

An attractive and varied 5¾ mile circular walk from Chase Farm Hospital (buses W8, W9 and 313) which takes in three valleys formed by local streams: the Merryhills Brook, the Leeging Beech Gutter and Salmon's Brook. It has fine long distance views over Enfield Chase countryside, plus an optional extra ½ mile circuit of Williams Wood. There are shorter options using 121 and 307 buses: about 5 miles from The Jolly Farmers by accessing the Merryhills Way from either Camp Road opposite the pub or from Trentwood Side or about 4¼ miles from the Lakeside bus stop and using the path next to the riding stables.

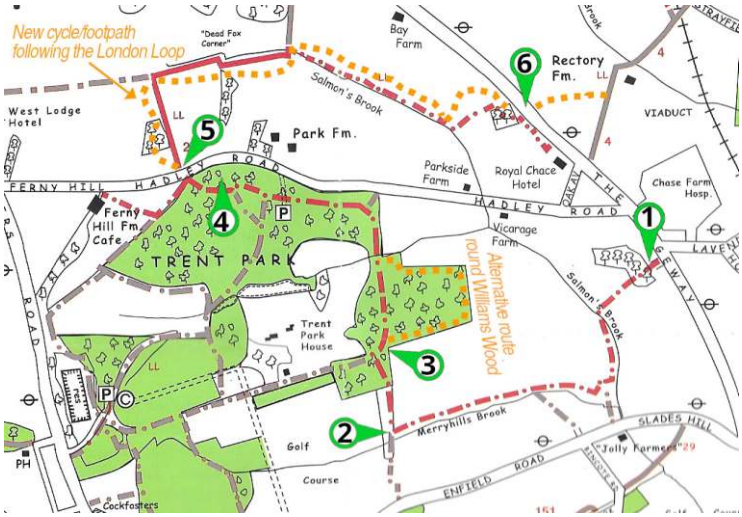
From The Ridgeway entrance to the hospital turn left along The Ridgeway, cross the road and after the petrol station enter Fairview Road. Go ahead onto the signed Merryhills Way public footpath ① which, after 25 yards,





bears left downhill through the wood to reach a pasture field. There are lovely views over Salmon's Brook valley towards Oakwood, Cockfosters, Trent Park and Botany Bay (picture, page top). Enfield Council's intention is to ruin this rural scene with housing.

Turn left along the field edge and at the first hedge turn right downhill. At the bottom turn left and, after about 100 yards, go right on a bridge over the stream and left into a small field that will be very muddy after wet weather to reach Camp Road. Straight across and from there the Merryhills Brook is on your left. The last field crossed has nesting larks in the Spring.



When you reach the edge of Trent Park (about 1½ miles from start) turn right uphill ②, either within the hedged pedestrian path or on the horse track, but please keep dogs on leads. After Shaws Wood on your left you reach the corner of Williams Wood ③. At this point there are fine views southwards towards The Shard and the City.





You then have two options. Either, turn left for 50 yards and then right on a good surfaced pedestrian track that goes downhill for about 500 yards to reach Leeging Beech Gutter. Otherwise, continue along the horse track around the inside edge of Williams Wood, with more long distance views over the fields that could be covered in housing too, ultimately, meet the point where the Gutter goes under the shorter option pedestrian track mentioned in the previous sentence.

In both instances, cross the Gutter and walk northwards uphill on a wide pedestrian track that after 350 yards turns left to go parallel with Hadley Road. Follow this track and cross two car park access tracks to reach Trent Park information boards. Continue straight ahead and after 250 yards you will see on your right the fence to Camlet Moat ④. Go through the small entrance gate to walk around the moat and exit via another gate further west. The notice boards inform readers that Camlet Moat is a well preserved example of a "modest medieval rural moated site" dating back to at least 1357.

Exit onto the London Loop track, turn right and then



bear right out to Hadley Road. Turn left for 100 yards along the narrow pavement to reach public footpath 276 (the London Loop). For refreshments, continue along Hadley Road to reach Ferny Hill Farm café.

Otherwise, cross Hadley Road to enter either the hedge-



lined pedestrian path or use the newly constructed combined use walking/cycle track ⑤ that goes through Ash Wood. Both go downhill with good views and they join together near Salmon's Brook. Then turn right and follow this combined use track for about 1¾ miles to reach Brooke Wood and The Ridgeway near the now closed Royal Chace Hotel.

Before entering Brooke Wood look back at the glorious





view westwards towards the high ground of Wrotham Park beyond the Barnet to Potters Bar road (picture top of page). After leaving the Wood there is a view towards Alexandra Palace and London. Cross The Ridgeway very carefully and turn right to the hospital.

Over the past year the London Loop between Hadley Road and The Ridgeway has been significantly diverted from the original route with improved vistas from the landscape changes and hopefully resolving the flooding problems. Thousands of trees have been planted along the valley, new wetland sites created and, with seating and picnic areas, the route is now more user friendly although, admittedly, it has lost some of its original rural charm. When you exit onto The Ridgeway ⑥ there is now open a further two field section of the combined use track providing a link to Rectory Farm Road (please close the gates).

Enfield Society Footpaths map

This popular map covering the whole borough can be purchased for £5 plus p&p from The Enfield Society website

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If you'd like to see open, green countryside rather than 21,000 new houses, visit **actionforenfieldsfuture.org.uk**

ACTION FOR ENFIELD'S FUTURE

From the northern edge of Williams Wood there are fine views towards Hadley Road

