



## London LOOP

Section 22

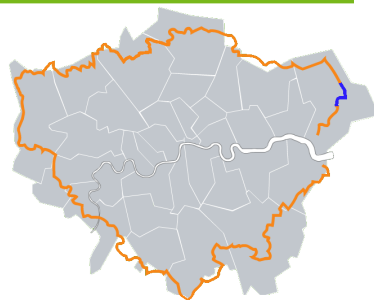
Harold Wood to Upminster Bridge



Transport  
for London

Walk  
London

**Start:** Harold Wood (TQ547905)  
**Station:** Harold Wood  
**Finish:** Upminster Bridge (TQ550868)  
**Station:** Upminster Bridge  
**Distance:** 4 miles (6.9 km)



**Introduction:** This section goes through Pages Wood - a superb new community woodland of 74 hectares, as well as other mysterious woodland, the riverside of the Ingrebourne and expansive pasture. The highlights include Upminster Windmill and the wooden artworks in Pages Wood.

The terrain is almost completely level with one or two short gentle slopes. It's mostly on footpaths, tracks and grass, often with rough surface and there are four stiles. There is a more accessible section from Harold Wood to Hall Lane.

There are pubs at Harold Wood and Upminster Bridge and public toilets at Harold Wood.

Breakpoints are on National Rail at Harold Wood and underground at Upminster Bridge. There are buses at all these places and also at Southend Arterial Road, Hall Lane and Wingletye Lane.

V1 : July 09

**Directions:** Exit Harold Wood station by the stairs at the end of the platform to join the LOOP route which passes the station's main exit.

Once outside the station and on Gubbins Lane turn left then left again into Oak Road. Follow the road straight ahead past Athelstan Road and Ethelburga Road – lots of Saxon names here - and then go down Archibald Road, the third street on the right. Go through the metal barrier onto the gravel road passing the houses on the right and the Ingrebourne River quietly flowing by on the left. Continue on the short stretch of tarmac road to the busier Squirrels Heath Road and turn right.

After a short distance turn left into the modest Brinsmead Road **A** which leads to Harold Wood Park.

Go through the gate and turn immediately right onto the path. Just before the carpark turn left to follow the tarmac path along the avenue of trees, passing tennis courts on the right. At the end of the path turn left and go past the children's playground on the right. A footbridge comes into view on the right. Go over the Ingrebourne River via the wooden footbridge to enter Pages Wood. Turn right and follow the gravel path.

Crossing the River Ingrebourne into Pages Wood you get a warm welcome from the welcoming rainbow arch over the bridge! Pages Wood, which also includes Mount Pleasant Farm, is a new 74 hectare community woodland, with over 100,000 trees planted in 2001.

Continue along the path ignoring all the paths turning left until reaching a T-junction of ways. Turn left here then right over the bridge and onto the permissive footpath. Continue straight ahead on the gravel path among the young trees on either side until it veers left up towards the car park.

Along the 2 miles of accessible paths created for walkers, cyclists and horses you can't help notice the fascinating wooden works of art created by the sculptor Andy Frost. You've met one, the 'Welcome' rainbow arch and there are a squirrel picnic tables, a fox and a duck bench as well.

Follow the path along the right side of the car park to leave the wood through the gap. The signpost here shows that you have just walked along

the very precise 'foot path 117.' Cross the busy Hall Lane carefully and turn right onto the footpath. Continue to the road junction and bear left along the grass edge to follow Hall Lane as it veers around to the right and over the busy A127.

Continue past The Strawberry Farm, quietly situated just before Bird Lane. At Avon Road cross Hall Lane to the right and turn left.

To leave the walk at this point there is a bus stop on the other side of River Drive. The buses go to Upminster Bridge station and Romford station.

To continue, enter River Drive and continue to the bottom. Squeeze through the wooden posts to drop into the dense woodland. Come out of the woods into a short open space before entering another section of dark trees to a footbridge. Go over the Ingrebourne River via the footbridge and continue straight ahead over another smaller footbridge to the large open field beyond. Turn left here to follow the bottom edge of the field to the corner where the playing fields of Emerson Park School are just beyond.

Cross the stile and footbridge here and walk ahead with the playing field fence to the right. Where the fence ends, turn briefly left, then right to continue along the foot of open fields, with the lush grass of Upminster Golf Course just visible through the trees to the left. Coming to a hedge line, turn up right beside it. Then, at the hedge corner, cross a footbridge and head left towards houses. Just before reaching them, this newly created right of way turns right again to climb up out of the Ingrebourne valley, keeping in the open field with the service drive to the houses just to the left. At the top of the rise, pause and look back over the Ingrebourne.

On the horizon is the unmistakable outline of a windmill. It is considered to be one of the finest examples of a "Smock" windmill remaining in England. The name comes from the supposed resemblance to the smock once worn by farmers. Upminster Mill was built in 1803 by James Noakes, a local farmer. It is now owned by the London Borough of Havering.

Here by the fingerpost, turn left into the narrow path between garden fences to the corner of Lee Gardens Avenue. **B** Go through the kissing gate and follow the road straight ahead past the houses to meet Wingletye Lane.

To leave the LOOP at this point, buses along Wingletye Lane go to Upminster Bridge station, Hornchurch station and Romford station.

Head up the hill and go over the railway bridge. Once on the other side turn immediately left into Minster Way. Continue along this road as it veers right to meet Upminster Road - the A124, where this section ends. Section 23 continues left along Upminster Road. Upminster Bridge station is just across the road.