

Park Scene

Millfield House



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Less than 150 years ago the Pymmes Brook flowed through a rural area rich in plant and animal life. After this time railways opened much of the area to industry and urbanisation. Fortunately, pockets of land escaped the builders spade, and today the Pymmes Brook Trail allows walkers to enjoy a green corridor between Monken Hadley Common and Edmonton along the Pymmes Brook.

The walk may be joined at a number of points, and walked in either direction. Follow the distinctive blue and white waymark discs and road signs. Choose from three sections of the trail which together total 10 miles (16 km). It should take most people between four and six hours to complete the whole route. Use public transport to find your way home. Information on stations and stops is given on the map.

For more information on London Transport buses or the Underground phone 020 7222 1234.

For rail times call 08457 48 49 50

Monken Hadley Common or Cockfosters to Arnos Grove (Walk 1).

This 4.5 mile (7.2 km) north-western section starts at the wooded Monken Hadley Common, and passes through attractive Oak Hill Park and Waterfall Walk.

Arnos Grove to Palmers Green (Walk 2).

This 1.5 mile (2.2 km) section takes in some of the best examples of Enfield's parks with their splendid trees and landscape features.

Palmers Green to Pickett's Lock (Walk 3).

This 2 mile (6.5 km) stretch includes urban sections with historic and architectural features.

LONDON WALKS

This walk has met the London Walking Forum's criteria for good practice and has been awarded the London Walks seal of approval. The trail links up with two other London Walks - the London LOOP and the Lee Valley Walk. For more information about these and the London Walking Forum contact 020 7247 7235.

For more information about the Pymmes Brook Trail, please contact the Countryside Management Service on 01707 650041, Enfield Council Leisure Services on 020 8379 3784 or Barnet Recreation and Parks Service on 020 8359 4493 / 4494. www.barnet-lifestyle.org.uk

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Illustration and design by Fitzpatrick Woolmer Design & Publishing Ltd
Veitchii Barn, New Barn Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 7PW
Tel: 01322 614 114 Fax: 01322 663 665

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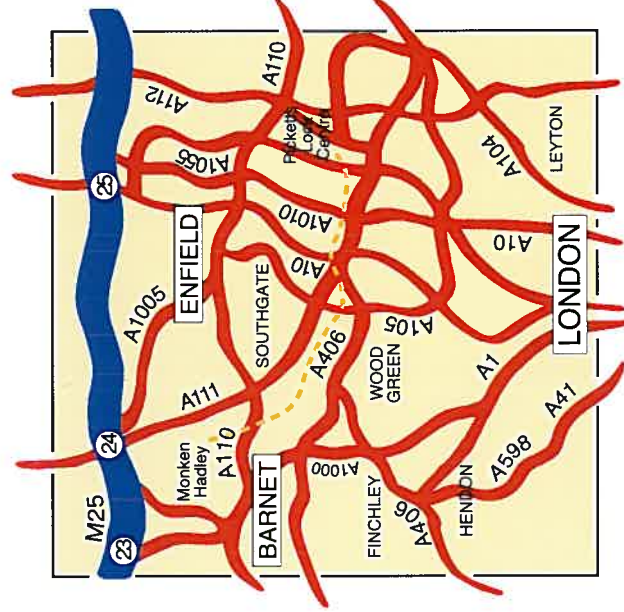
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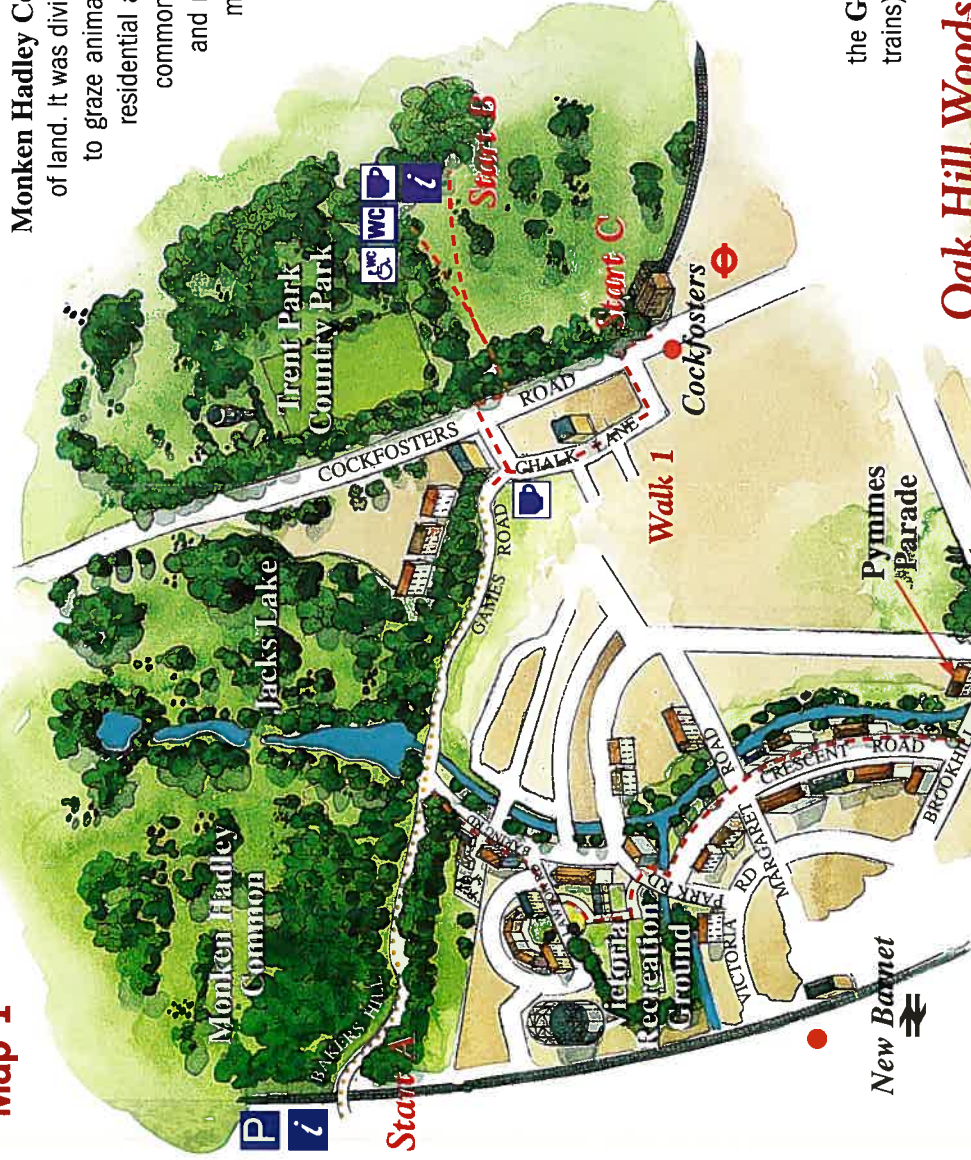
Palmers Green to Pickett's Lock (Walk 3).

This 2 mile (6.5 km) stretch includes urban sections with historic and architectural features.



Choose from one of the starting points (A, B or C) at the northern end of the trail, and follow the signs through Monken Hadley Common.

Map 1



Monken Hadley Common was once part of Enfield Chase royal hunting forest which covered 8000 acres of land. It was divided up and enclosed in the eighteenth century. Local householders exercised their right to graze animals here until 1925, and the five white gates prevented horses and cows straying into residential areas. Since grazing ceased, woodland has established, and now covers much of the common. Today the common is an excellent place to spot dragonflies, butterflies, amphibians and reptiles - keep an eye open for grass snakes on sunny days. On summer evenings you may see pipistrelle, daubentons or noctule bats snatching insects above **Jacks Lake**.

Victoria Recreation Ground is a typical Victorian neighbourhood park. Many parks, zoological and botanical gardens were established during this period, when people from all walks of life came to delight in and study the diversity of nature.

Crescent Road includes a stretch of Edwardian 'villa' housing.

Pymmes Parade is an ancient road that once had a gate across it marking the boundary between Hertfordshire and Middlesex.

Oak Hill Park was first opened to the public in 1933. The sides of the park are steep, reminding us that the park is an old river valley. The woodland below Oak Hill Theological College is a Local Nature Reserve and is important for bats. There are two waymarked trails around the reserve (leaflets are available from Barnet Recreation and Parks Service.)

Whilst walking down East or West Walk look out for the spire of the **Chapel of Rest** in the **Great Northern Cemetery**. The cemetery (which had its own station receiving funeral trains) was built as an out of town burial ground after public health reforms in 1861.

Oak Hill Woods Local Nature Reserve

The trail follows the **Waterfall Walk** through **Brunswick Park**, named for the small weirs across the Pymmes Brook. This area is less formally managed than many town parks to encourage wildlife. Keep a look out for kingfishers along the brook, and foxes at dusk.

Waterfall Road was a small ford until the turn of the century. Crossing the road you enter Enfield and Southgate, originally the south gate to Enfield Chase.

Oak Hill Theological College

The trail goes under the **Piccadilly Line Viaduct** which was opened in 1932 as part of the Piccadilly line extension.

At **Arnos Park** the Pymmes Brook is joined by Bowes Brook. In Tudor times the Park was covered by hornbeam coppice woodland. The trees were cropped to ground level every few years and allowed to regrow. The cuttings were used as firewood and the bark sold to the leather tanners of the Tanners End area of Edmonton. In 1590 the Park was the scene of a witch hunt.

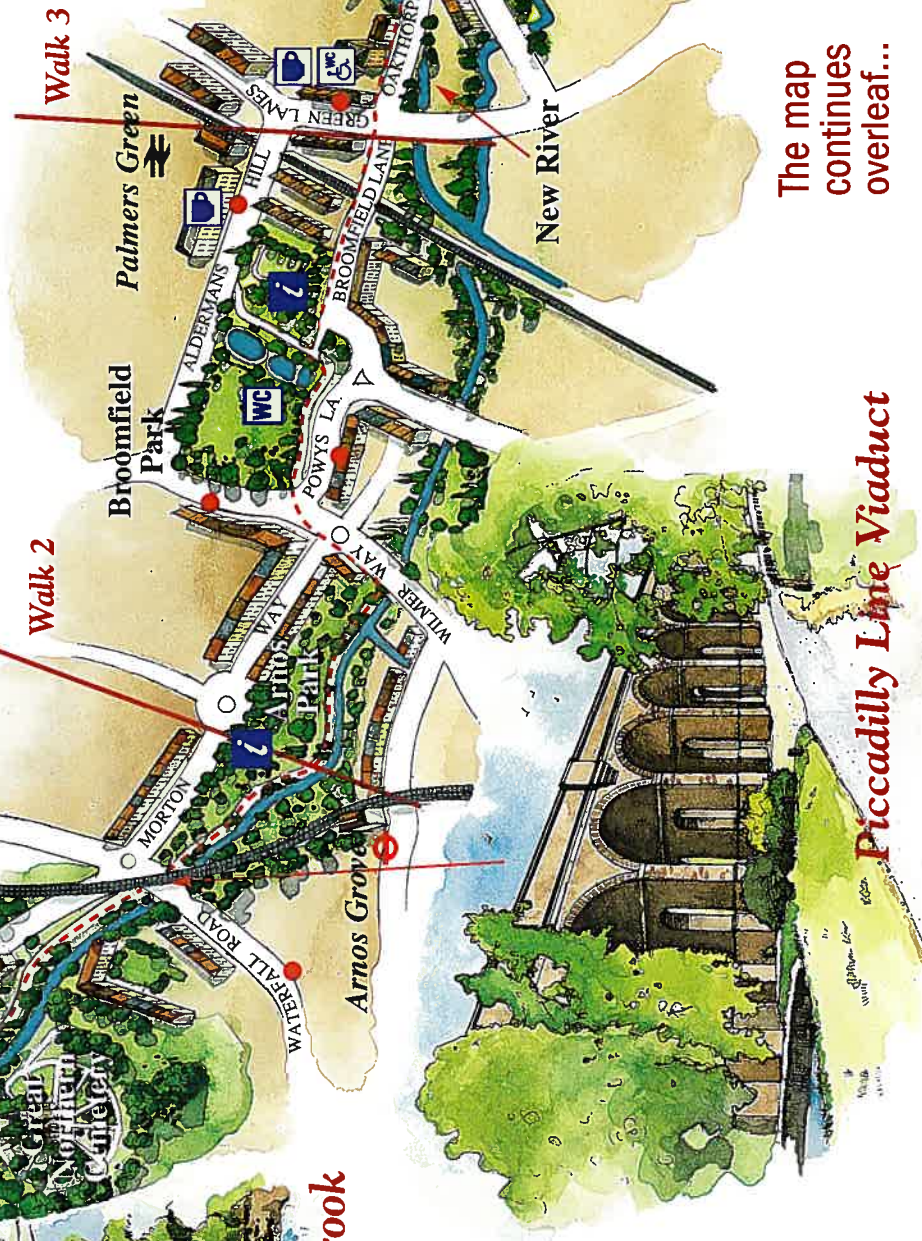
- Not suitable for wheelchairs
- Pymmes Brook Trail
- Car park
- Information panel
- Toilets
- Disabled toilets
- Refreshments
- Housing and industry
- Bus stop
- Underground station
- Railway station



Broomfield Park encompasses the remains of ancient parkland with many fine trees, including two yews which are believed to be over eight hundred years old. The old mansion is said to have been used as a hunting lodge by James I. Look out for the Tudor entrance hall and gateway. The four lakes were originally fishponds for the convent that once stood here. There is also a scented garden with Braille signs for the visually impaired.

At **Green Lanes** look out for the 1930's clock tower.

For nearly four hundred years the **New River** has carried fresh water to inner London. It now supplies London with 180 million litres of drinking water every day.



The map continues overleaf...

Piccadilly Line Viaduct