



London Loop

Section 9 of 24



Kingston Bridge to Hatton Cross

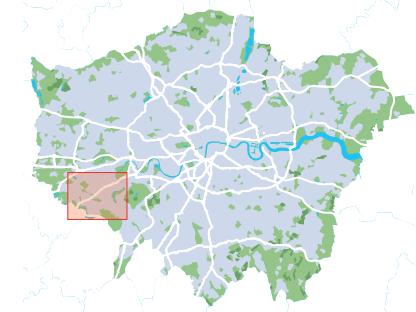
Section start: Kingston Bridge

Nearest station to start: Kingston

Section finish: Hatton Cross

Nearest station to finish: Hatton Cross

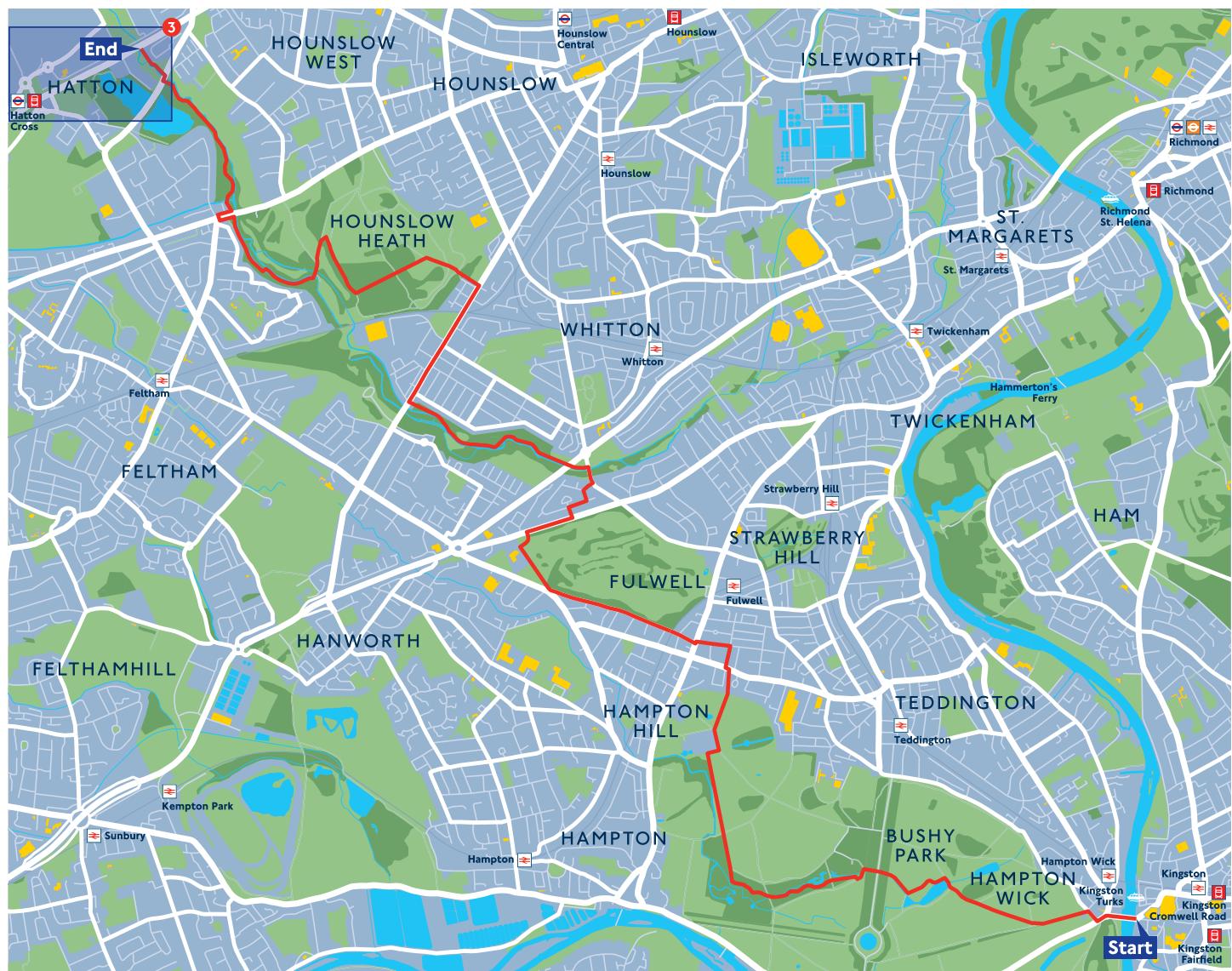
Section distance: 8.5 miles (13.5 kilometres)



Introduction

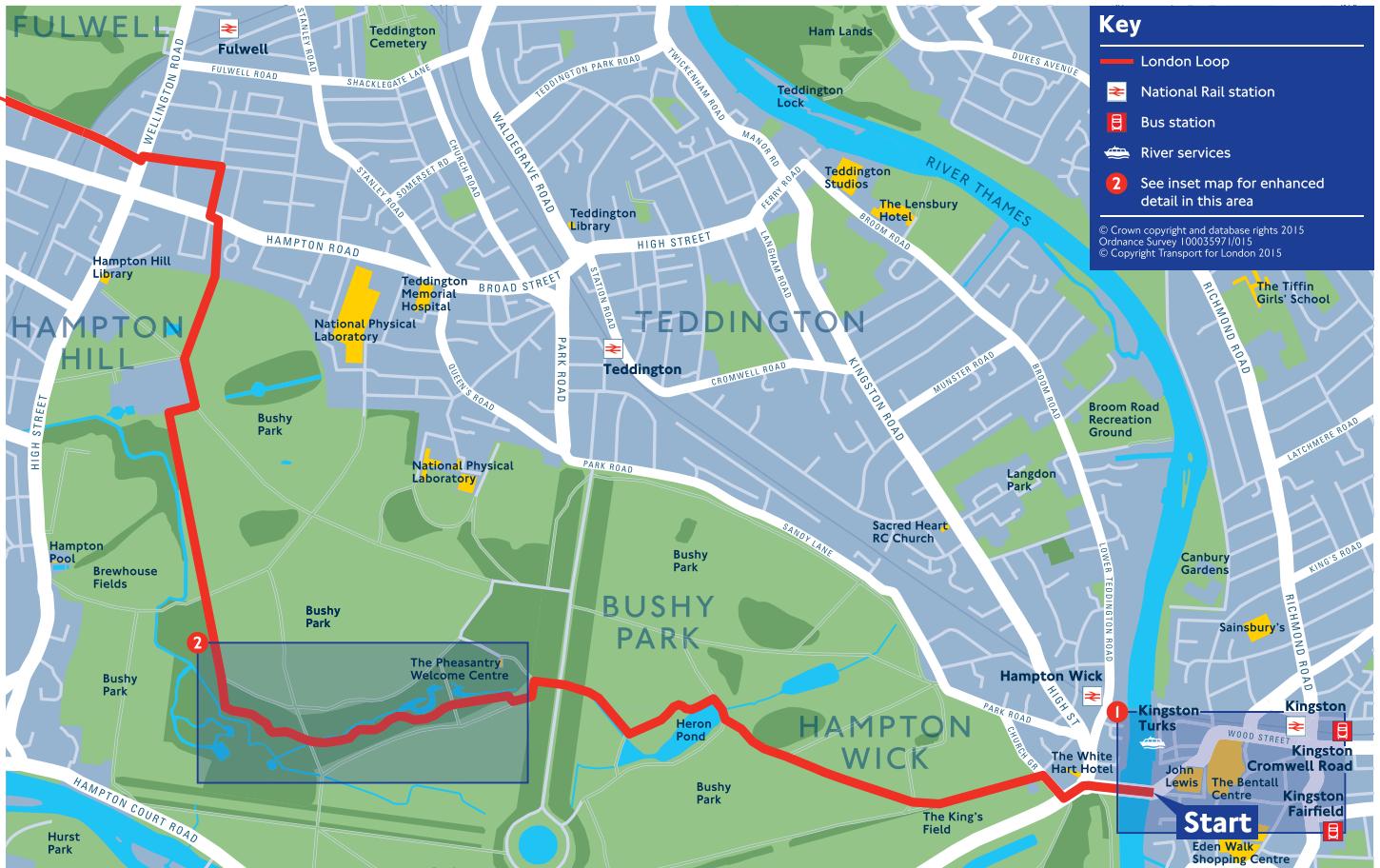
This section of the LOOP features easy walking with some extensive green stretches on entirely level ground, mostly on grass and rough footpaths. There is one stile. There are cafes and pubs along the route.

Points of interest on this section are Bushy Park, the Diana Fountain, Waterhouse Woodland Gardens, Crane Park, the Shot Tower and Hounslow Heath.



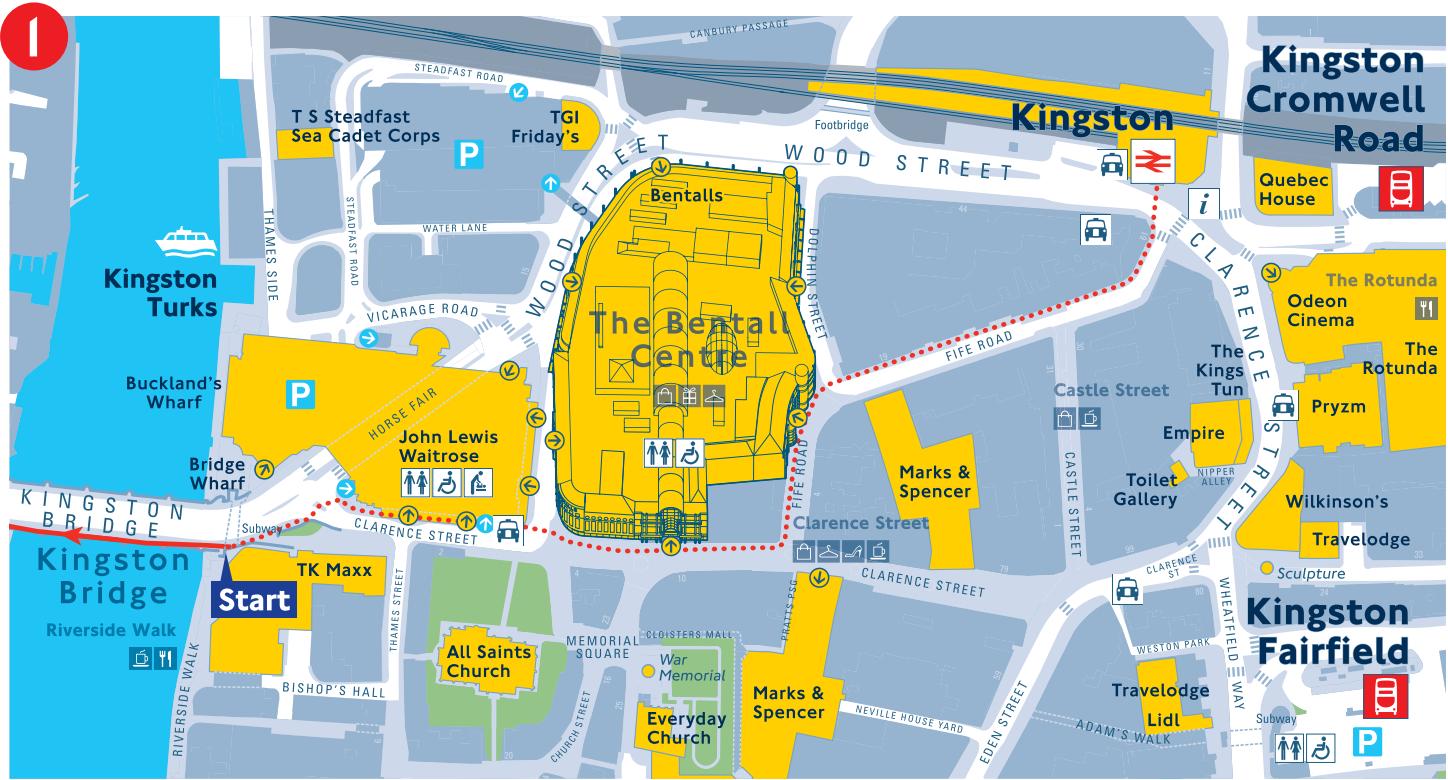


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Directions

If you are starting from Kingston station, upon exiting the station use the pedestrian crossing immediately ahead of you and continue ahead down Fife Road. Just past Marks & Spencer the road bends left into a pedestrianised section of the road. Take this to the end and turn right. Continue ahead along Clarence Street to Kingston Bridge.



Starting from the eastern (town) side of Kingston Bridge, cross over the River Thames. Continue straight and then bear left to pass a roundabout on the right. Just after the World War II memorial cross Hampton Court Road via the pedestrian crossing and then turn left.

Turn right into Church Grove and cross at the pelican crossing. Continue up the road to the Victorian St. John the Baptist church on the right. Opposite the church is a small wrought iron gate (known as Church Grove Gate) in the brick wall. Go through the gate to enter the impressive horse chestnut avenue of Bushy Park. Keep ahead then go through the big gate at the end of the track to expose a large expanse of open space.

Continue along the gravel path to pass the fenced-off cricket ground on the right, then take the path forking slightly right. Go straight over the gravel track and keep straight on through the long grassy fields towards the Oval Plantation.

Go over a crossing track and keep ahead through the bracken ferns aiming to skirt around the left-hand edge of the plantation. Once past the Plantation, turn left and head towards Heron Pond. At the pond, turn right following the path keeping the pond on your left.

Did you know?

Bushy Park is the second largest of the Royal Parks. Henry VIII originally stocked Bushy Park with deer and it became an important Royal hunting ground in Tudor times.

Keep close to its edge as the path crosses a boardwalk then heads rightwards. Ignore the small criss-crossed footbridge which shortly comes into view. Turn right and keep ahead through the bracken with the small watercourse following on the left. The broad grass track soon ends at a white railing with fence posts.

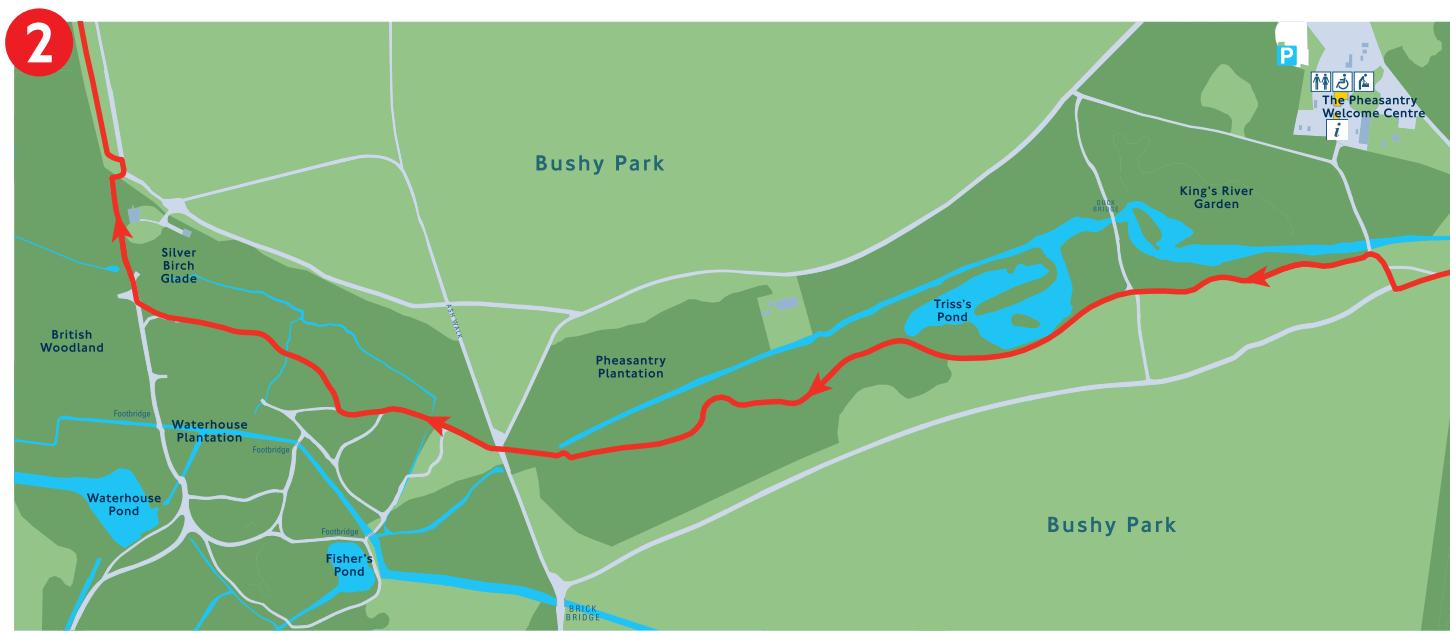
Bear left at the railing and head towards a large old water pump on a plinth in the trees. Continue on through the trees to emerge at Chestnut Avenue, with a single row of horse chestnut and four rows of lime trees which are from an earlier planting of 1622, during the reign of James I.

Did you know?

This mile-long avenue was conceived by Sir Christopher Wren. The horse chestnut trees in Chestnut Avenue flower in the late spring.

 To visit the Diana Fountain, turn left and walk along Chestnut Avenue. There are toilets beyond the Fountain to the left.

To continue cross directly over Chestnut Avenue and keep on through the trees to emerge at another white railing. It is here that the watercourse emerges from the other side of the road after it has been diverted underground. To meet up with this watercourse again as it disappears under the fence ahead, continue on the path just to its left then turn right to go through an unobtrusive wooden gate leading to the Waterhouse Woodland Gardens. For toilets, turn right to reach The Pheasantry Welcome Centre.



 ② Turn left to follow the winding path with the waterway on the right. Keep following the path past another bridge over the watercourse and a cottage. The path eventually ends at a fenced area where there is a gate to exit. On emerging at the clearing of trees, go straight to meet another gate leading into the next section of the Waterhouse Woodland Gardens beside the little keeper's hut.

Follow the path straight ahead before forking right, and then follow another right fork to emerge at a clearing and a footbridge. Go over the footbridge to reach a small lily pond and beyond it a cottage called River Lodge. Follow the path rightward around the pond and continue past River Lodge.

Keep straight on beside the fence line on the broad track through the trees. Go through the wooden gate to reach a crossing path known as Cobbler's Walk.

The route goes right here but it is worth making a short diversion leftward to see the Longford River. This is actually a canal, dug by hand over nine months in 1639 and it was an outstanding feat of engineering for its day.

To continue turn right and go through the gate to expose the vast open fields then turn left to follow the small path beside the fence line. Keep on this path as it heads to the bottom corner then turns right to pass nearby to Upper Lodge and meet the paved park road.

Turn left at the roadside and follow it until it makes a left turn. Bear right here onto the paved path and keep ahead, passing a small pond to the left.

At the end of the path exit Bushy Park through the metal gate and continue along the gravel track to meet Laurel Road on the left and Kings Drive ahead. Follow this road on its right to meet the busier Hampton Road ahead.

If you want to get a bus back to Kingston from here, cross the road and turn left to find the bus stop - route 285 (the R68 will take you to Twickenham and Richmond). Alternatively, Fullwell station is about a mile further along the route - take King's Road ahead, then first left into Connaught Road, right at Wellington Road and right into Clonmel Road, taking the footpath almost immediately on your left, which leads to the station.

To continue, cross Hampton Road and take King's Road ahead, then first left into Connaught Road. Cross Wellington Road and head straight down Burton's Road almost opposite. The road crosses a railway line (cross the road here to use the footpath opposite) and then continues following the trees of Fulwell Golf Course on the right.

Eventually Burton's Road ends to join up with the busy Uxbridge Road. Cross back over Burton's Road here and a few metres along is a metal gate on the right. Go through the gate onto the golf course and follow the path leftward in the open field before forking right to continue in the direction towards the large building of the golf club. The grass path turns into a gravel track and follows a green metal picket fence line.

Keep on the track as it turns into a paved path and veers right around the car park. Exit the golf club by the metal gate to meet Staines Road. Cross Staines Road and turn right. (From the bus stops on Staines Road you can get routes 290 or 490 to Twickenham).

Turn left into Court Close Avenue and then right into River Meads Avenue. Take the next left onto Bye Ways and then right along Willow Way to arrive at Hospital Bridge Road.

Turn left and follow the roadside as it goes over the River Crane. Once over the river, turn left a short distance along at the wrought iron gate to enter Crane Park.

Leave the path and trek left across the grass to find another path following close to the river's edge. Turn right and follow the Crane flowing on the left as the route goes through a subway under the Great Chertsey Road. Once through, the track divides. Take the track veering left to continue close to the river's edge.

 After a while the River Crane splits and the track goes rightwards up the short incline to expose a very interesting structure known as the Shot Tower.

Did you know?

The Shot Tower is a listed building and the remaining skeleton of an ancient gunpowder mill which was built in 1766. With 87 steps to the top of the tower, fabulous views of the tree canopy and beyond can be seen.

Continue to follow the river along the path straight ahead and eventually the path veers right to leave the park and arrives at the roadside of the A314 Hanworth Road. Turn right and continue until a pedestrian crossing enables you to cross. Follow the roadside as it passes the Duke of York pub on the right and Hounslow Cemetery on the left and then heads over the railway line.

Just after crossing Simpson Road turn immediately left into the open recreation ground and follow its left edge to the bottom corner. Take the track through the trees in the corner to emerge at a stile.

Go over the stile and continue straight ahead along the wide grassed track into the open space of Hounslow Heath Nature Reserve.

Did you know?

Hounslow Heath is the last surviving remnant of a once huge heath that covered most of south-west Middlesex.

The path goes slightly left and soon a small bench comes into view. Turn left shortly before the bench to follow the broad grass track as it goes over several crossings of tracks and then eventually turns rightwards.

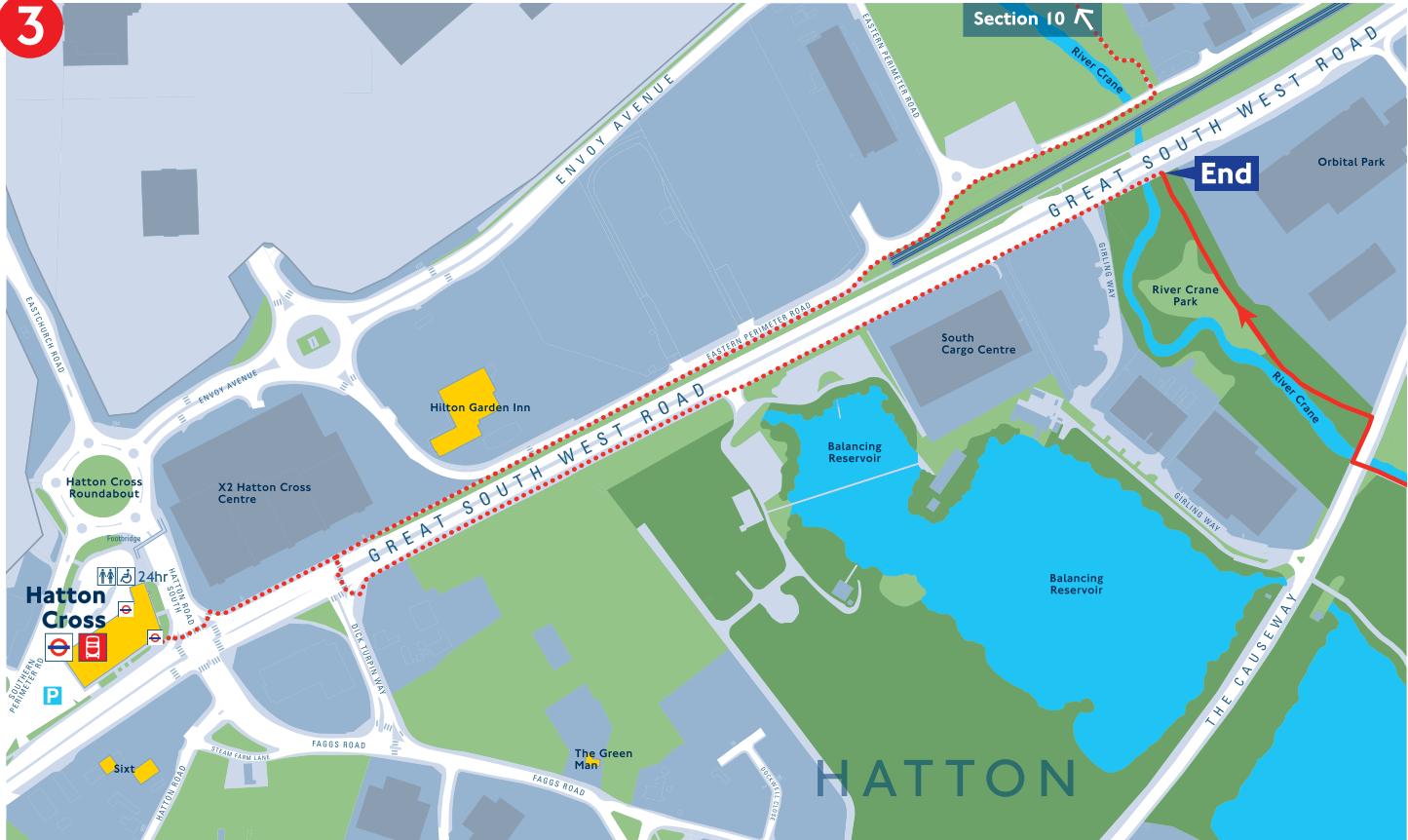
Follow the track straight on next to the line of trees on the left until eventually the trees open out slightly in a curve and reaches a junction of paths. Take the track going slightly left here through the trees and then turn left to follow the bottom of the gully with the golf course above on the right. Go straight ahead, ignoring the track leading off to the left, until the track comes out to a small section of Hounslow Heath Golf Course.

Carefully cross straight over the course and continue through a small section of trees and over a footbridge. Ignore the path left and continue, to meet the metal barrier and bridge going over the River Crane. Turn right once over the bridge to follow the path, always keeping the Crane close by on the right.

Keep along this path for some time until it eventually stops at a road bridge. Turn left just before the bridge and exit the woods via the metal barriers. This road is Staines Road and to the left here is a BP store. Cross directly over Staines Road, turn right and then just before the bridge turn left between the metal barriers to enter Donkey Wood. Follow the path as it goes over two footbridges over a weir.

Follow the path rightward as it goes over another wooden footbridge and continues. The path opens into a clearing with a lone bench and then the River Crane comes into view on the right. The path soon becomes a wooden boardwalk leading over a swampy part beside the Crane. At the end of the boardwalk continue over a small metal footbridge, through a kissing gate and then under a road bridge. Turn immediately left up the steps to the roadside, at the top of the steps turn left again to cross the bridge and the river.

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3 Go through the gap in the fence to the left into a wooded area with the river on the left. Eventually the path opens out at the busy roadside of the A30 Great South West Road where this section ends.

For Hatton Cross station, turn left along the A30 until you get to traffic lights. Cross here and continue along the other side of the road to the next junction - the station is just across the road.

If you are continuing on to Section 10 of the LOOP, this continues ahead on the other side but to reach this turn left along the A30 to the first set of traffic lights to cross the road, and return back on the other side of the road.