

## Ruislip Woods: Ruislip Lido to Harefield Church (4 miles)

The Hillingdon Trail is 20 miles in length and stretches from Cranford Park in the south of the borough to Springwell Lock in the north.



The trail is waymarked and split into six manageable sections, each between two and five miles in length.

### About this section

**Starting point: Ruislip Lido, HA4 7TY**

**End point: Harefield Church, UB9 6DU**

Things to look out for in this section:

- dragonflies
- birch, sweet chestnut and hornbeam trees
- Canada geese

### Directions

The gate at the end of Reservoir Road gives access to Poors Field. There is a large car park here.

1. Go along the path, across Poors Field for 180 metres, to the signpost. Bear left at the sign, going up the slope to a pond.
2. Proceed to the footpath post. Cross a ditch at the start of the woodland proper and enter Copse Wood.

Copse Wood to the north, Park Wood to the south and Mad Bess and Bayhurst Wood on the west of Ducks Hill Road are known collectively as Ruislip Woods. In 1997 they were declared a National Nature Reserve, the first of its kind in Greater London.



3. Now go north-west for 230 metres.
4. Continue on the path as far as Ducks Hill Road, to the edge of the wood, cross the road on the pedestrian/horse crossing and enter Mad Bess Wood. Keep along the main footpath of the wood.
5. Cross the old 'Green Lane' - the surviving portion of a lane that used to link Jackets Lane and Breakspear Road.
6. Keep walking until the route turns south-west, down a slope to a plank bridge over a stream, another 240 metres away.
7. Proceed to Breakspear Road North. Cross with care to enter Bayhurst Wood, via the driveway.
8. Continue on the main drive, down the slope to the pond. Leave the pond, using the path going up the steep slope to the main picnic site.
9. Stay on this path to the picnic site. Continue west to the edge of the wood and on past the entrance to Tarleton's Lake Nature Reserve to the stile at the junction with the old driveway to Breakspear House.
10. Go over the stile and follow the path through the belt of trees for 150 metres.
11. Cross the next stile and go along the field edge to the top of the slope and cross the stile.
12. Walk over another stile a few metres away and enter the field, with the woodland on the right, keeping to the fence, go to the footpath sign and stile in the corner of the field.
13. The trail continues downhill towards Harefield Church, north-west along the hedgerow, down to the stile, through a kissing gate, beneath some fine old specimen trees, passing a pond on the left and two more on the right.

Harefield St Mary's Church is of mixed ages (12th-19th century) and has a spectacular collection of fine old monuments inside, the most famous dating from 1636 to the Countess of Derby. South of the church is the Australian Military Cemetery and ANZAC memorial, where an annual ceremony is held.

Information correct at time of publication.