



London Loop

Section 12 of 24

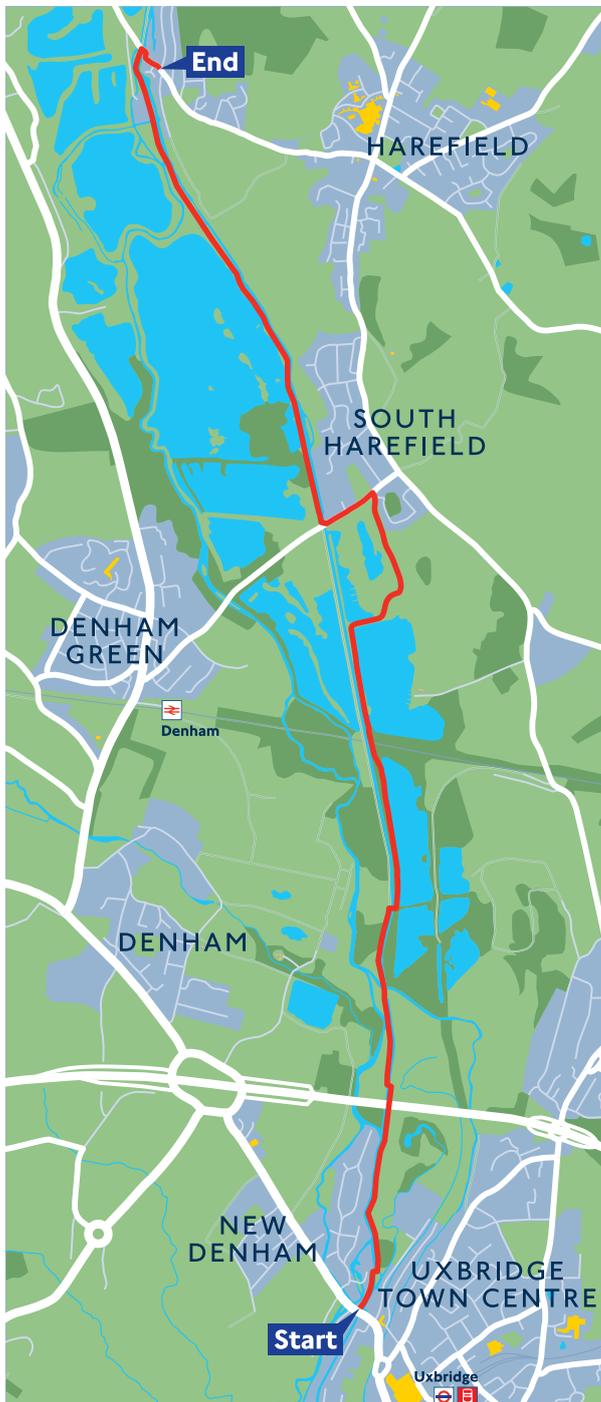
Uxbridge to Harefield West



Section start:	Uxbridge
Nearest station to start:	Uxbridge
Section finish:	Harefield West
Nearest station to finish:	Bus stop at Harefield West (bus U9 to Uxbridge)
Section distance:	4.5 miles (7 kilometres)



Introduction



This section follows the Grand Union Canal for most of the way. It is dominated by water which makes it the bluest section of the London LOOP. There are lots of interesting things to see along the way including locks, narrow boats, canalside pubs and a tearoom.

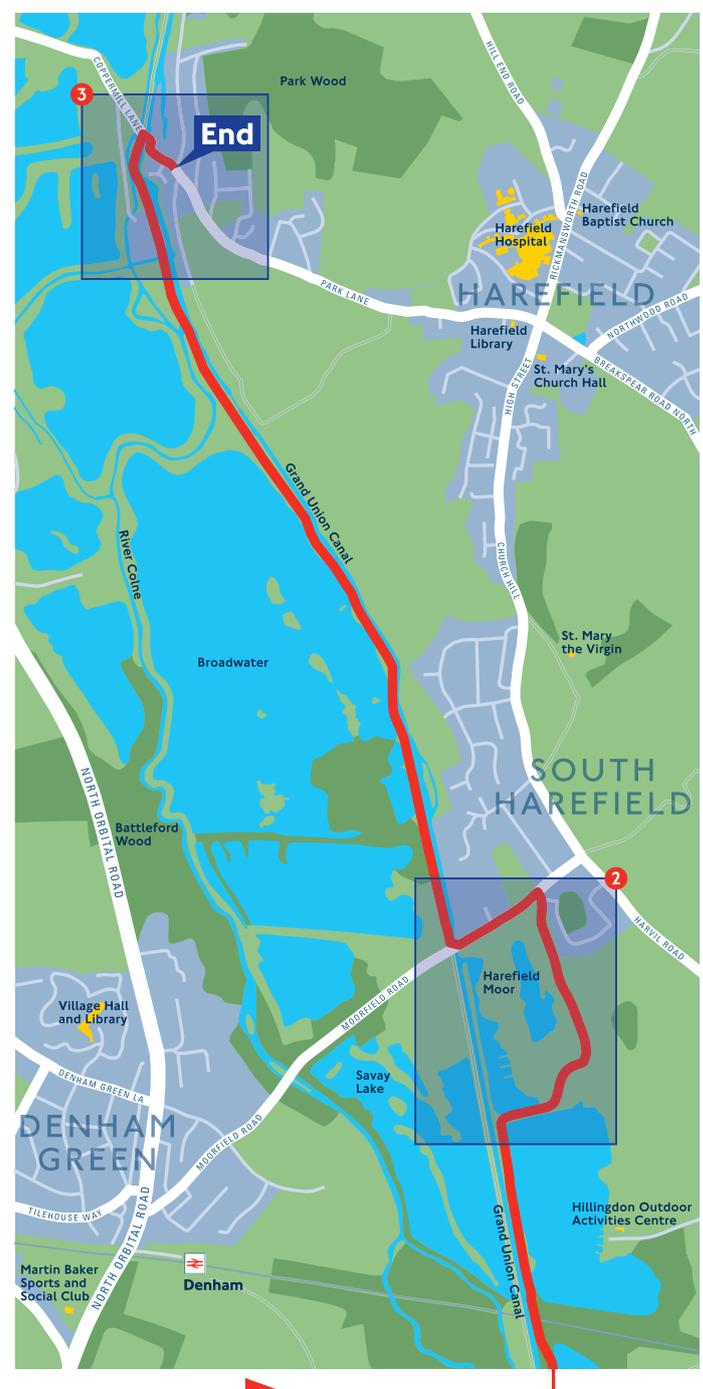
This is an easy walk on mainly firm and level towpaths. There are three small canal bridges to cross and one short stretch on rough track.

The walk starts at Uxbridge tube station and finishes at Harefield with buses which return to Uxbridge station; mid-route there are buses at South Harefield.

There is a cafe and public toilets at Colne Park Visitor Centre and other cafes and pubs along the way.



Continues



Directions

 **1** Leave Uxbridge station straight ahead through the main exit to arrive on the pedestrian High Street.

Did you know?

Uxbridge - its name is Saxon in origin - is a very old town and one of the most important market towns of Middlesex. The Market House directly across the road was the location for a major corn market for west Middlesex which the prosperous town depended on until the 19th century. A Market House has stood here since 1561 and the original occupied half the width of the High Street. It was removed in 1785 and the current one was built further back in order to widen the road.

Turn right and follow High Street straight ahead. Cross Harefield Road and continue down the hill to cross over Sanderson Road via the pedestrian crossing, passing the Parexel office building on your right.

Did you know?

During the Civil War, Uxbridge was an important fort for Parliamentary troops. In 1644 an attempt at a peace treaty was negotiated in Place House which is now the aptly named Crown and Treaty pub.

Continue straight over the bridge which arches over the Grand Union Canal. Turn immediately right on the other side into the Swan and Bottle car park. Turn right down the steps to meet the Grand Union Canal towpath; at the bottom of the steps turn left to join the LOOP route and the start of Section 12.

Did you know?

The Grand Union Canal was born in 1789 to link London and Birmingham and it became one of the busiest canals in the country. The first route however was an incredible 280 miles and the tedious journey made it impossible for one boat to do the whole journey!

Walk along the canal towpath and cross the canal at Uxbridge Lock via the small white brick Turnover Bridge. Continue along the towpath passing the lock cottage and a few metres along on the left is the site of Kings Mill.

Did you know?

Flour has been milled on this site for a thousand years. A local milkman and farmer called William King bought the mill in the late 19th century and the brand of bread, Kingsmill, is named after him.

Continue past the small sign stating that Braunston is 81 miles away. Before passing under the A40 Western Avenue road bridge is the waters of the River Colne. The river provided the power for the Kings Mill. Sweep in to join the canal from the left.



Go over the small arched bridge to cross the canal and continue along the towpath. Glimpses of the reed filled River Colne can be seen on the left running broadly parallel to the canal.

The gravel track veering left is to Denham Country Park, for the Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre. If you want to visit, follow it for about half mile, where there are toilets and refreshments. Otherwise continue straight ahead.

 Keep along the towpath to meet Denham Lock and in the lock cottage is Fran's Tea Garden which has a beautiful garden setting.

Did you know?

At about 11 feet, Denham Deep Lock has the greatest drop of any lock on the Grand Union. The canal is on a short aqueduct over Fray's River so it was built deep enough in order not to affect the water supplies which powered the mills further down the river.

 **2** Keep along the canal towpath to meet a white bridge number 182. Climb the steep slope to cross the canal once again. Then turn left onto the wide gravel track on the other side to follow the sign 'Quarry Trail'.

 Continue along the sometimes muddy broad track past the lakes and popular fishing spots. Follow the track as it veers left and exposes the grand dark brick arches of a railway overpass. Pass under to return to the canal. A larger expanse of water appears on the right and a sailing club is situated across the water. Continue along the track beside the lake and then follow it as it veers right past Harefield Marina.

Continue on the gravel path past the blackberry bushes to exit Denham Quarry by the wooden kissing gate. Turn immediately left and follow the path as it veers right to meet Moorhall Road.

To leave the LOOP at this point turn right at the roadside and follow the footpath to meet the bus stop. Bus route 331 from here goes to Ruislip, Uxbridge and Denham stations. A little further along is the Busy Bee cafe.

To continue on the LOOP, turn left at the roadside and continue past Widewater Place on the right. Go over the bridge to once again meet up with the Grand Union Canal. A little further over the bridge is the Bear on the Barge pub. Turn left as the bridge ends and step down to meet the canal towpath again.

Turn left at the waters edge and double back under the bridge to meet Widewater Lock. Continue on the towpath past the lock, passing under a small decrepit bridge and past another lake on the left. After a while Black Jacks Lock and its house appear.

Did you know?

Black Jacks Mill is in a beautiful setting on an island between two waterways and you can see the water flowing beneath it as you continue past. The present mill building, now a restaurant, dates from 1879, but a mill was recorded here in the Domesday Book. Legend says it was named after a slave who was bought and sold with the land. With his donkey and cart, Jack delivered the flour which had been ground in the mill.



 **3** Staying on the towpath, cross over the footbridge where the weir rushes beneath. The canal dips left and right to finally join the Coy Carp Inn on the left. Go up the ramp here to meet the roadside and turn right to go over the bridge. After the road veers left cross the road to meet what was once the grand home of the mill owner and where this section ends.

To continue on Section 13 (Harefield West to Moor Park) turn left onto Summerhouse Lane.

To leave the LOOP go straight ahead up the hill. Cross straight over Barrington Drive and continue to meet Shelley Lane. Where there is a bus stop in a lay-by for route U9 going to Uxbridge station, which runs on Mondays to Saturdays only.

If you arrive here on a Sunday and need a bus, keep straight ahead up the hill along Park Lane for about a mile to meet Harefield Village. At the junction just ahead of you are bus stops for the 331 service which goes to Uxbridge station or in the other direction to Northwood station.

