



High Barnet to Cockfosters via Hadley Wood & Trent Park

The inspiration for this walk is London LOOP which it follows much of the way, but makes detours through Chipping Barnet, Hadley Wood and Trent Park

 main route 10.1 km

 options

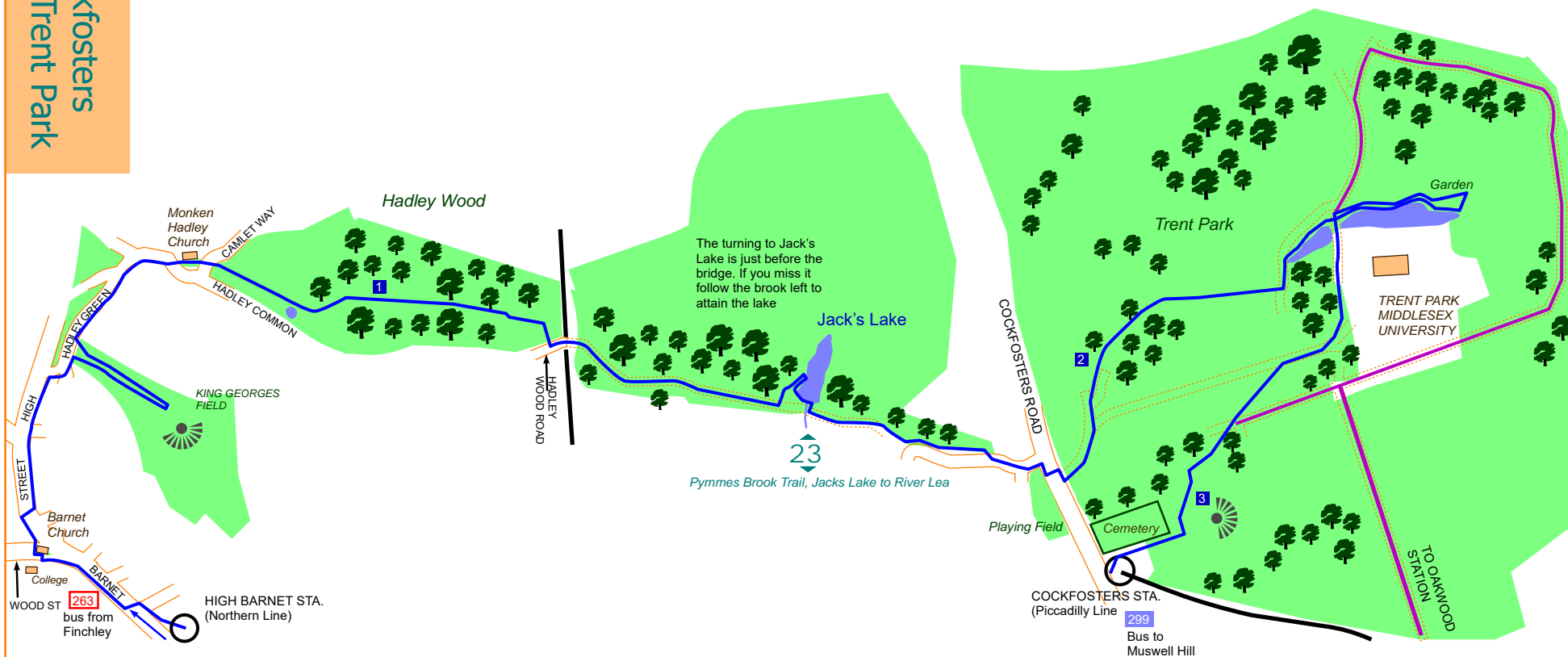
 railway

 connection with another walk

 1 kilometre



- 1 Keep the drainage channel immediately to your right until blocked by bushes. Cross and keep it to your left until you reach the railway. Then turn right. If you reach the road first turn left!
- 2 When the main track bends right after the cafe, take the footpath which diverges left, (London LOOP) down through the wood, then a meadow to pick up the main track left.
- 3 Emerge from the wood into a sloping field. Make for the brow and follow it round until a path right takes you past the cemetery.



Barnet to Cockfosters & Trent Park

Once out of Barnet, this is a tranquil walk and best done in the summer while the leaves are on the trees. Monken Hadley is picturesque and Jack's lake is an idyllic spot used by fishermen and a good place to picnic. The walk follows London LOOP to Trent Park, where the flower garden is well worth visiting and the woods have a fine show of bluebells in the spring.

Chipping Barnet

Chipping Barnet began as a settlement around a fork in the road running north out of London (where the High Street meets Wood Street today). King John granted a Charter to the Lord of the Manor in 1199 for a market to be held here once a week. A series of coaching inns developed with stable yards behind, the Mitre Inn being the oldest remaining. A second market charter was issued by Queen Elizabeth in 1588 and by the seventeenth century Barnet was London's main meat market.

Monken Hadley

Monken is said to refer to the Abbey of Walden, Essex - a hermitage at Hadley was given to the Abbey in the 12th century.

Monken Hadley Church

The present building dates from the last years of the fifteenth century; the date 1494 is marked over the west door. The style of the building is late perpendicular and the nave,

chancel and transepts are built from flint stone. The tower was added in the early sixteenth century. The church was restored significantly during 1848 – 1850 by the architect G. E. Street.

Monken Hadley Common

After leaving the church, the walk follows Monken Hadley Common all the way to Cockfosters. Enfield Chase, owned by the Duchy of Lancaster, was enclosed by 1777, and Hadley Common was allotted to the freeholders and copyholders of Hadley. The Common, which includes Hadley Woods, is managed under its own Act of Parliament. The freehold is vested in the church wardens of Monken Hadley Church in perpetuity in trust for the commoners who have their own rules concerning vehicular access, grazing and use of the woods by the public.

Jack's Lake

Jack's Lake is the lowest of three lakes created in the 1880s as estate lakes for Squire Charles Jack, owner of Beech Hill House, although there was probably some form of lake there before then. From Victorian times until the sixties, Jack's Lake was used as a boating lake, but was left to decline and became very overgrown until Hadley Angling and Preservation Society from 1982 drained and de-silted the lake, cut back the vegetation and stocked it with fish creating the tranquil place it

is today. The lakes are the source of Pymmes Brook, another walk.

Trent Park

When Enfield Chase was enclosed in 1777, a clause stipulated that an enclosed miniature hunting park be set up in the midst of the former Chase, The lease for this area was given to Sir Richard Jebb, physician to the royal household, for his services to the King's younger brother. Jebb had travelled to Trento, Italy, where the King's brother was staying and brought him back to full health and he named the new estate Trent Place (later renamed as Trent Park by Robert Bevan during the 19th century). It was Sir Richard Jebb who built the first house on the site where the mansion now stands.

The property changed hands many times with alterations until Sir Philip Sassoon gave the Park a complete makeover, house and grounds. He died in 1939 and the Park was requisitioned as a special POW camp. In 1951, the entire Trent Park estate was purchased by Middlesex County Council to preserve the Green Belt. In 1965, upon dissolution of the MCC, the estate was divided between the London Borough of Enfield (college grounds) and the Greater London Council (parkland). In 1973, the GLC officially opened the 413 acre (167 hectare) Trent Country Park to the public. The future of the college part is uncertain.