



London LOOP

Section 8

Bourne Hall Park to Kingston upon Thames

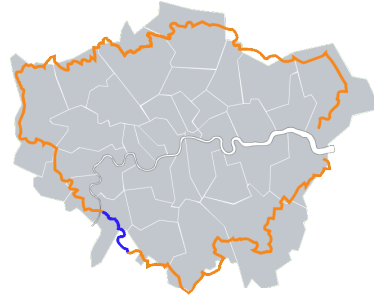


Transport
for London

Walk
London

V2 : April 10

Start: Bourne Hall Park (TQ218627)
Station: Ewell West
Finish: Kingston Bridge (TQ177693)
Station: Kingston
Distance: 7.3 miles (12 km)



Introduction: The waters and woods of this section have something for everyone; you'll see scenery that inspired Pre-Raphaelite painters, overhanging willows and the gentle curves of the river.

This is an easy walk on mostly level ground. The paths alongside the Hogsmill can be muddy. The section from Berrylands Station to Kingston is suitable for the less mobile and pushchairs.

The walk starts at Bourne Hall Park and finishes at Kingston Station and there are stations at Maldon Manor and Berrylands; all the trains are from Waterloo. There are buses along the route.

Points of interest on this walk are the Hogsmill River, the Saxon Coronation Chair and the medieval Clattern Bridge.

There are cafés and pubs at both ends of the route, but no public toilets.

Directions: To reach the LOOP from Ewell West station, turn left on leaving the station and keep walking along Chessington Road. Where the road curves around to the left, cross the road and go through the arch in the brick wall. Turn left and follow the path to the pond and then turn left again to join the LOOP.

On leaving the park cross Chessington Road and turn right alongside a pond.

Just past the Chessington Road sign, turn left off the road, up the metalled path. Keep following the path straight ahead. At Upper Mill, turn left and after you've crossed the river, turn right and keep going on the other side. At the next fork, go straight on and over the hump back bridge.

Sir John Everett Milais, the great pre-Raphaelite painter chose the Hogsmill River for his famous painting of the drowned Ophelia - Shakespeare's tragic heroine from Hamlet, who committed suicide in a river. The painting is now in London's Tate Gallery.

Cross a sleeper bridge, and keep going. At Lower Mill the path comes out onto a board walk over the river, and then goes through a tunnel. After the tunnel, turn right and re-cross the river, and immediately after that turn left off the metalled path, and keep following the river. After about 150 metres the Hogsmill is joined by the Green Lanes Stream, so follow the combined rivers.

Ignore the stepping stones across the river and continue alongside the river on the narrow path straight ahead. Just before the water treatment works, turn left keeping the river on the left. About 150 metres beyond the works, is a made up path and a bridge over the river. Cross it and follow the path with the river on your right.

Cross the river at the next bridge by the playground and continue along the other side. After a while, the route meets a tarmac path crossing from the left. Carry straight on across the grass to reach Ruxley Lane.

Cross Ruxley Lane and go down the metalled path the other side. Where it turns right carry straight on along the unmade path by the river.

Spare a thought for the locals of a couple of hundred years ago, whose idyllic peace was periodically shattered by one of the many gun powder mills exploding. The Upper Mill is the sole survivor of the many mills that were once along here and in Kingston.

Keep going, past a bridge and some houses the other side of the river and after a while another playground. Ignore the next bridge and keep going straight ahead with the river on your left. Eventually the route reaches a red brick bridge taking a major road over the river.

Just up the road to the right is a bus stop, from which buses go to Bourne Hall Park on the far side of the road or Kingston, or Surbiton railway stations on this side of the road.

To carry on cross the road at the lights, turn left then cross the bridge, go through the metal gates and walk down the path ahead, **A** with the river on the right.

You'll see Japanese Knotweed, growing here. Unless nipped in the bud, it grows incredibly quickly, covering huge areas, and wipes out all other plants.

The path comes out through a kissing gate, onto a metalled track. Turn right over the bridge, and when on reaching the main road, cross and walk up Cromwell Road opposite. Turn left at Grafton Road and then left down Royal Avenue. Go through the little barrier and go straight on past St Mary's Road. Where the road curves to the left, cross over, go past the metal barrier straight ahead, and down the unmade track.

At the road go through the gate, cross over and turn right. After about 50 metres turn left towards the church of St John the Baptist, Old Malden. **B**

Pause to look at the patchwork fabric of the church – medieval flint on the chancel and 17th century brick for the tower and nave. The church goes back to Saxon times and the 'newest' part - another nave and chancel was added in 1875. The name Malden comes from the Saxon "Mael dun" – cross on the hill and it was probably this church which gave the area its name.

Past the church is another kissing gate, follow the track beyond it. Turn left at the wooden fence, and follow the track downhill to the river. Ignore the metal bridge, and keep going on the right hand side of the river. Follow the track under the railway bridge, and about 100 metres beyond cross a tarmac path.

About 250 yards up the tarmac path to the right, just beyond the roundabout, is Malden Manor station.

To carry on, go straight ahead, taking the left hand fork close to the river. After a while there's an open grass area - the Hogsmill River Park.

Keep following the path to the right of the river. At the metal gate turn left onto the A3 and head for the subway. **C** Buses to Putney can be caught from the bus stop here. Take the subway under Malden Way and then come back on the far side of the A3.

Cross Elmbridge Avenue and then turn left through the gate in the fence just after the apartments on the left. Continue with the river on the right.

Cross the wooden footbridge over the stream and at the cycle track, turn left past the high railings and walk up Surbiton Hill Park.

Catch buses to Surbiton, Hook or Kingston from the bus stop here.

Continue along Surbiton Hill Park to the roundabout. Turn right at the roundabout, passing the Berrylands pub and head along Chiltern Drive. At the bottom of the hill is Berrylands station.

Go under the railway bridge and straight on, down the metalled track. There is a large water treatment works on the right followed by a cemetery on the left. At the end of Lower Marsh Lane, over the roundabout, is the Duke of Buckingham pub. **D** Turn right here along Villiers Road keeping the pub on

the left..

The pub is owned by Courage and during the 17th century Civil War the Duke of Buckingham was obviously not short of a drop of the stuff either - as he fought and was killed at the bloody Battle of Surbiton Common.

Walk past the park on the right and cross over the river. Cross the road by the King Athelstan Centre and continue on the far side of the road, turning left down the next metalled path. Swan Path. At the end of the alley, at the bridge, turn left, then right and keep the river on the right. Past the Stanley Picker Gallery, cross the next bridge and turn right. The path comes out onto Springfield Rd - cross it, turn left then right up Denmark Road. After another 100 metres take a right, back to the riverbank.

Keep following the path alongside the river. At Penrhyn Road, cross over at the Pelican and turn right. Follow the road round to the left and take the next crossing over Kingston Hall Road. Just ahead before the bridge, turn left. Walk under the Council offices and keep going until reaching the road. To visit the Saxon Coronation Stone, **E** take a short detour by turning right.

The "Chair of Majesty" was used to crown seven Saxon Kings of England, starting with Edward the Elder in 900. It is possible that that's how Kingston got its name. The Stone was later used as a mounting block for horsemen in the Market Place, but in 1850 it was set, with great ceremony, on a special base and surrounded by ornamental railings.

Back on the route go over the crossing, turn right, cross the bridge and take the steps down to the left.

You'll see the Medieval "Clattern" Bridge – the oldest bridge in Surrey still in use. It theoretically got its name from the sound horses hooves made while crossing it.

Head straight on until reaching the River Thames and turn right towards Kingston Bridge. The finger posts from here to the Bridge are white on black rather than the standard LOOP ones that have been along the route so far.

The author Jerome K. Jerome, in *Three Men in a Boat*, says that Caesar crossed the river here, adding, "Caesar, like in later years, Elizabeth, seems to have stopped everywhere: Only he was more respectable than good Queen Bess; he didn't put up at the public houses."

Follow the river to the steps and either take these or the slope to the right. This section ends at the top of the steps.

To get to Kingston Station, turn right and go straight on past John Lewis and the Bentalls Shopping Centre then turn immediately left up Fife Rd, at the end of which is the Station.