

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

Clissold Park. Clissold House was built in 1790 as a country villa for Hoare banking family. The grounds were planted with a fine collection of trees. In 1820s Rev Augustus Clissold married Eliza Crawshay, despite objections from her parents. They moved into the house after the death of her parents and renamed it Clissold House. **Queen Elizabeth's Walk** at eastern edge of Park was avenue of elms, now lost, linked to medieval manor house (now Town Hall).

The New River, constructed in 1610 to bring clean water from Amwell in Hertfordshire to London (with a reservoir at Sadlers Wells), went through Clissold Park. In late C19 the River was diverted into pipes but the section in front of house was retained as an ornamental feature.

At north end of Park, production of clay bricks in C18 resulted in creation of two lakes on the line of the **Hackney Brook**. The Brook was subsequently diverted and became part of Victorian sewer system.

In 1889 the Park was created by London County Council from the private estate and adjacent Common Land of Newington Common, after a campaign by John Runtz & Joseph Beck (after whom the lakes are named).

Stoke Newington. One of Hackney's original villages based round **St Mary's Churches** between High Street (Roman Ermine Street) and Green Lanes. First church is a rare Tudor church, rebuilt by Lord of Manor, William Patten, in 1563, with some original brickwork and fine Tudor monuments, and restored after bombing in 1940. The vicarage across Church Street was demolished for the construction of the larger St Mary's church in C19, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott. Both churches are still in use and form backdrop to views across Clissold Park.

In C18 Stoke Newington was home to non-conformist families, including Daniel Defoe and Isaac Watts. Some houses from C18 and C19 remain along Church Street, the oldest from about 1700 (numbers 107-109). The Town Hall was built in 1930s on the site of a mediaeval manor house, which was owned by the Dudley family between 1571 and 1695.

Part of Capital Ring Walk 13.

This leaflet was prepared by Anne Woollett, Mike Trier & Gill Jackson for Hackney Parks Forum.

For copies of the leaflet see

www.hackneyenvironment.org.uk

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The marble lion on the Bostock tomb in Abney Park Cemetery is frequently to be seen with a bouquet of flowers in his paws.

WALK 4: HACKNEY'S NORTHERN PARKS & NATURE RESERVES

START: Clissold Park, Stoke Newington, N16

FINISH: Springfield Park, Springfield, E5

DISTANCE: 5.2 kilometres (3¼ miles) approx.

Return walk: Add 2.4 kilometres (1½ miles)

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

Buses

Start: 73, 393 & 476 to Stoke Newington Church St; 106 to Lordship Park; 141 & 341 to Green Lanes.

Finish: 253 & 254; 393 from Cazenove Rd to Start.

Trains

BR stations: Clapton; Rectory Rd; Stamford Hill; Stoke Newington. **Underground:** Manor House.

Abney Park Cemetery. Built in the grounds of several houses (one of which was called Abney House). It opened as a cemetery in 1840, one of the 'magnificent seven' non-denominational cemeteries around London. It provided a place of relaxation and contemplation for the living as well as accommodation for the dead. The main entrance is decorated with Egyptian motifs and the cornices of the lodges are decorated with hieroglyphics, which read 'The gates of the abode of the mortal part of man'.

The Cemetery was laid out in 1840s as an arboretum, with 2500 trees and plants, including some fine specimens from Loddiges Nurseries (based around Morning Lane). A few of the original trees remain, together with more recent woodland and some rare hybrid trees (including oaks and thorns). The woodland is the largest area of mature woodland in Hackney and was designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation by GLA in 2002. Abney Park Cemetery visitor centre provides information about the graves, history, trees and wildlife, and organises activities in the Cemetery.

Stoke Newington Common. West Hackney Almshouses built in 1889 on the site of earlier almshouses. The Common is now badly fragmented by railway and roads, with some fine trees and new tree planting. Sanford Terrace on western edge of the Common was built in 1788 and in 1970 was saved from demolition after a fight by local people. Evidence of early occupation in Paleolithic (Stone Age) was recorded to the north of the Common. There is a reconstruction of the site in Museum of London.

Springfield Park. The grounds of three houses which became a park in 1905. One of the houses, the Mansion, is now a café (and toilets). There are still some fine specimen trees, including cedar, beech and mulberry. Designated as a Local Nature Reserve because of its springs, trees and acid grassland which is unique in Hackney.

Roman coffins and tenth-Century oak logboat (now in Hackney Museum) found near the River Lea. There are great views east over the flood plain of the **River Lea, Walthamstow Marshes & Reservoirs.**

Walthamstow Marshes is a site of Special Scientific Interest for its wildlife, particularly its plants and birds.

Growing Communities run a Farmers Market and organic vegetable box scheme, and manage sites at Springfield Park and Allens Gardens. Run with the help of volunteers, there are monthly open days in the summer.

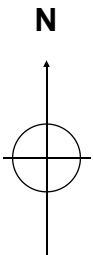
1 CLISSOLD PARK TO ABNEY PARK CEMETERY

With back to Clissold House and remnant of New River in front, bear right and take wide path towards Main Gate, with towers of old Pumping Centre ahead and to right **a**. Turn right and follow perimeter path with dawn redwoods and lakes on right **b**, Queen Elizabeth Gate on left, under the row of horse chestnuts. Exit at Town Hall Gate by old St Mary's Church. Turn left, pass the back of old Town Hall on right, follow Lordship Terrace. Cross Lordship Road, turn right and immediately left through a gap in houses. Turn right at wall of Quaker Burial Ground and through car park to Yoakley Road. Turn right past Levy Memorial Ground. Turn left at Stoke Newington Church Street and follow road to Abney Park Cemetery.



2 ABNEY PARK CEMETERY

Take steps on left into Cemetery. With Booth Monuments to right, take perimeter path to left. Follow it round Cemetery **d**, keeping lion monument (front page) and chapel **c** to right, and new housing to left. Where the paths cross, turn left. Pass Bhutan pines along cobbled path to Stoke Newington High Street entrance with Egyptian motifs.



KEY	
	Route of walk
	Alternative route
	Other paths
	Steps or other access problems
	Alternative access

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3 TO STOKE NEWINGTON COMMON

Cross High Street and follow Rectory Road, pass West Hackney House and cross by Raynes building on to Stoke Newington Common **e**. Follow path between Rectory Road and railway line. Turn left over the railway and left again through gap in fencing across eastern section of Common.



4 TO SPRINGFIELD PARK

Cross Northwold Road and follow Kyverdale Road. Cross Cazenove Road and turn right into Filey Avenue. Follow Filey Avenue. At Upper Clapton Road turn left, cross road at crossing, turn right then immediately left by cedar of Lebanon tree into Springfield.

5 SPRINGFIELD PARK

Enter gates to follow path to Mansion, with pond on right **f**. After the Mansion take the path to left through trees and pass entrance to Growing Communities. Take right fork down the slope and

then head towards river across grass. At riverside edge of Park turn right, follow row of poplar trees **g** and pass tennis courts. At second path turn right and follow the path up steep slope. Keep to left, pass bowling green, go round the pond and return to entrance on Springfield.

6 RETURN TO CLISSOLD PARK

Retrace route to Cazenove Road. Turn right (393 bus to Clissold Park) or follow Cazenove Road to Stamford Hill, cross, and turn left (Stoke Newington High Street). Return through Abney Park Cemetery; or continue and turn right into Stoke Newington Church Street, past fire station, shops, fine C18 and C19 houses, Old Town Hall and two St Mary's churches to Clissold Park.