



London LOOP
Section 13
Harefield West to Moor Park

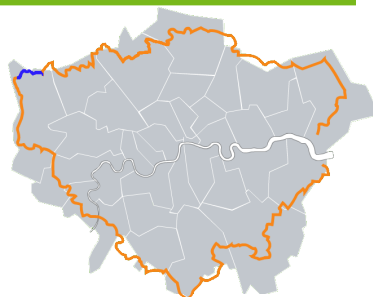


**Transport
for London**

walk
London

V1 : July 09

Start: Harefield West (TQ041910)
Station: Bus stop on Park Lane
Finish: Moor Park (TQ089928)
Station: Moor Park
Distance: 5 miles (8 km)



Introduction: A very pleasant section keeping away from settlements, this walk goes through remote countryside and luxuriant woodland.

It is an easy walk mainly on rough paths, tracks and grass. There is a steep hill soon after the start, otherwise the path is fairly level with some gentle slopes.

The walk starts at Harefield West, which can be reached by bus from Uxbridge Station and finishes at Moor Park Station on the Metropolitan Line.

The route goes away from the Grand Union Canal which the previous two sections followed and goes through parks and wood. Highlights are the ancient Park and Bishop's Woods and the Ye Olde Greene Manne pub with its connections to Dick Turpin and Moor Park Mansion.

There are cafés and pubs at Harefield West, Woodcock Hill and Batchworth Heath, but no public toilets until Moor Park.

Directions from Uxbridge station: Take bus no. U9 from Uxbridge Station to Harefield West and get off at the corner of Shelley Lane and Park Lane where there is a turn around bay. Turn right onto Park Lane and follow the road down the hill. Cross over Barrington Drive and take the next right onto Summerhouse Lane to join the LOOP.

The grand house on the corner here at one time belonged to the owner of a copper mill. Copper from the mill which once stood further down the road and across the canal was used to protect the wooden hulls of boats when the canal arrived. Legend has it that the copper orb on the dome of St Paul's Cathedral was made at the mill.

Section 13 directions: Continue along Summerhouse Lane and soon the Grand Union Canal can be seen on the left. Take the first road on the right. Bellevue Terrace **A** to turn away from the canal. Ignore the gravel path which turns left and instead head straight up the hill to follow close to the row of houses with beautifully kept gardens on the left, Keep along this track to eventually reach Park Wood Farm Kennels. Drop off to the left here and go through the metal barrier to follow the small track into Park Wood.

The track takes a steep climb up the hill through trees and lush growth of ferns. Ignore the path on the right, instead keep straight ahead. Go over the footbridge and soon meadows will open out on the left. Keep on ahead and then go through the barriers to meet the roadside.

Cross the road to join the footpath and turn left. Go past the Childlink Learning Centre and a cottage before turning right into Plough Lane, Walk to the end of the lane and then go over the stile just to the left of the metal gate to reach the open fields of White Heath Farm.

Head off straight ahead in the same direction across the fields to meet a set of stiles with a footbridge between them on the other side. Cross here into the next field and continue straight ahead close to the hedge on the left bordering Cripps House Farm. At the end of this field is another stile; go over it and take a moment to take in the tranquil undulating fields.

As this field sweeps down the hillside, head toward the bottom left corner. Find the small trail leading through blackberry bushes to expose another stile and little foot bridge. Go through to the next field and head straight on

up the hill beside the remnant of an old field boundary to the left.

At the top of the field take a moment to look back and admire the lovely view, and then continue on through the small gap in the hedge to meet the bottom left corner of another field. Follow the hedge to the top left hand corner of the field then continue on the broad gravel driveway straight ahead to meet Harefield Road.

Turn right at Harefield Road; there is no footpath here so walk carefully along the roadside, passing the short stretch of cottages along the way.

Just after the cottages is a bus stop for bus no. R21. This bus goes to Rickmansworth, Denham, and Uxbridge stations, but there is no Sunday service.

To continue, keep following Harefield Road to meet the Rose & Crown pub. **B** Directly opposite the pub car park is a public footpath 'No. 55 London Road – 1 mile'. Cross the road and follow this path to the end where it opens out into a vast meadow. Look beyond the fields to see Batchworth Park Golf Club.

This 140 acre golf course is an exclusive private members club with no less than five lakes. It was specially designed by internationally renowned course architect Dave Thomas.

Strike out across the meadow veering down to the bottom right hand corner. Cross a wooden stile and continue straight on to follow the hedge on the right as the meadow slopes down the hill. Keep on ahead as the meadow climbs the hill after the wide clearing between the trees on the right. The next block of trees is Bishop's Wood Country Park. Turn right less than 100 metres from the end of the meadow onto a track leading into the forest. The path leads left then shortly after right to Bishop's Wood.

The ancient woodlands on the slopes of Bishop's Wood have a varied mix of soils, including clay with flints. There are extensive areas of conifer but mature oak and beech with hazel and horn beam coppice are also found here. Over 42 species of birds have been recorded in the wood.

Once at a wooden gate, go through the gap on the right then bear left onto the wider track and follow it. Continue straight ahead following the track as it dips down to meet a footbridge over a stream. Do not go over the stream, instead turn left immediately before the footbridge, **C** and follow the modest path.

Follow close to the stream before crossing it via a small footbridge. Turn left and walk along the forest edge with the open field seen through the trees on the left. Soon the track veers away from the open field and heads through the trees with red arrows spray painted on them to guide the way.

Keep along the most prominent track and it soon veers right and comes to a crossing track. The route turns left here. Continue along this track for some time and soon a fence line can be seen off to the right along the same direction as the route.

The track soon comes out at a pylon where the track turns left just before it. Keep on this enclosed track through the bush and directly under a second pylon. The track then leaves the trees to emerge at a grass clearing. Keep across the grass to arrive at a crossing track.

The reed filled lily pond of Batchworth Heath is just off the route to the left. and across the road directly ahead is Ye Olde Greene Manne pub. **D**

Ye Olde Greene Manne pub dates back to 1728 and it was supposedly visited by Dick Turpin. The story goes that he vacated the premises through a rear window as the Bow Street Runners were enquiring of his whereabouts at the front.

Turn right at the crossing track to meet the roadside of White Hill Road and a bus stop on the left.

To leave the LOOP at this point jump on bus 331 to go to Northwood tube station, Ruislip tube station. Rickmansworth tube station, Uxbridge tube

station or Denham station.

To continue, keep ahead and cross the A404 opposite Ye Olde Greene Manne to turn right toward the more modest Prince of Wales pub. A little way past the pub look across the road to see a post about a metre high by the roadside.

This cast iron column is a coal-post' and it was here at the boundary into the district that goods were measured in Victorian times. Imagine this spot with queues of people, many with cart loads of coal, wine, clothing, and food, haggling with the taxman.

Turn left here at the 'public footpath' sign. Enter into the trees and follow the small path covered with paving stones.

This footpath was once the boundary line between Middlesex and Hertfordshire and follows in line with the coal-post seen earlier.

When the footpath meets an old track, turn left then immediately right to continue straight on. Notice now the footpath is on bare ground as all the weather worn paving stones have been left in piles littering the area.

When the path comes to a stile, continue over it and keep ahead. The path soon comes out between wooden fence boundaries between houses to Kewferry Road. Turn left here and keep ahead to meet Batchworth Lane at the end. Cross straight over Batchworth Lane and continue straight ahead down Bedford Road.

This area is Moor Park Estate and it was Lord Leverhulme, the soap manufacturer, who purchased the Mansion and estate in 1919. He formed the Moor Park Golf Club, creating three golf courses and also developed its grounds this far south.

Go over Heathside Road on the right and then as the road swings left just after the electricity pylon turn right onto the public footpath. Go over a small footbridge and at the next road veer slightly left, taking a brief moment to admire the lovely homes here before following the footpath sign 'No. 51. Hampermill Lane 1 mile'.

The path soon comes to an open section and then to a road. Cross here into the narrow road opposite and then go under the railway line. Turn immediately left once out from under the bridge. Go through the metal barrier and you can see on the left how close the tube line is. Here you have come to a branching of paths.

You can carry on with Section 14 to Hatch End by branching right here; otherwise head to Moor Park tube station by carrying straight on ahead through the trees. Keep close to the rail way line and on emerging from the trees the entrance to the tube station is on the left.