



## London LOOP

Section 11

Hayes and Harlington to Uxbridge



Transport  
for London

Walk  
London

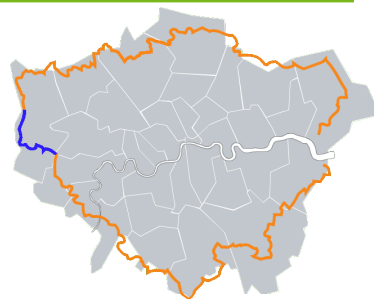
**Start:** Hayes & Harlington (TQ098795)

**Station:** Hayes & Harlington

**Finish:** Uxbridge (TQ051845)

**Station:** Uxbridge

**Distance:** 7.5 miles (12 km)



**Introduction:** A good section for enthusiasts of waterside walking, as over two-thirds follows canal, river or lake.

This is an easy walk on mostly level ground with a few short climbs. Footpaths along the River Colne can be muddy and uneven.

The walk starts at Hayes and Harlington Station with trains from Paddington and finishes at Uxbridge on the Tube; along the route, there is a station at West Drayton, on the line from Paddington. There are buses along the route.

Points of interest on this walk are the Grand Union Canal and Little Britain Lake.

There are cafés and pubs along the route, but no public toilets.

V1 : July 09

**Directions:** Leave the station, and turn right down Station Road. Go straight over the mini roundabout, cross the canal bridge then turn right at the end of the bridge into Western View. Take the steps on the right which lead down to the towpath of the Grand Union Canal and the London LOOP. Turn right at the bottom of the steps and go under the bridge.

The picturesque Grand Union Canal links London to Birmingham, which supposedly has more canals than Venice! It's the longest single canal in Britain stretching 135 miles.

Squeeze through the metal kissing gate, and keep following the towpath.

On the right is a traditional cast-iron milepost saying 'Braunston 87 Miles.' The reason behind the mileposts was to tell approaching boaters the distances to the end of the canal and to assist in the collection of tolls. The G.J.C. on the mile post stands for the Grand Junction Canal, the original title of the ambitious 93 mile long canal approved by Act of Parliament in 1793 to link Braunston in Northamptonshire with Brentford in London.

After a few hundred yards there is another kissing gate. Go through and keep following the path under a modern brick bridge.

Further along on the right is the entrance to Lake Farm Country Park - home and sanctuary to wildlife such as birds, butterflies and insects on 60 acres of open meadow.

Continue under another modern brick bridge which has Dawley Road running over it, and then under another older bridge. About a hundred yards along is another milepost saying Braunston 86 Miles.'

At the milepost turn right, through a metal kissing gate and follow the path straight ahead. This leads into Stockley Park, the home of some of the country's highest of Hi-Tech companies.

Stockley Park was created in the 1980s from old brickfields which were used as a dumping ground. Today it consists of a business park, country park and golf course. Over 140,000 trees and shrubs have been planted to establish the wooded areas. You will see goat or 'pussy' willow as you walk

down the path. The catkins were used as Easter decorations on Palm Sunday to represent the palm fronds thrown in front of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem.

At the roadway, cross straight over onto the golf course. At the fork in the path, take a left up the avenue of lime trees. At the break in the avenue, where a track crosses it, keep going up the avenue of trees. At the next fork, turn right, and leave the avenue.

At the junction of several paths take the second left into the business area, between a modern building on the left and an equally modern golf club house on the right. Immediately past the club house on the right, and just before a car park, take the fork to the right.

Keep following the path with the golf course on the right. Ignore the next right hand fork and keep going straight ahead. Follow the path over the 'A' frame bridge **A** crossing Stockley Road. Take the track straight up the hill.

The small hill on the right is known as the Viewpoint - for obvious reasons. From it there are amazing views across Colne Valley.

Pass the brow of the hill and branch left, follow the gravel path heading around to the left. Keep following the path back into the trees. Look out for the 'London Loop' sign and follow it to the right to metal kissing gates which lead onto Horton Road and into an industrial area.

Turn right and follow the road around. Keep going across Stone Close and Crown Way on the right. Turn left onto Horton Bridge Road, past the Brickmakers Arms, **B** a reminder of the trade that once flourished here, and at the bridge, head down the steps on the right, back onto the Grand Union towpath.

To avoid cutting off all the roads, lanes and paths, many bridges were built. This one is number 193. They were numbered from Birmingham, so it's the 193rd bridge from that end of the canal - an average of a bridge every two thirds of a mile.

To leave the Loop turn right at the next bridge (through the kissing gate) and

up onto Horton Road. Turn left onto the High Street, and cross the bridge. At the mini roundabout is a sign for West Drayton Rail Station. Bus services 222, U3 and U5 go from here.

To carry on, keep going under the bridge. The next one is number 191, according to the plaque. Go under the bridge through a kissing gate.

Cross the canal using the black bridge which leads up another canal known as the 'Slough Arm.'

This five-mile branch was virtually the last canal to be built in this country in 1882. It was needed to transport bricks from the brickfields of the area.

From the bridge, the Packet Boat Marina **C** can be seen on the right. Keep following the Slough Arm which up ahead crosses over Fray's River via an aqueduct.

At the second footbridge, take the path up the bank to cross using the footbridge. Just past the footbridge is a canal-side granite obelisk. It is one of the many coal tax markers that can be seen on the main trading routes into London and giving a warning that you are due to pay tax on the coal you are bringing in. The tax was introduced in 1667 to help build the city after the Great Fire.

Just before bridge No. 1 follow the path away from the water. Turn right at the top to enter the Colne Valley Regional Park. Keep the river to the left and follow the path through wild woodland until reaching a small car park.

The lake ahead is called 'Little Britain' because it's apparently shaped a bit like the British Isles and is a complex of attractive lakes with islands set between the River Colne and Fray's River. It's also home to herons - the symbol of the Colne Valley Regional Park.

Keep following the path on the left-hand side to reach a metal barrier. Go over the bridge on the left, crossing the River Colne, and in the process leave London and arrive in Buckinghamshire! Turn right and continue for a while on the path, keeping the river close by on the right. This path goes over two wooden bridges and past a weir before reaching a set of steps. Take the steps which lead up to Iver Lane.

To leave the LOOP, turn right on Iver Lane and over the bridge. Keep going for about half a mile to reach Cowley High Street. Here there are shops, pubs and bus 222 which goes left to Uxbridge Station or right to West Drayton Station.

To carry on, carefully cross Iver Lane then go right over the bridge. At the end of the bridge take a hairpin left signed 'Public Footpath.' Follow the path down to River Colne so it is on the left and a metal fence is on the right.

Follow the path along the river until eventually reaching Longbridge Way. **D** At the end of Longbridge Way, cross over Cowley Mill Road and go down the appropriately named Culvert Lane. Keep following the road which leads back to the Grand Union Canal. Take a left along the towpath.

Today the majority of canal boats are holiday cruisers custom-built for the purpose, but until the 1950s the sight of a 'pleasure boat', was still unusual. Working boats were the norm, and most of the boat population were baffled by the idea that their commercial working waterways would become a place of leisure.

Keep following the towpath. This section ends just under the second bridge. To leave the LOOP, turn left up the steps and left over the bridge onto Oxford Road. Cross over Sanderson Road and head left up High Street. Keep following the High Street over Braybourne Close and Harefield Road. Go straight into the pedestrianised area, and after a few hundred yards on the left are the Uxbridge tube and bus stations.

Section 12, Uxbridge to Harefield West continues along the towpath.