

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.

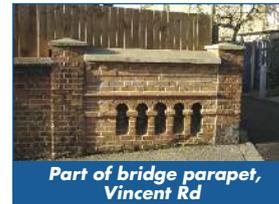
The river swings north at this point through the grounds of Camfrey House and the Hornsey Bowling Club. Rectory Gardens crosses it near the rear entrance of the bowling club, marked by

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 runs beneath the New River Estate and is 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.



Part of bridge parapet, Vincent Rd

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**

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.