Welcome to Hackney Wild Walks!
This special pull out has three short walks around our beautiful borough that are perfect for kids. But grown ups will enjoy the adventures too. You’re bound to find a new place you never knew existed – and have lots of fun!
If you enjoy your walk let us know on twitter @hackneyFIS using #HackneyWildWalks or on our facebook page www.facebook.com/hackneyfis

Woodberry Down & West Reservoir: wizards, water & wildlife
A 2.1km walk along a flat, accessible path with cafes, picnic spots and playgrounds along the way. Leave time to spot the ducks and boats and maybe visit the castle.
Start Point: Bus Stop V on Seven Sister’s Rd, by Woodberry Grove

Haggerston to Hoxton: a giant snake, a stone circle & a secret garden
Flat and accessible 2.1km walk with some grass to walk through and (avoidable) steps. Jump on the Overground to return to the start (kids go free) or add half a kilometre and walk back along Kingsland Road. Leave time for the great playgrounds!
Start Point: Haggerston Overground Station

Health and Safety: Walking is great fun but remember to stay safe. Take care crossing roads, when near water and don’t be silly. If you are little bring a useful grown up – either a parent, or someone they say is cool – to help you stay safe.

Hackney Marsh & Kingsmead: boats, bumps & boulders
Easy 2km walk with some (avoidable) steps and a short section across grass. Bring a kite to fly or your scooter to ride some bumps.
Start Point: Bus Stop B on Homerton Road, Kingsmead Estate, opposite Mabley Green

Wear sensible clothes, and look out the window before you go so you know if you will need a raincoat and wellies or a hat and suncream. Comfy shoes are very important, and make sure your grown up has some too!
All these walks have cafes or shops on the route, but you might want to take a picnic or something to drink. All the walks have toilets on the route too and are accessible for wheelchairs and buggies with just a couple of changes.

With great thanks to Colin Shelbourn and Iain Peters, who created the original Lake District Wild Walks that inspired this project, and to Cath Prisk of Outdoor People (and her dog Charlie) who researched and mapped the walks. Words were written by Cath Prisk and Kathryn Scott.
This 2.1km walk goes through some very new gardens and past a very old reservoir. Learn about how London used to get its water and spot loads of trees, birds and boats.

Key:
- Star = Start
- Each pink line = approx 100m

**Start** at Bus Stop V, Woodberry Grove on Seven Sisters’ Road. Head towards Manor House, and turn first left down a small path between Knaresborough and Kilpeck House. Careful not to miss the entrance – it’s quite small.

Have you got to the end of the street? That’s the first 100m under your feet! Next road to take is Kayani Avenue. Walk to the end, where the buildings are new.

Here is your first view of the West Reservoir – it was opened in 1833! It is man-made and lined with bricks from the Old London Bridge. Turn right onto the New River Path.

A knotty tree on your right, look closely now and you might see a sprite...

Keep focused now, fingers crossed for luck. Peer through those reeds you might see a duck!

Remember those rocks you saw on the way, if you can see them again, you’ve not gone astray. But this time continue along the river. For a mystical sight that might make you shiver.

Wow, is this a wizard’s magic ball? If you look closely what can you see?

Turn left into Woodberry Grove, then left after the shops. Almost back to the start point, just up on the right.

The West Reservoir Centre is the halfway point of the walk. Enjoy the lovely peaceful views and visit the free toilets and the café. You can sign up to kayak, sail or even swim in the open water. Cool! Once you have enjoyed your break turn back the way you came.

Can you see the towering castle? Who do you think lives there? A queen, a king, a princess? Or is it a wizard’s magic lair? The tower was built as a pumping station, sending water to homes, providing hydration. Now it’s a place to climb and abseil, with very high walls for brave people to scale.

Woodberry Down & West Reservoir: wizards, water & wildlife
Hackney Marsh & Kingsmead: boats, bumps & boulders

A lovely circular walk with woods and wide open spaces, bumps to ride and a boulder to climb. Look out for one of the amazing adventure playgrounds.

Left after the footbridge, into Daubeney Fields park, Cross the grass, round the football pitch, where players make their mark.

Can you see the adventure playground, an excellent thing? Where you can climb up a tower or swing on a swing. It's your place to dig, dream, laugh, run and play, What kind of adventure will you have today?

Next stop on the route is Hackney Bumps, A skate park for scooters to ride over lumps. For boarders to speed and swoop up the humps, And BMX bikers to practice their jumps.

Is this big rock an asteroid from space? Or the bogey from the nose of a monstrous race? It's really an art work, of Cornish granite it's made. Can you climb up the sides or sit in its shade?

There's the Daubeney Road bridge, appearing into sight, The Water Jugglers sculpture should be on your right. Turning to your left now, cross the bridge you shall, You've reached the half-way point, once you're over the canal.

Count the canal boats! How many can you see? Which one has the best name?

You can take a short diversion, through the woods on your right, You'll find Hackney Marshes: a great place to fly a kite!

You can see the slate on top of the bridge as you cross? Turn left down the steps onto the canal path (or walk on and next left if you want to avoid steps). That's your first 200m done!

You're almost at the finish, just 300 metres more, Some secrets are awaiting if you go past number four. Can you see on your right there is a small passage to enter? Behind it lies a garden, playground and community centre.

Can you see the adventure playground, an excellent thing? Where you can climb up a tower or swing on a swing. It's your place to dig, dream, laugh, run and play, What kind of adventure will you have today?

Start at Bus Stop B, outside Malmsmead House where Kingsmead Way meets Homerton Road. Can you see the tall building with red and yellow panels? Walk towards it and towards the canal.
**Haggerston to Hoxton:**
a giant snake, a stone circle & a secret garden

*Start* at Haggerston Station, you should see Stonebridge Gardens next to the station. Go through the gate to find a surprising slithery sight.

On a black silent night that a silver moon crowned,
A snake emerged from the Underground.
A turquoise monster, it made hardly a sound,
As it slithered its way through Haggerston town.
Down Kingsland Road it slowly unwound,
Til it went to sleep on a grassy mound.
You can climb and clamber, jump up and down,
On his coils coiled around this little playground.

Under the railway is a beautiful peace mural designed by local children – how many symbols can you see? You’ve already done 300m.

Turn right up Appleby, a treat is in store!
St Mary’s Secret Garden, let’s go and explore.
There are toilets if needed, and nice places to sit,
Many bugs to find, plants and flowers to sniff.

Turn left and take the ramp on the right down onto the tow path. You will go under two bridges – watch out for cyclists! Ting! Ting!

Ones, twos, threes and fours, Can you count canoes, paddles and oars?

Alternate return route up Kingsland Road
Hoxton Station, our final destination! Can you see the gardens behind the Geoffrye Museum? And now you can jump on a train (under 11 year olds are free!) and see what you can spot from the Overground, or walk back up Kingsland Road.

Along Dunloe Street is the beautiful St Chad’s Church, what do you think it was like here when it was new 150 years ago?

This stone circle must have some history, but now to us it’s just a mystery!

This is an interesting walk with lots to see! You can bring your scooter as there are no steps. It’s 2.1km if you take the Overground back to the start or 2.6km if you walk.

Leave the park by the gate next to St Saviour’s Priory. Pop round the corner and look up to see a lamb!

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