



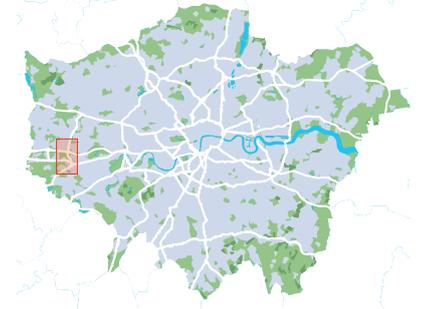
## London Loop

Section 10 of 24

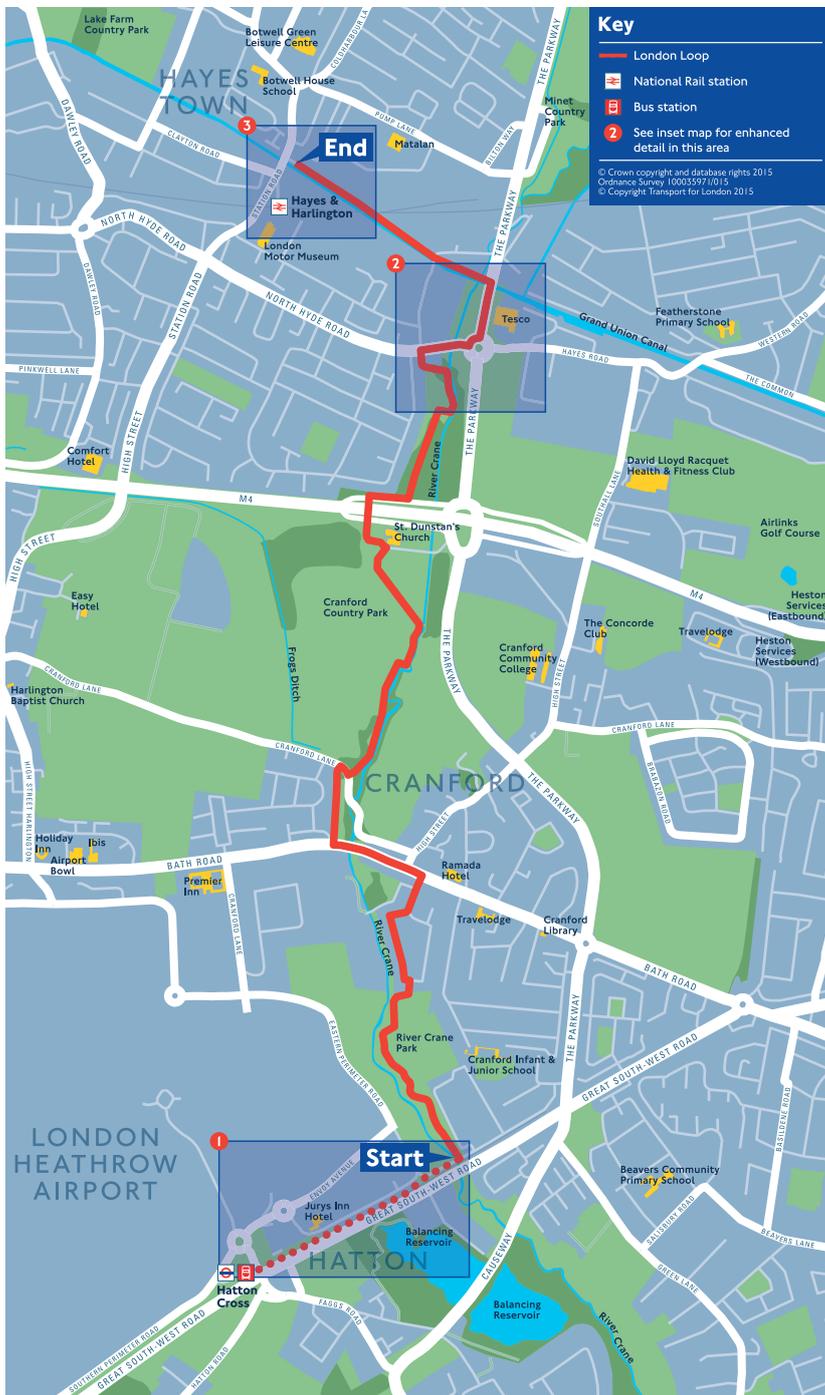
Hatton Cross to Hayes & Harlington



- Section start:** Hatton Cross
- Nearest station to start:** Hatton Cross
- Section finish:** Hayes & Harlington
- Nearest station to finish:** Hayes & Harlington
- Section distance:** 3.5 miles (6 kilometres)



### Introduction



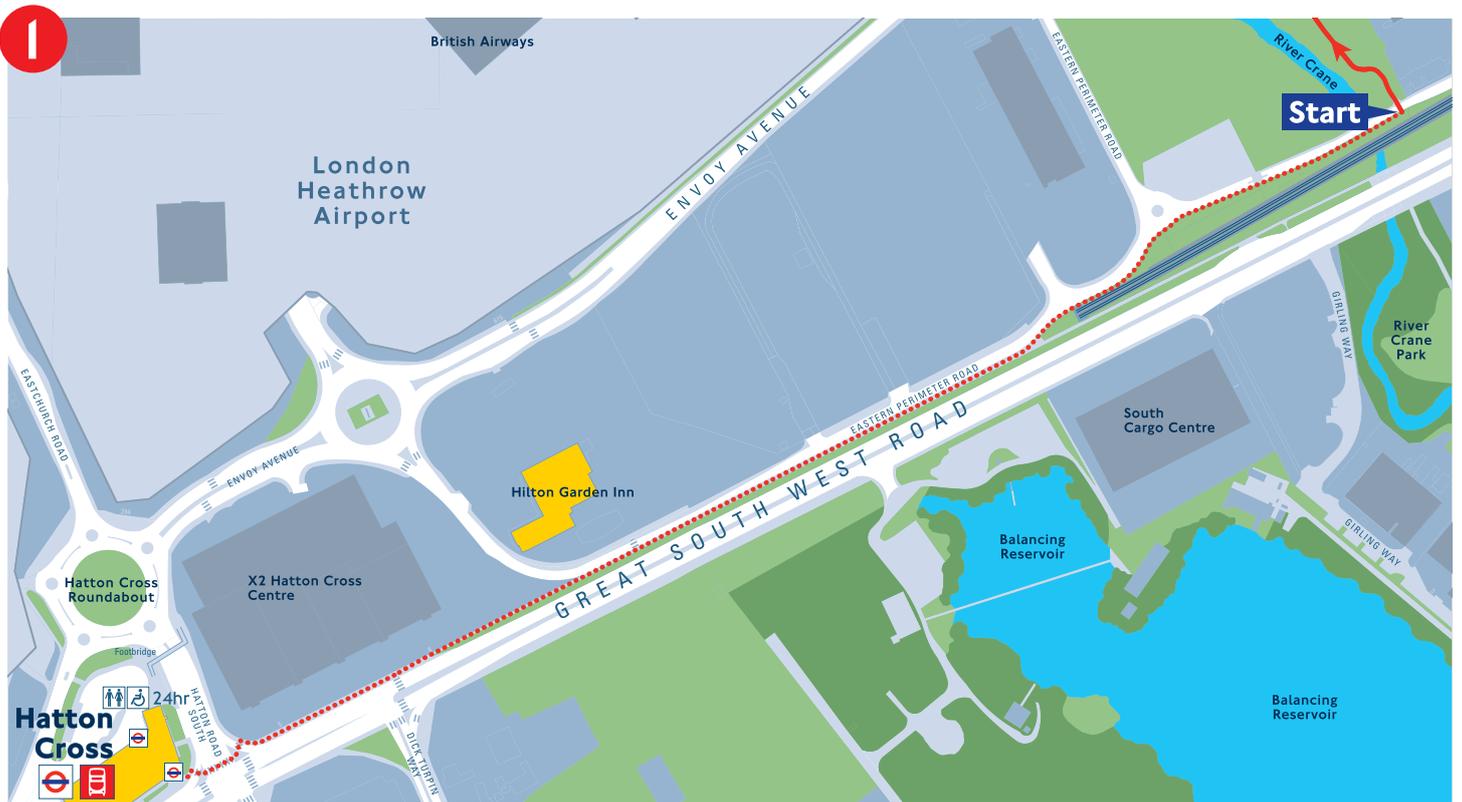
Despite the heavy traffic in this area and the multitude of planes arriving and leaving Heathrow, this shorter LOOP section includes much pleasant walking.

It is entirely on level ground, except for a spiral ramp onto the firm canal towpath. There is also a narrow rough path beside the River Crane.

Much of the route runs alongside the River Crane and a canal towpath taking in the former grounds of the Earl of Berkeley's mansion and the lush meadows of Cranford Park.

There are pubs and cafes at Hayes, and public toilets at Cranford Park Information Centre.

## Directions



**1** From Hatton Cross tube station, leave by the exit on the right leading to the Great South West Road, A30 (on the opposite side to the bus station). Once at the roadside of this busy dual carriageway turn left and cross at the pedestrian lights.

Continue straight ahead alongside the dual carriageway. The impressive British Airways hangars soon come into view on the left at Heathrow, one of the world's busiest airports.

The Eastern Perimeter service road comes in from the left to run parallel with the A30, with the footpath separating the two. Where the service road begins to curve away from the footpath again, cross over and follow the service road to the left of the large concrete wall.

Once at the small roundabout, continue straight ahead, ignoring the road to the left. Walk through the red and white barriers and continue over the small bridge which goes over the quietly flowing River Crane. After a few metres turn left to enter the River Crane Park.

### Did you know?

The park and water meadows provide an important habitat for wildlife and the area is managed to maintain the sites diversity. Nesting, roosting and hibernating sites have been provided for birds, bats, amphibians and reptiles. Despite the low-flying aircraft overhead there is a chance that you will catch a glimpse of a kingfisher or a green woodpecker.

Continue straight ahead through the barriers and past the Crane Bank information sign on the left. Following the reed-filled River Crane on the left, keep to the gravel path as it veers around to the left and then to the right passing occasional benches along the way. Go through the second barrier before turning left onto the gravel path in the open space.

The path soon veers right around trees to meet a third metal barrier on the left. Go through this barrier and leave the park between the houses. At Waye Avenue, turn left and follow the road around. All of these houses have double-glazed windows because they are right under the flight path of Heathrow Airport.

Turn left at the small three-way junction to meet the A4, Bath Road. Buses on Bath Road run to Hounslow West and Hounslow East tube stations, Southall station and Greenford tube station.

To continue, cross Bath Road via the crossing. Once on the other side, turn left and keep straight ahead along the Bath Road. Cross straight over the High Street and continue over Cranford Bridge.

### Did you know?

The lands of the former parish of Cranford once surrounded this area on both sides of the River Crane. There was a bridge at this particular crossing of Bath Road before 1274 and it was considered a 'principal highway' in 1593. This lovely brick three-arched bridge was built in 1776.

Where the green railings end (just before the slip road) turn right and enter under the arch into the Berkeley Meadows. Strike out across the open field past the children's play area. On the right is the River Crane again under a single arch brick bridge.

At the end of the grass strip go through the green kissing gate. Cross the road (Cranford Lane) carefully on the tight bend then turn right to follow the road. At the concrete kerb a few metres along turn left into the trees.

Follow the small path which ambles through the trees and over a small sleeper bridge. Veer left at the crossing of paths to continue following the Crane flowing on the right. Soon the path widens into a broad grassy strip and then opens into a large open field which is Cranford Park.

### Did you know?

Cranford Park was where the Berkeley family had their ancestral home from 1618-1918, in Cranford Manor House. In 1945 the decrepit house was demolished and the 180 acre park came under the management of Hounslow Council.

Follow the grass edge along to the right, following close to the river's edge. Soon there is a footbridge on the right which goes over the Crane. Do not go over it; instead bear diagonally left across the open field towards the left of the children's playground.

### Did you know?

To the left of the children's playground is the 18th Century ha-ha, a sunken wall and ditch that separated the gardens of the Earl of Berkeley's mansion from his 1,000-acre park. These types of 'walls' were created to give the impression from the main house of a continuous strip of land beyond the boundary.

Go through the gate and across the car park. Straight ahead is the ancient 16th century church of St. Dunstan's, with beautiful Georgian brickwork and some interesting graves.

### Did you know?

A church has stood here since the Saxon times and was once the chapel of the Knights Templar. The Berkeley family claimed ownership of this church by placing the Berkeley coat-of-arms in stone on the east end. The tower of flint is topped by brick and the whole nave was rebuilt in brick by the Dowager Duchess of Berkeley after a fire in 1710. Nearby is all that remains of a curved 17th century crinkle crankle wall (also known as a serpentine wall). These walls were built only one brick thick to save materials but because of its shape they were very strong and durable.

Turn left in front of the church and go straight ahead through the kissing gate. Immediately on the left is the information centre for Cranford Country Park.

### Did you know?

The beautifully restored 18th century stable blocks here are a reminder of what once was the headquarters of the Berkeley Hunt. This is the most impressive and complete part of the remaining buildings of Cranford Park House and gives some idea of the scale of the property.

Go through the further archway of the stables and continue straight ahead to pass under the M4 via the St. Dunstan's subway.

### Did you know?

In 1960 plans were made to route the M4 through the Parish, severing St. Dunstan's Church from the north of the Parish. Failed campaigning by the church to have the M4 re-routed ended in this pedestrian sub-way being built to enable parishioners to attend church.

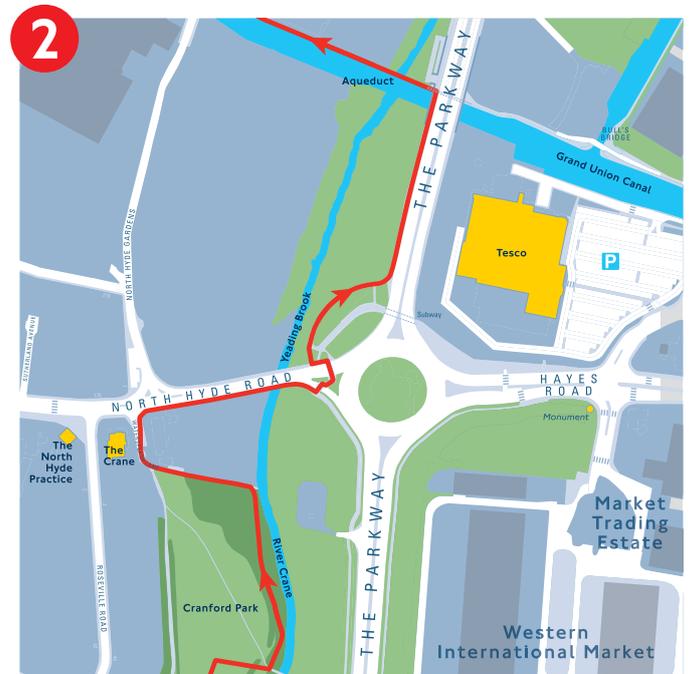
On the other side of the subway, turn immediately right and follow the path which passes through a pleasant area of young woodland known as Dog Kennel Covert. Take the fork leftward to veer away from the M4. Keep following the gravel path straight ahead, ignoring all other grass paths. When the path reaches a clearing turn right towards the Crane and then left to walk alongside it.

 **2** Leave the park through the kissing gate and head straight up the small Watersplash Lane to the Crane Pub on the left.

Turn right at the main road (North Hyde Road) and follow it to the large roundabout. At the first set of traffic lights cross North Hyde Road by the pedestrian crossing then follow the footpath and cycle path as it bears straight up the hill beside the dual carriageway, crossing over the famous Grand Union Canal.

### Did you know?

This canal opened in 1805 and began as the Grand Junction Canal, flowing to join the Thames at Brentford (on the right) and towards Birmingham (on the left).



Turn left after crossing the Grand Union Canal to follow the ramp as it winds down to the canal towpath.

For a very short diversion, if you turn left here you will see the gleaming whiteness of Bull's Bridge. In 1794, long before the main line of the Grand Junction Canal was complete, a branch from this point to Paddington was agreed to be created so London could join directly with the national canal network.

 **3** Turn right at the bottom of the ramp to follow the canal towards Birmingham. Go under the railway bridge and through the kissing gate. Continue as the path veers up over an orange brick bridge and then back down onto the towpath.

### Did you know?

The smell of burnt coffee lingers in the air - not surprisingly as the Nestle Coffee Factory is here on the left. This factory opened in 1938, one year after the world's first instant coffee was invented by Nestle.

This section ends at the road bridge that crosses the canal.

To leave the LOOP, take the steps up to the road to meet the Old Crown Pub. Turn left and go over the canal via the bridge and continue straight ahead through the roundabout. Hayes & Harlington station is on the left.

Section 11 to Uxbridge continues along the towpath.

