

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



The River Moselle is Haringey's river. It flows from the Northern Heights in the extreme 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. The river (or stream or brook as it is sometimes called) flows through a number of them.

The name *Moselle* 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 Queen's Wood Café ❶ 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. Take the path down the hill to Wood Vale. The brick wall ❷ 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 (CREOS) ❸.

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. Some way down Park Avenue South where the road bends to the left you take a footpath leading off to the right. You can see 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 ❹. 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 through the formal gardens until you leave 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 here flowing under the pavement on the south side of Priory Road.

The river swings north at this point through the grounds of Camfrey Court and the Hornsey Bowling Club. Turn right and walk along Hornsey High Street and then take the second turning on the left, Campsbourne Road. At the crossroads 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 now buried beneath the New River Estate and is then culverted under the New River ❺ (an artificial watercourse dug in the seventeenth 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 passes through the Clarendon development site (previously a gas works with two large gas holders). There has been a campaign by Haringey Rivers Forum to deculvert the Moselle here and bring it to the surface. It then crosses 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.

Cross the road here and walk down the alley which runs 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. 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 ❻.

At the end of [Moselle Avenue](#) turn right onto Lordship Lane. The river now runs under the north side pavement until its junction with Westbury Avenue. Here it turns south along the course of an inaccessible alley.

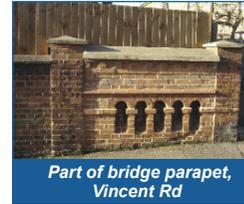
Walk to the next junction and turn right along Downhills Way. A short way along turn left along a passage next to St Benet Fink Church which brings you out onto Walpole Road. Turn right and enter Lordship Recreation Ground through the first entrance you come to. Turn right in the park and you come shortly to a point where you see the Moselle in the open for the first time ❼. Until 2012 it was a miserable little concreted stream but it was then re-landscaped. There is still a problem with pollution which is being addressed.

Follow the river through the park. On your right beyond the pond is Lordship Rec Hub where you can find a café and toilets. When you leave the park you come to [Broadwater Farm Estate](#), built in the 1970s by Haringey Council. The area was called 'Broadwaters' because it often flooded.

At the end of the park turn left onto Freedom Road and then at the Community Centre, turn right into Adams Road passing [Broadwater Farm Children's Centre](#) and the [Brook](#) and [Willow](#) schools 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. 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 ❽ 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 Risley Avenue. Cross the Roundway by the pedestrian crossing 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 footpath through the middle of Tottenham Cemetery ❾.



Part of bridge parapet,
Vincent Rd