



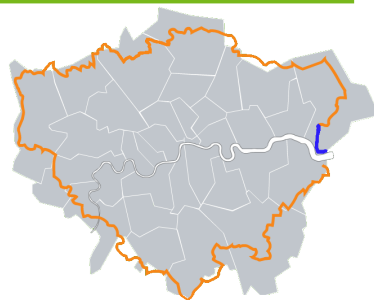
**London LOOP**  
Section 24  
Rainham to Purfleet



**Transport  
for London**

*walk*  
**London**

**Start:** Rainham (TQ521820)  
**Station:** Rainham  
**Finish:** Purfleet (TQ550783)  
**Station:** Purfleet  
**Distance:** 5 miles (9 km)



**Introduction:** This final section of the LOOP starts at Rainham station and continues to the end of the LOOP at Purfleet.

The first part is mainly on roads but soon meets the Thames with views across the river to Erith where Section 1 of the London LOOP begins.

Points of interest are the ancient river ferry crossing point, Rainham, Wennington and Aveley Marshes, the Second World War concrete barges and the RSPB visitors centre.

The walk is almost entirely level, with one or two short gentle slopes, on mostly hard surface with some grass. There are no stiles but there are some high steps. There is access for wheelchairs and pushchairs from the Coldharbour Riverside car park to the RSPB visitors centre.

There is a café with toilets at the RSPB site and pubs and cafes at Rainham and Purfleet but no public toilets.

Public transport is only at Rainham and Purfleet.

V1 : June 10

**Directions:** Leave Rainham station by the main building. From Ferry Lane turn right and go over the railway line. Go straight on to meet the ramp on the right and follow it up over the bridge and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. On the far side the Rainham Marshes appear on the left with the A13 in the distance.

After a short walk along the road there is an opening on the left leading through the fence and away from the traffic. The path runs parallel to the road but is surrounded by marshland and high grasses. The path emerges at the roundabout under the A13, cross straight ahead and over the exit road. Continue along Ferry Lane to the next roundabout and keep ahead by crossing Coldharbour Lane.

In the distance to the right are two massive wind turbines standing at 85 metres high. This is Europe's first urban wind park and the turbines generate all the electricity required to power Ford's Dagenham Diesel Centre, the equivalent of 2,000 homes for a year.

About 400 metres after the roundabout, cross to the right side of Ferry Lane and find the gravel path with the wooden fence line which follows parallel to the roadside. Follow this path through the kissing gate and continue until it soon turns right along a short stretch of paved path. On reaching the concrete flood wall with a plaque commemorating the ancient ferry crossing and our old friend the Thames turn left to follow the gravel path.

Across the other side of the Thames River the wharf of Erith can easily be seen, this is where the London LOOP begins.

Continue along the path past the Tilda rice factory and the concrete flood barrier on the left. Shortly the Havering Riverside Heritage Mural comes into view before reaching a car park.

In the bay to the right lay the abandoned World War II concrete barges originally build to support the D-Day landings. **A**

From here the broad surfaced riverside path leads to Coldharbour Point with its beacon used by ships navigating the Thames. Continue along the path with the river to the right and eventually the evidence of re-worked landfill to the left soon to reach a small car park and a junction of ways. The LOOP

continues along the lower cycleway so follow the path down a slight incline taking a sharp right hand turn at the bottom. The view of the Thames is obscured for a short while but is more than compensated for by the Aveley Marshes.

The Rainham Marshes site straddles the boundary between the London and Essex regions of the Thames Gateway. Together with Wennington Marshes and Aveley Marshes, this area is the largest remaining wetlands in the Thames Estuary. Aveley Marshes is one of a few ancient landscapes left in London. Formerly used as a shooting range, this reserve has a wide diversity of bird life and has one of the highest densities of water voles in the UK. It was bought from the Ministry of Defence in July 2000.

Keep to the cycle path which eventually reaches the river wall and then swings left to pass the RSPB visitor centre. **B** Bear right at the visitor centre over the footbridge then right to join a path running through Purfleet's riverside gardens.

Follow the river until, beneath the cream terraces of the Royal Hotel, a path trends left up to the road. Turn right, cross at the nearby island and follow the road to Purfleet station.

You have reached the end of Section 24 and the end of the LOOP.