

Uxbridge campus to Charville Lane

B50 1

Start	Uxbridge campus — UB8 3PH
Finish	Charville Lane — UB4 8PE
Distance	3.48km
Duration	44 minutes
Ascent	28.8m
Access	Buses at start of section. Buses at end of section.
Facilities	All facilities at start of section. Shops at Long Lane <i>en route</i> .

1.1	IKB statue, Uxbridge campus	0m
1.2	Exit campus via Kingston Lane, where R; L on path to Royal Lane, where L to Red Lion Inn, Hillingdon.	1380m
1.3	R on Uxbridge Road; L on Long Lane; R onto Charville Lane West; ahead to Pole Hill Road, where R and L onto Charville Lane to Raeburn Road bus stop.	2100m



IKB statue on the main boulevard, Uxbridge campus

1.1

The Brunel50 Path is a circuit (and so may be started anywhere), but the most logical start is in the centre of today's University, at the bronze statue of Isambard Kingdom Brunel (IKB) on the main spinal boulevard of the campus. The statue was unveiled by one of his descendants during the University's ruby anniversary year of 2006, which coincided with the bicentenary of IKB's birth.

The main campus of the University has, since the grant of the Royal Charter in 1966, been at its site to the south of Uxbridge town centre. The campus land is largely a former market garden site adjacent to the Great Western Railway branch line between West Drayton and Uxbridge Vine Street station. The branch closed in 1964. A small part of the campus sits on land purchased by the local authority to extend an isolation hospital (St John's: the original buildings were where Ivybridge Close is now) on Kingston Lane: the extension land came to the University in the early 1990s. Before the settling of the University at Uxbridge, the Acton campus had been the home of Brunel College of Advanced Technology, that institution having grown out of Acton Technical College (at first, with the designation of Brunel College of Technology) in 1957.

For five years after the granting of the Royal Charter, the University continued on the Acton site until all functions were transferred to Uxbridge. A campus was established at Runnymede (previously Shoreditch College of Education and even earlier the Royal Indian Engineering College) by 1980. During the 1990s, as a result of the merger between Brunel University and the West London Institute of Higher

Education, campuses at Osterley and Twickenham came on board. These sites will be described in greater detail at the appropriate points in the text.

In recent years, new buildings have been built alongside (or occasionally replacing) those from the 1960s: this, the Campus Masterplan, was an integral part of the strategy to consolidate the University from a four-site institution at the turn of the millennium into an entire university set on a single campus, which has been its life since its ruby anniversary year of 2006.



*Approach to the River Pinn
from the Quad*

1.2 Setting out from Uxbridge campus, your first campus target is Acton. Follow the boulevard east from the statue, with the shops on your left and two buildings on your right-hand side. The Michael Sterling building (named after a former Vice-Chancellor) is a product of the Masterplan. The Bannerman Centre (named after a former Director of Services whose time of service at Brunel spanned the eras of single campuses at Acton and at Uxbridge) combines the original 1960s Library building with a post-millennial eastern extension to incorporate other University-wide services.

Steps (or a ramp) will take you down to the corner of the bulky and brutalist 1960s Lecture Centre (probably most famous for its place in *A Clockwork Orange*). Take the corner of the Lecture Centre to continue eastwards with a quadrangle on your left.

Ahead, down more stairs or a ramp, the boulevard leads to and then crosses the River Pinn, rising past halls of residence and then the long arch-shaped Indoor Athletics Centre to a roundabout.

The large building on the left ahead is the Eastern Gateway building, while on the right is the bow-fronted smoked-glass-clad Mary Seacole building, opened in 2006, the ruby anniversary year of the University by HM the Queen.

Take the pedestrian crossing to the right of the roundabout, and climb past the Mary Seacole building to another roundabout on Kingston Lane. Turn right at the flagpoles, crossing the road at the pedestrian crossing, and going on past the bus stop until you come face to face with a metal gateway.

A path crosses Kingston Lane here: this is an old track which linked Cowley with the church at the top of Hillingdon Hill. In the past, Cowley was part of Hillingdon parish, with its own daughter chapel, but is now separate, based around the church of St Laurence. To your right, across Kingston Lane, the track is known as Nursery Lane, an indication of the history of this area.



Path between Kingston Lane and Royal Lane

Turn left up the track which, on the (upper) east side of Kingston Lane, separates the main sports park of the University on your right from its Cemetery pitches on your left.

Sure enough, at the top end of the pitches, you will see the Hillingdon and Uxbridge Cemetery on the left. The cemetery was originally two side by side, one for Uxbridge and one for Hillingdon. The entry to the cemetery is off the main campus roundabout on Kingston Lane.

Continue up the enclosed path, now enclosed by trees, to emerge at the top onto Royal Lane. Turn left on Royal Lane to reach Uxbridge Road. This area is a most historic location, and the first opportunity to draw breath.

At the top of Hillingdon Hill, the Red Lion Inn and St John's Church face each other, as pub and church do in so many places across the country. The church was built in the first half of the seventeenth century, and was extended two hundred years later to designs by Sir George Gilbert Scott, who was also the designer of the Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens.

The Red Lion Inn is of sixteenth-century origin: it is a building of historical significance in the architectural conservation records of Historic England. King Charles I stopped at the inn, having failed to conclude a treaty (at the site of the Crown and Treaty pub in Uxbridge) to end the Civil War: the Propositions of Uxbridge were debated in January and February of 1645.

On Royal Lane, opposite your exit from the enclosed path, is situated Bishopshalt School, whose main building dates from the middle of the nineteenth century (before it was a school). The many stately trees in the area show the prosperity of the owners of the local buildings of the nineteenth century and earlier. Much of the housing on and behind Uxbridge Road dates from the inter-war period of London expansion, and employs many of the standard plans which were popular with developers and housebuyers in the Metroland era.

Red Lion Inn, Hillingdon



1.3 Cross the main Uxbridge Road (it used to be the A40 to Oxford, Gloucester and eventually Fishguard) at the pedestrian crossing, and turn right, thus keeping the shops on your left-hand side. Cross the end of Vine Lane, pass Cedars House (now offices) on your left, and then pass on your right the end of Harlington Road (at the traffic lights). Continue to the junction at the foot of Long Lane.

Here, you will find a parade of shops with a bakery (and a pharmacy, which may be of interest to those not accustomed to walking!); within the filling station at the corner, on the far side of Long Lane, there is a mini-supermarket. On the other side of Uxbridge Road, opposite Long Lane, there is a café: its hours of 0630-1500 (shrunk by half an hour at each end on a Sunday) betray its lineage as one of the transport cafés along the main road to Oxford and beyond.



Charville Lane West

Here, it is worth interjecting a word of advice. Crescent Parade at this junction has the last shops *en route* until you reach Uxbridge Road again at Hanwell (about 11km ahead from here).

Use the pedestrian crossing at the junction to cross Long Lane, then turn left up Long Lane. At the first bus stop, take the path which goes off to the right, to reach the end of Charville Lane West. You are now on another of the oldest routes in the vicinity: this one led from the church at Hillingdon to Northolt and beyond.

Charville Lane West is made up of typical inter-war housing, with the odd infill from the 1960s and 1970s, and of course some houses have been embellished (not always in impeccable taste) by subsequent extension.

Continue along the road, with its broad median on the right until, where it dwindles into a footpath, you will see Highfield School on the right. Proceed along the tarmac path, with school playing fields on the left, to reach its end at Pole Hill Road.

At this point, fully 57m above sea level, you are standing at the highest point on the Brunel50 Path so far, a height not attained again until you are making your climb up to Cooper's Hill on your way towards the Runnymede campus.

Turn right along Pole Hill Road, then immediately left into Charville Lane, and your altitude becomes more obvious: the view to the east and south-east opens out, with open land on your right. Descend Charville Lane, crossing to the right-hand side of the road near the Raeburn Road bus stop.

This point marks the end of this section

The U7 bus runs back to the Uxbridge campus from here.