

Freedom Pass circuit

Section 27: Elstree & Borehamwood to Mill Hill East

Distance: 6.87 mi, 10.99 km

Introduction

The first half of this section largely replicates part of the TFL London Loop. The TFL route includes two long and unpleasant stretches along busy roads. This section avoids the first of these stretches (on the way out of Elstree), but unfortunately there is no obvious way of avoiding the second (alongside the A1).

There are places to eat in Borehamwood, and Mill Hill (but not Mill Hill East).

Directions

On leaving Elstree & Borehamwood Station, cross the carpark and turn right along Station Road.

Keep straight ahead, through a line of bollards, along a footpath and then Coleridge Way.

After a left bend turn right into Auden Drive.

Skirt left round the grass area, then bear left at the far left-hand corner.

Bear right at the mini-roundabout along Vale Avenue and start to climb the hill.

Enter Woodcock Green on the right, and follow the diagonal path uphill.

When it starts to level out, turn left in front of a bench, and enter the trees.

As the path comes out of the trees, bear right.

Follow the path as it climbs further, keeping generally straight ahead. At the top turn left.

Opposite a bench turn right.

Follow the path all the way to the end. Then cross the main road, at which point we join the TFL London Loop.

Take the footpath (not the farm track) on the right, just after the red letter-box.

TFL London Loop path:

Follow the path into Scratchwood Nature Reserve.

At the T-junction turn left.

If the London Loop path is flooded:

Take the farm track to the right of the path.

Cross a field diagonally, go along the edge of a wood and then enter it.

Immediately turn sharp left.

At the fork keep right.

Keep on the main path as it descends, goes over a culvert, ascends again, and goes along the edge of a clearing and then back into the woods.

After a kissing gate, turn right down the edge of the next clearing.

On reaching the second of two oak trees on your left, bear right back into the trees, taking the right-most of the two paths.

Keep on this path as it goes down and up again, finally reaching the A1.

Turn right along the pavement.

Eventually you reach a subway. Go through it.

On the far side, turn left up the ramp.

Halfway up this ramp, turn sharp right up another ramp. This is where we leave the TLF London Loop.

At the top of this ramp, turn left along Courtland Avenue.

At the end, turn right along Hankins Lane, keeping straight ahead on it as the major road bends left.

At the end, cross the main road, and turn left along the pavement.

At the top of the hill, turn right into Uphill Road.

Keep on Uphill Road to the end, and then turn left. (Cross the small park on the right and then the dual carriageway to reach Mill Hill Broadway, where there are places to eat.)

Very soon take the footpath on the right.

At the end, carry on straight ahead along Milton Road, and then straight ahead along the next footpath (slightly offset to the left).

Keep straight ahead as you climb up through the grounds of Mill Hill School.

At the top turn right down Wills Grove.

When the road bends right, take the footpath on the left.

When the path emerges from the trees, carry on straight down a short tree-lined avenue, and pick up the path as it enters another band of trees.

Keep straight on through the vertical barriers.

Turn right onto a track.

Within a short distance there are two paths on the left. Take the second of them.

Bear left at the first fork.

Turn right in front of the next lot of trees.

Then turn left again, and follow the path downhill, keeping the trees on your left.

At the bottom, enter a band of trees and go through a kissing gate.

Turn left, then immediately right into Parkside.

At the roundabout, keep straight ahead into Hillside Grove.

At the end turn right into Copthall Drive.

Turn right along Bunn's Lane, then left into Rowlands Close.

Keep on this road when it first bends left, but when it bends left again keep straight ahead, and continue along a footpath that bends right and then left.

Follow the path to the end.

Cross the road, turn left, and immediately bear right down the slope.

At the bottom turn right.

We are now on the course of the Northern Line Extension, which was intended to link Mill Hill East to Edgware, but never got built.

Keep on the track all the way until it emerges into an open grassy area.

Go straight ahead across the grass towards a wooden fence, and keep going along a footpath between the houses.

Keep straight on along the path, across a residential road.

At the end, turn right along the main road.

You will shortly come to Mill Hill East Station on the right.