



07 GREATER LONDON KING'S CROSS TO CLAPTON POND

Distance: 8¾ miles/14km Time: 4 hours Grade: Moderate



River Lee Navigation at Hackney Marsh.

PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE



CHOSEN BY... JULIE ROYLE

Any tourist visiting central London must have noticed the 38, that most frequent of London buses, and perhaps wondered about its destination, the interesting-sounding Clapton Pond. If that's you, here's a reason to go and see it for yourself – a waterside walk from King's Cross finishing at Clapton Pond. In truth, the pond turns out to be pleasant but unremarkable in a city blessed with many such. But the walk to it is captivating, delivering enjoyment every step of the way. There's so much to see, from the Gothic opulence of St Pancras to fibreglass sharks rearing out

of Regent's Canal at Islington, from world-class graffiti in Haggerston to woods and marshes at Hackney. And if you think King's Cross is just a railway station, think again. It has been transformed into a destination in its own right, with something for everybody. There are glitzy shops and restaurants, but also many simpler pleasures, including glorious plant displays and a second-hand bookshop on a barge, Word on the Water. It's also worth making two short (well-signed) detours from the walk described here, to visit Camley Street Natural Park (a charming nature reserve) and Old St Pancras Church, famous for its 'Hardy Tree' (as in Thomas Hardy)

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking King's Cross station, grid ref TQ302830, a major hub for train, tube and bus; there is a car park on Pancras Road, postcode N1C 4QP

Is it for me? Mostly canal towpaths, plus parkland and a few streets

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town London

Refreshments

Throughout, including numerous waterside cafés

Public toilets King's Cross and St Pancras stations

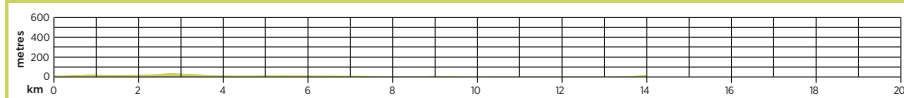
Public transport Trains, tubes and buses to King's Cross; return from Clapton Pond by bus, changing at Angel for King's Cross

Maps OS Explorer 173; Landranger 177

and for Mary Wollstonecraft's tomb (though Mary's remains no longer lie within).



GRADIENT PROFILE



07 GREATER LONDON
KING'S CROSS TO CLAPTON PONDOS Explorer map 173 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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**1 Start**

Take Pancras Road, between King's Cross and St Pancras, then bear R along King's Boulevard. Cross Goods Way and Regent's Canal and turn L above Coal Drops Yard and through spectacular flowerbeds to Gasholder Park. Join Regent's Canal towpath and turn L. Approaching Islington Tunnel, climb steps to Muriel Street. Turn R, then keep straight on, along Rodney Street and past a school. Go L on Donegal Street, cross Penton Street and follow White Lion Street to meet Islington High Street opposite Angel Station. Turn L, cross Liverpool Road to Upper Street, cross this and go L towards Camden Passage, then R on Duncan Street.

2 2¼ miles/3.5km

Cross Colebrook Row to rejoin canal. Follow it through De Beauvoir Town and Haggerston to South Hackney. At Victoria Park, choose between the towpath or the park, which is over a mile long. If you go through the park use the on-site maps for guidance. For clarity's sake the route described here is the towpath route only. Soon after bridge 54 you come to a canal junction. Leave Regent's Canal and join Hertford Union Canal.

3 6½ miles/10.5km

At Hackney Wick turn L beside River Lee Navigation, soon joining Capital Ring and Lea Valley Walk. Approaching Lea Bridge Road, enter Millfields Park South. Follow

main path across park to road junction. Cross Chatsworth Road at the lights then take a street to which traffic access is blocked (no name is visible, but it's Millfields Road). Approaching Lower Clapton Road, turn R through Clapton Park, past Clapton Pond to bus stop. There are many options, but if you are returning to King's Cross take 38 or 56 to Angel and change to 30, 73 or 205. All of these operate every few minutes. [CW](http://www.countrywalking.co.uk)

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING