

goes through them, with Whipps Cross Road on the left. A number of houses were combined to form the Alfred Hitchcock Hotel. Beyond that is a Hindu temple. On the Leyton Flats side you will reach the two teahuts and the end of James Lane, where this walk started.

Note of Caution : You are advised not to speak to strangers. Young people should be especially cautious.

Length of the walk : roughly 2 hours

This is a circular walk which can be started and finished at any point on the circuit.

Accessibility : This route is unsuitable for wheelchairs because some footpaths are too narrow. There are 2 short steep slopes, otherwise the walk is on level ground. In wet weather some sections will become waterlogged and wellington boots will be needed. Parts will be muddy for most of the year.

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**A walk around
Hollow Ponds**



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The walk may be started and finished at any point. This description begins at teahuts, one of them called the Lakeside Diner, roughly opposite the junction with James Lane. There is car-parking.

Walk with Whipps Cross Road on your left and the main "Hollow Pond" on your right, either on the cycle track or the path through trees and shrubs. You will come to the building from which rowing boats are hired out. Turn right round the end of the Pond, but not further than a small promontory with oak trees and with water on 3 sides. Turn your back to the pond and, close to thick holly bushes on your left, take a path through trees to an open glade. A path leaves the glade at the other side to reach Whipps Cross Roundabout. On the other side of the roundabout is a tall old building, Forest Lodge, 900 Lea Bridge Road E10 ('locally listed'), now occupied by the Territorial Army, with a war memorial. Turn right along the pavement, passing a pond on the right, to reach Snaresbrook Road. From this junction, closed to vehicles with a gate, a pebble and tarmac track leads back into the shrubs and trees. (See Note of Caution at the end.) Follow the track when it takes a turn to the left, and then use a footpath to climb the mound. This covers the Whipps Cross Lido, an open-air 100 yard length swimming-pool closed in the early 1980s. Walk the length of the mound and down the other side into the trees. Turn right to the main Pond, then turn left. At the corner of the Pond, turn half-left through the middle of the gorse-edged grassy open space to reach a car park (see Note of Caution at the end).

In dry weather, turn round so that the car park and Snaresbrook Road are directly behind you, and ahead is a large grass space. Take a path half-left (diagonally left). Bend slightly to the left to reach a horse chestnut tree and the Eagle Pond, which has many ducks. In wet weather, go through the car park, turn right into Snaresbrook Road and along the pavement. When you reach the Eagle Pond, turn right along the water edge to the prominent horse chestnut tree.

Having seen Eagle Pond and its wildfowl, head into the trees, keeping on your left the pond and the steel fence protecting the grounds of Snaresbrook Crown

Court. In this section, near thick hollybushes, is a flat circular stone wellhead and a stubby upright stone marker by it. Follow the steel fence with views of the court buildings on the left and on the right Leyton Flats - the name means the flat land in Leyton Parish. As you approach Hollybush Hill with houses on the far side, follow the path as it swings right, rather than the fence which swings the other way. At the path junction turn left towards a flat-fronted building with 3 windows across the upper storey.

Cross Hollybush Hill to a long brick wall, which is part of the bridge over the Central Line railway. Turn right and with the wall on your left walk to the junction, marked by a tall stone, the "Leytonstone". On the Hollybush Hill side this reads : "To Epping XI miles through Woodford, Loughton". On the other side (New Wanstead) the stone reads "To Ongar XV miles, through Woodford Bridge, Chigwell Bridge". With care, cross back to the Leyton Flats side of the road and follow this past a petrol station. Go between the wooden posts down to the roundabout underpass. Keep straight ahead, under the other side of the roundabout to a pelican pedestrian crossing. Use this to reach Henry Reynolds Gardens. Turn right to find an open gate, cross the Gardens and leave them at a gate by the children's play equipment.

Henry Reynolds Gardens used to be one of the many gravel pits in this area which became ponds.

Turn right, and straight ahead at the junction. You are now in the Browning Road Conservation Area. Pass (or enter !) the North Star pub and onto Leytonstone High Road.

The North Star pub, 24 Browning Road is "locally listed". Fred Wildsmith Senior was a builder connected with the West Ham Union Board. His son, also called Fred Wildsmith, as a young man went to sea on the "North Star" ship. On his return he persuaded the owner of the Leyspring estate, who was a member of the Charrington brewery family, to make a pub out of 2 adjacent houses in Back Lane, which is now called Browning Road. This had been done by 1858, when Fred Wildsmith was only 20 years old. The date the houses in Browning Road were

built is not known. The 1840s has been suggested.

Turn left. Look out for the entrance to 696A High Road on your left, the entrance to one of the fine Georgian houses which have had shops built in their front gardens. Turn left into Aylmer Road to see the blue plaque on number 694A High Road. Return to the High Road. At the traffic lights turn right into Church Lane. St John's Church is on the corner with a graveyard now mainly grass and trees. St John's was built in 1833 and later extended - the chancel and choir vestry were built in 1893, the south aisle in 1910. As the interpretation board in front of the church tells you, in the far corner of the graveyard are some tombstones for the Buxton family.

At the end of Church Lane are the bus station and the Central Line Station. A car park is beyond the station. This area has cafés. (The pedestrian subway has mosaics of Alfred Hitchcock films).

The railway came to Leytonstone in 1856, a Great Eastern Line from Stratford and Bishopsgate. The branch was taken into the Central underground line after the Second World War (in which the station was bombed).

Turn right and walk along Kirkdale Road beside the bus station. Keep straight ahead into Lemna Road. Use the pelican pedestrian crossing to go through the car park to the Tesco's supermarket. As well as a café, this store has a pharmacy department in the former Bethnal Boys Home hall. The wooden beam roof and wall plaque are well worth a visit. From the store entrance follow the glass-covered walkway which has local history display boards. At the end on the left are buildings from the former boys home and Leytonstone Mental Hospital. There are various interesting trees. Go through the arch into Leytonstone High Road.

Turn left to reach, on the left, the Georgian Leytonstone House, once the home of the Buxton family and now accountants' offices.

Take the roundabout pedestrian underpass. At the central junction turn left and leave the roundabout using a glass-topped bridge over the Central Line. Go straight ahead for a belt of trees and the path that