



Queen's Wood, formerly known as Churchyard Bottom Wood, was purchased by Hornsey Urban District Council in 1898. It is an ancient woodland and a designated local nature reserve. **Friends of Queen's Wood:** www.fqw.org.uk



Noel Park Estate, historic 19th Century affordable housing development, now a conservation area. **Noel Park North Area Residents Association:** www.noelparknorth.wordpress.com

Tower Gardens Estate, council estate built 100 years ago as a 'garden suburb' – now a conservation area. **Tower Gardens Residents Group:** www.towergardensn17.org.uk



Tottenham Cemetery was opened in 1857 with various later extensions. It is a conservation area with listed features such as the two chapels.



Bruce Castle is a Grade 1 listed 16th century manor house. It opened as a museum in 1906. Bruce Castle Park was the first public park in Tottenham. www.friendsofbrucecastle.org.uk



Markfield Park was the site of a Victorian sewage works. The recreation ground opened in 1938. Recent improvements include a new café, an improved sports pavillion, heritage building works to Markfield Museum and general landscape improvements. The park was awarded a Green Flag in 2010. **Friends of Markfield Park:** www.markfieldpark.org.uk

Markfield Beam Engine, part of the Victorian sewage works, has been restored by volunteers and is operated under steam power on designated days. www.mbeam.org



Lordship Recreation Ground was opened in 1936. In 2012 it underwent major redevelopment including the restoration of the River Moselle and other major landscaping work, a new environmental centre (with cafe, toilets and adjacent playground), and the restoration of the Shell Theatre and nationally unique model traffic area. A visit to these facilities is recommended! **Friends of Lordship Rec:** www.lordshiprec.org.uk



Priory Park was opened in 1896. There are two listed fountains. It has been awarded a Green Flag since 2003. **Friends of Priory Park:** www.fopp-n8.org.uk



Crouch End Open Spaces is the name given to a group of sports fields and areas of open space on the Highgate/Crouch End border. **Friends of Crouch End Open Spaces** are active in preventing inappropriate development on the site

FURTHER READING

A.Pinching and D.Dell, *Haringey's Hidden Streams Revealed*, Hornsey Historical Society, 2005
P.Talling, *London's Lost Rivers*, Random House Books, 2011

The individual Friends of Parks websites have information about the histories of their parks and current activities. (see photo captions)

Information on Haringey's parks can also be found on Haringey Council website: www.haringey.gov.uk

This brochure was produced by members of Haringey Friends of Parks Forum, an organisation protecting and promoting green space in Haringey www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk

Supported by the Haringey Federation of Residents Associations. www.haringeyresidents.org

Follow the **MOSELLE RIVER WALK** Haringey's River



The River Moselle is Haringey's river. It flows from the Northern Heights in the west to the River Lea in the east. The Moselle is responsible for such sayings as 'When it rains in Muswell Hill, it floods in Tottenham' or 'Highgate's rain is Tottenham's pain'.

This guide describes a walk along the course of the river. It is produced by the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum which aims to protect and improve Haringey's parks, nature reserves and green spaces. The river (or stream or brook as it is sometimes called) flows through a number of them. We describe the situation in 2012. In some areas, notably in Lordship Recreation Ground (known as Lordship Rec), enormous improvements have been undertaken and when you reach these areas you will be pleasantly surprised by the changes.

The Moselle River's name and other names referring to water features are commemorated in some streets and buildings along its route. We highlight these names in blue.

As can be seen on the map the river has a number of sources which finally come together in Priory Park in Hornsey. The true source is generally acknowledged to be in Queen's Wood and it is from there that the walk starts. The full length of the river walk is seven and a half miles although it can of course be taken in stages.

In preparing this guide we are indebted to Albert Pinching's and David Dell's wonderful '*Haringey's Hidden Streams Revealed*', which gives a detailed history and description of all the natural waterways in Haringey.

The walk starts at the Lodge Café ¹ in Queen's Wood (Highgate Wood stop on bus 43 and 134) where one of the many springs which feed water into the Moselle River has its source. Follow the path signposted to Wood Vale. A second stream soon joins the one you are following. The brick wall ² which can be seen at the foot of Queen's Wood was built to channel the water into a culvert, a large pipe buried in the ground. From here, until it emerges in Lordship Rec, only the course of the river can be followed. The river itself is buried in a culvert.

Leave the wood, cross Wood Vale and walk straight ahead along a footpath through Crouch End Open Spaces. ³

At the end of the path cross Park Road and walk along Park Avenue South. The road follows the course of the river which flows at the end of the gardens on the south side of the road. About a quarter of a mile down Park Avenue South, where it bends to the left, take a footpath off to the right. You can notice that the path dips down and up as it crosses the course of the river. The path comes out by an entrance to Priory Park ⁴ which is on your left. Walk through the park. The river hugs the edge of the park on your left through the children's playground.

Turn right by the paddling pool and then keep left and walk through the formal gardens passing a tall fountain now used to display plants. Exit the park near the junction of Middle Lane and Priory Road. Middle Lane is on the course of Cholmeley Brook, a tributary of the Moselle which originates in Highgate. As you come out of the park onto Priory Road, Cholmeley Brook joins the Moselle flowing under the wide pavement on the south side of Priory Road.

The river swings north at this point through the grounds of Camfrey House and the Hornsey Bowling Club. Rectory Gardens crosses it near the rear entrance of the bowling club, marked by

a row of trees. You can't walk this way so retrace your steps, walk along Hornsey High Street with its shops and cafés and take the second turning on the left, Campsbourne Road. At the T-junction turn right onto Pembroke Road. This road is on the site of an ornamental lake constructed on the course of the river in the grounds of a large house called Campsbourne Lodge.

Turn left into Myddelton Road and right into Miles Road and you come to [Moselle Close](#). At the end of this cul-de-sac there is a passage which brings you out onto a footpath called Cross Lane and the New River Estate. You can tell you are on the course of the river as the ground slopes up both to left and right.

The Moselle is buried beneath the New River Estate and then culverted under the New River ⁵ (an artificial watercourse dug in the 17th century to bring drinking water from Hertfordshire to London) and the railway. Turn left onto Cross Lane and at the top turn right and walk by the green railings surrounding the waterworks on a footpath called Penstock Path (not named). Following this across the New River and under the railway brings you out onto Western Road.

There is not much evidence of the Moselle to be seen here. It crosses Western Road to the right of where you are standing and winds its way past the gasholders and under Wood Green High Road where Argos now stands. To reach this point walk straight ahead down Coburg Road, to Mayes Road where you turn right. Turn left into Caxton Road and then, where Caxton Road turns left, turn right along a footpath which brings you out onto the High Road nearly opposite Argos. There are toilets on the first floor of Wood Green Shopping City to your right.

Cross the road at the lights and walk down the alley next to Argos. This brings you out onto Gladstone Mews which leads onto Pelham Road. Turn left and you come to Gladstone Avenue. Diagonally across on your right is [Moselle Avenue](#). You are now in the Noel Park Estate, planned and built in the late 19th century. The river here runs along the backs of the houses on the north side of [Moselle Avenue](#). At the first crossroads take a short diversion to your left along Vincent Road and you will see a brick structure which is the parapet of a bridge under which the river once flowed. ⁶



Part of bridge parapet, Vincent Rd

At the end of [Moselle Avenue](#) turn right onto Lordship Lane. The river now runs under the south side pavement until its junction with Westbury Avenue. Here it turns south along the course of an inaccessible alley. Walk to the next junction and turn right along Downhills Way. Walk on the left side of the road. Just past an entrance to Lordship Recreation Ground you will come across what looks as if it should be another entrance but it is fenced off. The river enters the park under the concrete pathway you can see here. Retrace your steps and enter the park. ⁷

As you enter Lordship Rec you see the Moselle in the open for the first time. Until recently it was culverted under a path, with an overflow ditch now filled in to create a wildlife corridor. The Moselle has been re-landscaped and made into a stunning feature with three bridges. The original culvert still carries the river overflow under the path parallel to the river. You could stop and rest here and enjoy the park's facilities. Follow the river through the park until you come to [Broadwater Farm Estate](#), built in the 1970s by Haringey Council. The area was called '[Broadwaters](#)' because before the culverting of the river it was often flooded.

At the end of the park turn left onto Freedom Road between the park and estate and then right into Adams Road which is the northern perimeter road of [Broadwater Farm Estate](#) leaving [Broadwater Farm Children's Centre](#) and the school on your left. The river has disappeared beneath the estate here but you meet it again where a footpath with the Moselle underneath goes off to your left just after Moira Close where Adams Road is closed with a 'No Entry' sign. Follow this path to Lordship Lane.

North of Lordship Lane the river looped round to the left (shown as a dotted line on the map) but when Tower Gardens Estate ⁸ was built in the early 1900s it was put into a culvert which

runs in a straight line to join up with its original course on entering Tottenham Cemetery where again it comes to the surface.

Your best route from here is to continue straight across Lordship Lane and walk up Bennington Road. Turn right onto the Roundway and continue along All Hallows Road. At the T-junction turn left onto Church Lane and then left again through All Hallows churchyard. You soon come to a fenced footpath through the middle of Tottenham Cemetery. ⁹

Go through the first unlocked gate on your left and walk parallel to the fenced path you have just left, keeping it on your right. This brings you to a bridge across the river from which you can see a second bridge to your right. Cross the bridge and then turn left along the north bank of the river. You soon come to the confluence where the Lesser Moselle meets the Moselle. Continue walking on the grass along the bank of the Lesser Moselle which, unlike the main river is in the open, until a hedge bars your way. So rejoin the tarmac



path on your right and turn along it to the left, where you come to a beautiful artificial lake. ¹⁰ Water from a spring on the northern edge of the cemetery flows through an ornamental stream into the lake and then drains into the Lesser Moselle.

Return to the footpath and re-cross the bridge. At the first opportunity turn left into the eastern part of the cemetery. Continuing in this direction and turning right by the chapel brings you to a gate leading out onto Beaufoy Road where you turn left. From the eastern boundary of the cemetery the river is once more in a culvert. It flows under the Ernest Wedge & Co factory which you pass. At the end of Beaufoy Road turn right onto White Hart Lane. The river is beneath you.

At the junction with Tottenham High Road the river makes an abrupt right turn although it might well once have carried straight on to join Pymmes Brook and thence the River Lea at Northumberland Park. Now the river flows down the west side of the High Road. The first turning on the right is [Moselle Place](#) which leads into [Moselle Street](#). Continue down the High Road passing listed [Moselle House](#). ¹¹

The river is visible beneath a glass cover in the new foyer of the Coombes Croft library which, if open, is worth a visit ¹².

Continue along the High Road until you reach Scotland Green with the Pride of Tottenham pub on the corner and opposite Pembury Road. Here the river turns left beneath Scotland Green. Follow the road east from Scotland Green. If you carry straight on crossing over Kemble Road you will see ahead of you a concrete footway called Carbuncle Passage (in the past called Garbell Ditch and later Carbuncle Ditch). One branch of the river, originally constructed as part of a flood control scheme in the fifteenth century, lies beneath Carbuncle Passage and enters Pymmes Brook.

The main branch of the river turns south just beyond Scotland Green to the west of Parkhurst Road. Walk down this road and continue along Ladysmith Road. Turn right into Holcombe Road, left into Dawlish Road, right into Scales Road and left into Chesnut Grove. The course of the river remains on your right. A short way down Chesnut Grove turn left onto Tamar Way. This winding footpath, bordered by majestic trees, follows the course of the river.

At the end of Tamar Way turn right onto Park View Road, cross the main road by the pedestrian crossing and continue down The Hale and Broad Lane. The river here is on your left under the Tottenham Retail Park. Where Broad Lane turns sharp right take a left down Markfield Road, pass under two railway bridges and you come into Markfield Park. ¹³

The Moselle finally enters the River Lea where a gate leads you out onto the towpath. A concrete platform covers the pipes in which it flows, and the outlet itself can be seen emerging through six concrete arches. ¹⁴ Have a celebratory drink at Markfields Pistachios Cafe. Return to Broad Lane to catch buses to turnpike Lane, Wood Green or Seven Sisters.



Tamar Way

Explore Haringey by walking the route of one of its hidden rivers



THE MOSELLE crossing the borough from west to east