

Harefield Locks: Harefield Church to Springwell Lock (5 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: Harefield Church, UB9 6DU

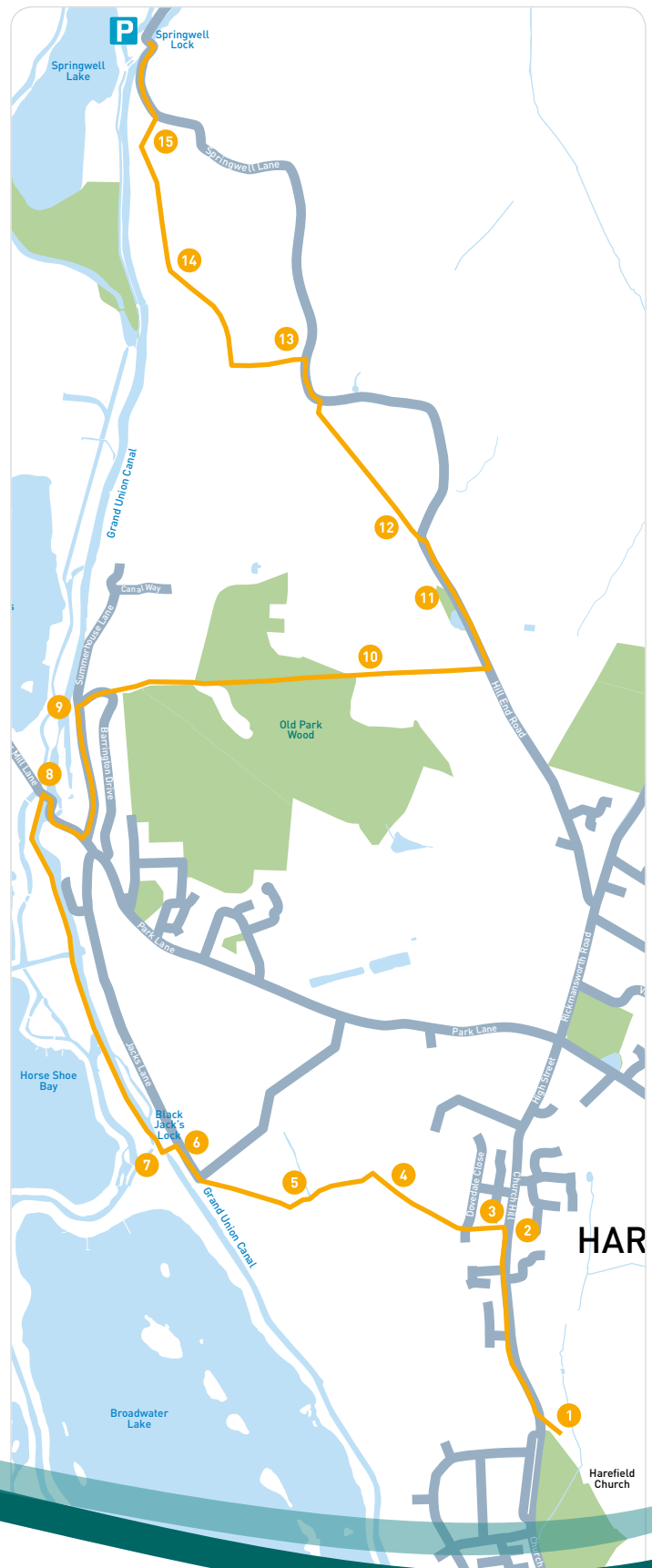
End point: Springwell Lock, WD3 8UU

Things to look out for in this section:

- Jacobean almshouses
- traditional barge painting
- spring flowers

Directions

1. From Harefield Church, continue up the driveway slope and emerge onto Church Hill, then turn right, past the Dowager Countess of Derby's almshouses.
2. At the public footpath sign, turn left.
3. After 90 metres, cross Dovedale Close, pass between the allotment gardens and old tip land to the stile.
4. Move ahead another 130 metres, then walk past another stile, crossing the farm track at the junction and turn south-west, over another stile and down the slope.
5. Cross the stile at the lower edge of the hedge/copse, then cross the field diagonally west to the stile in the corner of the field at the corner of Jack's Lane.



6. Keep on the roadway for 100 metres, then cross the canal at the bridge (number 178).
7. Walk along the canal towpath northwards and cross the bridge at the weir, continue to the Coy Carp public house.
8. Go along the bridge over the canal with care, enter Park Lane and after 150 metres cross Park Lane to enter Summerhouse Lane.
9. 350 metres along Summerhouse Lane, turn right at the signpost and go up the slope past Bellevue Terrace, through the anti-cycle barrier, up the path fenced on both sides, between two sections of Old Park Wood.

The differing levels create diversity of plants and trees. Bluebells, coral-root and goldilocks are abundant in spring and many birds may be observed. Look out for rabbits and foxes too.

10. Proceed ahead to Hill End Road, then cross the road, onto the pavement, turn left north and pass Hill End Pond.
11. The trail continues ahead for 200 metres and leaves the road at the signpost at the end of Maracus Cottage Drive.
12. Follow the footpath over two stiles across the field. Rejoin the road for 120 metres, then turn left and go through the gate at the driveway of Springwell Farm.
13. Continue along the track, turning right north and go down the side of the valley.
14. Leave the track, bearing left, below this path and also on the far side of the road is Springwell Lane chalk pit.
15. Rejoin Springwell Lane. Turn left and follow the road to cross the bridge (number 176) over the canal at Springwell Lock (WD3 8UU).

The car park is just over the canal bridge.

Information correct at time of publication.