

# Beyond the End of the Line

26 Walks from the  
Terminus Stations of  
the London Underground



District Line train  
at Upminster

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### **Disclaimer**

The walk descriptions are believed to be correct at the time of printing. However, things do not always stay the same and the author does not accept responsibility for any subsequent changes in detail. While the walks are suitable for anyone with a reasonable level of fitness, liability cannot be accepted for any personal loss or injury which might occur when using this guide.

### **Maps**

The overview map for each walk contains information from Open Street Map. This is open data licensed under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL) by the OpenStreetMap Foundation (OSMF). OpenStreetMap and its contributors are hereby credited. The author's own sketch maps, which illustrate the walks, are intended to be used in conjunction with the walk descriptions and are not necessarily to scale.

*All the walks in this book are available online at  
[www.beyondtheendoftheline.co.uk](http://www.beyondtheendoftheline.co.uk)*



*The photo of Little Britain Lake (cover and p.19) was taken by Andrew Bowden. The photo of Heathrow Terminal 5 (p.22) was taken by Warren Rohner. Both photos have been cropped to fit and are reproduced under the terms of the Attribution-ShareAlike Generic licence (CC BY-SA 2.0). The photos of Walthamstow Wetlands (p.87 and p.89) are courtesy of the London Borough of Waltham Forest.*

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## Introduction

The idea for this book was sparked on a winter's day in 2016 on the platform at Bond Street Underground Station, when the indicator boards piqued my curiosity about the end points of the London Underground. As a commuter, a walker and a lover of all things London, I was inspired to investigate what lay beyond those intriguing locations, which for me exert a gentle pulling power. In particular, was there a walking route to explore at every destination? Over the next 18 months, I travelled the underground network and compiled a collection of walks from terminus stations. My intention was always to make these available to others and I did this first through a website. I am now delighted to publish this book, which contains 26 walks from the terminus points of the London Underground.

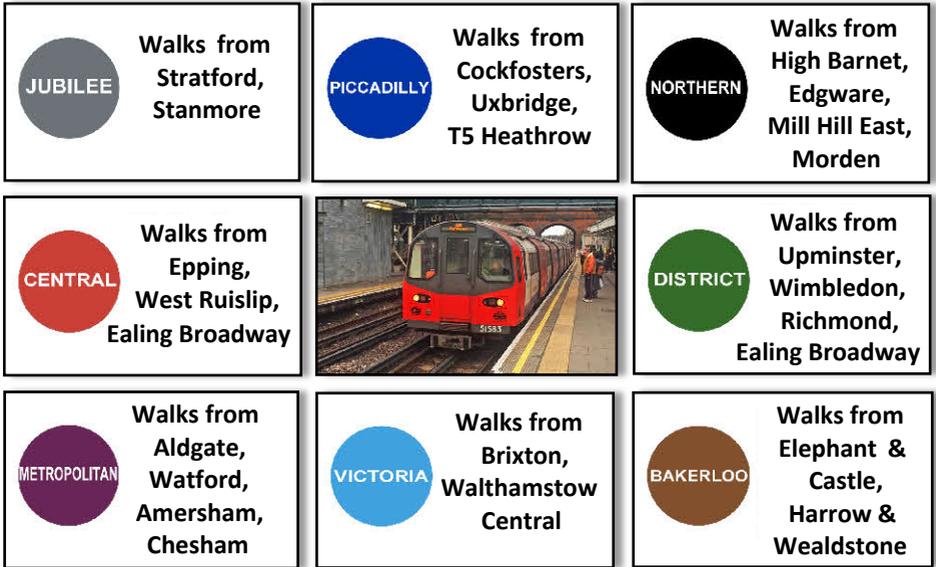
Because they radiate from terminus stations, these routes are closely associated with the towns and boroughs to which the underground extends. However, they make best use of open spaces and rapidly shrug off street-walking for footpaths, tracks and towpaths through parks and heaths, fields and woods, and along rivers and canals. On many of them you will experience solitude and see local wildlife. Sometimes, an occasional dog walker is the only other person you will meet along the way. The routes which are nearer to Central London have generous park and waterside stretches and also benefit from passing close to many tourist attractions. Only four are circular. The rest are linear, but always finish where there is an underground, DLR or mainline station for return travel. They make use of public footpaths and rights of way and are suitable for anybody of reasonable fitness. I hope this book will inspire you to get out and explore London *beyond the end of the line*.



# The Walks by Line

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## The London Underground

The London Underground has its origins in the Metropolitan Railway, the world's first underground railway, which opened in 1863. The network has since expanded to eleven lines (the eight featured in this book, plus the Circle Line, the Hammersmith & City Line and the Waterloo & City Line). In 2018, 1.3 billion passenger journeys were registered on the network.

### The Lines

**The Jubilee Line**, completed in 1979, is the newest line on the London Underground. It runs for 22 miles from Stanmore in the north to Stratford in the east and has 27 stations, which cope with around 200 million passenger journeys a year. The Jubilee Line is coloured silver on the Tube map to mark the Silver Jubilee of Elizabeth II, after which the line is named.

**The Piccadilly Line** dates back to 1906 and began life as the Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton Railway. Its northern terminus is Cockfosters. In the west of London it extends to Uxbridge and also serves the terminals of Heathrow Airport. The total length of line is 44 miles and the number of annual passenger journeys exceeds 220 million.

**The Northern Line** has a complex history and the current configuration of two northern branches, two central tracks and one southern line reflects its origins as three separate railways, which were combined in the early 20th century. It is one of the few lines to go south of the river, where it terminates at Morden. It has 50 stations, more than 36 miles of track and more than 250 million passengers journeys a year.

## The Lines

**The Metropolitan Line** has 34 stations and a track length of 42 miles, constructed using 'cut and cover'. With termini at Amersham and Chesham, it is one of two lines extending beyond Greater London. In the 1920s, the dream of home ownership with a fast railway link to London was promoted in 'Metro-Land', land owned by the railway in the lovely countryside of Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Middlesex.

**The District Line** has 40 miles of track, serves 60 stations and handles over 208 million annual passenger journeys. It shares platforms and track with the Circle Line for much of the latter's route. It runs from Upminster in the east to Earls Court, where it splits into four branches, which go to Edgware Road, Wimbledon, Richmond and Ealing Broadway. Like the Metropolitan Line, the tunnels are just below the surface.

**The Bakerloo Line** runs for less than 15 miles, having relinquished its Stanmore branch to the Jubilee Line after 1979. Nevertheless, it has 25 stations and more than 100 million passenger journeys a year. It ran originally from Baker Street to Lambeth North via Waterloo, hence its name. Baker Street station is of major architectural and historical interest with its original Victorian and Art Deco features.

**The Victoria Line** is the shortest of the London Underground lines featured in this book. It runs entirely below ground for 13 miles and serves 16 stations. The journey between Walthamstow Central and Brixton takes only 30 minutes and at peak times trains run every 100 seconds. It was the first new underground line to be built in 50 years and was officially opened in 1969 by Queen Elizabeth.

**The Central Line** runs across London on an east-west axis. It has 49 stations and 46 miles of track. With its eastern terminus at Epping, it is the other line on the London Underground network which extends beyond the boundary of Greater London. It was the third deep-level tube line to be built after the advent of electric trains and it is the busiest on the Underground, with more than 260 million annual passenger journeys.



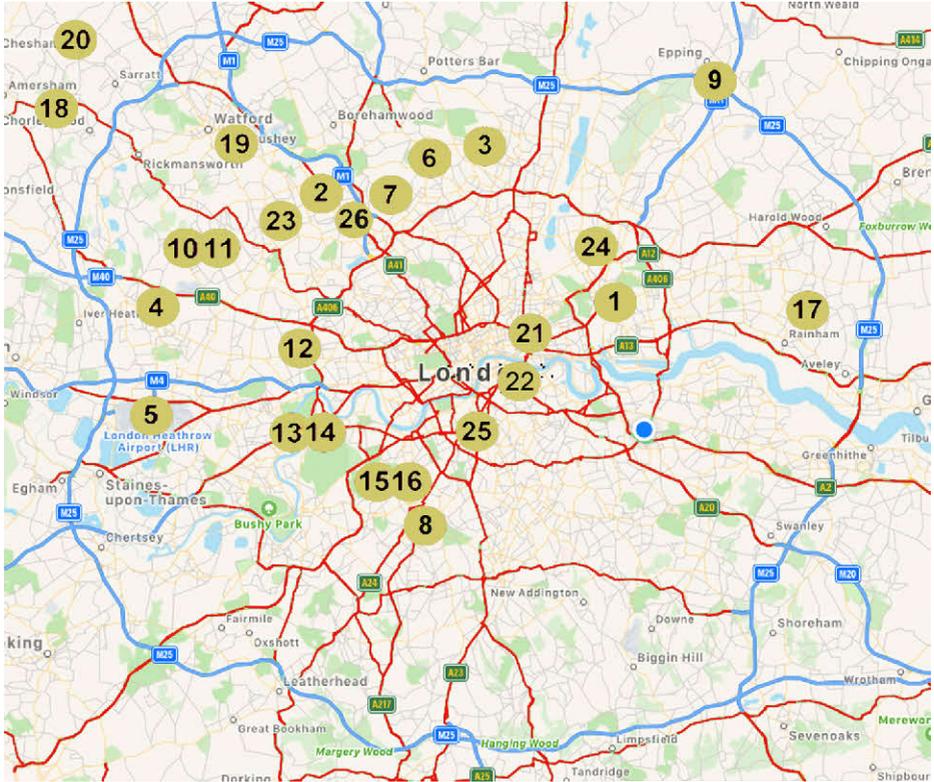
Central Line  
Train at Bond Street



Metropolitan Line  
Train at Chesham

## Location of the Walks

Most of the London Underground terminus stations are in North London, which means that only seven walks in this book start south of the River Thames. The walks at Amersham and Chesham are located entirely outside Greater London. Richmond, West Ruislip and Wimbledon have two walks each.



1	Stratford	10	West Ruislip	19	Watford
2	Stanmore	11	West Ruislip	20	Chesham
3	Cockfosters	12	Ealing Broadway	21	Aldgate
4	Uxbridge	13	Richmond	22	Elephant&Castle
5	Heathrow T5	14	Richmond	23	Harrow & Wealdstone
6	High Barnet	15	Wimbledon	24	Walthamstow
7	Mill Hill East	16	Wimbledon	25	Brixton
8	Morden	17	Upminster	26	Edgware
9	Epping	18	Amersham		

## The Walks by Distance

Km	To the nearest half mile	Start and Finish Points	Walk No.	Page
6 km	4 miles	Elephant & Castle to Green Park	22	80
6 km	4 miles	Brixton to Herne Hill	25	90
6.5 km	4 miles	Cockfosters Circular	3	16
6.5 km	4 miles	High Barnet to Cockfosters	6	26
6.5 km	4 miles	Edgware to Mill Hill East	26	93
7 km	4.5 miles	West Ruislip to Northwood Hills	10	39
7.5 km	4.5 miles	Wimbledon to Putney	16	59
8 km	5 miles	Stratford to Limehouse Basin	1	10
8 km	5 miles	Stanmore Circular	2	13
8 km	5 miles	Richmond to Boston Manor	14	53
8 km	5 miles	Upminster to Rainham	17	62
9 km	5.5 miles	Wimbledon to Kingston	15	56
9 km	5.5 miles	Walthamstow to Tottenham Hale	24	87
10 km	6 miles	Uxbridge Circular	4	19
10 km	6 miles	Richmond to Barnes	13	50
10 km	6 miles	Aldgate to Greenwich Cutty Sark	21	76
10.5 km	6.5 miles	High Barnet to Arnos Grove	6	26
10.5 km	6.5 miles	Morden to Waddon Ponds	8	32
10.5 km	6.5 miles	Heathrow Terminal 5 to Staines	5	22
11 km	7 miles	Watford to Chorleywood	19	69
11 km	7 miles	Chesham to Little Chalfont	20	73
12.5 km	8 miles	Mill Hill East Circular	7	29
13 km	8 miles	Ealing Broadway to Boston Manor	12	46
13 km	8 miles	Amersham to Beaconsfield	18	65
14.5 km	9 miles	Harrow & Wealdstone to Stanmore	23	83
14.5 km	9 miles	West Ruislip to Rickmansworth	11	42
15 km	9.5 miles	Epping to Chingford	9	35

## Walk 1 from Stratford

### To Limehouse Basin via the Olympic Park, Victoria Park and the Regent's Canal



<b>Distance</b>	8 km (5 miles)
<b>Underfoot</b>	Mostly on paved surfaces
<b>Outward Journey</b>	Jubilee Line to Stratford (about 30 minutes from Central London)
<b>Return</b>	DLR from Limehouse
<b>Points of Interest</b>	Olympic Park, Victoria Park, Regent's Canal
<b>Refreshments</b>	Westfield Stratford, Victoria Park café, pubs at Limehouse
<b>Public Toilets</b>	Stratford Station, Westfield, Victoria Park
<b>Shortening the Walk</b>	Buses from several points along the route

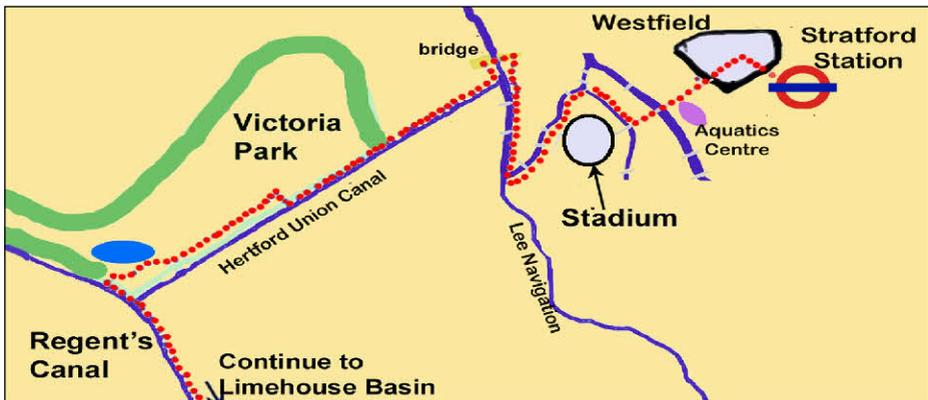
*This walk is always close to water. It starts by taking you through the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, past the Aquatics Centre and the London Stadium, hosts to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. You then walk along an arm of the River Lea to reach the Lee Navigation at Old Ford Lock. Later, the Hertford Union Canal leads you to Victoria Park, with its lake and green open spaces. You join the towpath of the Regent's Canal going south to Limehouse Basin, where there is a choice of pubs, including The Grapes. You can return from Limehouse DLR or walk on to Canary Wharf via the Thames Path.*

1. From the Jubilee Line platforms, go across the concourse and down the steps into the underpass, following the signs for Westfield and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Go up the escalator at the far end and leave the station by the entrance to Westfield. To access toilets and refreshments, go inside through the doors to your left. To start the walk, stay outside and go diagonally right towards a small sign for the Olympic Park, where you go left up the escalator to the next level. At the top, go ahead for a few metres and then turn half-right to walk along The Street, a high level shop-lined walkway. At a fork by an obelisk, with John Lewis to your right, keep left. Cross Westfield Avenue at the lights and continue straight ahead towards the London Stadium, passing the Aquatics Centre on your left.

2. Walk for about 300m, crossing a wide bridge. Just before a second bridge, near the entrance to the Stadium, turn right onto a narrow path that slopes down to the river. Bear right along the river towards a metal humpback bridge. Cross the bridge, following the signs for Hackney Wick and Old Ford Lock. Continue with the river now on your right and the London Stadium on your left. Just after going under a road bridge and two large black pipes, turn right over a footbridge at the junction of the river with the Lee Navigation, next to Old Ford Lock. Keep right at the lock and walk along the towpath with the Navigation on your left. After 500m you reach a bridge with a sign for White Post Lane. Cross over to the opposite bank and go left, back the way you came, but on the other side of the river. Follow the towpath as it turns right along the Hertford Union Canal.



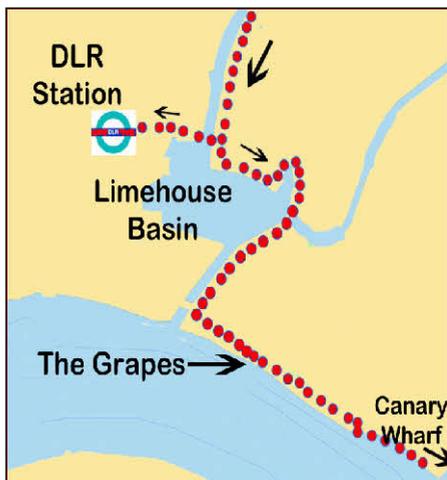
Ford Lock. Continue with the river now on your right and the London Stadium on your left. Just after going under a road bridge and two large black pipes, turn right over a footbridge at the junction of the river with the Lee Navigation, next to Old Ford Lock. Keep right at the lock and walk along the towpath with the Navigation on your left. After 500m you reach a bridge with a sign for White Post Lane. Cross over to the opposite bank and go left, back the way you came, but on the other side of the river. Follow the towpath as it turns right along the Hertford Union Canal.



3. Walk for 1 km, past three locks, until you see the railings of Victoria Park on your right. Continue on the towpath and after going under another bridge, turn right up a ramp and then go left to enter the park through Gunmaker's Gate. Turn left on a broad drive and walk to the end of this section of the park. Cross the road and enter the next section. Arrive at the lake and the Pavilion Café. Turn left along the lakeside for about 200m.

4. At the corner turn left and follow the signs for the Regent's Canal. Turn left (south) along the canal towpath and follow it for 3 km until you reach Limehouse Basin. To find the DLR station, turn right on a footbridge over the canal. The station is ahead of you.

5. To visit The Grapes, do not cross the footbridge, but go forward to the edge of Limehouse Basin. Turn left and follow the edge of the water until you reach a metal footbridge. Cross the bridge and go ahead along the dockside. Pass the large lock gates which allow boats to access the River



Thames at high tide. Turn left here into Narrow Street. The Grapes is 200m further on.

6. After leaving the pub, make your way back to Limehouse DLR Station. Alternatively, turn right along Narrow Street and after 200m pass between buildings to reach the river. Turn left for a fifteen-minute walk to Canary Wharf, where you can access the Jubilee Line and the DLR, as well as River Boat services.

**The River Lee (or Lea)** is a river that has been extensively improved for navigation. It rises in the Chiltern Hills and runs for 56 miles to join the Thames at Bow Creek. Commercial traffic ended in the 1980s and the Lee Valley Park now provides green open spaces and many recreational opportunities. Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler* (1653) features the River Lea as the setting for a discussion on the merits of fishing.

**The Regent's Canal** runs for 9 miles from Paddington to Limehouse, passing through Camden Lock and Little Venice. It once carried huge quantities of goods into London. Nowadays, it has found a new lease of life and is popular with walkers and cyclists, who enjoy its alternating pockets of tranquility and vibrant cultural life.

**The Grapes** is a Grade II listed building perched beside the Thames and flanked by former warehouses. It is one of the oldest pubs in London. According to Sir Ian McKellen, a leaseholder of the pub, Dickens was a regular visitor and The Grapes is the model for the inn described in the opening chapter of *Our Mutual Friend*.

# Walk 2 from Stanmore

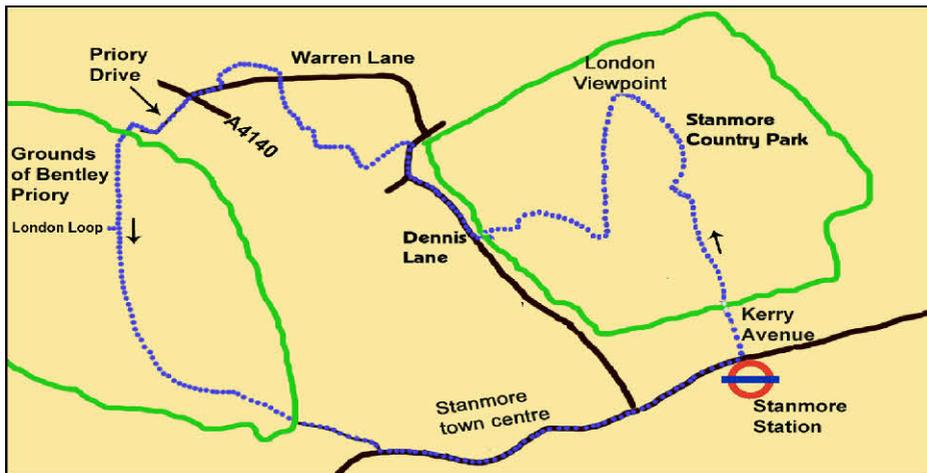
## Circular Walk via Stanmore Country Park



<b>Distance</b>	8 km (5 miles)
<b>Underfoot</b>	Paved surfaces and footpaths
<b>Outward Journey</b>	Jubilee Line to Stanmore (about 30 minutes from Central London)
<b>Return Journey</b>	By outward route
<b>Points of Interest</b>	Stanmore Hill, Bentley Priory Park
<b>Refreshments</b>	Café in Stanmore
<b>Public Toilets</b>	Stanmore Station
<b>Shortening the Walk</b>	Bus to Stanmore Station from the half-way point at the junction of Warren Lane with the A4140

*This walk explores the countryside north of Stanmore. Its highlight is the view from Stanmore Hill, which at 152m is one of the highest points in London. On a clear day, you will see for 20 miles and the view takes in Canary Wharf, the Shard and Wembley Stadium. The walk then joins up with the London Loop and follows it into the grounds of Bentley Priory, where you pass a deer sanctuary before returning to Stanmore.*





1. Outside Stanmore Station cross the A410 at the pedestrian traffic lights. Turn right along the footpath for a few steps, then go left through a gap in the hedge and straight ahead up Kerry Avenue. Cross over Valencia Road and continue up Kerry Avenue North to a wooden gate, where you enter Stanmore Country Park (SCP). Ignore a small path to the right and continue to a marker post (SCP24). The London Loop turns left here, but you go straight ahead uphill. In a grassy clearing, ignore a sign showing a path going right and a marker post (SCP17). Continue straight ahead, veering left to leave the woods through a kissing gate, shortly after a path coming in from the right.

2. A few metres further on, you reach a bench by a broad crossing track with a prominent signpost and waymarks to the left and right. Ignore these and go straight ahead, behind the post, on a narrow path leading slightly uphill. At a T-junction with another broad crossing track, turn right and follow the track as it curves uphill towards some red brick

houses which soon appear on the skyline. Continue ahead to the top of Stanmore Hill and arrive at the London Viewpoint with its panorama board.

3. On leaving the viewpoint, ignore the gravel track going towards the houses (signposted Wood Lane Car Park) and take the grassy track downhill, just beyond the panorama board, signposted Stanmore Country Park and Station. Keep right at a fork to go more steeply downhill. At the bottom, bear right down a narrow path leading to steps and a small bridge which takes you into the woods.

4. Passing marker post 11, go straight ahead uphill on a path between the trees. At the top, bear left by the fingerpost for a Nature Trail. When you reach a grassy clearing, look for a London Loop marker post partly concealed by foliage. Turn right here on the London Loop and exit the country park via a gate leading you out onto a road (Dennis Lane). Still following the London Loop, turn right uphill on the road. When you reach a

T-junction, you turn right again and are soon walking alongside a high brick wall. Ignore a green footpath fingerpost on the opposite side of the road, but look out for a London Loop sign, just in front of the entrance to Harrow Rugby Football Club. Cross the road and take the path going left, marked with a blue arrow on the two-way London Loop sign. The path leads at a sharp angle away from the road, and takes you along the side of a large pond to your left.

5. Where the fence enclosing the pond goes left, take the right-hand path, which soon leads to a grassy area in front of a row of houses. Turn right here towards the London Loop sign at the end of the row. Continue on the Loop as it turns left just before the rugby pitch. Follow the path, which skirts right and later left round the edge of some more ponds, till you reach a small car park and a road (Warren Lane). Cross the road to take a path directly opposite and swing left through the woods. You then reach another car park. Walk out to the road (Warren Lane again) and turn right to reach the junction with the A4140. At this point, which is about half-way through the walk, you can catch a bus back to Stanmore Station.

6. To continue the walk, cross the road and enter Priory Drive. Walk to the end and turn right. After passing a large house called Green Tiles, turn left on a path to Common Road, which leads up to Bentley Priory Nature Reserve. While walking through this Site of Special Scientific Interest, keep your eyes open for its diverse wild flower mix

and the relatively uncommon birds found there, including buzzards, spotted flycatchers and bullfinches. In summer, birds such as whitethroat, blackcap, chaffinch and willow warbler can be heard. Continue through the gate by the welcome sign to enter the park. Shortly after, next to two information boards, the London Loop turns right, signposted to Harrow Weald. You, however, leave the London Loop here and go straight ahead on the asphalt path, following the sign for Stanmore Church. Your path now goes along the perimeter fence of a large deer enclosure.

7. At the far end of the deer park, continue ahead through a wooden gate. After more woodland, the track takes you across a stretch of open land to a metal gate, where you leave Bentley Priory Park to go down the residential road directly ahead (Old Lodge Way). Follow this to a T-junction with the A410 (Uxbridge Road), where you turn left. Here you can either take the H12 bus to Stanmore Station or walk along the main road to the centre of Stanmore, with its shops and cafés, and then on to the station, altogether about 1.5 km.

