



London Loop

Section 17 of 24

Cockfosters to Enfield Lock



Section start: Cockfosters
Nearest station to start: Cockfosters 
Section finish: Enfield Lock
Nearest station to finish: Enfield Lock 
Section distance: 9.5 miles (15 kilometres)



Introduction

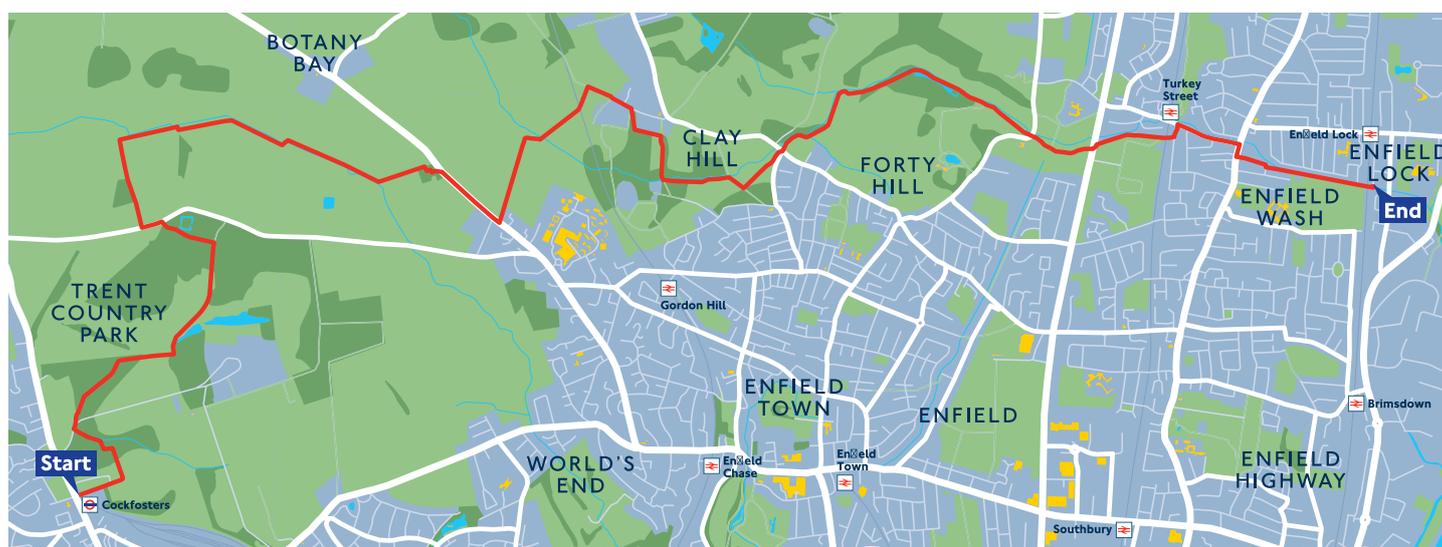
This is a long and rural section through an area alive with history. It goes by Trent Park, once the home of the Sassoon family, whose mansion across the lake is now part of Middlesex University, through the farmland of Enfield Chase and Hilly Fields Park and the Forty Hall Estate.

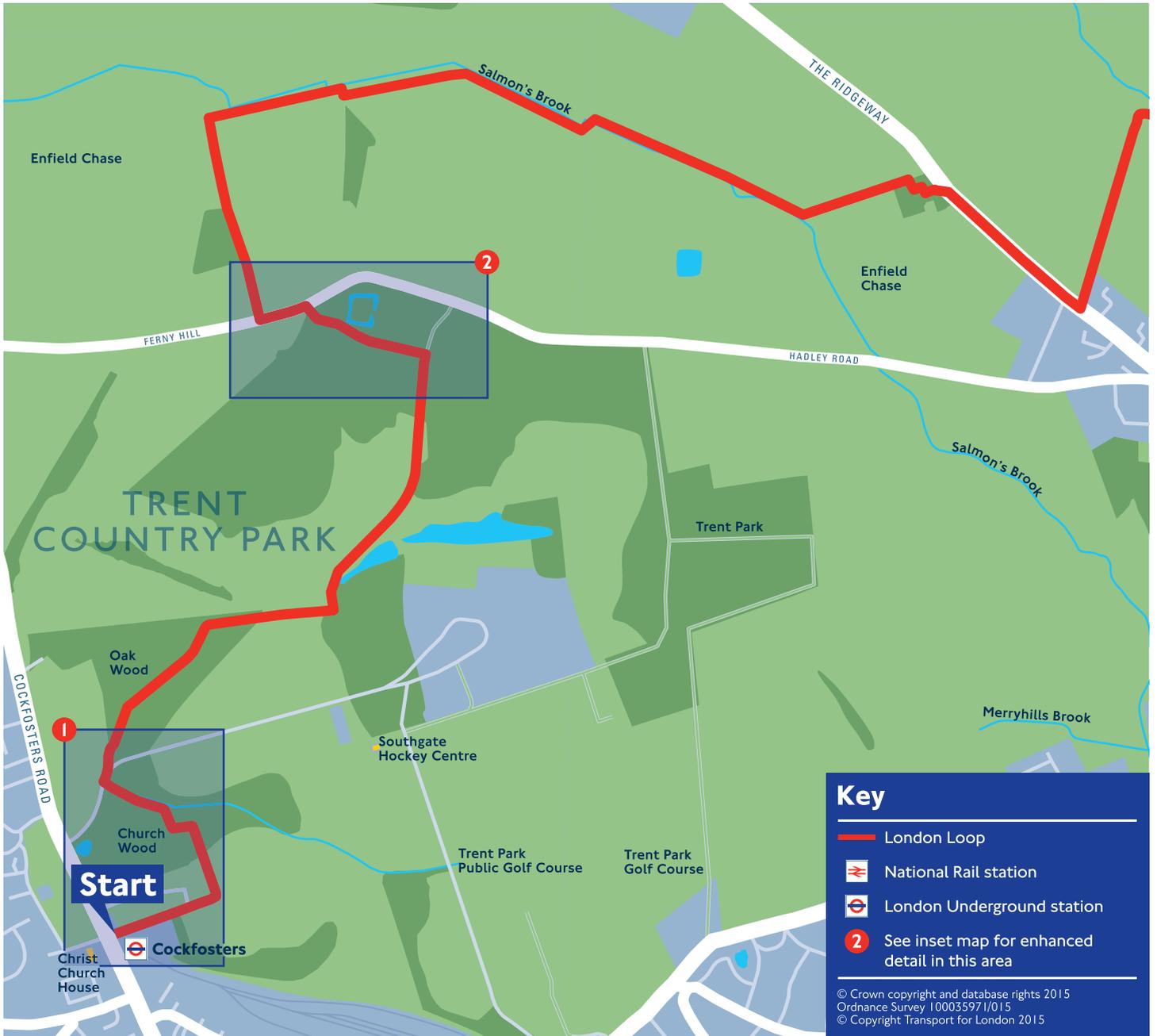
There are several gentle ups and downs, and two high-stepped footbridges. The walk is mostly on rough paths, tracks and grassland, and there are five stiles. Some sections are suitable for the less mobile and for pushchairs, these include Trent Park, Forty Hall and Albany Park.

There are pubs and cafes at Trent Park, Forty Hall, Clay Hill, Turkey Street and Enfield Lock, and public toilets at both ends of Trent Park and at Forty Hall.

There is a National Rail station at Turkey Street and several bus routes along the way.

This section ends at the footbridge over the Brook near Enfield Lock Station - not Enfield Lock itself. The lock itself can be found in Section 18 of the LOOP.





Enfield Chase

Salmon's Brook

THE RIDGEWAY

FERNY HILL

Enfield Chase

HADLEY ROAD

Salmon's Brook

TRENT COUNTRY PARK

Trent Park

Oak Wood

Merryhills Brook

COCKFOSTERS ROAD

Southgate Hockey Centre

Trent Park Public Golf Course

Trent Park Golf Course

Start

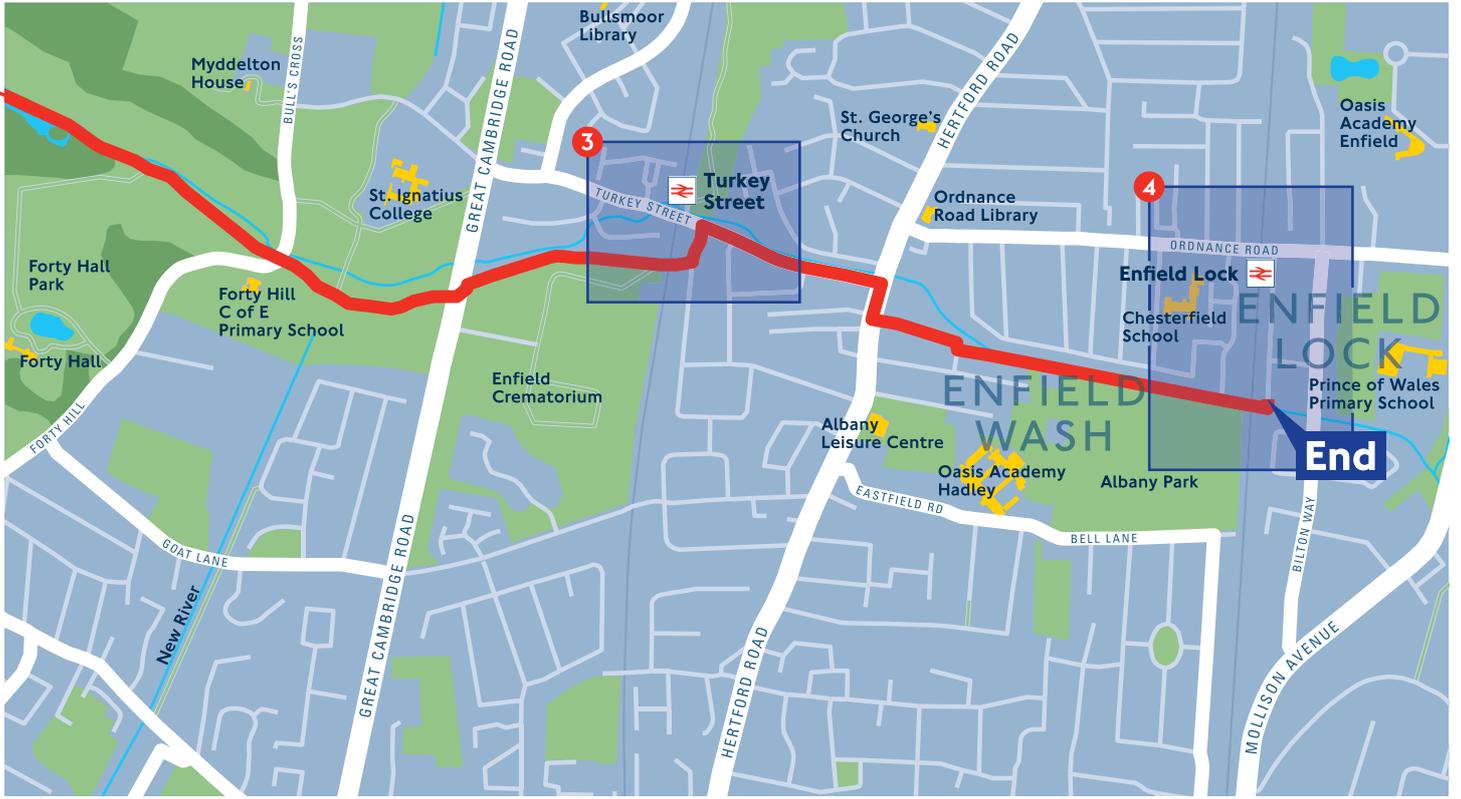
Church Wood

Cockfosters

Christ Church House



◀ Continues



Directions

 **1** Leave Cockfosters station by the main exit on Cockfosters Road, turn right then immediately right again, and go through the green metal gate into the station car park. Follow the narrow grass strip between the car park and the cemetery. Go through the gap in the bushes, then after about 25 metres turn left and cross the ditch.

Go across the top of the fields to enter Church Wood on the other side. Soon there is a T-junction in the paths, turn left here and follow the path out of the wood then cross the field, keeping to the right hand edge to the road ahead.

Did you know?

This area was once Enfield Chase, a 12th century royal hunting forest. Enfield's woodland was described in the Domesday Book as providing food for four thousand swine! This was a measure of the woodland's great size.



Turn right at the road, then fork left past the little obelisk. Enter the car park where there are toilets and a cafe. Straight ahead is a LOOP information board.

At the LOOP information board take the path to the left into the pleasant Oak Wood - an odd name for a wood that's mostly birch! This area is Trent Country Park. The park has country walks, bird watching and nature study.

Follow the path to the edge of the wood and then take the right fork. Continue following the broader path straight ahead before turning left. Follow the path past a lake on the right, and after a few hundred metres the red bricks of Trent House can be seen through the trees on the right.

Keep following the track up the hill and into the woods. After about 100 metres, fork left at the waymarker. As the path curves to the left, the enclosed area on the right become visible.

Did you know?

This is Camlet Moat, a small moated island and Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is thought to have been the seat of Geoffrey de Mandeville during the reign of William the Conqueror. Excavations carried out by Sir Philip Sassoon in the 1920s discovered stone foundations, oak beams thought to be from the drawbridge and Roman shoes and daggers.

 **2** Follow the path to the edge of the wood and then take the right fork. Go through the kissing gate about 20 metres along. Look left along the woodland edge from the kissing gate to see the 20 metre tall Sassoon's Obelisk erected in 1702.

Turn left at the road and walk for about 100 metres. Cross at the lay-by and go through the kissing gate, then head off down the hill to the Jubilee Path.



Did you know?

This rural area is a working farm estate, much of it is owned by the London Borough of Enfield. Please remember to follow the country code at all times. This path is known locally as the Jubilee Path, because it was opened in the Queen's Jubilee year, 1977.

At the bottom of the hill turn right and follow Salmon's Brook. Keep following the path until you come to a bridge. Cross over Salmon's Brook then turn immediately right and go over the stile. Keep following the field edge with the brook close by now on the right. The path leads over two more stiles and through several fields before it bears round to the left to follow the tree line up the hill.

Did you know?

The hill straight ahead is called Cuckold's Hill. A 'Cuckold' was a man whose wife had been unfaithful. It is an Elizabethan word for a Cuckoo - which lays her eggs in other birds' nests.

Head towards newly planted woodland known as Brooke Wood, and go through the kissing gate just before the brow of the hill. Follow the path through young trees towards the road, cross a stile and walk straight ahead, keeping parallel with the hedge for about 150 metres until you reach another stile. Cross The Ridgeway road here and turn right continuing along The Ridgeway on the other side of the road.

A few hundred metres further on is a bus stop for route 313 which goes to Enfield or Potters Bar.

Turn left down Rectory Farm Road just beyond the Royal Chace Hotel and immediately opposite the bus stop on the other side of the road. Follow the drive to the sheds, bear right behind them and continue, crossing the bridge over Turkey Brook. Follow the track up the hill, pass under the railway bridge and turn right at the T-junction. After some glasshouses on the right, take a woodland path on the right into Hilly Fields Park.

Did you know?

This part of London was once a mass of glasshouses that produced huge quantities of tomatoes and cucumbers for all the country. These glasshouses are the few left. They now produce water plants for gardens.

Follow the path into the woods, keeping the cricket ground on the left. At a tiny clearing where several paths meet, fork left and then left again on to a path that soon emerges at the top of an open field on the right. Walk along the top then turn right onto a metalled path on the far side. Go down the hill and cross Turkey Brook at its most charming part. Fork left to follow the brook through Hilly Fields.

The LOOP turns right up the hill opposite a bridge over the brook. At the top where several paths meet, turn left to meet Clay Hill road and the welcome sight of the Rose & Crown Pub opposite. Cross the road, and take the path ahead just right of the pub, keeping open grass on the right and the Turkey Brook close on the left. Follow the sign saying Mile & a Quarter Footpath, leading to Forty Hall down a small slope.

Keep straight ahead and use Turkey Brook on the left as a guide. Passing a barrier and fingerpost, keep ahead towards Forty Hall. Fork left to follow a long fishing pond on the right and rhododendrons lining the path.

Did you know?

The ponds are next to the site of the Elsynge Palace, a favourite haunt of Queen Elizabeth I when she wanted to be out of the city. The ponds you have walked past may well have kept the palace supplied with fish.

Just beyond the ponds, up to the right, is the 17th century Forty Hall, which now includes a museum; the house and gardens are worth a visit. There is also a cafe and toilets. Reach it by turning right at the end of the fish ponds and following the lime tree avenue.

The LOOP continues beside the brook until you come to a post on the right in the field, just before a small footbridge on the left. Bear right here and head to the roadside.

Did you know?

Local legend says that at this spot, Maidens Bridge, Sir Walter Raleigh spread his cloak over a puddle so the Queen could cross without getting her feet wet. This dramatic act of gallantry suggested that he had completely lost his head over her; unfortunately for Raleigh he later did - he was beheaded!

Cross the road and find the tarmac path to the left of the school car park. Carry on following the tarmac path to leave rural tranquillity behind for a while.

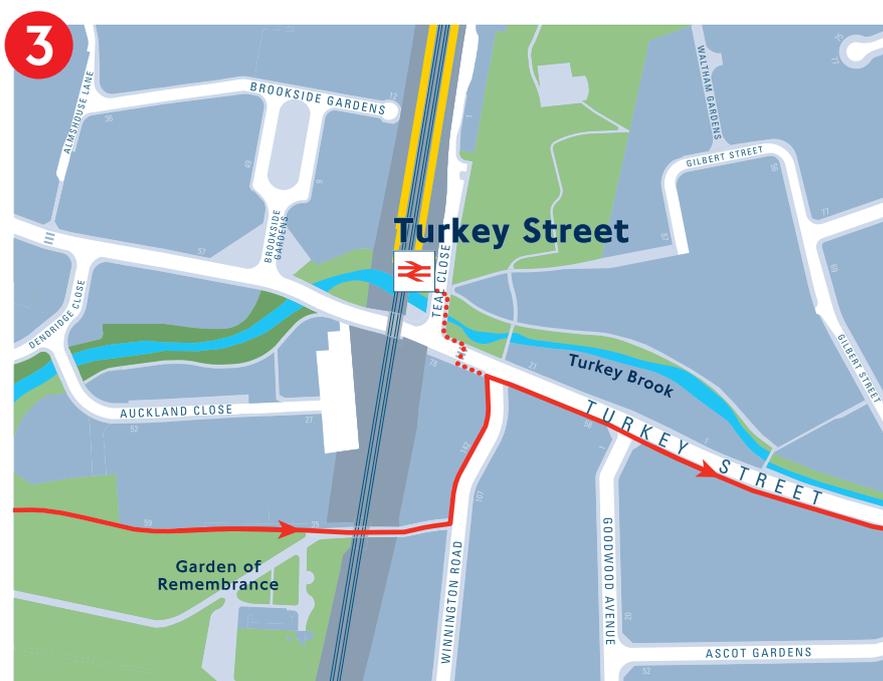
Once at the main road, use the metal footbridge on your left to cross.

For buses towards Enfield or Turnpike Lane Tube station use the bus stop 150 metres ahead at the bottom of the footbridge.

For the LOOP, turn left on the other side, then right after a few metres to follow the tarmac path that runs parallel to the cemetery.

 **3** At the road go under the railway bridge, then turn left at a T-junction, into Winnington Road which leads to Turkey Street.

Turkey Street station is left at this junction, otherwise turn right into Turkey Street and follow it to meet Hertford Road at the end. Cross Hertford Road at the island a few metres to the right, turn right, and then take the first left down St. Stephen's Road, which curves around to the right.



Turn immediately left through bollards onto the Prince of Wales Footpath.

Once again the LOOP follows Turkey Brook - look out for mute swans swimming on it.

Did you know?

There is an ancient belief that swans mate for life and it is said that if one of the pair dies the other will die of a broken heart, singing as it does so. That is why a 'Swan Song' is a performer's last performance.

 **4** Keep following the brook through Albany Park. If there's a flash of blue and orange it's a kingfisher whizzing by! They certainly live the high life as their home is a burrow in the riverbank, where the smelly remains of their fishy snacks are to be found.

At the other side of the park cross the steep railway bridge, once on the other side, and after a few metres cross the brook via another bridge. This is the end of section 17.

To get to Enfield Lock station walk ahead to the end of Bradley Road, turn left and the station will be in sight on the left. Turn right for a bus stop - bus 121 will take you to Enfield and Oakwood stations.

