



London LOOP
Section 18
Enfield Lock to Chingford

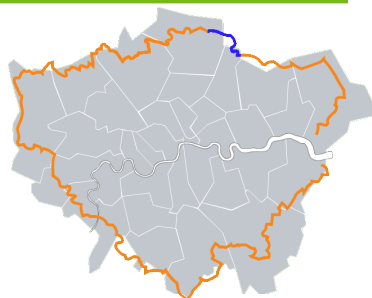


**Transport
for London**

walk
London

V1 : July 09

Start: Enfield Lock* (TQ364984)
Station: Enfield Lock
Finish: Chingford (TQ393947)
Station: Chingford
Distance: 4 miles (6.5 km)



Introduction: You're in green surroundings nearly all the way in this section, beside the gentle current of London's waterways and through the wooded countryside. The terrain is mostly flat but a stiff climb into the Sewardstone Hills is rewarded with a magnificent view across north London; In Epping Forest you encounter another steepish climb up to Hawk Wood.

The surface is mostly rough paths, tracks and grass; there are nine stiles. The section from Enfield Lock Station to Swan and Pike Pool is suitable for the less mobile and pushchairs.

Points of interest are Enfield Small Arms Factory, King George V Reservoir, Sewardstone Marsh Nature Reserve, the Scout Headquarters at Gilwell Park and Yardley and Hawk Woods. There are cafes and pubs at Enfield Lock, Sewardstone Road and Chingford and public toilets at Chingford.

National Rail runs from Enfield Lock and Chingford and there are buses along the way.

* Please note: this section starts at the footbridge over the Brook near Enfield Lock Station - not Enfield Lock itself.

Directions from Enfield Lock station: Leave the station and turn right at the exit. Go over the level crossing and then after about 15 metres take the first right into Bradley Road. Walk to the end of this road to meet Turkey Brook. Turn left onto the path before the bridge to join section 18 of the LOOP.

Cross Newbury Avenue and keep following the Brook reaching a separate path leading to a bridge on the right and the school playing fields to the left. Take the bridge to cross over Mollison Avenue.

From the top of the bridge the Sewardstone Hills can be seen, and a bit further to the right in the Lee Valley Regional Park are the waters of King George V Reservoir which was completed in 1913. The reservoir was recently emptied for the first time in 96 years so engineers could carry out necessary maintenance work.

Once over the bridge, follow the path straight ahead to reach Enfield Lock. **A**
The LOOP meets up with the Lea Valley Walk here.

In the distance, across the car park, lies a converted factory. This was once the Royal Smallarms Factory where the famous Lee Enfield rifle was once made - and named after the Lee Navigation and the Enfield Factory. The first machinery came from America but soon the factory was producing better designs of their own. The British Army fought through the Boer War and two World Wars with the rifle.

Walk over the Lee Navigation then turn immediately right through the barrier and onto the towpath. Follow this to the footbridge and turn left along the edge of Swan and Pike Pool and past the information board. Go across the car park to meet the footpath straight ahead which is signed to Sewardstone. Turn right onto it, go past the bridge and follow the path to the right of the river; where it curves to the right. Cross the next large concrete bridge.

Cross the next bridge and on the opposite bank bear right and follow the path towards the new bridge with fancy steelwork which leads over a flood-relief channel. Cross the bridge and turn left towards the kissing gate.

Follow the LOOP fingerpost into Sewardstone Marsh Nature Reserve. **B**
Stay on the wide right hand path as it bends right, then left through lush green growth.

Ignore the path joining from the left and continue along the main path straight ahead over a small bridge. After the LOOP fingerpost the path leaves the Marsh via a metal barrier to arrive at the end of a residential street called Godwin Close. Walk along Godwin Close up to the main road and turn right.

Buses from here go to Harlow and Chingford.

After 40 metres cross the road to the stile then turn immediately right and cross another stile into the field. Cross it diagonally to the left, heading for the barn. Go over the stile behind the barn and take the track straight ahead towards the tree covered hill.

There is also a stunning view over the waters of the Lea Valley below. King George V Reservoir supplies over a quarter of London's water. There are actually two reservoirs there, the other being the William Girling, named after the Chairman of the Metropolitan Water Board.

Follow the track uphill as it turns first right and then left to reach a stile on the right. Cross over into the narrow band of woods.

Yellow archangel and wild garlic can be found growing here. The Saxons are here, too, as the name 'garlic' actually comes from the Anglo-Saxon garleac.

Cross another stile at the end of the wood and follow the fence on the left to reach another stile. Immediately bear to the left. Walk up the sleeper steps and over the track to the stile in front. Follow the waymarker directions across the field to the next stile. Cross the stile and track to the path on the other side to cross into Epping Forest, once the haunt of Dick Turpin and numerous other Highwaymen. A short way in take the small track to the left.

After around 200 metres turn right to Bury Road and then turn left to continue to Gilwell Lane soon found on the right.

You now come to the home of Baden Powell and the International headquarters of the Scout movement **C** which he created in 1907. The organization has fired the imagination of children from all over the world, and the Baden Powell house has seen millions of them. Gilwell Park itself is a large white 17th century building which is Grade II listed. It combines outdoor activities with conference facilities and guest accommodation.

Turn right into Gilwell Lane towards the Scout Headquarters and walk right to the end of the road to the large gates. Follow the path round to the left, past the gates, then after around 35 metres take the unmade path straight ahead past the vehicle barrier. In 80 metres bear right on the grass lane. After a while the lane drops, and half way down the slope follow the waymarker turning onto a narrow path to the left. This comes out onto Yardley Hill. Follow the hilly path straight down to the bottom of the valley, go straight across the intersection and take the grassy track up the other side. Keep climbing the hill to a band of trees at the top, then turn left through Hawk Wood. Follow the path through the wood with the golf course to the right.

All golfers on this course are forced by an ancient law to wear bright red whilst playing golf so that everyone else can see and avoid them. They must still do that!

Once past the golf course the route returns to Bury Road. Cross the road and turn right to join the horse ride which runs parallel to the road. After 400 metres there is a Corporation of London sign and Chingford Plain opens out. Go diagonally right across the car parks to join the pavement along Bury Road to reach Chingford Golf Course Club House and café **D** and the end of Section 18..

To get to Chingford Station continue along Bury Road to the T junction. Turn right into Rangers Road and after about 60 metres on the left is Chingford rail and bus station.