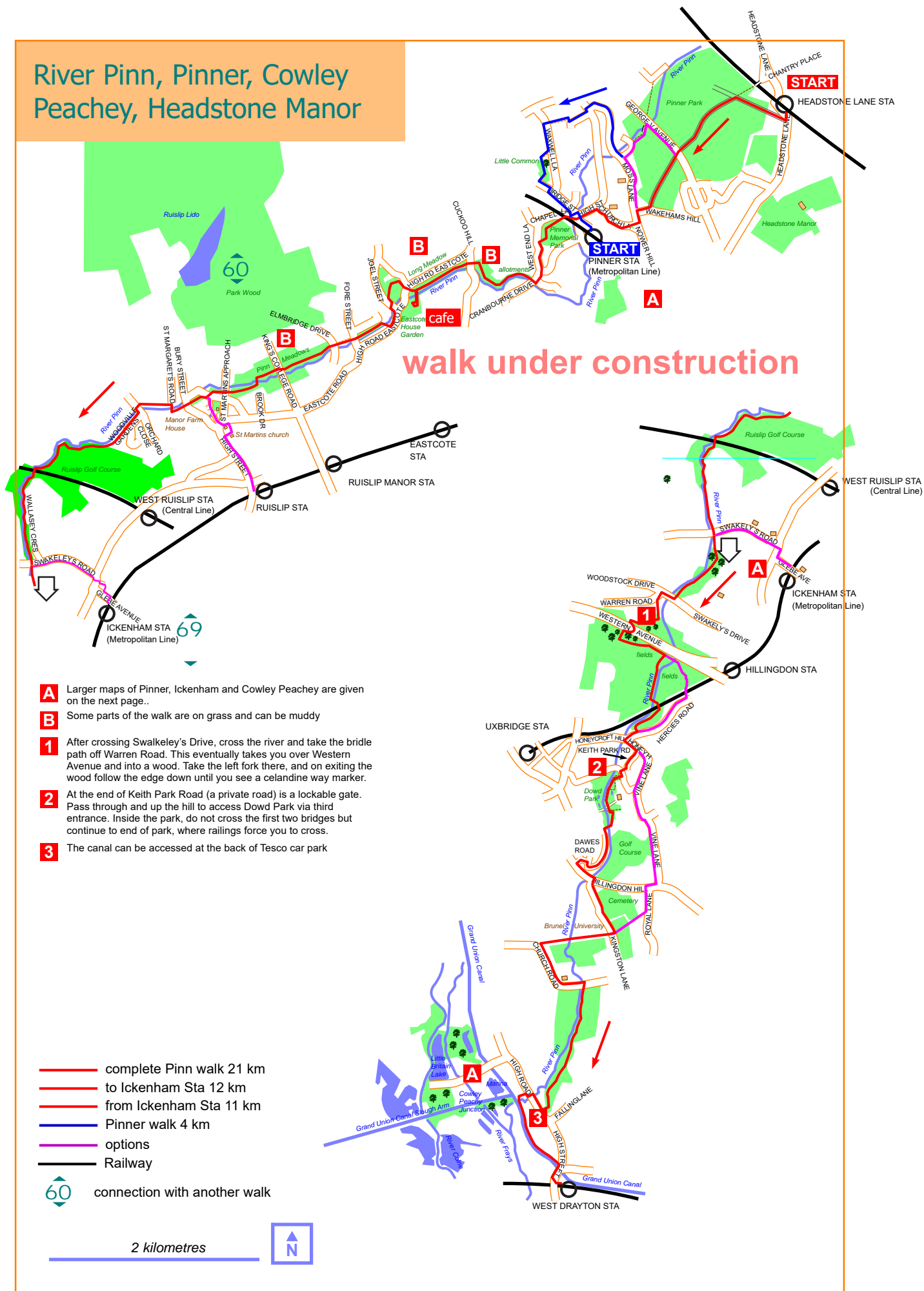
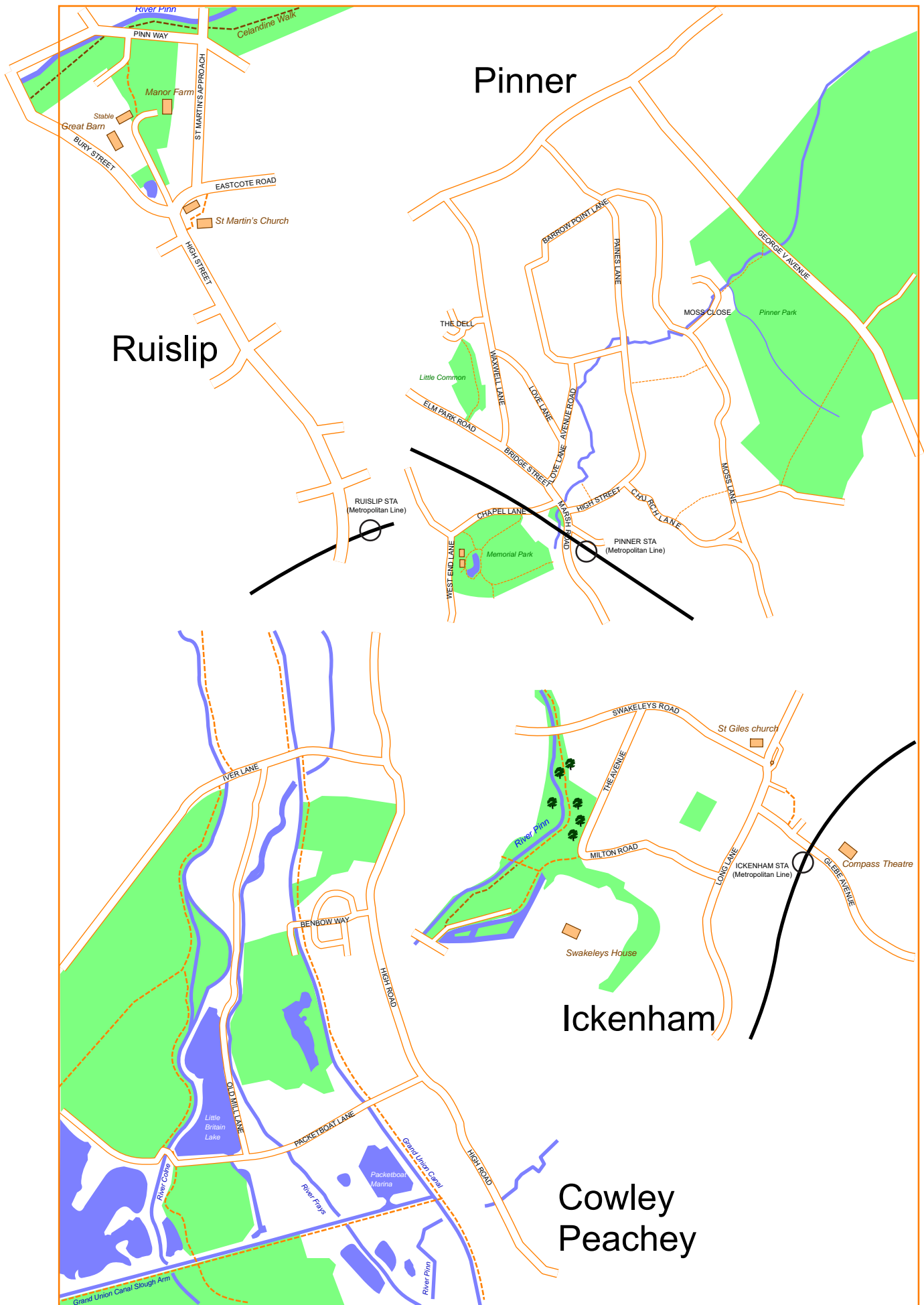


River Pinn, Pinner, Cowley Peachey, Headstone Manor





Celandine Route

The Celandine Route follows the River Pinn, which is nearly 12 miles long, from near its source on Harrow Weald Common to where it joins the Frays River, taking in many green spaces. It runs through Pinner, Eastcote, Ruislip, Ickenham and continues on to Cowley where it joins the Frays River at Yiewsley.

Headstone Manor

Headstone Manor is the only surviving moated Manor House in Middlesex. The land on which it stands is recorded as part of the complete 'manor' of Harrow, owned by Wulfred, Archbishop of Canterbury in 825 AD. The construction of the Manor House began around 1310, as revealed by dendochronological dating of the building's oldest timbers. Archbishop John Stratford purchased more land around the house in 1344 and used it as his main residence in Middlesex.

Headstone Manor remained the property of the Archbishops of Canterbury until the Reformation, when in 1546 it was surrendered to Henry VIII by Thomas Cranmer. Henry VIII was 'Lord of the Manor of Headstone' for six days, before selling the property to Edward North, a court favourite. Headstone Manor remained in private ownership with a tenant farmer for almost four centuries.

Having been a working farm for over 400 years Headstone Manor fell into a state of disrepair, and much of its surrounding land was sold off in the 19th & 20th centuries for the development of the housing you see today. In 1925 Hendon Rural District Council bought the site to create what is now Headstone Recreation Ground. The Manor passed to Harrow following local government reorganisation and, with a lottery grant, was restored as a free museum.

Pinner

The oldest part of the town lies around the fourteenth-century parish church of St. John the Baptist, at the junction of the High Street and Church Lane. The earliest surviving private dwelling, East End Farm Cottage, dates from the late fifteenth-century. (We make a detour to this spot).

The village expanded rapidly between the wars when a series of garden estates, including the

architecturally significant Pinnerwood estate conservation area – encouraged by the Metropolitan Railway – grew around its core. It was largely from this time onwards that the area assumed much of its present-day suburban character. The area is now continuous with neighbouring suburban districts including Rayners Lane and Eastcote. Pinner contains a large number of homes built in the 1930s Art Deco style, the most grand of which is the Grade II listed Elm Park Court at the junction of West End Lane and Elm Park Road.

Pinner has had an annual street fair held in May since 1336, when it was granted by Royal Charter by Edward III.

Eastcote

Eastcote existed as a settlement near the River Pinn in a cleared area of woodland as part of the Manor of Ruislip. By the middle of the thirteenth century Ruislip was divided into three tithings: Westcote (the western settlement, now Ruislip), Ascot or Eastcott (the eastern settlement, now Eastcote) and Norwood (now Northwood). The divisions of Westcote and Ascott/Eastcott survived until 1833. A total of 19 buildings mentioned in 1565 are still in existence, although some are greatly altered. At the end of the 18th century some larger architect designed houses were built for gentry who welcomed the quiet and seclusion. Two are still standing: Eastcote Point, Cuckoo Hill built in 1896 and Eastcote Place built in 1897. Eastcote House started life as a timber-framed house called Hopkyttes and was in the continuous ownership of the most prominent local Hawtrey family for over 400 years. The extension, from Harrow to Uxbridge, of the Metropolitan Railway, which passed through fields south of Eastcote village, was to change everything. Eastcote Halt opened in 1906 and Eastcote suddenly became accessible to many more people. The centre of Eastcote shifted south, away from the old village. By the 20's and 30's the land was ripe for development into the suburb of today. Eastcote House was demolished in 1964 but the gardens, including a walled garden, dovecote and 17th century stables are now part of a public park.

Pinn Meadows

Part of Ruislip Manor, the 20 ha open space on

the floodplain of the Pinn is an important site for nature conservation. Kings College Cambridge transferred the land to Ruislip-Northwood in 1938 as a public open space. The following butterflies have been spotted: Small White, Green-veined White, Large White, Marbled White, Orange-tip, Brimstone, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Large Skipper, Green-veined White, Large White, Marbled White, Orange-tip, Brimstone, Holly Blue, Small Copper, Purple Hairstreak, Purple Emperor, Meadow Brown, Comma, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Speckled Wood, Ringlet, Hedge Brown, Holly Blue and White Admiral.

Ruislip

Ruislip has a long history, with records from the time of Edward the Confessor. The medieval parish of Ruislip covered modern Ruislip, Northwood, Eastcote, Ruislip Manor and South Ruislip. In 1087 Arnulf de Hesdin gave Ruislip to the Benedictine Bec Abbey. During the 13th century the parish church, dedicated to St Martin of Tours, was built, along with the Manor Farm complex. The Great Barn was used to hold the tithes paid to the Abbey by its tenant farmers. Following dissolution by Henry VIII ownership passed to King's College, Cambridge who remained the main landowner until the 1930's when they gave the Manor Farm Complex and King's College Playing Fields to the people of Ruislip and sold the remainder to Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council for development.

Ickenham

Ickenham appears in the Domesday Book under the name 'Ticheham'. Originally split into four manors, it merged into two: Ickenham and Swakeleys. The 14th century St Giles' church, a village pond and a village pump are at the centre of the village. The Grade 1 listed 17th century Jacobean mansion Swakeleys House stands to the south.

In 1905, following lobbying by Ickenham Parish Council, the Metropolitan Railway opened a small halt on their line between Harrow and Uxbridge. The gradual expansion to become a London suburb was inevitable.

Middlesex County Council bought Ickenham Hall, opposite the station, in 1948, in order to

convert it into a youth centre. In 1968 a theatre was built behind the hall, later named the Compass Theatre.

Cowley Peachey

By 1086 Westminster Abbey owned an estate, of 2 hides in Cowley, which later became the manor of Cowley Peachey. and this was granted to Bartholomew Peachey in 1252. When a settlement grew up in the later Middle Ages it took the name of the manor. Two timber-framed houses survive, perhaps from the 16th century.

The Grand Junction Canal (subsequently part of the Grand Union Canal) was constructed in the mid-1790s. A packet boat service ran to Paddington for a while, giving its name to a pub and the lane that crossed the canal. The Slough branch of the canal was one of the last to be built in Britain. Opened in 1883, it provides five miles of lock-free waterway along an almost straight line into the centre of Slough.

British Waterways subsequently cleaned the area up and created a 120-berth marina, Packet Boat Marina, with associated amenities for boat users, a visitors' centre and an urban park. The £3.5 million project was completed in 2002.

The various water courses, lakes and woods, make the area worth visiting on its own.