

## Rickmansworth Lakes

1) From the gates by the car park at The Aquadrome walk straight ahead past the sailing club until you go through a second gate. Turn right onto the path between two lakes and follow this until you reach a bridge over the River Colne. Turn left immediately before the bridge and continue into Stockers Lake Nature Reserve.

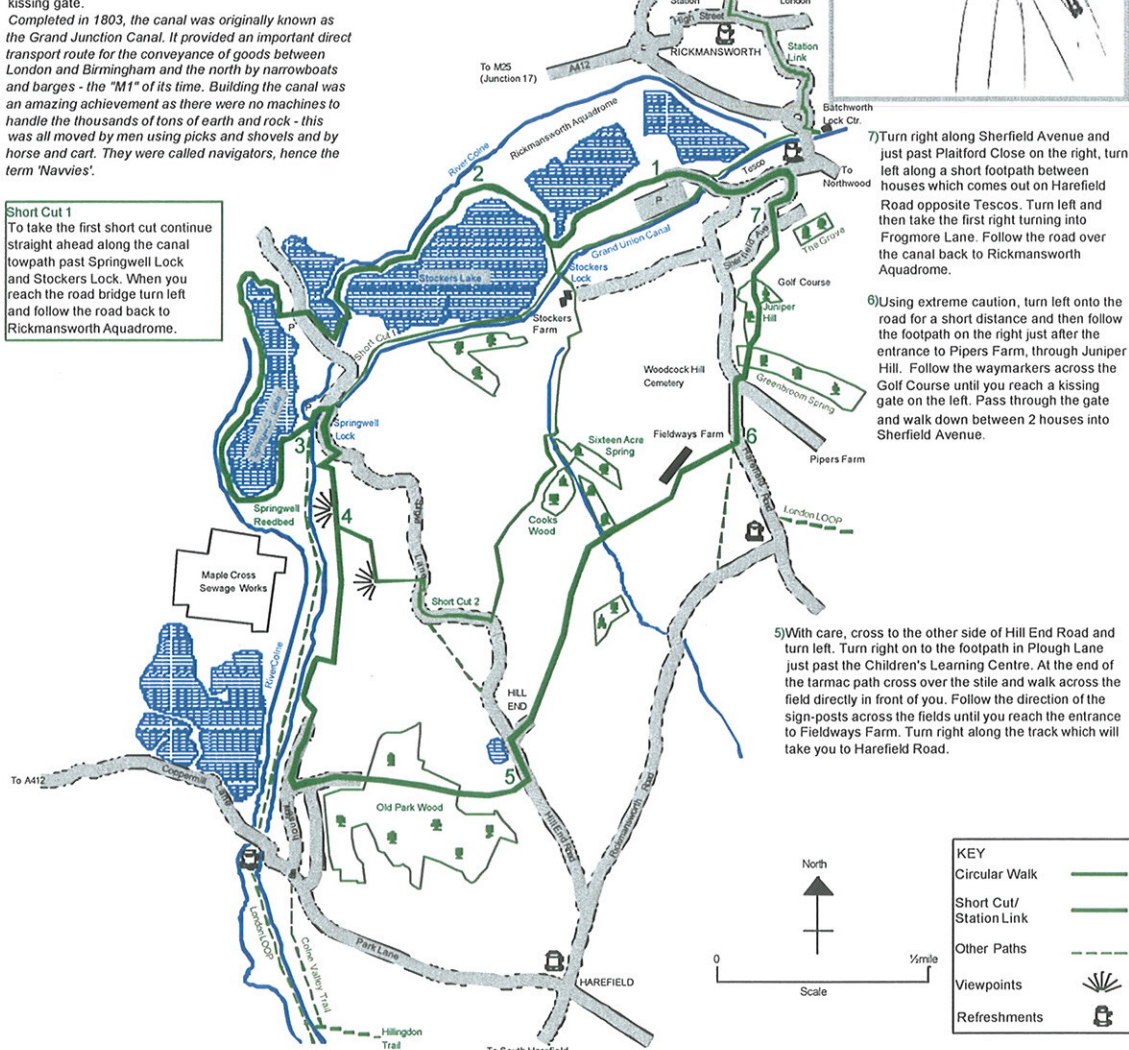
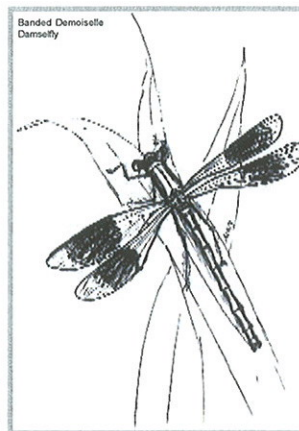
2) Follow the path between Stockers Lake and the River Colne. After approximately 1/2 mile turn right and cross the footbridge over the Colne. Continue around the south of Inns Lake, cross over Springwell Lane and into the car park next to the Cattery. Turn right and follow the path around Springwell Lake, then turn right through the kissing gate.  
Completed in 1803, the canal was originally known as the Grand Junction Canal. It provided an important direct transport route for the conveyance of goods between London and Birmingham and the north by narrowboats and barges - the "M1" of its time. Building the canal was an amazing achievement as there were no machines to handle the thousands of tons of earth and rock - this was all moved by men using picks and shovels and by horse and cart. They were called navigators, hence the term 'Navvies'.

**Short Cut 1**  
To take the first short cut continue straight ahead along the canal towpath past Springwell Lock and Stockers Lock. When you reach the road bridge turn left and follow the road back to Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

### Station Link

Turn right out of the station, under the railway bridge to Rickmansworth High Street. Turn left along the High Street, right into Church Street, past St Mary's Church to Batchworth roundabout. Just before the canal bridge turn left down the steps signposted Batchworth Lock Centre. Turn right along the towing path under the bridge and continue until you reach the next bridge.

The Batchworth Lock Centre is well worth a visit for information on waterways in this area. The centre is housed in former stables where horses rested overnight while boatmen refreshed themselves in the adjacent Boat Inn.



7) Turn right along Sherfield Avenue and just past Plaitford Close on the right, turn left along a short footpath between houses which comes out on Harefield Road opposite Tesco's. Turn left and then take the first right turning into Frogmore Lane. Follow the road over the canal back to Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

6) Using extreme caution, turn left onto the road for a short distance and then follow the footpath on the right just after the entrance to Pipers Farm, through Juniper Hill. Follow the waymarkers across the Golf Course until you reach a kissing gate on the left. Pass through the gate and walk down between 2 houses into Sherfield Avenue.

5) With care, cross to the other side of Hill End Road and turn left. Turn right on to the footpath in Plough Lane just past the Children's Learning Centre. At the end of the farmac path cross over the stile and walk across the field directly in front of you. Follow the direction of the sign-posts across the fields until you reach the entrance to Fieldways Farm. Turn right along the track which will take you to Harefield Road.

3) Turn left onto the Grand Union Canal towpath until you reach a bridge over the canal. Using the bridge cross the canal then follow the road to the right and up the hill. Turn right when you reach a farm track on your right and follow the track through the farm.

From this path there are excellent views down into the Colne Valley where old gravel pits now form large lakes for recreation and wildlife. Stockers, Springwell and Inns Lake are all owned by Three Valleys Water Company who are working to improve the access and recreational value of the lakes.

4) Where the path forks continue straight ahead following the Colne Valley Trail signposts across the field, down the hill then through the new housing estate. Turn left up Bellevue Terrace and continue straight ahead. Follow the Hillingdon Trail signposts through Old Park Wood until you reach the road.  
Part of Old Park Wood is a nature reserve managed by the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. It is one of the last and best of the Middlesex woodlands noteworthy for its plants such as Bluebell and Wood Anemone and its rich bird life including all 3 British Woodpeckers.

**Short Cut 2**  
To take the second short cut continue up the hill from position 4 then turn right when you reach Springwell Lane. Turn left at Cripp's House Farm and follow the waymarkers along a tree lined track, past the woods and through the fields. At Stockers Farm continue straight ahead past the farm buildings and across the canal into Rickmansworth Aquadrome. Turn right at the gates to head back to the start point.

