

MAP SERIES OF WALKS CONNECTING HACKNEY'S PARKS & OPEN SPACES

The route passes some interesting architecture. Gainsborough Studios (north of Shoreditch Park); City of London skyline including the Gherkin; St Leonard's Hospital, Hoxton Street; LCC blocks (Tyssen Street); Geffrye Museum; old and new houses along Pearson Street; Fellows Court (1960s housing), Haggerston Pool; Whiston Estate (1950s design similar to Bankside Power Station – now Tate Modern); Broadway Market (C19 buildings, and Gas Holders); Hothouse by railway bridge on Martello Street; Hackney Town Hall; Hackney Empire. Lots of cafés and places to stop and enjoy wildlife and views.

Shoreditch Park. Area badly bombed in World War II. Two sections separated by Bridport Street. Mostly managed as amenity grassland, also tennis courts, children's play area and a large Play Park. Round the perimeter are seats and trees (cherries, false acacia, whitebeam, tree of heaven, giant redwood) – home to birds such as blackbird, starling, and thrush. Good views of city skyline and Gainsborough Studios, once a film studio, now flats. In garden in south-east corner is some interesting metalwork, yew and holly hedges, and trees and bushes: a good place for birds. Named after Dorothy Thurtle, involved in radical politics in early C20.

Hoxton Street. A busy market, some fine old buildings (eg **St Leonard's Hospital** opened in 1863 for the Relief of the Poor), **Hoxton Community Garden** (managed by Hoxton Trust) with Clock Tower and fine mix of trees and plants (magnolia, eucalyptus, false acacia, golden rain, birch and alder). A beautiful and peaceful spot in a busy area. Hoxton Trust runs horticultural courses.

Geffrye Museum. Once a row of almshouses, opened in 1715. Purchased by LCC and turned into museum of furniture; rooms reconstructed in styles from 1750s to 1960s. Front garden with fine set of mature plane trees; rear gardens include herb garden (open in summer) and café with views over the gardens. Kingsland Road on line of Roman road from London to Lincoln & York.

This leaflet was prepared by Anne Woollett, Mike Trier & Gill Jackson for Hackney Parks Forum. Thanks to Ecoactive and Hackney Tree Officer.

For copies of the leaflet see

www.hackneyenvironment.org.uk

Based on Collins mapping - www.collinsmaps.com. Printed by Redlin Print on ERA Recycled Silk (50% recycled/50% FSC paper).

Updated 01/2010.



© Anne Woollett

The wildlife pond in Haggerston Park, looking west

WALK 2: SOUTH HACKNEY'S GREEN & OPEN SPACES

START: Poole St entrance to Shoreditch Park, N1

FINISH: Town Hall Square, Mare St, E8

DISTANCE: 4.5 kilometres (2¾ miles) approx.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT (www.tfl.gov.uk – route maps)

Buses

Start: 21, 76, 141, 271 & 394 to New North Rd; (or 38, 56, 73, 341 & 476 Essex Rd/New North Rd junction).

Finish: 30, 48, 55, 106, 236, 254, 276 & D6; (38, 242).

Return: 394; (or 38 from Graham Rd to New North Rd).

Trains

BR stations: Cambridge Heath; Essex Rd; Hackney Central; London Fields; Northern Line: Old Street.

Haggerston Pool. Splendidly ornate building. Opened in 1904 and now abandoned.

St Mary's Garden. Run by Thrive, a charity which provides horticultural training. Open during the day: another wonderful haven in urban south Hackney, with trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables. Monthly open days and often plants for sale.

Haggerston Park. Created in 1970s on land which was once the site of Gas Works, bombed in 1944. A dock linked the works to the Regent's Canal (opened in 1820). The dock is now filled in and planted with silver birch. Fine wisteria curls round columns near Whiston Road entrance. Trees in walled section include dawn redwood, red oak, Norway maple, Midland thorn, hawthorn, yew, prunus, willow and cotoneaster, as well as shrubs and flowers. Across the grassed sports area is newly created gateway from Dove Row and Whiston Estate. South of wall are hard-surface sports and children's play areas. A row of chestnut trees leads to Hackney Road entrance. The large pond was created in 1980s with woodland planted around it; they provide valuable habitats for wildlife: birds such as sparrow, great tit, blue tit, robin, wren, blackbird, goldfinch, starling and magpie, as well as butterflies and bees.

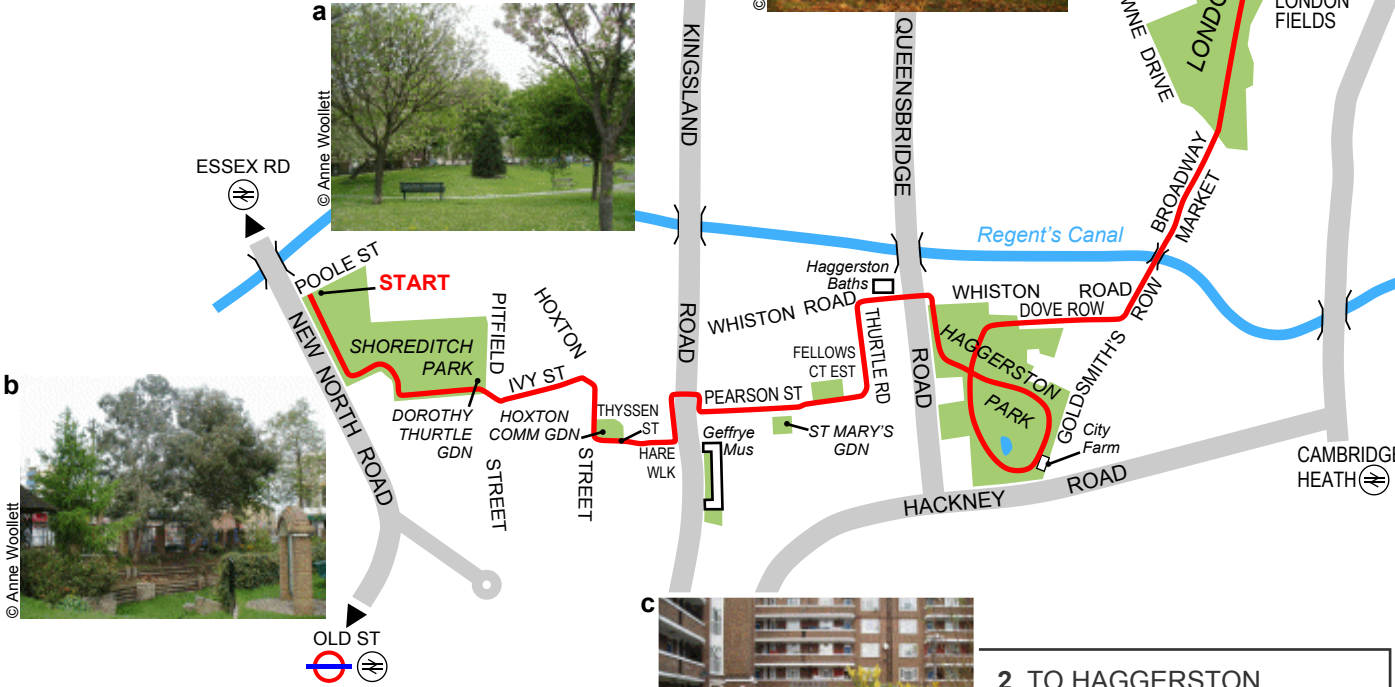
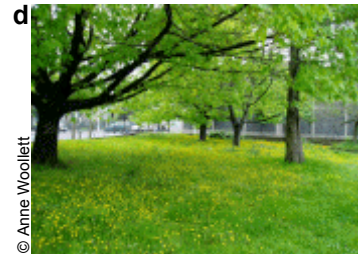
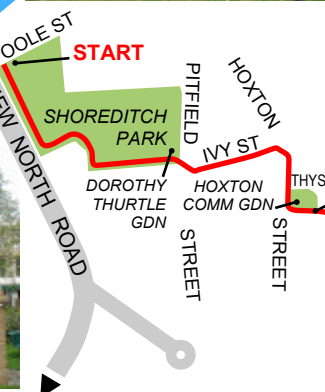
City Farm in south-east corner has lots of animals, a walled garden with large mulberry tree in centre, and excellent café. There are also workshops at the Farm.

London Fields were once Lammas land and used as pasture for Hackney parishioners and a stopping place for sheep being taken to Smithfield Market. Grazing ended in 1884 when Lammas Rights were purchased and Fields became a park. Mature trees include plane, lime, turkey oak, horse chestnut, cherry (stunning blossom in the spring), swamp cypress and larch. In north-west section is the Lido, built in the 1930s and now re-opened after a long campaign by local people.

Town Hall Square. Town Hall and its Square were laid out in Art Deco style in the 1930s and planted with lime trees. On the north side is Hackney Empire, designed by Frank Matcham, opened in 1901, and newly and splendidly renovated. On the south are Library and Museum, with Anglo-Saxon logboat found in the River Lea near Springfield Park. On the fourth side of the Square are Central Hall (1924) and old Library (1907), home to the short-lived Ocean Music Venue.

1 SHOREDITCH & HOXTON

Enter Shoreditch Park **a** and head south towards play area. Take path left past play area, pub and Play Park to Dorothy Thurtle Garden in south-east corner of Park. Take path between holly hedges to entrance. Cross Pitfield Street and go down Ivy Street, past Burbage Primary School with ivy mosaic. At Hoxton Street, turn right. Turn left into Tyssen Street at the corner of Hoxton Community Gardens **b**, past gate to Gardens. Continue into Hare Walk to Kingsland Road.



4 LONDON FIELDS & TOWN HALL

Follow Dove Row to Goldsmith's Row and turn left. Cross Whiston Road and Regent's Canal and into Broadway Market. Cross Lansdowne Drive and into London Fields **e**. Follow main path across London Fields. Leave Fields at Martello Street, turn left and follow road and then pedestrian path under railway bridge, across Richmond Road to Town Hall Square **f**.

2 TO HAGGERSTON

At Kingsland Road turn left and cross near garden mosaic. Turn right and immediately left down Pearson Street, past playground and St Mary's Garden on right. Continue along the line of Pearson Street into Fellows Court Estate. Fork left across the square to Thurtle Road. Turn left along Thurtle Road. At Whiston Road **c** turn right, past Haggerston Pool.

3 HAGGERSTON PARK

On Whiston Road, cross Queensbridge Road and into Haggerston Park. Turn right and follow the path round the Park **d**, past some fine trees. Go through the gate in the wall into the southern section of the Park. Turn left and right towards the pond. Turn left after the pond. Follow the path round, keeping left back to wall, with City Farm on right, and woodland and pond on left. Return to walled part of the Park. Fork right, across grassland, and leave Park at new iron gates on to Dove Row.

KEY

- Route of walk
- Other paths
- Steps or other access problems
- Alternative access

WALK 2

0 1/2 mile 1km