

# Lockdown walks from Sedgemere Avenue

## Avenue/Stephens House

0.5 kilometres

length 4.2 km / 2.6 miles

! A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people



Pavement Walk

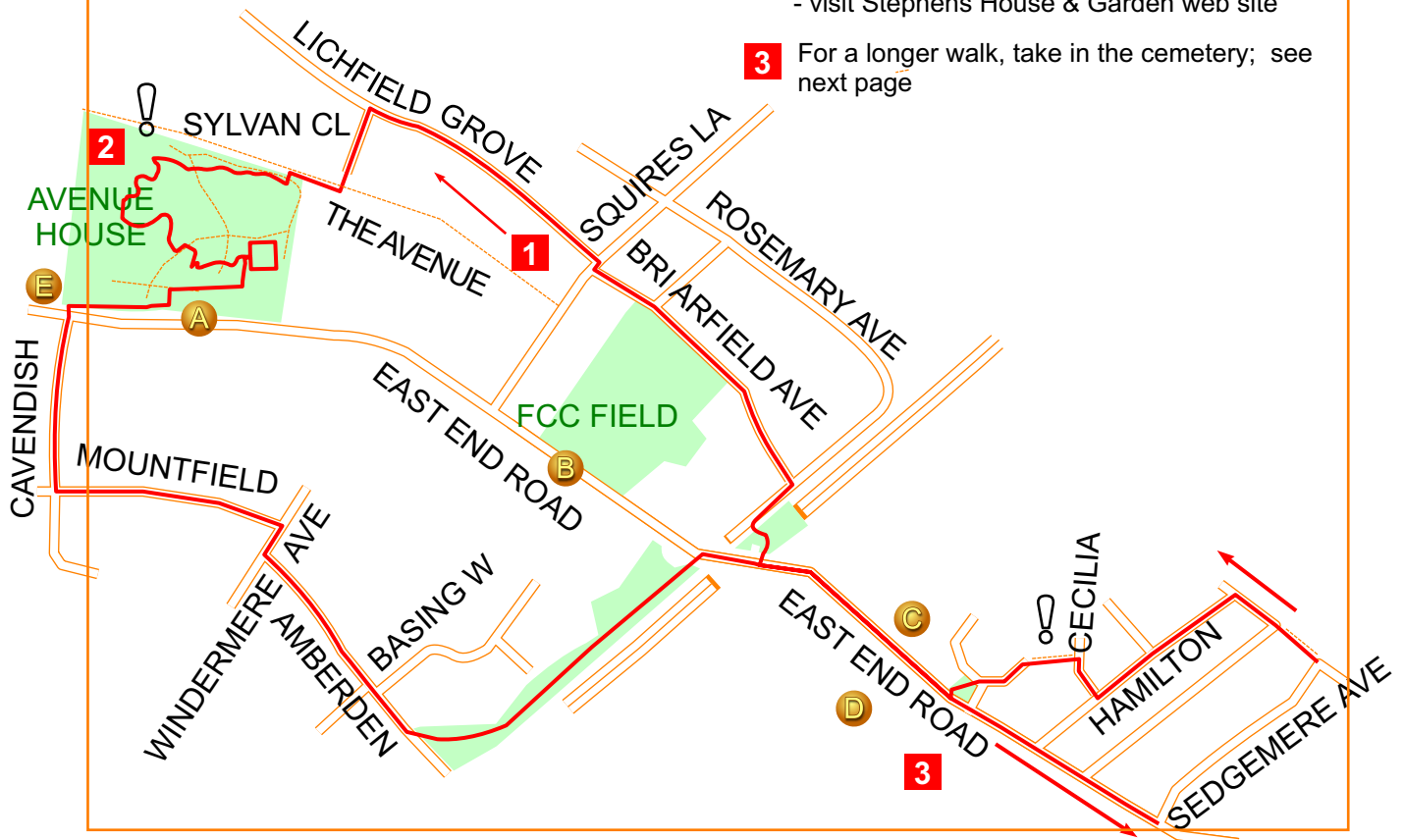


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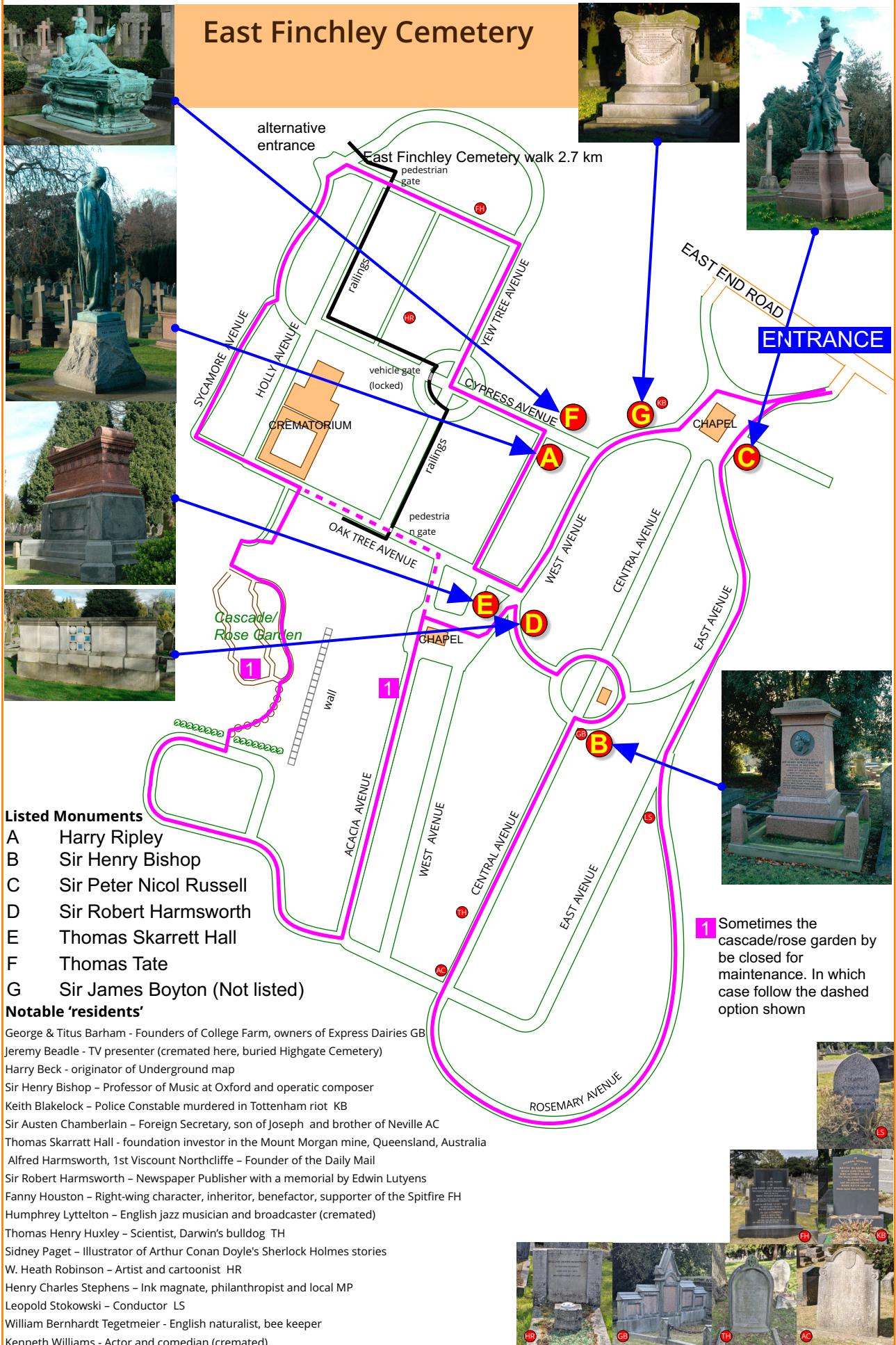
Walks, except cemetery walk, are shown in order of increasing distance and to same scale

- 1 Distancing on the Avenue depends on the cooperation of others - the risk is yours
- 2 Entrances vary according to state of lockdown - visit Stephens House & Garden web site
- 3 For a longer walk, take in the cemetery; see next page



These lock-down walks aim to avoid busy retail areas and blind passageways as well as Parkland Walk and Dollis Brook Walk for distancing reasons.

# East Finchley Cemetery



! Not to same scale as remaining walks: length 3.0 km /1.9 miles

# Long Lane, Victoria Park

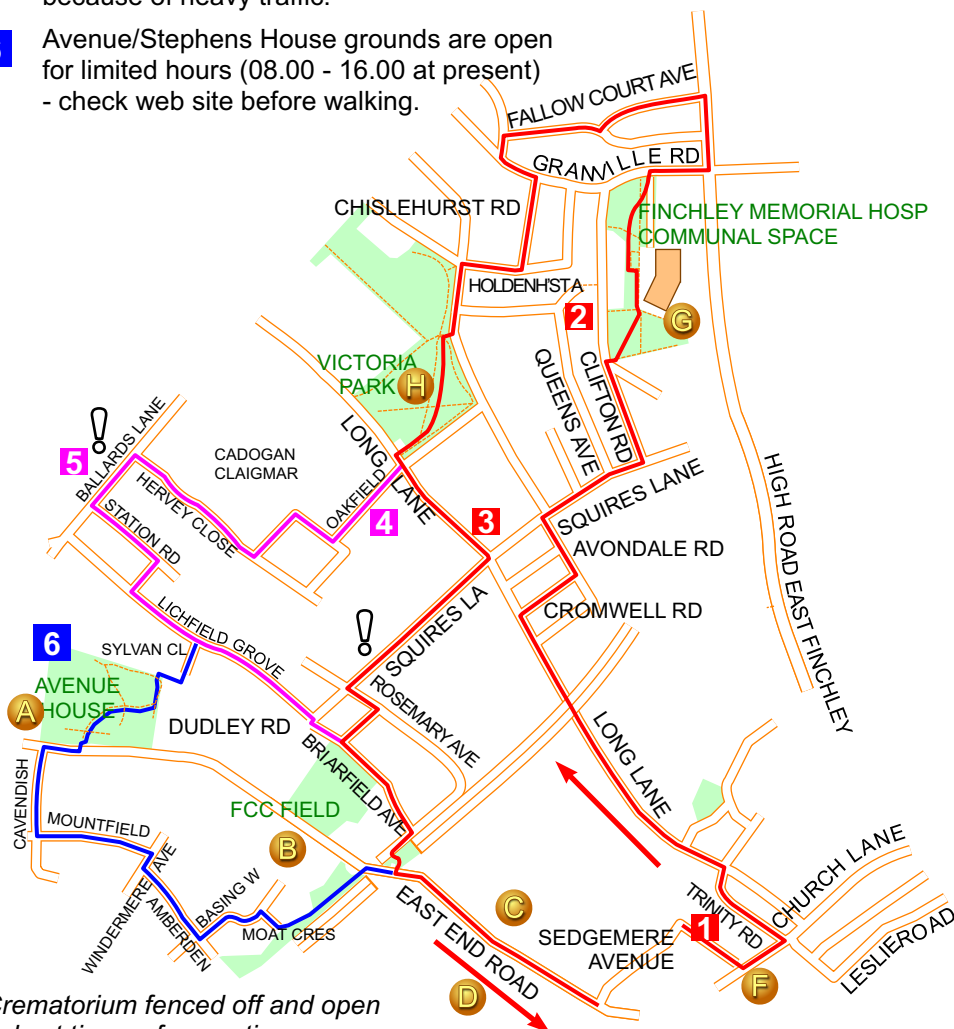
1 kilometre

length 5.8km / 3.6 miles



*A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people*

- 1** Subway under the Northern Line avoided for distancing reasons.
- 2** The passageway here allows the walk to be shortened.
- 3** If preferred, continue on down Long Lane, retracing the beginning of the walk
- 4** For a slightly longer walk return via Oakfield Road, Hervey Close etc..
- 5** Distancing at bridge crossing is difficult because of heavy traffic.
- 6** Avenue/Stephens House grounds are open for limited hours (08.00 - 16.00 at present) - check web site before walking.



*Crematorium fenced off and open only at times of cremation so a return via the cemetery not possible*



Pavement Walk

For better walks, in better times, visit:

<http://www.tonero.me.uk/walksfromfinchley.htm>

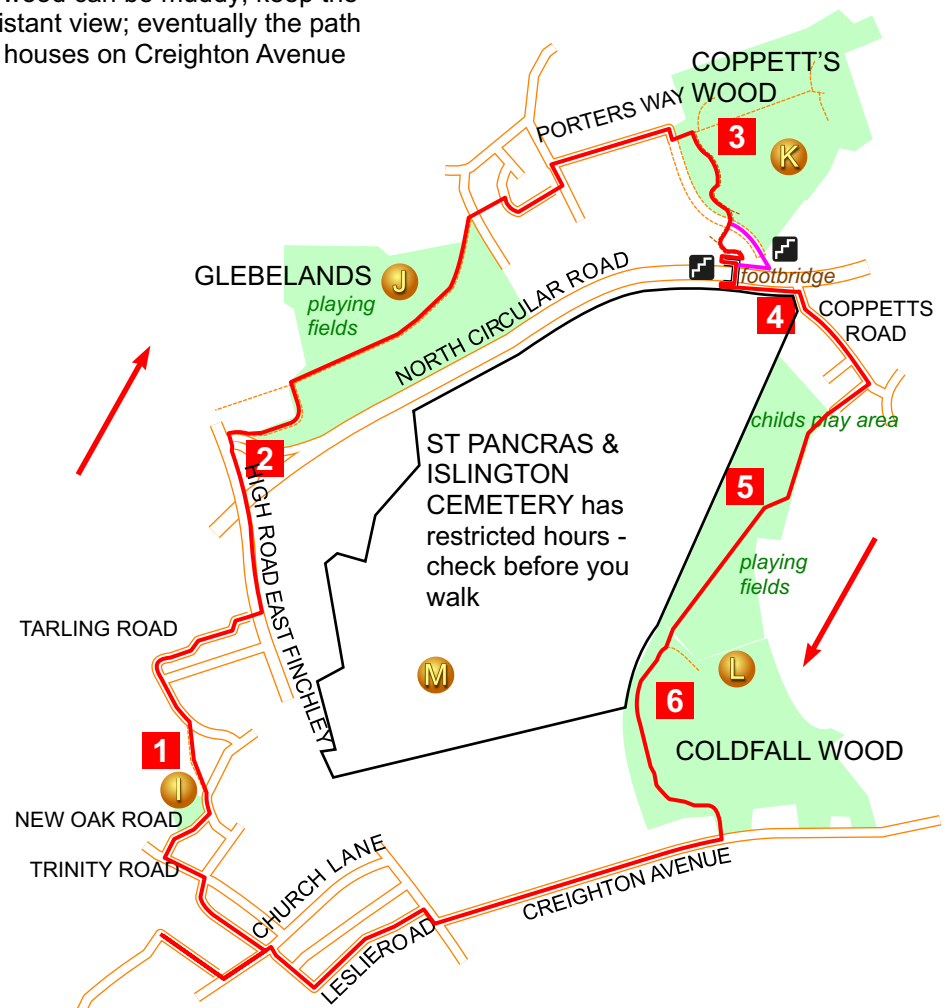
1 kilometre

length 6.6km / 4.2 miles

! A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

steps

- 1 The second half of Pumphandle Path is wide enough for distancing
- 2 A rough path into the scrub will take you to the main path
- 3 Take time to explore the wood but return to this point to continue the walk
- 4 To return to Sedgemere Avenue via cemetery visit walk <http://www.tonero.me.uk/walkmaps/T&Swalks118.pdf>
- 5 Once on the higher level of the playing field, strike out diagonally for the wood, to a distant red notice.
- 6 The entrance to the wood can be muddy; keep the boundary fence in distant view; eventually the path reaches the back of houses on Creighton Avenue



All these walks are to the same scale



1 kilometre

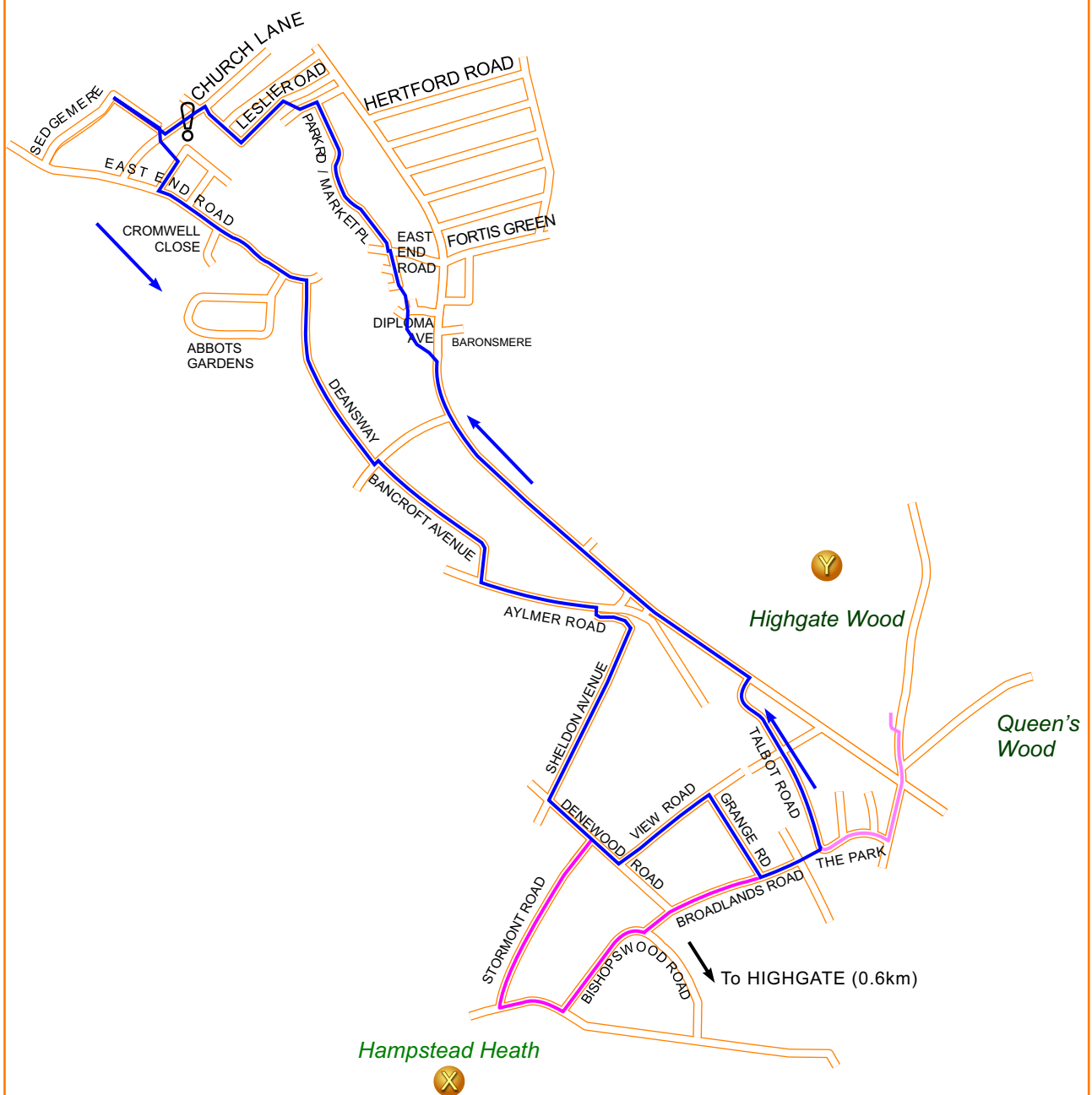
length 6.6km / 4.1 miles

## A short walk south

For when you need to get out for just a short while, with an option to extend to the Heath or Highgate Village or Highgate Wood.



Pavement walk



1 kilometre

length 7.1 km / 4.5 miles

! A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

**1** If you have time on your hands visit the areas with the buildings shown in pink; they are listed II\* or 1.

# Hampstead Garden Suburb

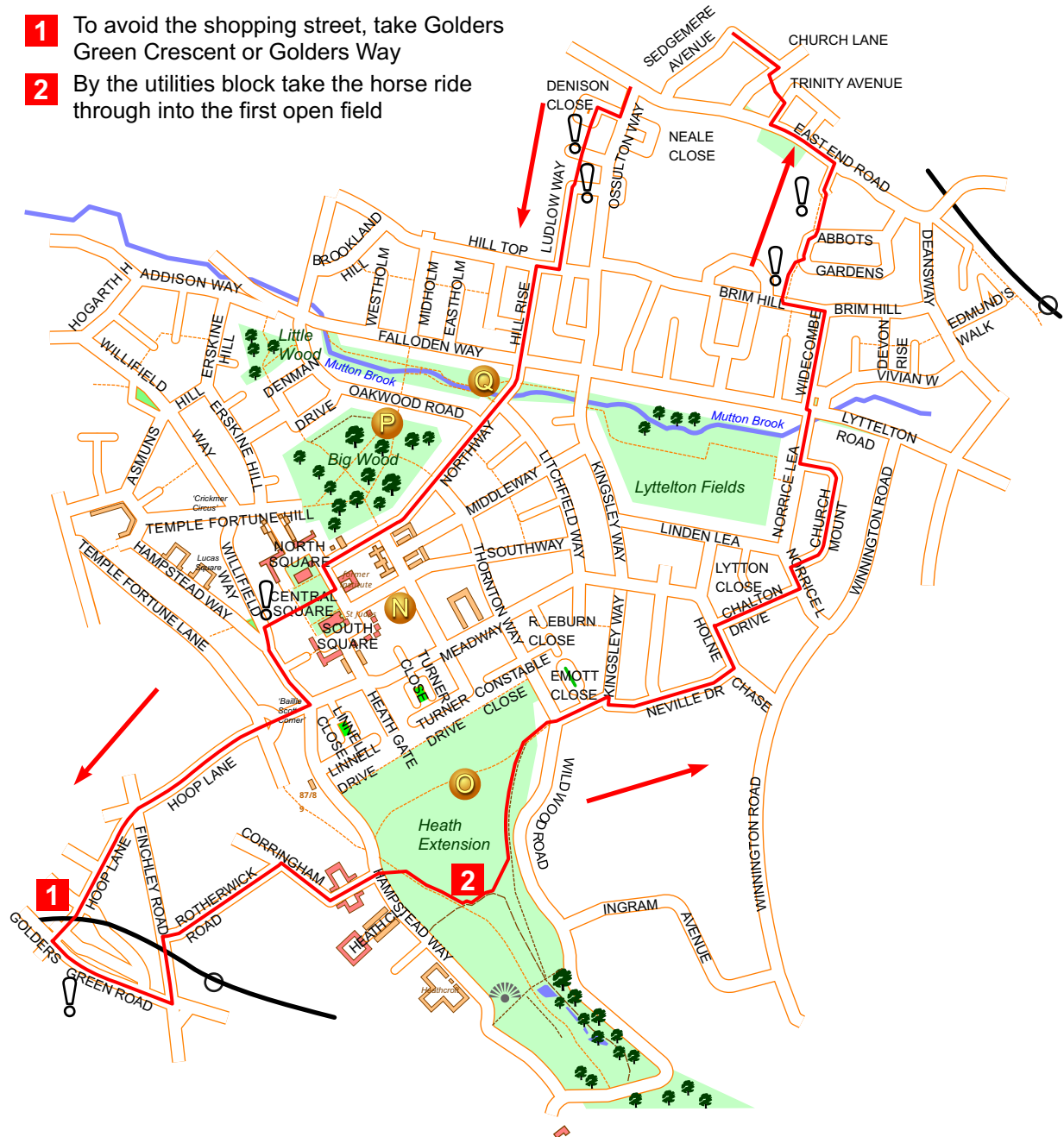


## Pavement Walk

length 7.6 km / 4.7 miles

! *A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people*

- 1 To avoid the shopping street, take Golders Green Crescent or Golders Way
- 2 By the utilities block take the horse ride through into the first open field



1 kilometre

length 8km / 5 miles

## College Farm, Church End, Nether Street, Victoria Park



A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

For better walks, in better times, visit:

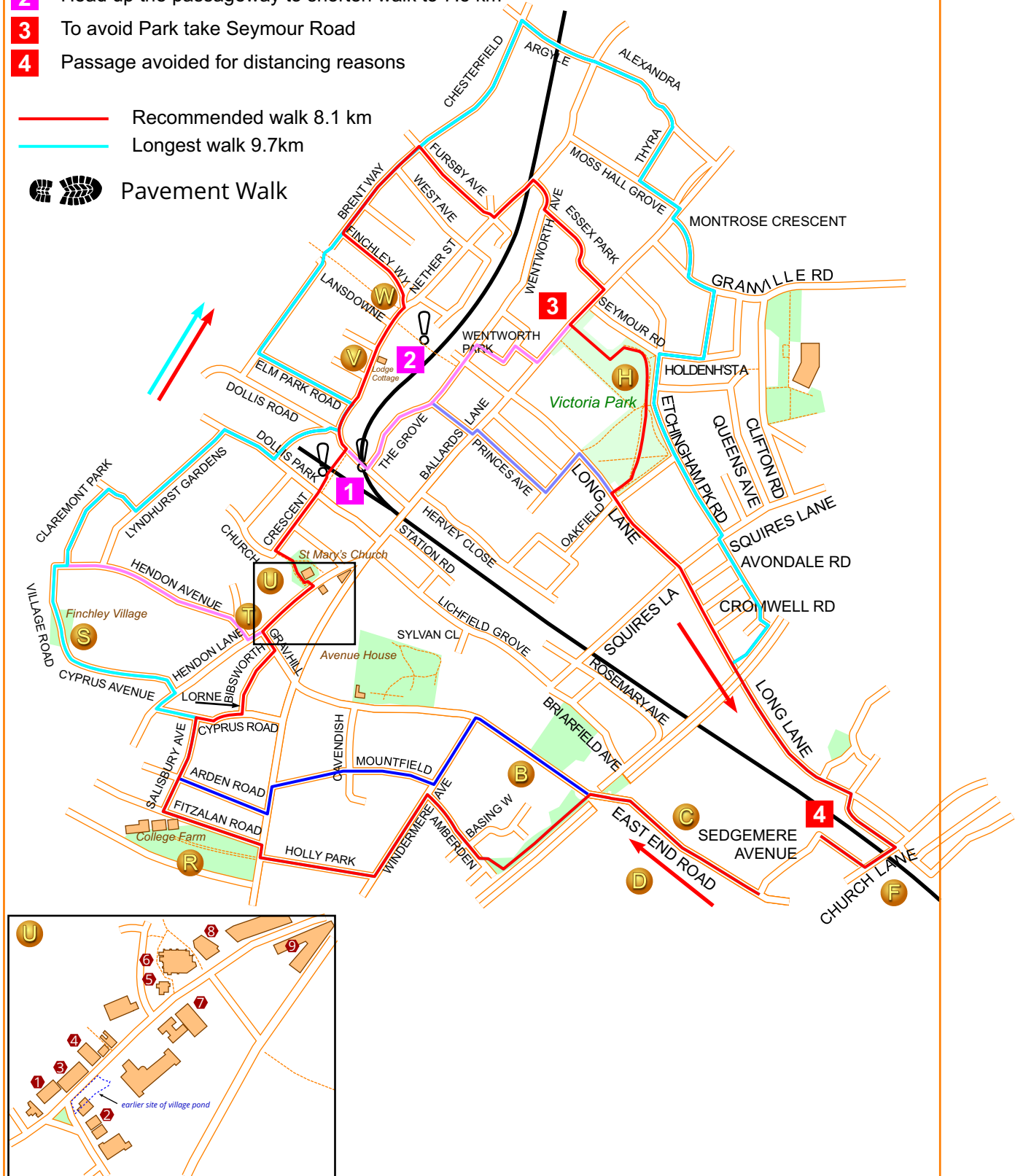
<http://www.tonero.me.uk/walksfromfinchley.htm>

- 1** Head up and across to The Grove to reduce walk to 7 km
- 2** Head up the passageway to shorten walk to 7.5 km
- 3** To avoid Park take Seymour Road
- 4** Passage avoided for distancing reasons

- Recommended walk 8.1 km
- Longest walk 9.7km



Pavement Walk





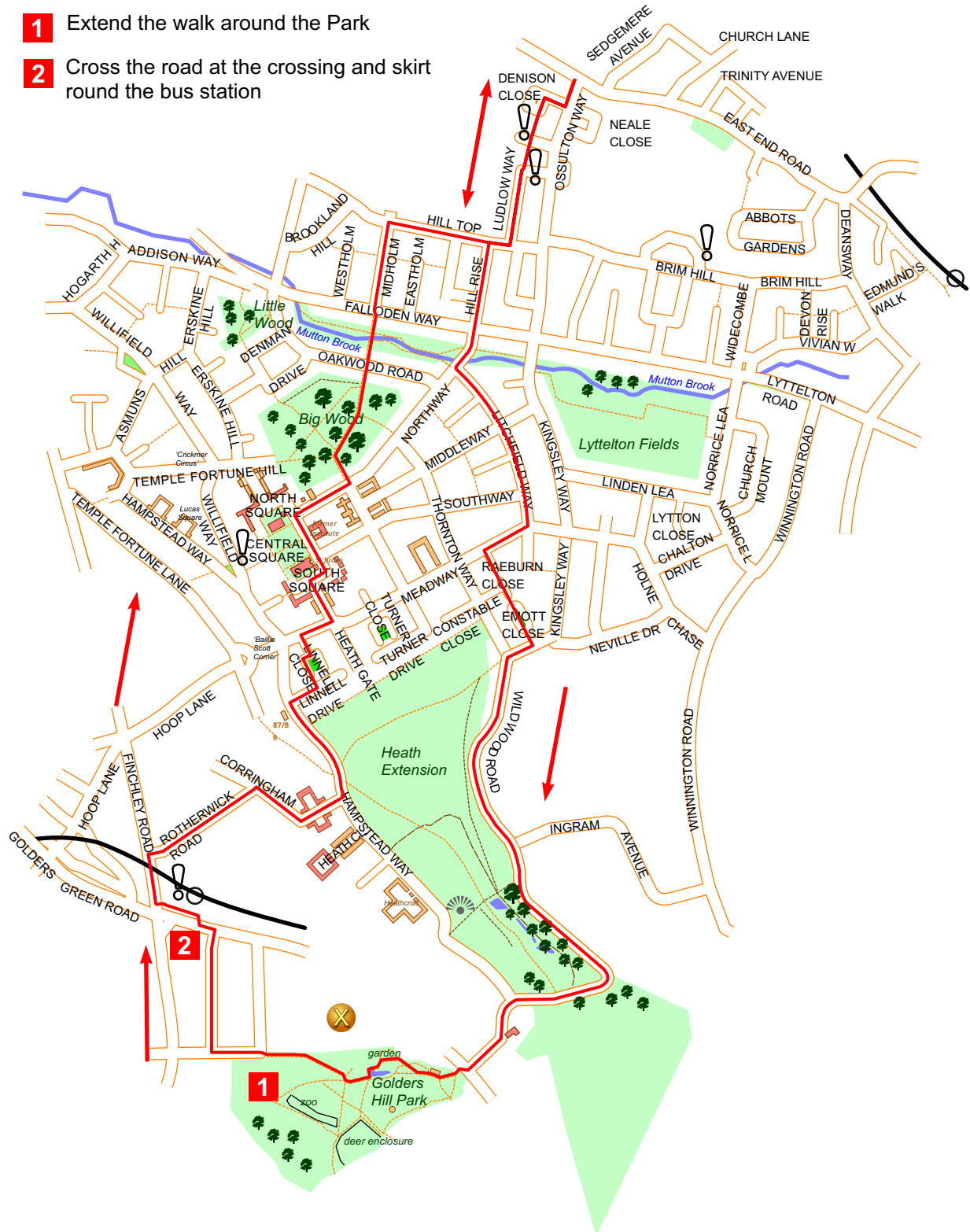
1 kilometre

length 8.3 km / 5.2 miles

## Golders Hill Park, part of H G Suburb, H Extn

! A place where you may need to  
manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

- 1 Extend the walk around the Park
- 2 Cross the road at the crossing and skirt  
round the bus station



Pavement Walk (avoid park at weekends)

1 kilometre

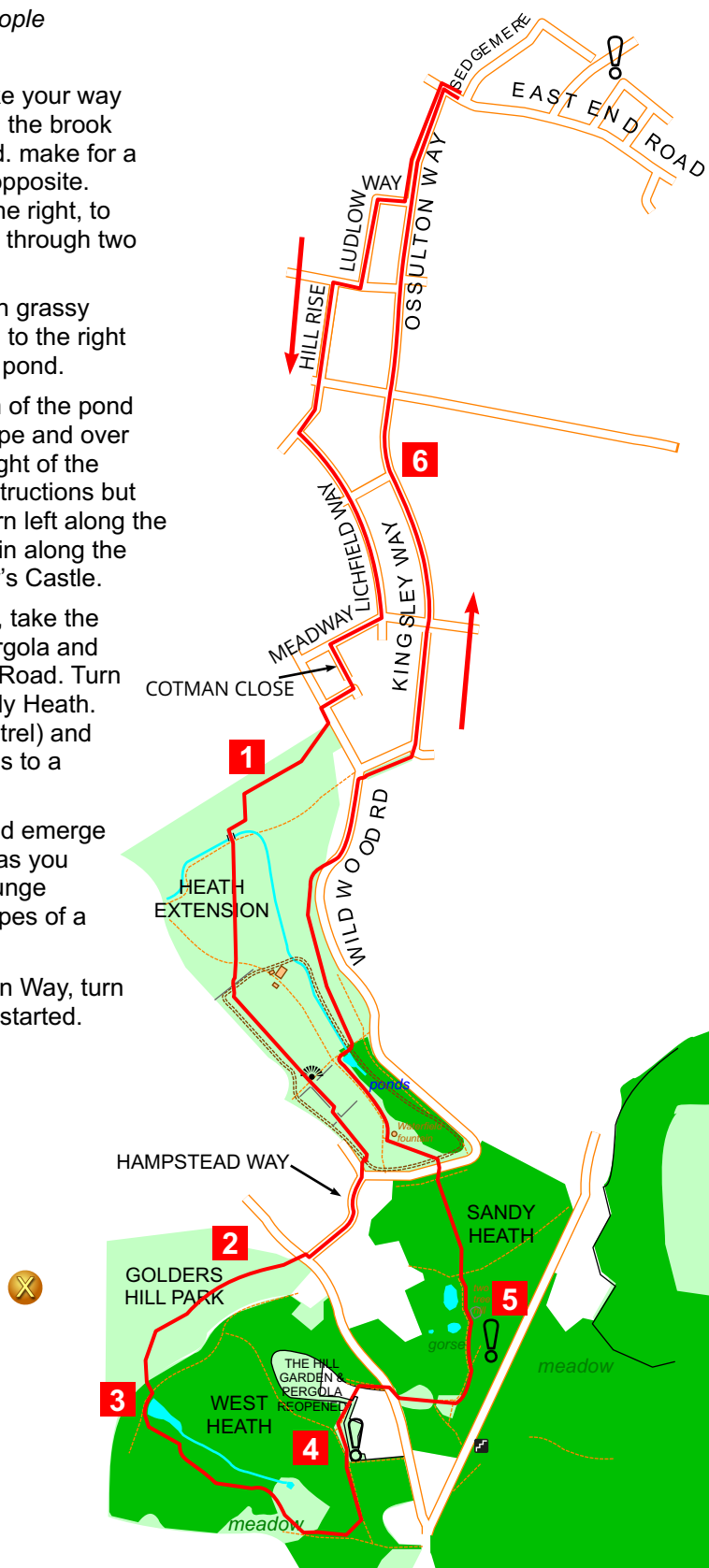
length 8.6 km / 5.4 miles



*A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people*

- 1** On entering the Heath Extension, make your way diagonally into the next field and cross the brook by the bridge into the large cricket field. make for a large spreading oak in the hedgerow opposite. From there continue upwards and to the right, to the track crossing east-west. Navigate through two fields and exit into Hampstead Way.
- 2** Inside Golders Hill Park cross the open grassy slopes to the deer pound. Skirt around to the right of this to exit the park at Leg o Mutton pond.
- 3** Follow Sandy Road across the bottom of the pond and strike off diagonally left up the slope and over the brow, across a ditch, keeping in sight of the stream. It is difficult to give precise instructions but eventually you exit into a meadow. Turn left along the track across the top, and then left again along the main track that runs below Jack Straw's Castle.
- 4** Immediately after passing the pergola, take the track off right that passes between pergola and Hill Garden and follow it to North End Road. Turn right and cross at the refuge into Sandy Heath. Pass two meadows (look out for a kestrel) and take the path left that eventually comes to a plantation of gorse.
- 5** Take the left fork through the gorse and emerge by the ponds. Keep them on your left as you make for the main east-west track. Plunge straight forward, down the winding slopes of a shallow valley to the Heath Extension
- 6** To avoid the gruelling walk up Ossulton Way, turn up North Way and return the way you started.

## West Heath, Sandy Heath and Heath Extension



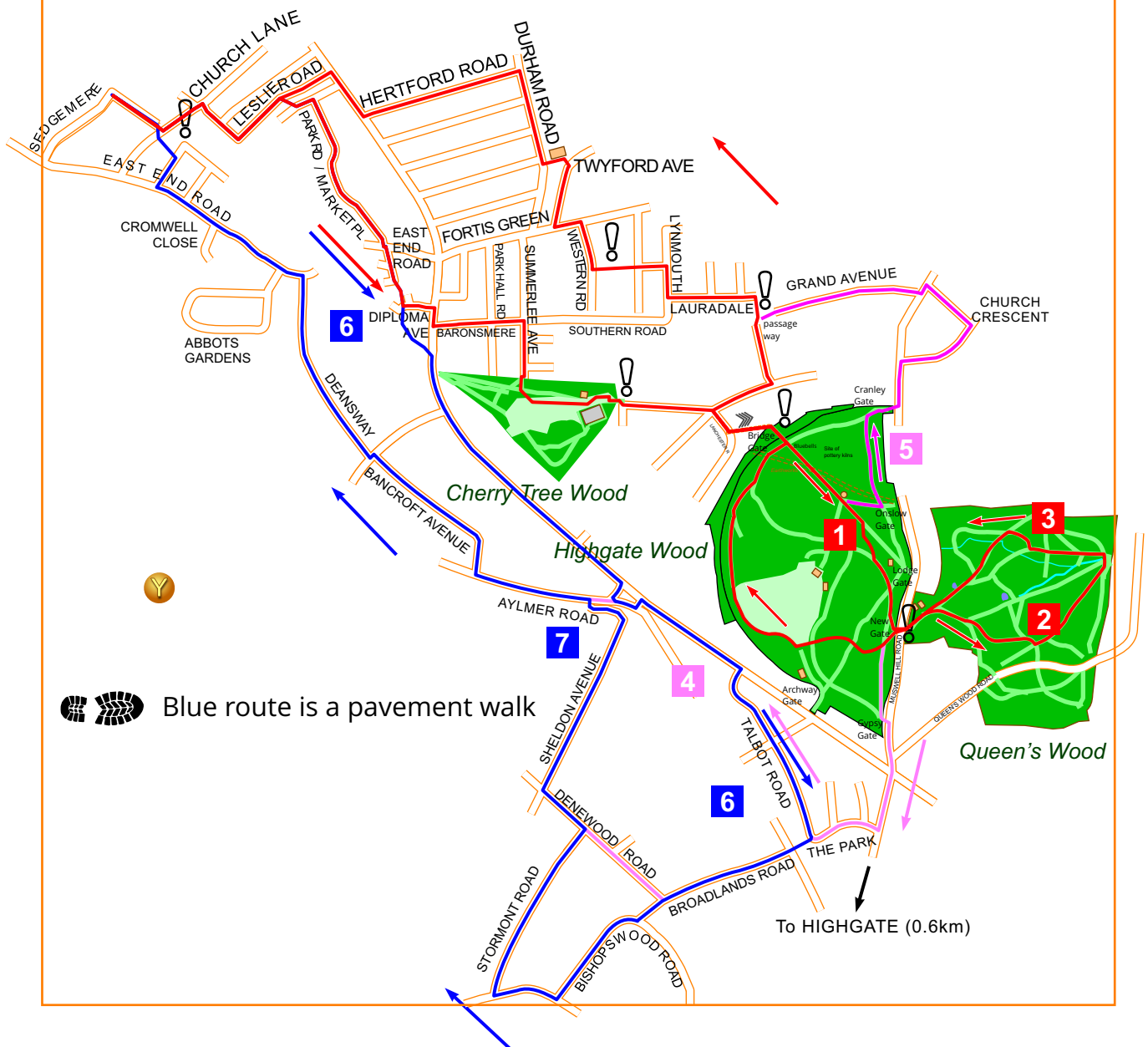
1 kilometre

## Highgate Wood, Queen's Wood

- length 8.5km / 5.4 miles (or
- pavement walk 7.3km / 4.6 miles)

! A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

- 1** Continue forward past the water fountain and turn off the main track right, just before a bench
- 2** There are so many paths in Queens Wood it is impossible to show them all. Explore the southern slopes of the Moselle tributary down to the bottom of the wood and return back up the northern slopes
- 3** On the return, ignore a path that slopes off up to the right; after a major path crosses, take a lesser path up to the right shortly before the main path crosses a gully and bows to the left.
- 4** An alternative route back via Talbot Road and Bancroft Avenue
- 5** A shorter walk via Church Crescent and Grand Avenue
- 6** The blue route is a pavement walk for when the other routes are too muddy.
- 7** Cross Aylmer Road at refuge opposite Bancroft Ave



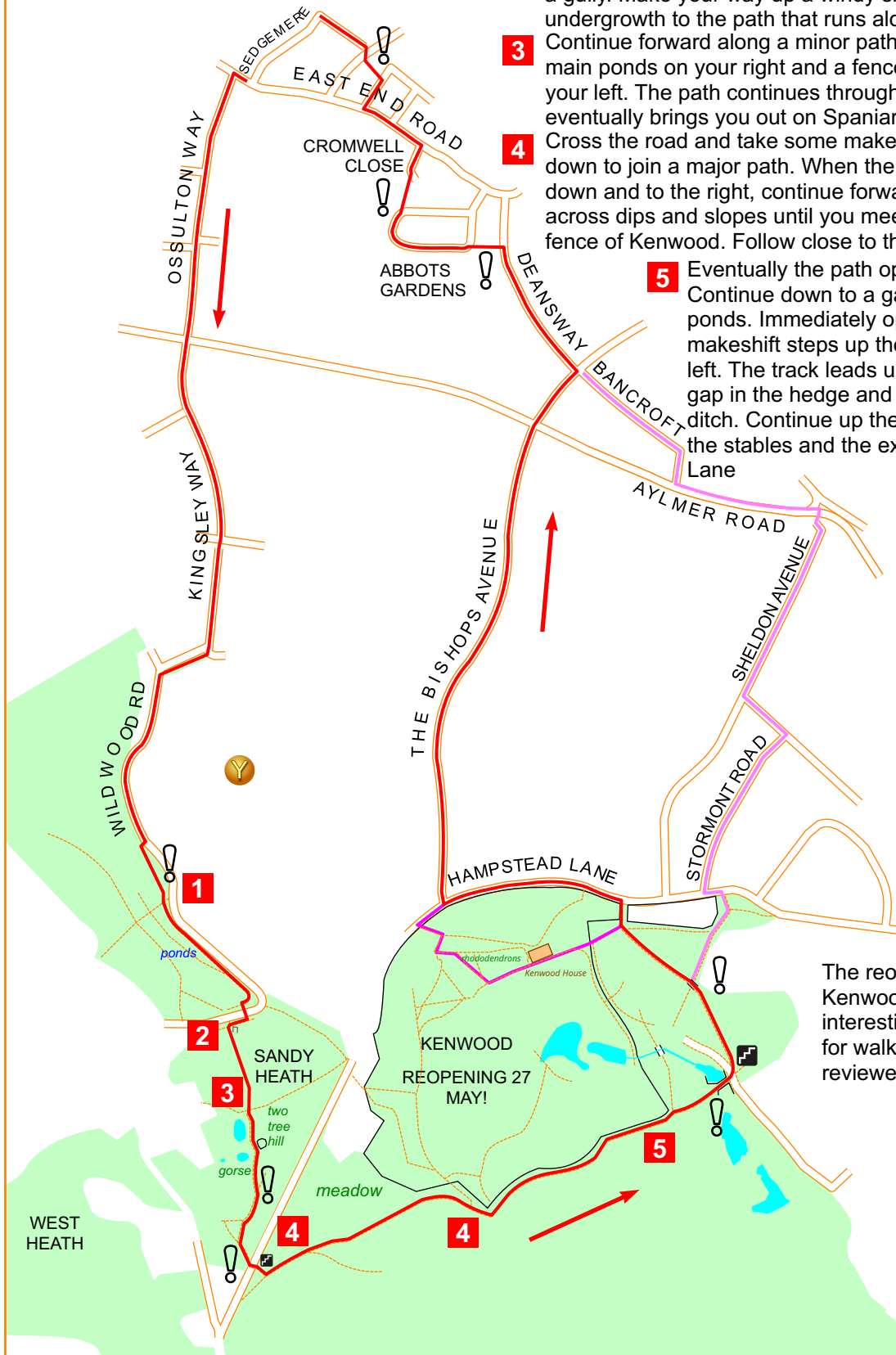
1 kilometre

length 8.8 km / 5.5 miles

! Marks a place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

## Hampstead Heath

- 1 Look out for a minor path which follows the road and is rarely used.
- 2 On entering Sandy Heath find a low fence protecting a gully. Make your way up a windy slope free of undergrowth to the path that runs along the top.
- 3 Continue forward along a minor path with the main ponds on your right and a fenced off tree on your left. The path continues through gorse and eventually brings you out on Spaniards Road.
- 4 Cross the road and take some makeshift steps down to join a major path. When the path curves down and to the right, continue forward instead, across dips and slopes until you meet the boundary fence of Kenwood. Follow close to the boundary.
- 5 Eventually the path opens out. Continue down to a gap between the ponds. Immediately opposite are makeshift steps up the field and to the left. The track leads up then down to a gap in the hedge and a 'bridge' over a ditch. Continue up the slope towards the stables and the exit to Hampstead Lane.





1 kilometre

## Ally Pally, Bluebell Wood, Parkland Walk, Queens Wd

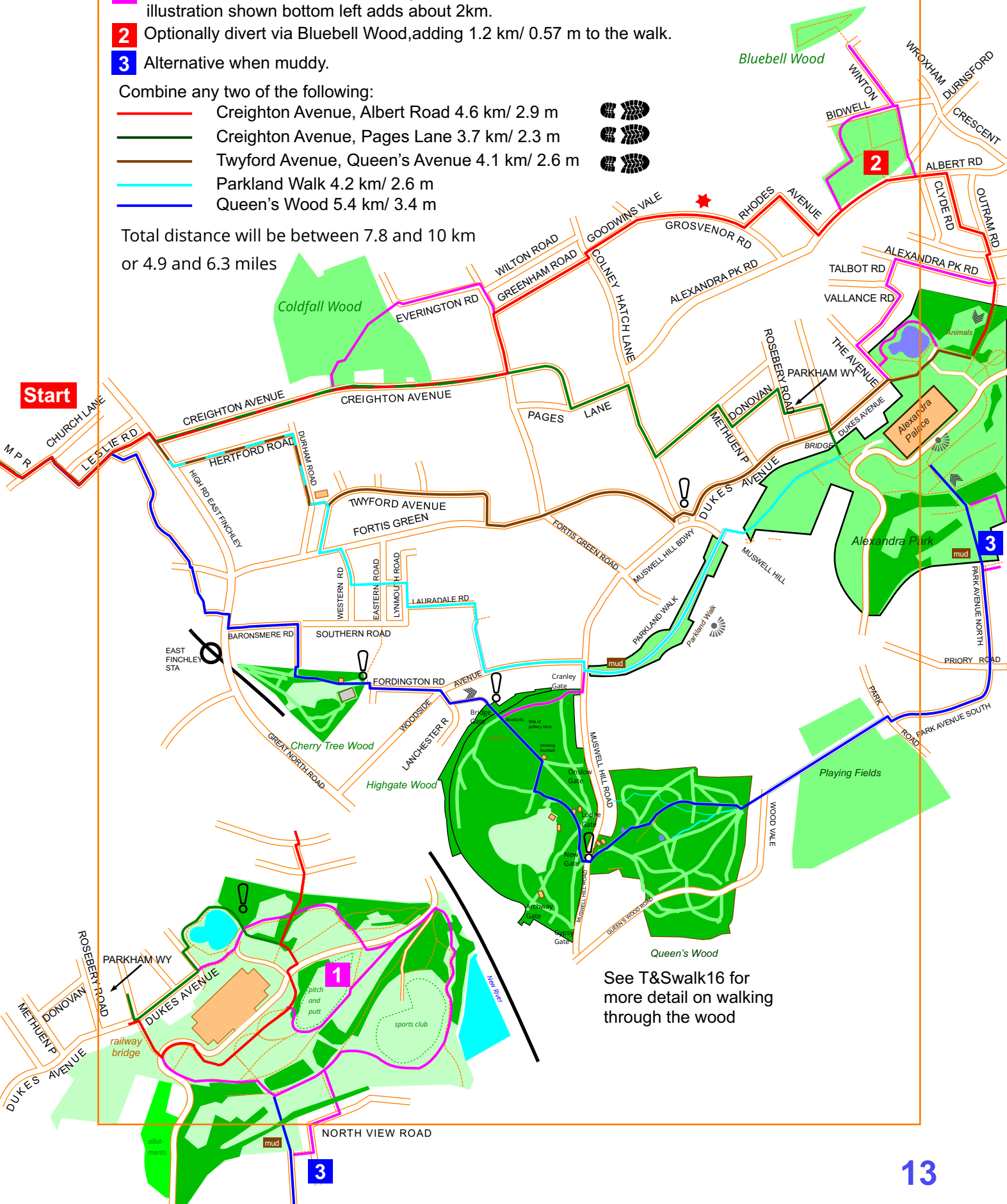
- 1** The walk can be extended variously in the Park; illustration shown bottom left adds about 2km.
- 2** Optionally divert via Bluebell Wood, adding 1.2 km/ 0.57 m to the walk.
- 3** Alternative when muddy.

Combine any two of the following:

- Creighton Avenue, Albert Road 4.6 km/ 2.9 m
- Creighton Avenue, Pages Lane 3.7 km/ 2.3 m
- Twyford Avenue, Queen's Avenue 4.1 km/ 2.6 m
- Parkland Walk 4.2 km/ 2.6 m
- Queen's Wood 5.4 km/ 3.4 m



Total distance will be between 7.8 and 10 km  
or 4.9 and 6.3 miles



See T&Swalk16 for more detail on walking through the wood

1 kilometre

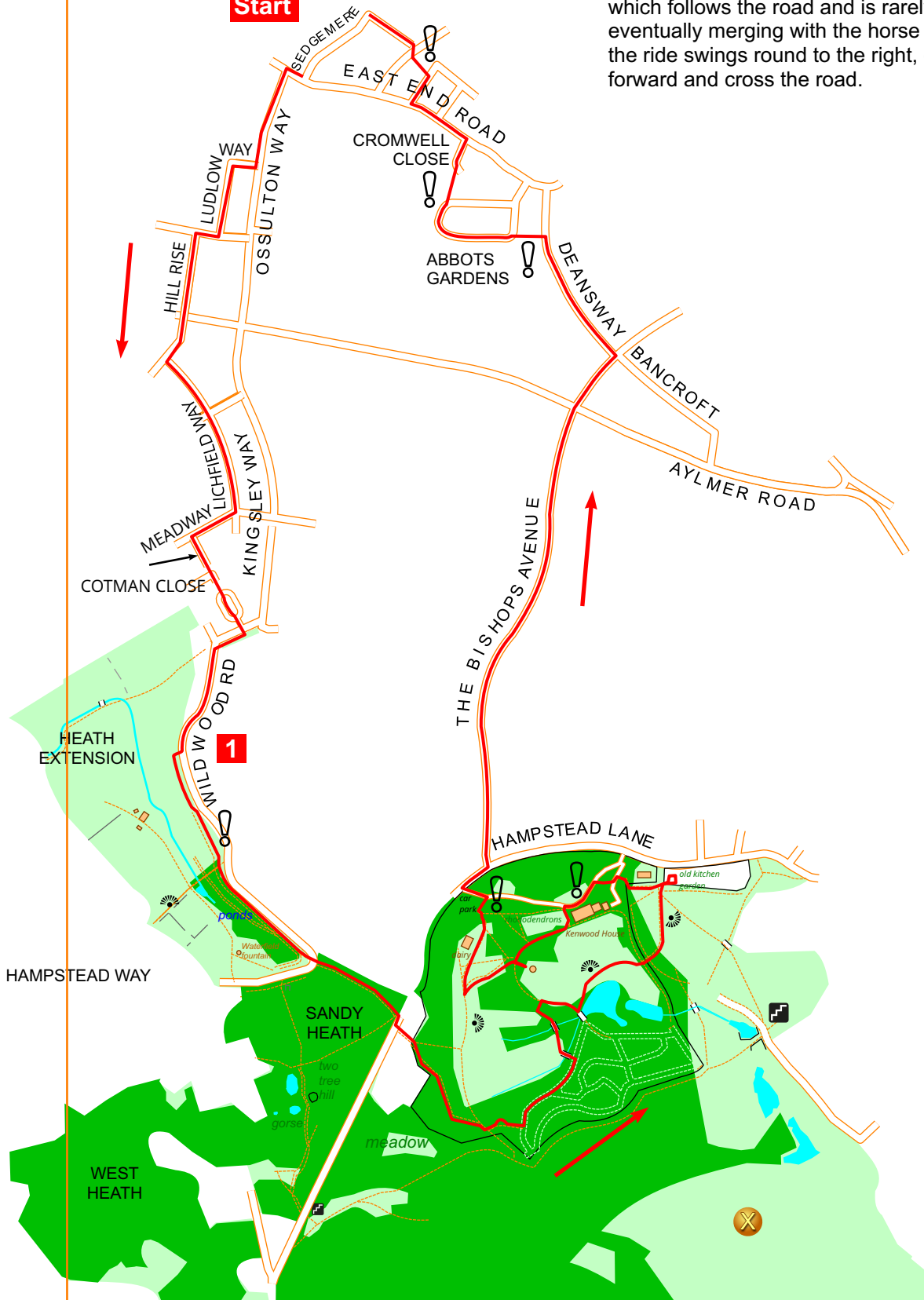
length 9.2 km / 5.8 miles

! Marks a place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

**Start**

## Kenwood Estate

- 1 Just opposite a brown door make your way onto the Heath Extension; look out for a minor path which follows the road and is rarely used, eventually merging with the horse ride. When the ride swings round to the right, continue forward and cross the road.



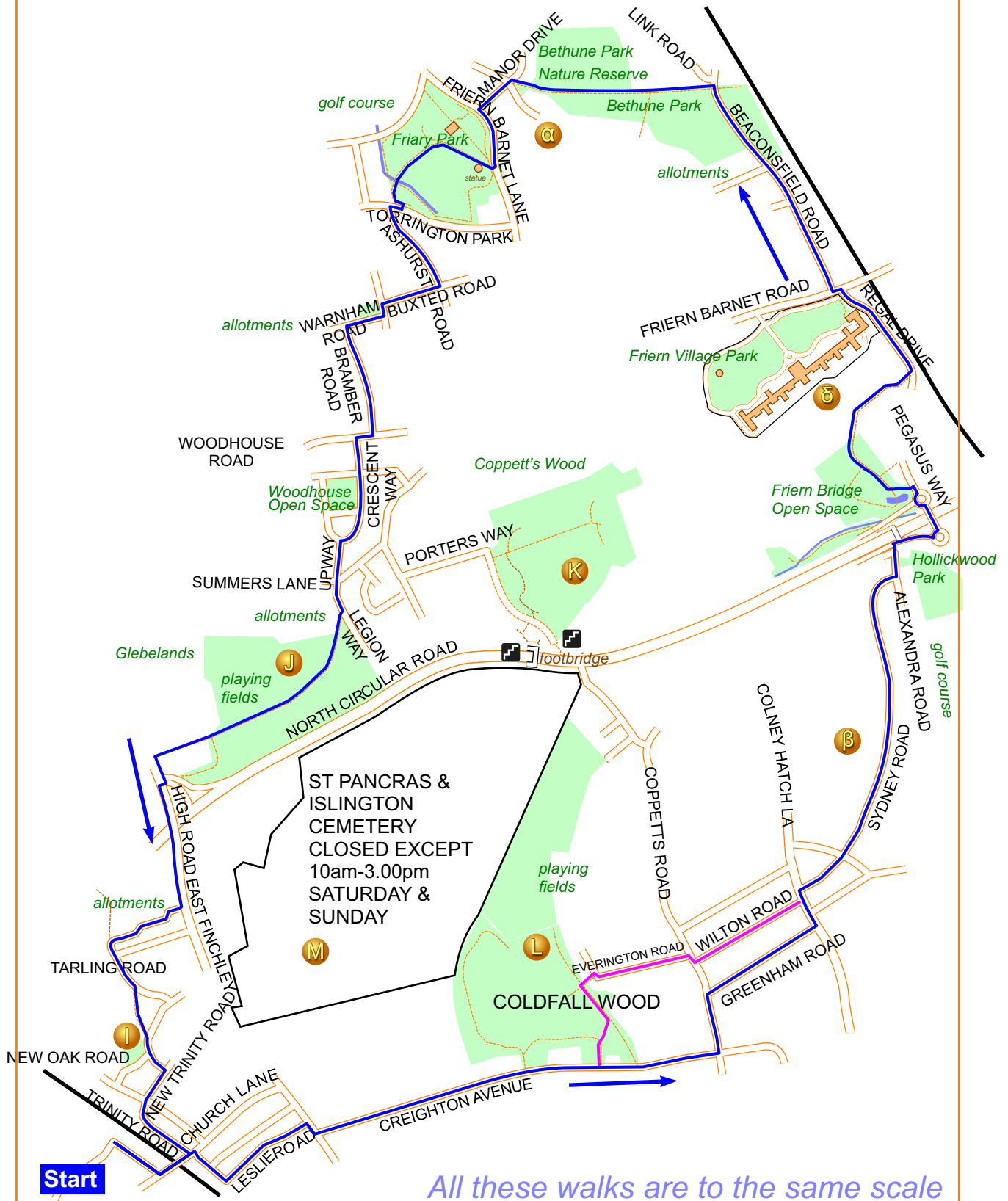
1 kilometre

length 11 km / 6.9 miles

! A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

steps

## Bethune Park, Friary Park, Friern Bridge OS, Glebelands



# Swan Lane OS, Church Path Glebelands, Friary Park

1 kilometre

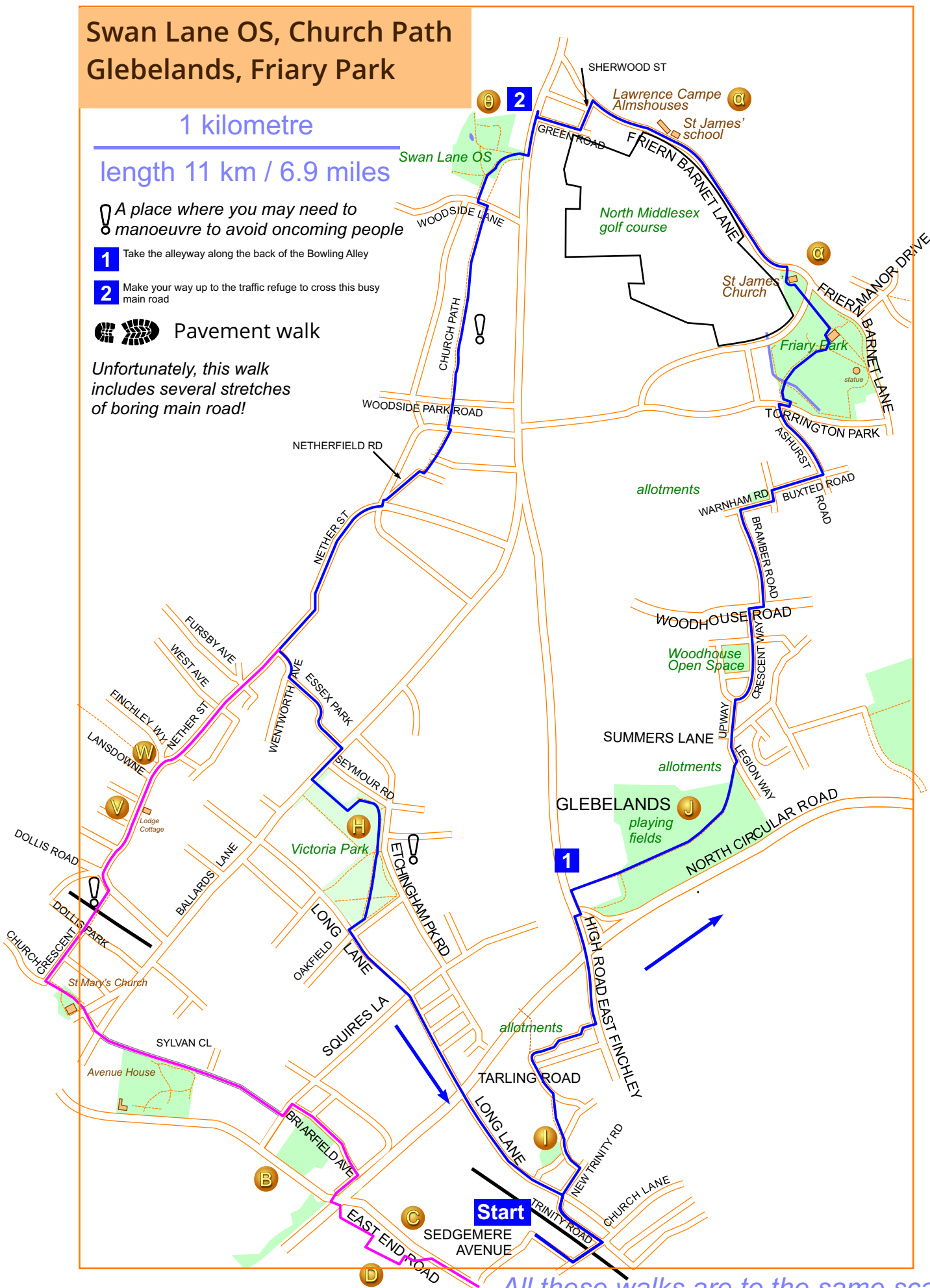
length 11 km / 6.9 miles

A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

- 1 Take the alleyway along the back of the Bowling Alley
- 2 Make your way up to the traffic refuge to cross this busy main road

 Pavement walk

Unfortunately, this walk includes several stretches of boring main road!



All these walks are to the same scale



1 kilometre

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length 11 km / 6.8miles



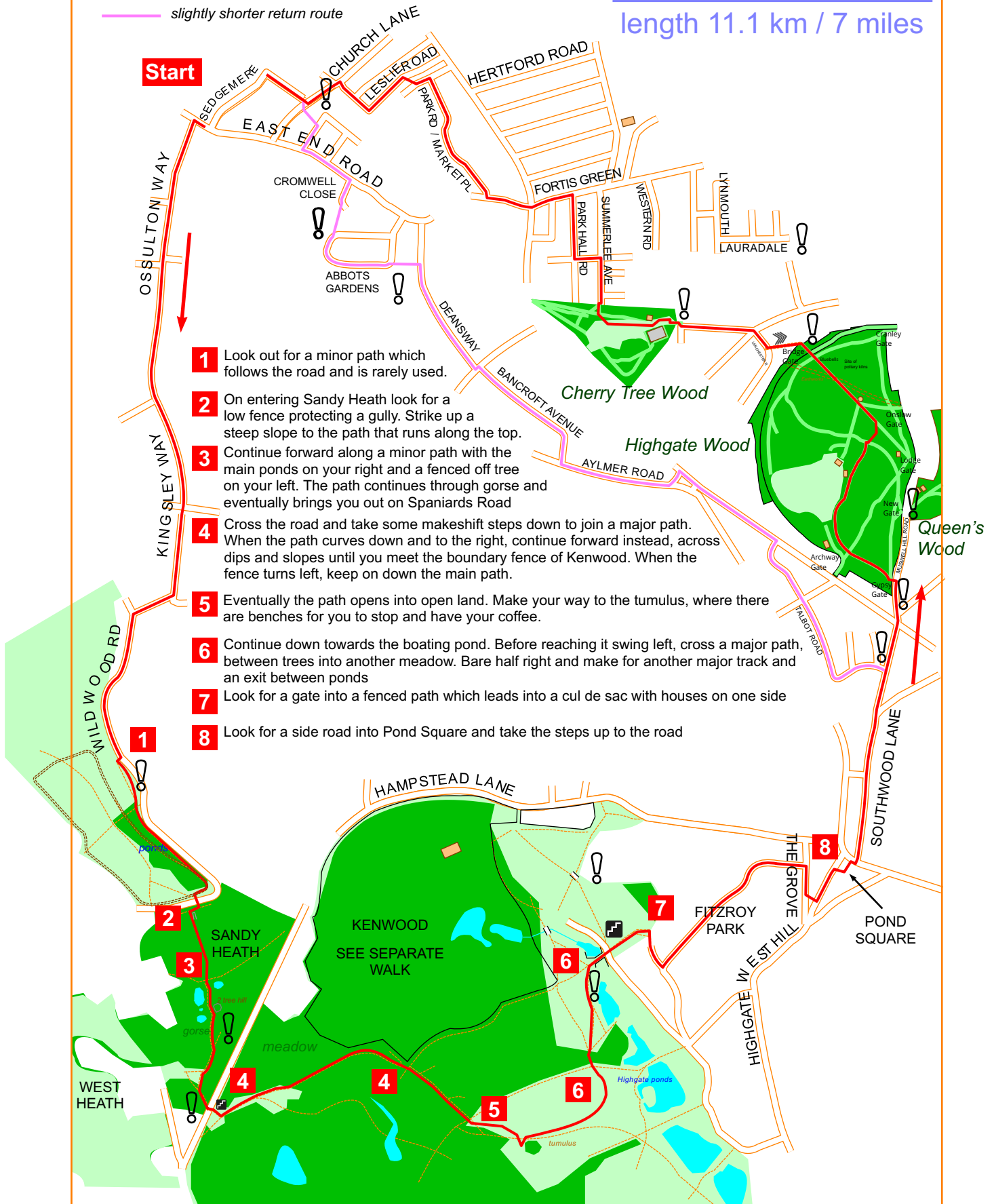
# Hampstead Heath Highgate (lockdown relaxed -1)

! A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

— slightly shorter return route

1 kilometre

length 11.1 km / 7 miles



# Hampstead Heath Highgate (lockdown relaxed -2)

! A place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

— slightly shorter return route

1 kilometre

length 13 km / 8.1 miles

**Start**

**1**

On entering the Heath Extension, make your way diagonally into the next field and cross the brook by the bridge into the large cricket field. make for a large spreading oak in the hedgerow opposite. From there continue upwards and to the right, to the track crossing east-west. Navigate through two fields and exit into Hampstead Way.

**2**

Inside Golders Hill Park cross the open grassy slopes to the deer pound. Skirt around to the right of this to exit the park at Leg of Mutton pond.

**3**

Just to the left of the pond take the path forward, turning right after a short while, and keep upward. Eventually the path bends right and takes you to the main path.

**4**

Turn right, then left onto the path that takes you up between pergola and hill garden. At North End Road cross at the refuge and plunge into a meadow, then a second meadow and a winding path up out of Sandy Heath

**5**

Cross the road and take some makeshift steps down to join a major path. When the path curves down and to the right, continue forward instead, across dips and slopes until you meet the boundary fence of Kenwood. When the fence turns left, keep on down the main path.

**6**

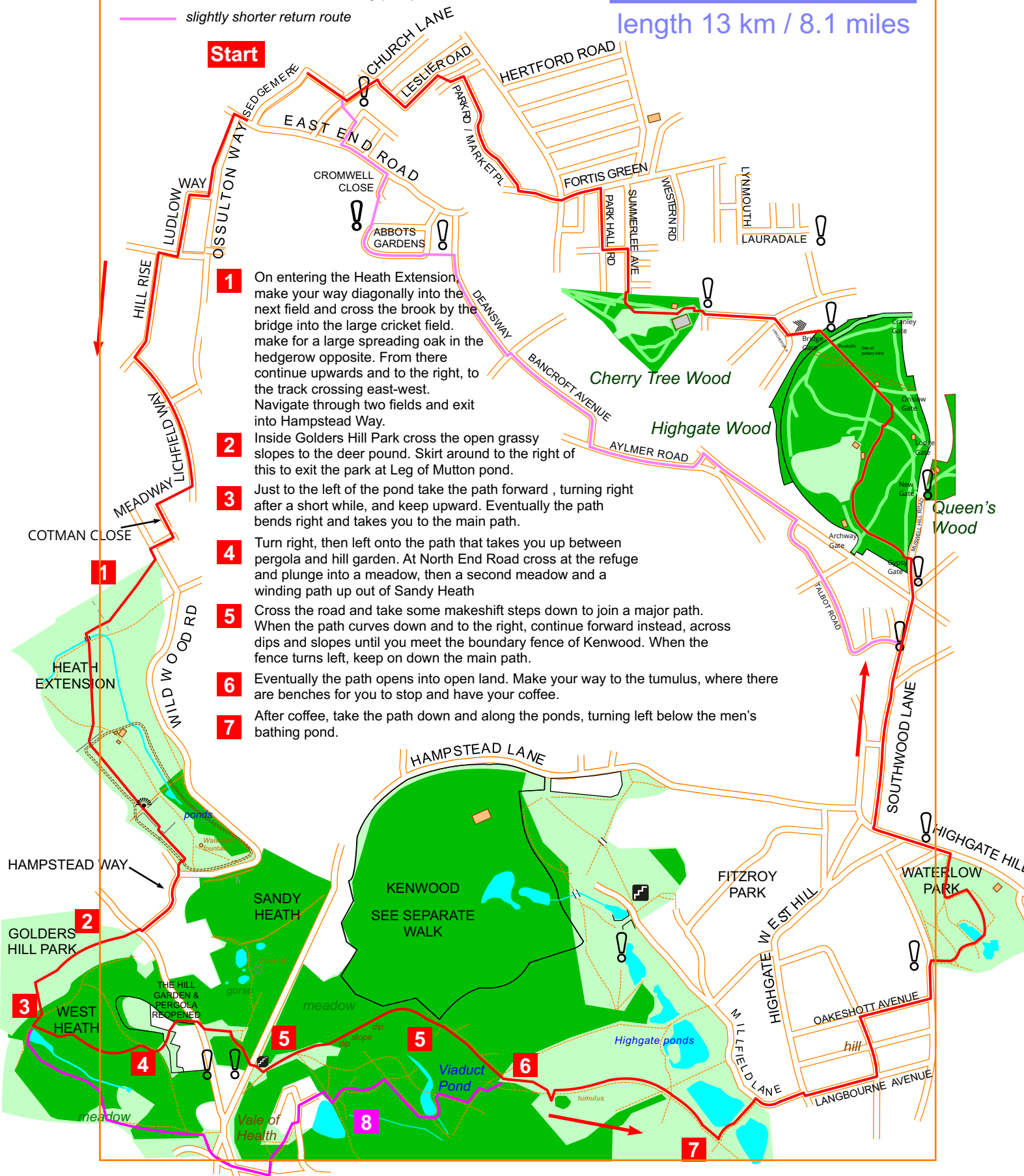
Eventually the path opens into open land. Make your way to the tumulus, where there are benches for you to stop and have your coffee.

**7**

After coffee, take the path down and along the ponds, turning left below the men's bathing pond.

**8**

An alternative to ring the changes. After the V.o.H pond, the route is complex: keep the steep valley on your right until you reach a more major path, turn down right, which takes you down to the Viaduct pond.



# Hampstead Heath Highgate (lockdown relaxed -3)

1 kilometre

length 13.5 km /8.5 miles

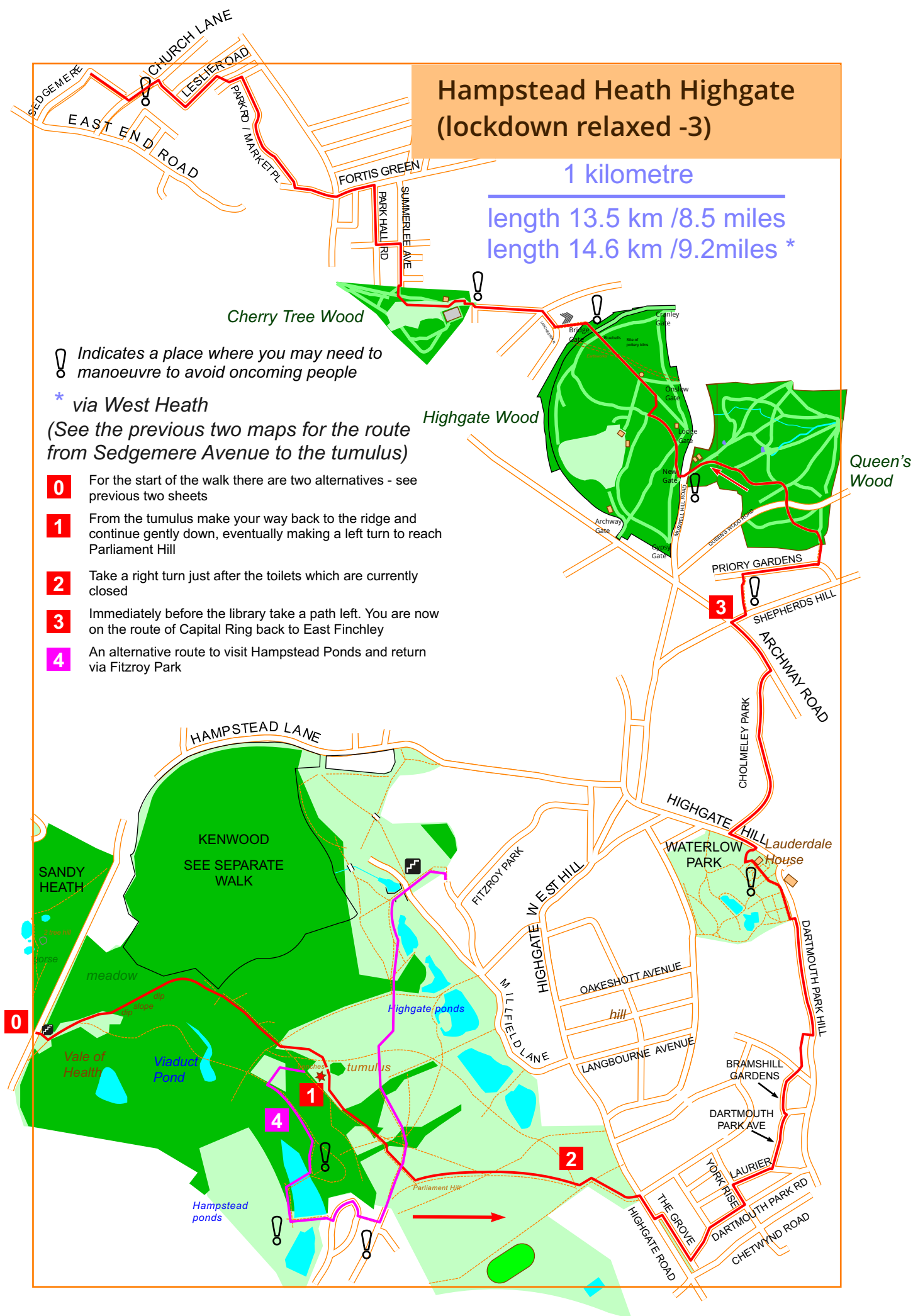
length 14.6 km /9.2miles \*

! Indicates a place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

\* via West Heath

(See the previous two maps for the route from Sedgemere Avenue to the tumulus)

- 0** For the start of the walk there are two alternatives - see previous two sheets
- 1** From the tumulus make your way back to the ridge and continue gently down, eventually making a left turn to reach Parliament Hill
- 2** Take a right turn just after the toilets which are currently closed
- 3** Immediately before the library take a path left. You are now on the route of Capital Ring back to East Finchley
- 4** An alternative route to visit Hampstead Ponds and return via Fitzroy Park





For start of walk follow first Hampstead Heath walk

## Belsize Primrose extension (lockdown relaxed -4)

- 1** Start the walk as per the first Heath walk, up the side of the Heath Extension and on up Sandy Heath
- 2** At the Kestrel glade, take the right path, through the two meadows to North End Road. Cross then left and continue south to Whitestone Pond
- 3** Facing the former Mount Vernon Hospital (now flats) take a narrow road up a slope in front of the hospital
- 4** Over the railway footbridge, bare right and at the grass strike diagonally across in the direction of Holy Joe's, whose distinctive tower is visible in the far distance. Eventually over the brow pass a Trig Point painted white.
- 5** From here follow the extended Heath walk called lockdown relaxed 2

1 kilometre

length 17.5km / 11 miles

! Marks a place where you may need to manoeuvre to avoid oncoming people

## Notes on landmarks

### Church End

#### **Avenue House**

Avenue House was built on land originally belonging to the Knights Templar, the fields eventually being incorporated into the Bibbesworth estate in 1732. In 1859 a villa was built on the site, by 1865 known as Avenue House, after the Avenue down which the Lords of the Manor had progressed to church. In 1874 it was bought by Henry Charles (Inky) Stephens, son of the inventor of the world famous indelible ink. Stephens continued to develop and exploit the ink from here, building a laboratory and significantly extending the house as a 40-bedroom pile in a 'reactionary Italianate' style, incorporating much elaborately carved woodwork and some Art Nouveau ceilings. Stephens also installed a water pump and a water tower, and constructed the Bothy, whose castellated walls, at its location acts as an eye catcher at the top of the cascade, in line with romantic landscape tradition. The Bothy was conceived to allow the whole estate to be self-sufficient, through provision of glasshouses, fish ponds and forcing pits within the garden, storage (for seed, food, tools and machinery), a dairy, an abattoir, room for farriers, and housing for the principal estate workers all being found within it. Highland cattle were introduced in the adjacent field and the Estate also maintained a flock of sheep and a stable of Cleveland Bay Horses.

Left to the people of Finchley, the estate with its 10 acres of gardens is run by a trust, who changed the name to Stephens House and Gardens. It contains 5 grade II listings.

#### **Manor House**

The manor of Finchley belonged to the Bishop of London, and was consequently let out. Bibbesworth Manor House is first mentioned in 1335. The present II\* listed Manor House was built for Thomas Allen, Lord of the Manor, ca 1723. When he died in 1764, the building was sub-let by his heirs, being used as a private house, a Boys' School, then a Girls' School before becoming a private house again. In 1905 it was the residence of AW Gamage, until in 1918 the Sisters of Marie Auxiliatrice purchased the Manor House, initially as a home for Girls employed in business and Government and later as a convent school. In 1981 the Manor House estate was sold to the Sternberg Centre for Judaism.

Historic England describes the building as a

mainly early C18. Fine 3 storey, 7 bay brown brick house. Severe and regular; stone quoins and coping with 4 urns. Flat stone rusticated door surround with flight of steps. Part submerged cellars which may be part of an earlier house. Garden front similar with steps and iron balcony at entrance level. Interior: C17 and C18 panelling. Staircase with turned balusters. Adam style and floral style ceilings. Several good visible chimney pieces. Two sides of Homestead moat to the south-west. On the opposite side of East End Road there were fish ponds 40 yards long, known as the moat, thought to date back to 1692 and filled in in 1928?.

#### **Convent of The Good Shepherd**

In 1864 the Sisters of the Good Shepherd bought East End House on the north side of East End Road, where until 1948 they maintained a refuge for distressed Roman Catholic women, including former prisoners. In 1900 they aided 180 'poor penitents' and 130 younger girls. New buildings on the site included a wing for the novitiate in 1886, when East End House became the provincial house for the order. It contained an infamous Magdalene laundry. After a fire in 1972 land was sold for housing and most of the buildings were demolished, although the original house remains.

#### **St Marylebone Cemetery**

When land in central London got scarce, the boroughs bought land on the outskirts. Two cemeteries sprang up on farm land in Finchley and were opened within a year of each other, designed by Barnett and Birch.

In 1854, St Marylebone Burial Board bought 47 acres of land adjacent to East End Road on what had previously been known as Newmarket Farm, and the first interment took place in 1855. The crematorium followed in 1937.

Notable 'residents' include:

Sir Henry Bishop – Professor of Music at Oxford and operatic composer

Keith Blakelock – Police Constable murdered in Tottenham riot

Sir Austen Chamberlain – Foreign Secretary  
Thomas Skarratt Hall - foundation investor in Mount Morgan mine, Queensland, Australia  
Alfred Harmsworth, 1st Viscount Northcliffe – Founder of the Daily Mail

Sir Robert Harmsworth – Newspaper Publisher with a memorial by Edwin Lutyens  
Humphrey Lyttelton - English jazz musician and broadcaster (cremated)

Thomas H Huxley – Scientist, Darwin's bulldog  
 Sidney Paget - Illustrator of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories  
 W. Heath Robinson – Artist and cartoonist  
 Henry Charles Stephens – Ink magnate, philanthropist and local MP  
 Leopold Stokowski – Conductor  
 William Bernhardt Tegetmeier - English naturalist, bee keeper  
 George Barham & son Titus, -owners of Express Dairies, creator of College Farm

### **Hertford Lodge**

Grade II House, later used as municipal offices. An 1867 villa in Italianate style, probably extended c1880.

### **Holy Trinity Church**

Until the early 1800s the only C of E church in Finchley was the original St Mary at Finchley almost two miles walk away from the East End community, quite a hike each week for the inhabitants of East Finchley. In 1842 Congregationalists started a school, a British school, at their chapel. This drew on their congregation prompted C of E goers to raise funds for a local church and school in East Finchley, which they did. Holy Trinity church was built in 1846 to a design by Anthony Salvin, who headed the campaign.

### **Finchley Memorial Hospital**

The need for a local hospital had been identified during the Queen's Jubilee in 1897. A 2-acre site was acquired from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for £1,000.

The Finchley Cottage Hospital was officially opened on 28th May 1908 by Mr Homan, the President of the Hospital and major benefactor. It had 10 beds for men in one ward and 8 for women in another, 2 separate rooms for isolation cases and a small operating theatre. After WW1 the council decided to build an extension to the Hospital as a War Memorial to those local men who had died in the war. Complete by 1922 the hospital now had 47 beds and a Nurses' Home, and was renamed Finchley Memorial Hospital.

Further expansions occurred from time to time, until in 1974, following a major reorganisation of the NHS, facilities started to be transferred to Barnet General Hospital.

In 2008 NHS Barnet purchased the 9-acre disused Bow Lane Playing Fields from London Borough of Camden and built a new hospital funded by PFI to the south, before demolishing the original facility, and opened in 2013.

### **Victoria Park**

The first public park in the former Borough of

Finchley; much of the park was originally part of Colby's Farm, where Charles Dickens wrote part of Martin Chuzzlewit. In 1887 Henry C Stephens proposed converting the area to a park to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, and partially financed it, but it was not opened until 1902, a year after Queen Victoria's death.

Victoria Park covers 17 acres. It is mainly grassland, with playgrounds, ornamental gardens, playing fields, public tennis courts, a Bowling and Croquet Club, and a café.

There used to be a small lake in the south east corner, as evidenced by early postcards.

### **The Finches**

On the small green at the junction of Oak Lane and New Oak Road were two buildings of note, side by side: Oak Lodge and The Grange.

In 1749 Oak Lodge existed as three tenements, united and probably rebuilt by 1780. In 1863 Edward Sayer of Oak Lodge built The Grange next door on land he had leased to ensure his tranquillity. In 1916 Oak Lodge became a special school. In 1919 The Grange became a piano factory. In 1920 Frederick Simms bought The Grange and built a factory in the grounds, making dynamos & magnetos, retaining the house as offices. In 1937, plans for Grange/Red Lion Estate were passed by Council. In 1968 Simms Motor Units merged with CAV Lucas and by 1980s employed 1600 people. In 1973 Oak Lodge moved to Heath View. In 1991 the factory closed and was replaced by The Finches.

### **The Glebelands**

The glebelands was a portion of Finchley Common allocated on enclosure to provide income for the Rector. It stretched either side of Summers Lane. The area today known as Glebelands is to the south, and was known as the Rough Lots. To the east was a common gravel pit and north east was from 1879 until the early 20th century of John Lawford's brick works. Between the sports facilities and the North Circular Road together with Coppetts Wood is a nature reserve.

### **Coppetts Wood & Scrublands**

Coppett's Wood was once part of a forest known as Finchley Wood, then became the easternmost fringe of Finchley Common, but unlike most of Finchley Common, appears to have avoided deforestation. Scrublands was in Hornsey. An outbreak of typhoid in 1872, led to the installation of a sewage works on either side of the woodland, connected by the raised

path you see today. After a period of private ownership, the wood was purchased by the Council in 1900. The sewage works were closed in 1963 and the sludge digester in the wood itself, was demolished in 1988. The 14.5 hectare area including part of Glebelands was designated a Local Nature Reserve by the London Borough of Barnet in 1997. The main, mature, trees are oak and hornbeam, and ground flora include bluebell and garlic mustard. Breeding birds include woodpeckers, tawny owls and sparrow hawks. A small pond has a clump of yellow iris, and common frogs and smooth newts. Scrublands, to the east of the woodland, has a different variety of habitats. The concrete cylinders probably came from the sewage works. Coppetts Wood Festival is held here every year in May.

### **Coldfall Wood**

The name Cold Fall implies former management for making charcoal. This 14 hectare wood is north facing, draining into the Bounds Green Brook and was until the 1930s much bigger, having stretched south as far as Fortis Green. Little light penetrates to the woodland floor. The tree cover is dominated by oak standards, with an understorey of multi-stemmed, overgrown hornbeam coppice. Beech, hazel, mountain ash and wild service are all rare. In the few natural glade areas caused by the collapse of an occasional canopy tree, and by the recent clearance around the brook on the northern side, the flora is of considerable interest.

Its western and northern boundaries are demarcated by the remains of an ancient wood bank with a ditch on the outer side, separating it from Finchley common.

### **St Pancras and Islington Cemeteries**

Two cemeteries sprang up on farm land in Finchley and were opened within a year of each other, designed by Barnett and Birch.

In 1853 the Parish of St Pancras bought 87 acres of former Horseshoe Farm alongside the High Road and the first interment took place in 1854. Some of this land was sold to Islington, but in 1877 a further 94 acres was bought and shared between them.

Some of the cemetery occupies land originally destined as a reservoir for the Regents Canal Company until the Company drained it and moved to the Welsh Harp.

St Pancras and Islington cemeteries together form the third largest single cemetery serving London and in burial numbers, is the largest in the UK with around one million interments and

cremations. The original anglican chapel served both parishes until 1896 when Islington built a new chapel for themselves, an Arts and Crafts Gothic building in brick and stone with a timber cupola, designed by Forsyth and Maule. The Crematorium was built in 1937, designed by Albert Freeman

### **Hampstead Garden Suburb**

Raymond Unwin was chosen as master planner of the new Suburb, following his experience with a model village at New Earswick near York, and then Letchworth, the first garden city. He continued this trend here, avoiding monotony and uniformity, making use of existing contours, curves and natural features, giving the feeling of living in a village. His first plan is dated February 1905. However he didn't have things all his own way and the plans changed several times, becoming more formal with time. Edwin Lutyens was chosen for the important buildings around the high point, with its geometric layout and religious buildings. He had very different views from Henrietta Barnett and the result was a stormy compromise. The tall tiled church roof of St Jude's of 1909, stretching down to low eaves was one result. He had some fun, however. If you look at the terrace on the North Square, notice all the different ways he designed windows on the second floor.

The suburb was to be a social as well as architectural experiment. North of the high ground was to be the artisan quarter, around Erskine Hill and Willifield Way, while the plots to the south, adjacent to the Heath Extension were for the rich. The social experiment was a failure. Most working class people could not afford the charges and were eventually squeezed out.

The suburb expanded with time, and under less rigorous design constraints, down the hill into Finchley. For more information about the suburb its development and architecture visit walk118

<http://www.tonero.me.uk/walksfromfinchley.htm>

### **The Heath Extension**

It was fear of developers on her doorstep that precipitated Henrietta Barnett to form the Hampstead Heath Extension Council in 1903. At that time the land, the Wyldes Estate, belonged to Eton College, having been granted to the new foundation in 1481. The proceeds from building high value houses around the extension brought the net cost of acquiring the land within budget. The rest of



the Wyldes estate was bought for Hampstead Garden Suburb, over which there are fine views.

### **Big Wood**

Big Wood and Little Wood are remnants in Finchley of more extensive woods that used to cover the area thousands of years ago and became known as Middlesex Forest. The shape of the remaining woods is recognisable as far back as John Roques map in 1754, although the shape was trimmed when the Suburb was constructed. The gate at the Temple Fortune Hill entrance to the wood was donated by residents to commemorate the 29 suburb residents who died in the Second World War. It replaces an earlier gate that stood on an ancient 8th century boundary that became the boundary between Finchley and Hendon. The wood is home to Wild Service trees, Hazel, Treecreepers and Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Bluebells, Yellow Archangel, Speckled Wood butterflies and much more.

### **Mutton Brook**

The Mutton Brook begins on the western slopes of Highgate Wood. An area within Cherry Tree Wood used to be known as the Quag, and there were watercress beds. The brook now surfaces in Lyttleton Playing Fields, part of the design for Hampstead Garden Suburb. The water eventually drains via the Brent Brook into the Thames at Brentford.

### **College Farm**

Sheep House Farm was acquired by George Barham in 1868 to create a London-based dairy farm for prestige and development purposes for his firm Express Dairies, replacing sheep with Guernseys, Shorthorns and Kerry cows. He demolished the original buildings in 1882 and used Frederick Chancellor, an ecclesiastical architect and diocesan surveyor, to create a model dairy farm. With Christ's College's distinctive tower in sight the name was later changed to College Farm. It marks the end of an era in the dairy trade and was one of the last of its kind to be built. With the dairying now carried out elsewhere industrially, the dairy became a centre for cream teas and a day out for Londoners, and the farm a showplace for the newest and best in livestock and equipment. On his death the wholesale end of the business went to son Arthur, while son Titus retained the retail, including College Farm. Arthur would go on to form United Dairies, absorbing local Manor Farm dairies and its depot in East Finchley in 1932 while Titus created his own wholesale business. Express Dairies was bought up by Grand Metropolitan in the 1960s and College

Farm was subsequently sold to the Department Of Transport. It later became a trust and its future is uncertain. George and Titus are buried in East Finchley.

### **Finchley Village**

Finchley Garden Village was built on land previously belonging to Grass or Groates Farm. Influenced by Letchworth, The Finchley Co-Partnership Society was formed in 1908 to "meet the increased demand of the less wealthy of the middle classes who wish for small houses with more open and artistic surroundings than are afforded by the present day stereotyped suburban development."

An area of about nine acres was secured, of which two and a half acres were to be devoted to common land, and a further two acres to a village green. The houses were to be arranged round the green and would range in price from £350 to £650. The architects selected were Messrs. Walter Bennett and Frank E. Stratton of the Broadway, Finchley. Frank Stratton was the principal architect and one of the first residents. The first 13 houses were built and occupied by the end of 1909 and the remainder by 1914, with the exception of Nos. 39 and 40. Note the War Memorial.

### **Grass Farm Lodge**

The lodge was commissioned by John Heal, son of Heal & Son, owner of Grass Farm, in 1859 on the approach to his property. Grass or Groates Farm was one of the largest in Finchley, stretching from Church End westwards to the Dollis Brook. The farm can be traced back to the 14th century. Much of the estate, including Hendon Avenue, was developed in 1906 and in 1908, part of the estate was sold to The Finchley Co-Partnership Society for Finchley Village. The farm was demolished in 1911 and is commemorated in Grass Park, close to the original farmhouse location.

### **Church End**

#### **Park House**

is one of the few C18 buildings still standing in Finchley. Built by John Odell in 1739 with Roman Doric style front door surround, well proportioned windows with false arcading. Note the fire insurance plaque by the Hand in Hand Company.

#### **Gothic & Flora Cottage**

To the left of these distinctive cottages was the village pond, which ran alongside Hendon Lane in a north-easterly direction.

#### **Royal Terrace**

William Royal in 1882 started the terrace we

see today. He bought the adjoining plots and extended Royal Parade (later Terrace) northwards, together creating no's 1 to 6, known today as 44-54 Hendon Lane. By 1904 it was the home of Finchley Fire Brigade when they acquired one of the first motor powered fire-engines. Finchley's new Merryweather fire engine was the first in the world to have its fire pump driven by a power take-off from the road engine. The engine was later recognised in a postage stamp and the engine itself is kept in the Science Museum's reserve stock. The fire brigade moved out to its current home to Long Lane in 1935/6. The old firemen's cottages can be seen up an alleyway.

#### ④ **Hamilton Hall**

42 Hendon Lane was once known as Hamilton Hall after FA Hamilton of Brent Lodge, a merchant banker who one of Finchley's benefactors. It was opened as a working men's club in 1899.

#### ⑤ **The Clerk's House**

Part of the Finchley Charities anonymous donation, it was formerly the home of the Vestry Clerk. Divided into two dwellings in 1725 and rebuilt in 1851, the dwelling closest to the church was replaced by a Workmen's Hall and Reading Room, became a Parish Room, renamed the Blue Beetle when renovated in the 1960s

#### ⑥ **St Mary at Finchley**

is the original parish church, and is said to have been founded in CE 675 for the timber fellers. Remaining fragments of 12th century Norman stonework include a lancet window, a stone sink, stone clergy seats, cabinet and fresco of St George and the Dragon.

The oldest parts of the church are the north wall and the chapel, as well as the base of the tower. The chapel, in the north aisle of the church, was built in 1334 by the Lord of the Manor to serve as a chantry chapel and has a later window by Harcourt Doyle.

The nave of the church, including the roof, mostly dates from the 15th century, though the east end of the church was restored after WW2. The nave was expanded in 1872 by the addition of the inner south aisle; and in 1932 with the outer south aisle.

The octagonal font dates from the 12th century. The organ is a two-manual Henry Willis organ (1878). St Mary's has a full octave of eight bells in its tower, dating from 1770 onwards.

#### ⑦ **Old Christ's College**

Rev. Thomas Reader White founded a school for the middle classes in 1857. It moved across the road in 1861 to the tall building by Edward

Roberts with the distinctive tower with green copper roof and was named Christ's College. Its distinctive feature is the pattern of Tudor diaper decoration in blue-black bricks. The later buildings were constructed in 1926. The Grammar School became comprehensive, in 1978, amalgamating with part of Alder School, and moved out to new premises on East End Road in 1990.

#### ⑧ **Former site of Finchley Hall**

This location, together with Clerk's House, was an anonymous gift to the Finchley Charities. Since at least the 16th century it had been the site of The Queen's Head Inn. It was used variously as the village post office, coroners court, and auction room. The timber construction was razed to the ground in an enormous conflagration in 1836 and an elegant 3 storey brick building replaced it. The Inn was squeezed out by the Rector in 1857 and used for the precursor to Christ's College before becoming Council Offices until bombed in WW2. It was replaced by the current building, built as a library in 1955.

#### ⑨ **King Edward Hall**

Built on former Clements Nurseries in 1911-12, King Edward Hall is a prominent grade II listed building, built as a private banqueting hall above retail units, to the designs of Turner and Higgins of Finchley. This brick building with stone dressings has 3 storeys plus attics, with 11 windows towards Regent's Park Road and 13 towards Hendon Lane, a circular corner tower of 4 storeys, with clock face and copper dome. The ground floor shop fronts have original fascias, pilasters and brackets and some shop fronts are original. During the First World War the building was used as temporary hospital.

#### 🏡 **Lodge Cottage**

A glance at the 1865 Ordnance Survey Map shows the building just inside the entrance of an estate called The Elms, containing two main houses (or house and separate stables), and was presumably the estate's gatehouse; a driveway passes it to each main building, either side of the porch. By 1895, the map shows the railway had arrived, truncating the estate and demolishing one of the dwellings. The remaining dwelling became labelled as Elm Grange. By 1927 the estate had been taken over by a developer, Mr Arnell, and was sold off for development in two tranches, the house being demolished in 1929. Fortunately, the delightful lodge remains.

#### 🏡 **Brent Lodge Gatehouse/Finchley Way OS**

The land that in 1767 composed three fields between Nether Street and the brook was Waren's First Gift to the Finchley Charities. By 1810 the estate had grown to just over 2 acres, with a house and stables, coach house and yard, and advertised as a beautiful villa and estate ornamented with stately timber wearing the appearance of a park. 'The approach is through a handsome drive with two ornamental lodges, stabling for seven horses'.

Twenty years later, the property was put up for sale as Brent Lodge with 24 acres.

From 1865 until his death in 1907 it was occupied by local benefactor FA Hamilton.

In 1922 August Cooper bought the site, by which time much had been sold off for the development of Finchley, Brent and Hamilton Ways and Cedar Court. Cooper left it to the people of Finchley, but by 1962 the house, converted into flats, was in considerable disrepair and demolished, leaving this gate house on the opposite side of Lover's Walk.

Much of the site is now known as Finchley Way Open Space. Within the site there are distinct areas known as The Orchard, The Copse and The Green Field.

### **Hampstead Heath**

See walk 92 for notes on the Heath generally.

#### **Sandy Heath**

was so named because it lay over a large deposit of Bagshot sands and gravels. The Lord of the Manor, Thomas Maryon Wilson, exploited this as an income. When the Midland Railway extended its line to create a new terminus at St Pancras he granted the company access to the sands and 30 cartloads a day were extracted, leaving pits up to 25 ft deep. Spaniards Road marks the original surface level. There are plaques for Unwin, Blake, Pevsner and Ventris at North End.

#### **The Hill Garden**

A well-known actress from Covent Garden Theatre, Mrs Lessingham, applied for, and obtained despite violent opposition from local copyholders, a grant of land on which she built Heath Lodge. Lord Leverhulme subsequently bought the estate (next to his) and demolished the house with the aim of extending his garden. His application to abolish the right of way between his two properties was rejected, so he extended his pergola across the lane using a bridge. The walled Hill Garden was purchased by LCC and opened to the public in 1963


#### **The Pergola**

Hampstead Pergola is essentially a raised walkway, set amidst some wonderfully dramatic gardens. Its history goes back to 1904 when

soap magnate Lord Leverhulme purchased a Georgian house called The Hill which he demolished to build what is now Inverforth House. The idea of the pergola was to extend the level area outside the house and at the same time provide privacy from the public on the Heath below. He enlisted the help of Thomas Mawson, landscape architect. He had no need to purchase spoil for the construction. He offered to transport and dispose of the spoil from the construction of the Northern Line nearby for a fee! Progress was quick, and the Pergola was finished in 1906

#### **Golders Hill Park**

In 1767 a colourful and somewhat shady character by the name of Charles Dingley carved out an estate for himself north of Golders Green at Golders Hill. Landscaping by John Coore with advice from Humphrey Repton. By 1897 the estate was put up for auction and after various battles it was bought to prevent developers building flats and opened as a public park. The Victorian pile of a house, on the highest point of the land, was bombed out in the Second World War.

 **Highgate Wood** occupies 28 hectares and has evidence of human activity dating back to prehistoric times. It drains westwards into the Mutton Brook.

During the Medieval period, the wood was part of the Bishop of London's hunting park. Between the 16th and 18th centuries the church leased the wood to tenants, who managed it as 'coppice with standard'. Young Hornbeam was regularly cut and used for fuel, and oak standards were left to grow to maturity, before being felled for construction. In the 1880s a high-profile campaign to save the wood was led by Henry Reader Williams and in 1886 the wood was gifted to the City of London and declared "open for the use and recreation of the public forever"

362 moth, 353 fungi, 70 bird and seven bat species have been recorded. At least 28 species of bird regularly breed here, including great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch and treecreeper. There are more than 50 species of trees and shrubs.

#### **Queen's Wood**

This adjacent 21 hectare ancient woodland was once called Churchyard Bottom Wood. Facing east, it is largely occupied by the valley of a tributary of the Moselle Brook. This oak-hornbeam woodland features occasional beech in a canopy above cherry, field maple, hazel, holly, hornbeam, midland hawthorn, mountain ash and both species of lowland

birch. The scarce Wild Service Tree is scattered throughout. It has a large population of wood anemone, goldilocks buttercup and wood sorrel, yellow pimpernel and square-stemmed St John's wort.

### **Bluebell Wood**

Bluebell Wood is a small remnant of one of the ancient woodlands of London. Just over an acre in size, it is dominated by sessile oaks but has midland hawthorn and wild service trees. Birds include song thrush, chaffinch and magpie.

Despite its name, there are no native bluebells.

### **Fortis Green**

What became Fortis Green Road was just a track across Hornsey Common until the early 1800s. In 1815 the Hornsey Enclosure act resulted in the land to the south of Coldfall Wood being portioned out as compensation to copyholders, who built villas of Georgian design along Fortis Green, many of which still exist today.

In 1853, anticipating the coming of the railway, two men bought land on the south side of Fortis Green on the edge of East Finchley and laid it out with roads (Southern, Western and Eastern) and divided it into 70 plus plots for sale to local builders. Demand, however, was slow and the resulting Harwell Park estate took several decades to complete; the resulting buildings of many styles together present a pleasing appearance.

### **Alexandra Palace**

In an attempt to mirror the recently relocated Crystal Palace to the south, the Alexandra Park Company bought the land of Tottenham Wood Farm from the Rhodes family and made use of building materials remaining from the 1862 International Exhibition of South Kensington, greatly influencing the design. Opened as "The People's Palace" in 1873, sixteen days later it was destroyed by a fire. Within 2 years, a new, uglier Palace opened, covering 7 acres and centred on a Great Hall, with its mighty Willis Organ driven by two steam engines and vast bellows.

After further financial difficulties, an Act of Parliament in 1900 created the Alexandra Palace and Park Trust, requiring the Trustees to maintain the Palace and Park and make them "available for the free use and recreation of the public forever".

In 1935, the BBC leased the eastern part of the building from which the first public television transmissions were made in 1936.

Just six months after the transfer of trusteeship to Haringey Council, in 1980, the Palace caught fire again. The Great Hall, Banqueting Suite,

and former roller rink together with the theatre dressing rooms were completely destroyed. Only Palm Court and the area occupied by the BBC escaped damage.

Development and restoration work began soon after and the Palace was re-opened on 17th March 1988. It continues as a Charitable Trust administered by the London Borough of Haringey and parts continue to be restored and reopened, most recently the theatre.

### **Railway to the Palace**

The GNR branch line from Highgate to Alexandra Palace was constructed to coincide with its opening in 1873. It was extremely popular – nearly 60,000 passengers visited on the bank holiday but on 9 June, the palace burned down! To help combat the flames, the GNR sent two of their own fire engines by rail and these arrived before the local ones. Some traffic was generated by people coming to see the ruins but then the line closed until the palace was rebuilt. The fortunes of the branch line closely followed those of the palace, despite the growth of Muswell Hill commuters. The last passenger train ran in 1954 but the station building is still visible behind the palace in the traditional GNR livery.

### **Muswell Hill**

The suburb we know as Muswell Hill emerged slowly in the Manor of Hornsey, part of the Bishop of London's Stepney estate. In the twelfth century the Bishop granted 65 acres to an order of nuns recently established in Clerkenwell. Situated east of Colney Hatch Lane, this land contained a natural spring [adjacent to today's 40 Muswell Road]. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the area was home to rich residential estates, attracted by the fresh air, rural tranquility and fine views. After a sporadic appearance of smaller Victorian dwellings, much of the land was bought up by two developers. In a short space of time, J Edmondson [The eight parades, Queens, Princes and Dukes Avenues] and WJ Collins [Church Crescent, Grand Avenue and Rookfield Estate] created between them the homogenous and unique suburb of commodious elegant red brick Edwardian buildings with white paintwork, pargeting and elaborate woodwork we see today.

### **Friern Barnet**

The land now comprising Friern Barnet was held by the Bishop of London as part of the manor of Fulham. In the 12th century the bishop gave it to the priory of the Knights Hospitallers at Clerkenwell (The brothers, hence Friern). At the suppression of the order



in 1540 it was given to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral.

The parish of Friern Barnet consisted of two manors, on either side of Friern Barnet Road: Friern Barnet or Whetstone Manor to the north, and Halliwick Manor to the south.

In 1699 the demesne of Whetstone included the Friary, Manor Farm and Friern Lodge.

### **Friary Park**

The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral (see above), in 1551 ordered their tenant farmer to build a Manor House. Built south of the church it was called Friary House, subsequently replaced by another house. The grounds were bought by the Council and became a public park in 1909.

### **Bethune Park**

By 1846 48 acres east of Friern Barnet Lane had passed to a Mrs Bethune, of whom I can find no information. The Friern Lodge estate (see above) was bought by naturalised socialist Frenchman, Peter H J Baume to develop a community and was subsequently known as Frenchman's Farm. By 1910 the area started to be built over, The northern part was acquired by the Council in 1924 to create an open space for the public.

### **Whetstone/Friern Manor Farm**

The land now North Middlesex Golf Course was originally part of Manor Farm, parkland surrounding the enlarged farmhouse which became called, inappropriately, "The Manor House". The Golf Course Club House, the Victorian "Manor House" and its outbuildings are Locally Listed Buildings. British History Online suggests that the House was built and extended by John Miles who bought the land in 1851 and subsequently purchased more. North Middlesex Golf Club, set in 74 acres of parkland, was established in 1905 and was designed by Willie Park Junior. The Course is 5,691yds yards long.

### **Woodhouse Estate**

The Woodhouse area of Finchley began with three houses called the Woodhouses sometime before 1655. One of them was called Wood House by 1754. In 1915 Finchley UDC bought part of the Woodhouse estate to create this new housing estate.

### **The Freehold**

Sydney Road is part of a development called The Freehold, presumably after the developers, the Westminster Freehold Land Society. Rather isolated, it was not a prosperous area. Many there worked on the creation of Alexandra Palace, or worked at the Lunatic Asylum. There was a pioneering film studio in 1879 by Robert Paul, where he also developed a

galvanometer and an early form of iron lung. The former bus garage was opened in 1931

### **Colney Hatch Hospital**

When opened in 1851, *Colney Hatch Pauper Lunatic Asylum* was the largest asylum in Europe. The building had six miles of corridor and the front was nearly 1,884 ft. long and occupied 14 acres. There was a large farm on what is now Friern Village, and workshops for tailoring and other trades. The patients were involved in the cooking and cleaning of the hospital. It effectively had its own railway station, now called New Southgate.

After several name changes it became Friern Hospital in 1959, and was closed in 1993, the building and grounds being sold to Comer Homes in 1995. The building was converted into luxury flats called Princess Park Manor.

### **Friern Bridge Open Space**

This space with its ornamental lake with a bridge over it was once part of the land of Friern Hospital. The Retail Park opened in 1998.

### **St James's Church**

Is of medieval origin, with one Norman fragment, a much restored south doorway, surviving. The church today largely dates from a rebuilding of 1853 by the architects Edward and William Habershon. It consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle and porch, vestry, and a south-west tower with a spire. The exterior is of flint, with stone dressings.

### **St James's School**

This was the original Church of England National School, built in 1853 to replace the small classes held in the Almshouse.

### **Lawrence Campe Almshouses**

The almshouses were founded by Lawrence Campe, a merchant from London, in 1612. Originally there had been a plaque with the words, 'Every morning before you feed, Come to this house and prayers read, Then you about your work may go, So God bless you and yours also'. Some of the buildings were destroyed in a fire of 1728, and the houses were considerably refurbished in 1843 and 1897, but much of the original building remains. For a long time one of the larger rooms functioned as a school.

### **Swan Lane Open Space**

Is the smallest of Barnet's sixteen 'Premier Parks'. The park was created around the 1930s on the site of former gravel pits. Known locally as 'The Pits' in the 1960s, the pond has a natural spring. It was the scene of a tragedy in the early 1920s when children were drowned while playing in the disused gravel workings.