit the driveway left on to Gallery Road.

Down Gallery Road and though Dulwich Village. Sharp left at the lights to Turney Road, then left again to Burbage. This takes you back to a roundabout you just crossed. Turn right and you are immediately at College Gate into Dulwich Park.

As you will realise from the map, with this route crossing and re-crossing itself it is easy to shorten it if required. But do not miss the Castle. It is fun, and the setting, midst a post-wat estate is bizarre.