



## London Loop

Section 21 of 24

Havering-atte-Bower (Royal Oak pub) to  
Harold Wood



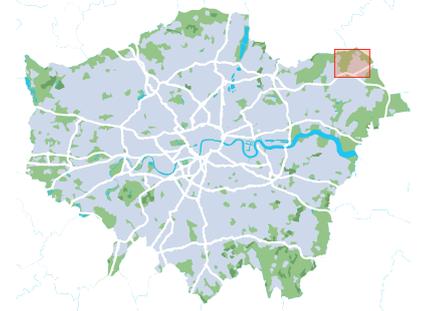
**Section start:** Havering-atte-Bower (Royal Oak pub)

**Nearest station to start:** Buses to Havering-atte-Bower from Romford station

**Section finish:** Harold Wood

**Nearest station to finish:** Harold Wood

**Section distance:** 4.3 miles (6.9 kilometres)



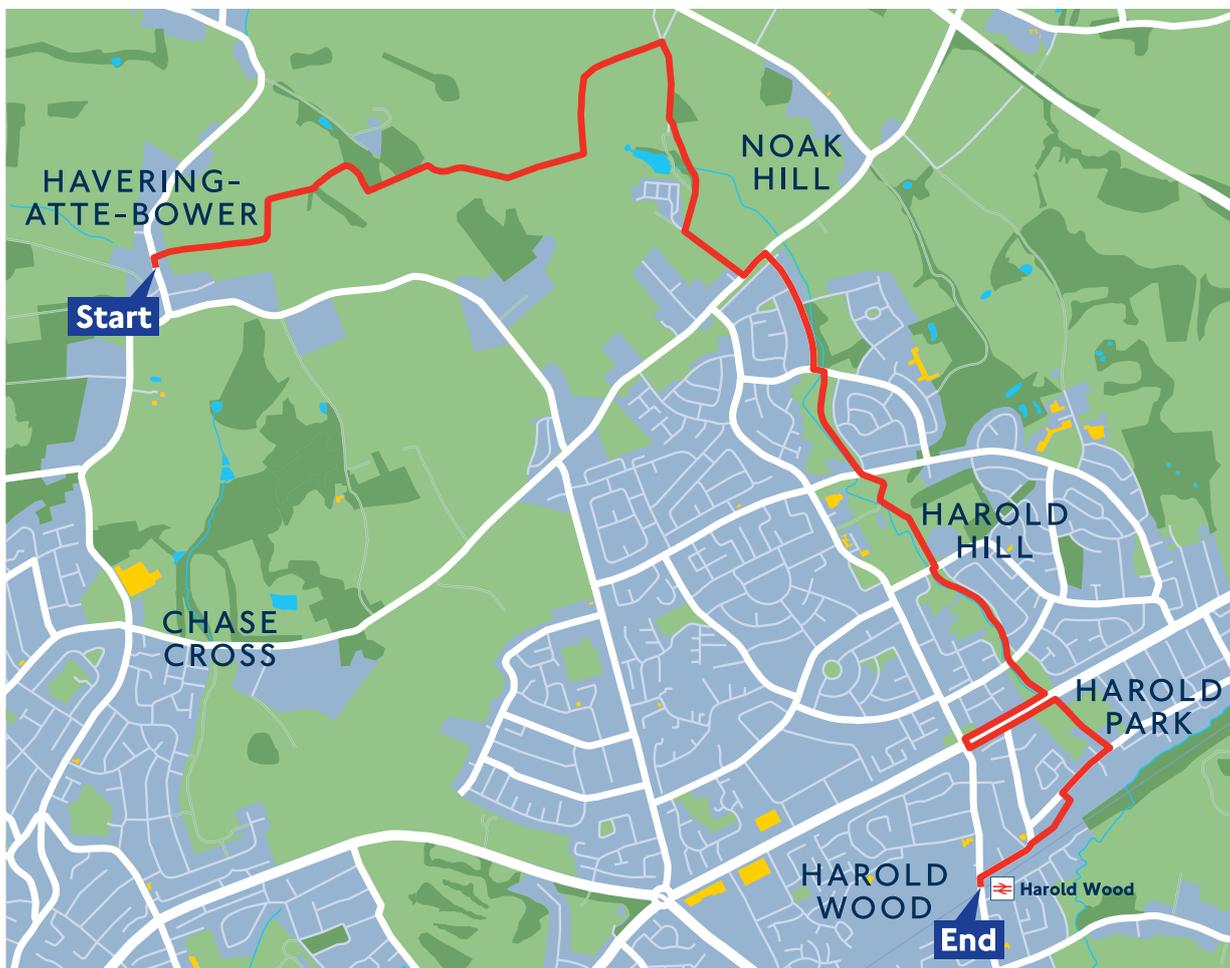
### Introduction

From the attractive village of Havering-atte-Bower this section first passes through high-lying, undulating farmland, to reach Noak Hill. It then follows a narrow green strip through the suburb of Harold Hill, which lies beside Carter's and Paine's Brooks. These streams flow into the River Ingrebourne, which itself joins the Thames at Rainham Creek.

This section has generally fairly level walking, mostly on rough paths, tracks and grass and there are five stiles. The section through Central Park is suitable for people with limited mobility and pushchairs.

There are pubs at Havering-atte-Bower, Noak Hill and Harold Wood, and public toilets at Havering-atte-Bower.

There is a National Rail station at Harold Wood, and buses serving Havering-atte-Bower, Noak Hill, Harold Hill and Harold Wood.





◀ Continues



**Key**

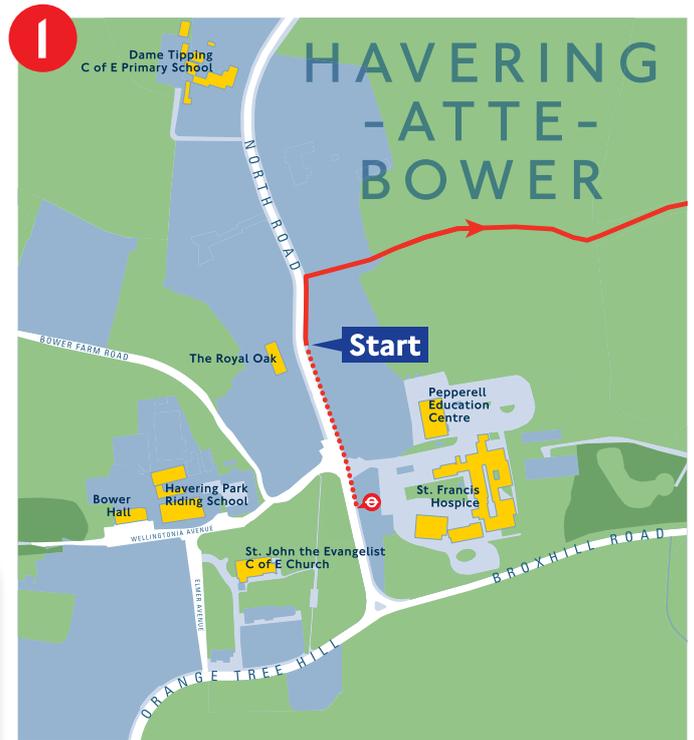
- London Loop
- National Rail station
- See inset map for enhanced detail in this area

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## Directions

 **1** To reach the start of this section of the LOOP, take bus route 375 to Havering-atte-Bower from Romford. Get off the bus at Havering Green. This is an infrequent bus service, so check the timetable before you travel - the bus starts from Romford station. On Sundays, when this route doesn't run, take bus 103 to Chase Cross where it is a 1½ mile walk to the start of this section - walk forward from alighting the bus and turn left at the traffic lights on to Havering Road which continues to Orange Tree Road. Turn left into North Road.

Take the LOOP route which goes down the hill of North Road and past The Royal Oak pub on the left.



### Did you know?

Casual visitors to Havering-atte-Bower may be surprised to discover that this pleasant little village was once the ancient seat of kings and the site of a vast Royal Palace, of which not a stone remains. The location of the palace was the site of the present village green.

Just beyond The Royal Oak is a sign on the right pointing to 'Footpath number 7 to Noak Hill and Paternoster Row 1¾ miles'. Follow the sign along the obscure path that squeezes between a brick garage and a wooden fence.

Follow the path to the open fields, keeping to the right-hand edge of the field towards the corner and squeeze through the kissing gate. Follow the fence line on the right as it veers right towards an odd, white roundhouse visible through the trees. Ignore the track in the right hand corner of the field which heads up to the right towards Round House Farm. Instead turn left and continue along the field edge down the hill, keeping the fence line still on the right.

### Did you know?

You can't fail to notice the strange round building on the right called the 'Round house'. It was once the home of Joseph Hardwick Pemberton (1852-1926), a true giant in the world of rose breeding.

After about 200 metres down from the corner of the field, turn right to go through a kissing gate and over a footbridge. Go through the bramble and into the open field beyond.

Continue straight ahead over the brow of the field to reach its right-hand corner. From here, keep on straight ahead through the next field passing on the left side of an isolated tree to the woodland beyond.

At the woodlands edge stands an iron gatepost. It once marked the entrance to the grand residence of Pyrgo.

### Did you know?

These days nothing remains of the house save this one rusting sentinel defying time. In its heyday Pyrgo House was home and playground for King Henry VIII's daughters Mary and Elizabeth who as children grew up happily together here.



Turn right and go up the rise, passing the woodland edge on the left to the end. Turn left here to follow footpath 7 to Church Road along the edge of the trees. Turn left once more with the tree line to reach a stile in the far corner going over to the next paddock. Standing on a ridge now, the views are impressive as the meadows drop to the south.

Turn right and follow the track along the fence line above on the left, then turn left through the gate into a smaller field. Keep ahead to the left corner and go through the old-style kissing gate.

### Did you know?

You are looking over Foxburrow Wood. This ancient woodland, with its massive hornbeams is home to many woodland birds including the increasingly rare mistle thrush and the colourful great spotted woodpecker. Foxburrow Wood is an important site for nature conservation.

Turn right in the next field and walk briefly for about 30 metres with the fence to the right before setting off leftwards across the open field towards the left corner of a small wood opposite.

Continue straight ahead, keeping the trees to the right along 'footpath number 7' as the signpost in the corner of the wood reassures. At the fields end, turn left then after about 400 metres turn right to go over a small footbridge.

Keep along the hedge with the ditch to the left, keeping an eye out for pheasants roaming free. At the end of the field go over the stile in the left corner and turn right onto a quiet lane called Paternoster Row. Go past the cottages and continue until about 20 metres before Widdrington Farm where this road ends.

Go over the stile to the left and follow the track which passes over Carter's Brook. Go through a dip in the trees then past the houses visible through a fence on the right, until a gate and stile leads to another lane. Go over the stile and turn left to follow the roadside of Cummings Hall Lane to the main road ahead which is Noak Hill Road.

To leave the LOOP at this point, there is a bus stop opposite The Bear pub - route 294 will take you to Romford station and the 256 to Emerson Park and Hornchurch stations.

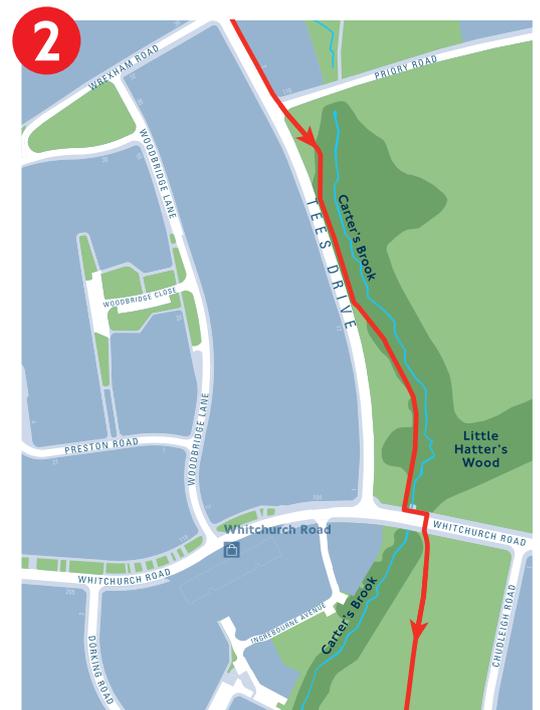
To continue, turn left into Noak Hill Road, passing The Bear pub to reach Tees Drive, (the next road on the right). Turn right and go down Tees Drive on the left-hand side, passing Wincanton Road and Wrexham Road on the right.

 **2** Continue past Priory Road and immediately take the path alongside the brook (with the trees of Carter's Brook quietly flowing in a steep-sided sylvan dell now on the left). As the path heads to the end of Tees Drive cross left to go over the brook on Whitchurch Road and then right to continue following the brook now on the right.

### Did you know?

Harold Hill and Harold Wood probably derive their names from various connections with King Harold Godwinson (Harold II), who was defeated by William the Conqueror in 1066 at the Battle of Hastings.

Cross the next road Dagnam Park Drive (bus 174 goes to Romford from here) and continue straight ahead through the gates into Central Park. Keep on the tarmac path as it turns right then left to rejoin the brook (now Paine's Brook), flowing on the right. Pass the children's play area on the right and follow the path to the right of the car park to leave Central Park and arrive at Petersfield Avenue.



Cross here and continue straight ahead, with the brook still on the right, to yet another road crossing (St. Neot's Road) then pass another playground on the left before the path veers left and then turns right through a gate to reach a crossing point of the big dual carriageway of Colchester Road, the A12.

This is a fast road so we advise that you turn right to reach a pedestrian crossing about 500 metres further down and then walk back to re-join the route.

Once on the other side of the A12, turn left at the crossing point and then right to enter a field. Once on the other side of the field, follow the track in the left corner. The track becomes enclosed and veers around the Paine's Brook Play Area (the brook has changed its name since we joined it!) before opening out to Church Road.

Cross the road and turn right onto the footpath of Church Road, crossing the brook and continuing straight ahead before turning down Queens Park Road (the next road on the left). Follow the road as it turns right through a car barrier.

 **3** At the end of Queens Park Road, turn left along Station Road and go past the King Harold pub (on the right). Keep on past the shops on the right and then turn left at the end of Station Road.

The entrance to Harold Wood station is just on the left and is where this section ends. To continue on to Section 22 to Upminster Bridge, follow the signs past Harold Wood station.

