



London LOOP
Section 12
Uxbridge to Harefield West



**Transport
for London**

walk
London

Start: Uxbridge (TQ051845)
Station: Uxbridge
Finish: Harefield West (TQ041910)
Station: Bus stop on park lane
Distance: 4.5 miles (7 km)



Introduction: This is walk follows the Grand Union Canal for most of the way so it is dominated by water and is the bluest section of the whole London Loop with lots of interesting things along the way – locks, narrow boats, canalside pubs and a tearoom.

This is an easy walk on mainly firm and level towpaths. There are three small canal bridges to cross and one short stretch on rough track.

The walk starts at Uxbridge Station on the tube and finishes at Harefield with buses which return to Uxbridge Station; mid-route there are buses at South Harefield.

There is a café and public toilets at Colne Park Visitor Centre and other cafes and pubs along the way.

V1 : July 09

Directions from Uxbridge station: Leave the station straight ahead through the main entrance to arrive on the pedestrian High Street.

Uxbridge - its name is Saxon in origin - is a very old town and one of the most important market towns of Middlesex. The Market House directly across the road was the location for a major corn market for west Middlesex which the prosperous town depended on until the 19th Century. A Market House has stood here since 1561 and the original occupied half the width of the High Street. It was removed in 1785 and the current one was built further back in order to widen the road.

Turn right and follow High Street straight ahead. Cross Harefield Road and continue down the hill to cross over Sanderson Road via the pedestrian crossing. The Crown and Treaty pub is on the left.

During the Civil War, Uxbridge was an important fort for Parliamentary troops and in 1644 an attempt at a peace treaty was negotiated in Place House which is now the aptly named Crown and Treaty pub.

Continue straight on over the bridge which arches over the Grand Union Canal. Turn immediately right on the other side into the Swan and Bottle car park. Turn right down the steps to meet the Grand Union Canal towpath and at the bottom of the steps turn left to join the LOOP route and begin Section 12..

The Grand Union Canal was born in 1789 to link London and Birmingham and it became one of the busiest canals in the country. The first route however was an incredible 280 miles and the tedious journey made it impossible for one boat to do the whole journey!

Section 12 directions: Walk along the canal towpath to go past Denham marina and cross the Grand Union Canal at Uxbridge Lock via the small white brick bridge. Continue along the towpath passing the lock cottage and a few metres along on the left is the site of Kings Mill. **A**

Flour has been milled on this site for a thousand years. A local milkman and farmer called William King bought the mill in the late 19th century and the brand of bread, Kingsmill, is named after him.

Continue past the small sign stating that Braunston is 81 Miles away. Before passing under the A40 road bridge, the waters of the River Colne which provided the power for the Kings Mill sweep in to join the canal from the left.

Go over the small arched bridge **B** to cross the canal and continue along the towpath, now with the water flowing on the right. Glimpses of the reed filled River Colne can be seen on the left running closely to the canal. The gravel track veering off leftward is to Denham Country Park; for the Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, **C** toilets and refreshments follow it for less than 1 km, otherwise continue straight ahead.

Keep along the towpath to meet Denham Lock and in the lock cottage is Fran's Tea Garden which has a beautiful garden setting.

At about 11 ft, Denham Deep Lock has the greatest drop of any lock on the Grand Union. The canal is on a short aqueduct over Fray's River so it was built deep enough in order not to affect the water supplies which powered the mills further down the river.

Keep along the canal towpath to meet a white bridge 'No. 182'. Climb up the steep slope here to cross the canal once again and then turn left onto the wide gravel track on the other side to follow the sign 'Quarry Trail'.

Continue along the sometimes muddy broad track past the lakes and popular fishing spots. Follow the track as it veers left and exposes the grand dark brick arches of a railway overpass. Pass under to return to the canal. A larger expanse of water appears on the right and a sailing club is situated across the water. Continue along the track beside the lake and then follow it as it veers right past Harefield Marina. **D**

Continue on the gravel path past the blackberry bushes to exit Denham Quarry by the wooden kissing gate. Turn immediately left and follow the path as it veers right to meet Moorhall Road.

To leave the LOOP at this point turn right at the road side and follow the footpath to meet the bus stop. Buses here go to Ruislip, Uxbridge, and Dunham stations. A little further along is the Busy Bee cafe.

To continue on the LOOP, turn left at the roadside and continue past Widewater Place on the right and go over the bridge to once again meet up with the Grand Union Canal. A little further over the bridge is the Horse and Barge pub. Turn left as the bridge ends and step down to meet the canal towpath again.

Turn left at the waters edge and double back under the bridge to meet Widewater Lock. Continue on the towpath past the lock., passing under a small decrepit bridge and past another lake on the left. Soon Black Jacks Lock and its house appear. **E**

Black Jacks Mill is in a beautiful setting on an island between two waterways and you can see the water flowing beneath it as you continue past. The present mill building, now a restaurant, dates from 1879, but a mill was recorded here in the Domesday Book. Legend says it was named after a slave who was bought and sold with the land. With his donkey and cart, Jack delivered the flour which had been ground in the mill.

Cross over the footbridge where the weir rushes beneath. The canal dips left and right to finally join the Coy Carp Inn on the left. Go up the ramp here to meet the roadside and turn right to go over the bridge. After the road veers left cross the road to meet what was once the grand home of the mill owner.

To continue on Section 13, Harefield West to Moor Park, turn left onto Summerhouse Lane. Otherwise to leave the LOOP go straight ahead up the hill. Cross straight over Barrington Drive and continue to meet Shelley Lane. Here on the left is a bus stop with buses going to Uxbridge tube station Monday to Saturday.

On Sunday keep straight ahead up the hill to meet Harefield Village. Turn right onto the High Street for another bus service, the 331 which goes to Uxbridge tube station.