

**London Loop 11 Hatch End to Elstree
on Saturday 29 May 2010**

This visit has been organised by David and Gillian Pick

The definitive guide is "The London Loop" written by David Sharp, list price £12.99. This guide contains maps, directions, detailed descriptions of the local scenery and facilities on the route. You can also find a detailed guide at <http://www.walklondon.org.uk/uploads/File/sections/loop%2015%20directions.pdf>.

This section takes us from Hatch End to Elstree and is approximately 8 miles.

Aim to be at Hatch End Station for a 10.35 start. Hatch End is on the Silverlink from Euston, with trains about every 20 mins.

If you miss us exit Hatch End Station and at the junction with Uxbridge Road go right. Turn right down Grimsdyke Road and continue passing both entrances to Hillview Road. At the junction turn right down the no exit road to join the LOOP and follow the LOOP signpost leading to the public footpath towards Pinner Wood Farm and Little Oxhey Lane on the right. Go over the stile and turn right into the field to join the LOOP.



This section follows the green belt on the fringe of Greater London, crossing the Hertfordshire border several times. We will mainly be on tracks and footpaths through woods and fields. However there is about 2 miles of road walking and some 7 stiles.

The main features of interest are Grim's Dyke, the mansion of W S Gilbert, of Gilbert and Sullivan fame - now Grim's Dyke Hotel, the heath and woodland of Bentley Priory, Stanmore Little Common, and Aldenham Country Park with its reservoir where sailing dinghies may be racing.

The Saxons probably named Grim's Dyke or Ditch after the devil, or Grim. Archaeologists believe this ditch was made in the late Iron Age/early Roman period, which means it is at least 2000 years old. The ditch may have been constructed to separate two estates to prevent stock from straying, but it does not seem to have had a defensive purpose. When the Saxons came across these linear earthworks, which stretch across the Chiltern Hills, they didn't understand their origin and so associated them with the devil.



Grim's Dyke Hotel



Aldenham Country Park

Lunch will be at the Fishery Inn near Aldenham Reservoir around 13.30 to 14.00.

Latecomers can contact me (David Pick) on my mobile number 07733555113 to find out where we are.