Camberwell Open Spaces Route 9 of Southwark Cyclists Virus solo rides.

Another route starting centrally in Peckham Square next to Peckham Library. 6 miles and not quite flat.

Begin down the Surrey Canal Path, a kilometre of off-road path following the course of a spur of the long-gone Surrey Canal. Realised I had not included this useful path on any rides, so here it is now. Turn left at the end and follow the new path over the crossing into Burgess Park. Continue for one kilometre on a wide path, then under the underpass (if busy, bypass and cross Wellsway on the surface), then shortly after fork left picking up signs for Cycleway 17. As you leave the park leave C17 and turn right on to New Church Rd. Cross at the lights to Wyndham Rd and follow this under the railway until you reach All Saints School. Turn left into Redcar St then right to Councillor St. Cross Camberwell New Rd to Flodden Rd and after 300m enter Myatts Fields off the roundabout. Bear left at the Gingko tree and follow the path past the cafe and bandstand. Stop at the Wildlife Area on the right. This and the next two open spaces are part of my annual Butterfly Ride, so keep your eyes peeled for a Camberwell Beauty (actually, do not bother with that rare visitor, instead hope for a Cabbage White). After the wildlife area exit beside the Park Depot and loos, turn left along Cormont Rd then first right to Knatchbull Rd and 2nd left to Lilford Rd. After 200m look for the entrance to the Elam Street Open Space on the right. Ride the winding path across this space and exit left under the railway and immediately right to Flaxman Rd. Fork left after 80m to Luxor St and at Coldharbour Lane turn rt, then immediately left into Cambria Rd. Follow this through the unusual bollards, under the railway, and first left along Northway Rd and into Ruskin Park. Continue straight passing the large paddling pool and stop at the wildlife area on the left. Have a quick look for butterflies, then continue to the exit on Denmark Hill. Cross to Champion Park then 1st left through the large planters by Denmark Hill Station and turn right along Windsor Walk. At the T junction take the path opposite and go through to Camberwell Grove. Cross this into McNeill Rd. After 300m turn left to Vestry Rd and after another 200 m downhill look for the gate into Lucas Gardens.

Lucas Gardens is one of 4 small parks that the route now visits. The large parks are a great asset, but sometimes it is the small parks that surprise. Lucas Gardens is really not designed for cycling, so go slowly (even though it is downhill). As you approach the exit to Peckham Rd note the huge beech tree, and the 3 shallow steps. Cross Peckham Road and cycle down Havill St for 250m. Take the left turn into Brunswick Villas, then left again at St Giles Rd. Look for the entrance to Brunswick Park on the right. Do a careful circuit anticlockwise of this well-maintained small park. Exit the way you came and return via Brunswick Villas to Havill St. Take the first left into Dalwood St and then a small service road on the right. This leads to a tiny open space, Sceaux Gardens, hidden amongst the large housing blocks. There are some lovely mature trees here. Ride on the unmade path across the Gardens and exit left at the far side. Follow the estate road and path back to Dalwood St, then at Southampton Way go right and left into Commercial Way. After 150m look for the entrance to Central Venture Park. I have yet to find this park open, but if you are lucky cycle across it and out the other end. Otherwise just take the next rt into Kelly Avenue. Central Venture Park looks quite different from the traditional parks and gardens visited on the rest of the ride. Its main features are an Skateboard Bowl and a landscaped Community Centre. The grass is run up and over this building and there is a children’s slide down the south side. Do post to Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/553896211918871/>) if you manage to get into the Venture Park. Just a short way back from here, up Kelly Ave, left to Gatonby St then straight until you reach the Canal Path where a right turn takes you back to Peckham Square.

Route map at <https://bit.ly/2Ake0QZ>