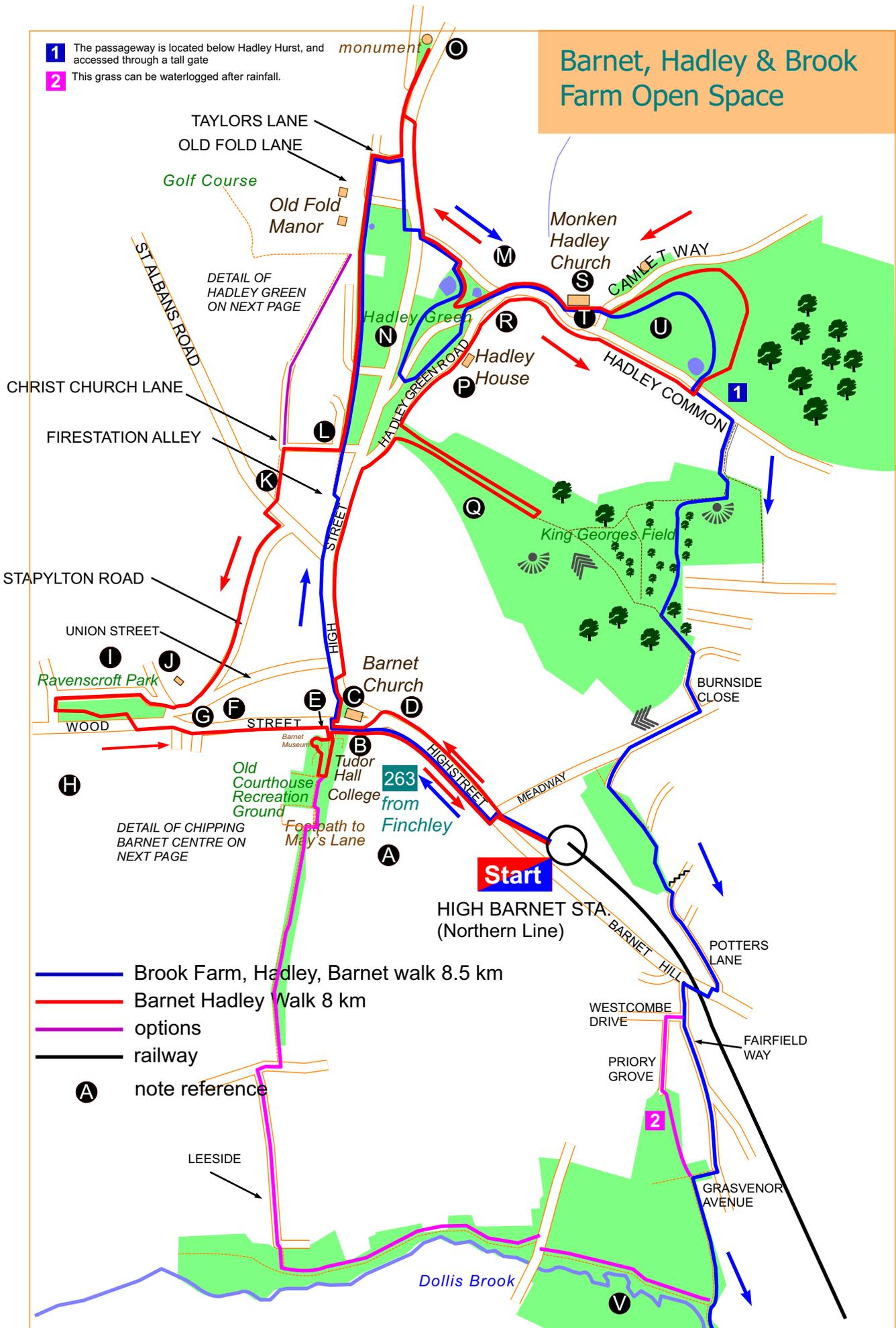


# Barnet, Hadley & Brook Farm Open Space

- 1** The passageway is located below Hadley Hurst, and accessed through a tall gate
- 2** This grass can be waterlogged after rainfall.



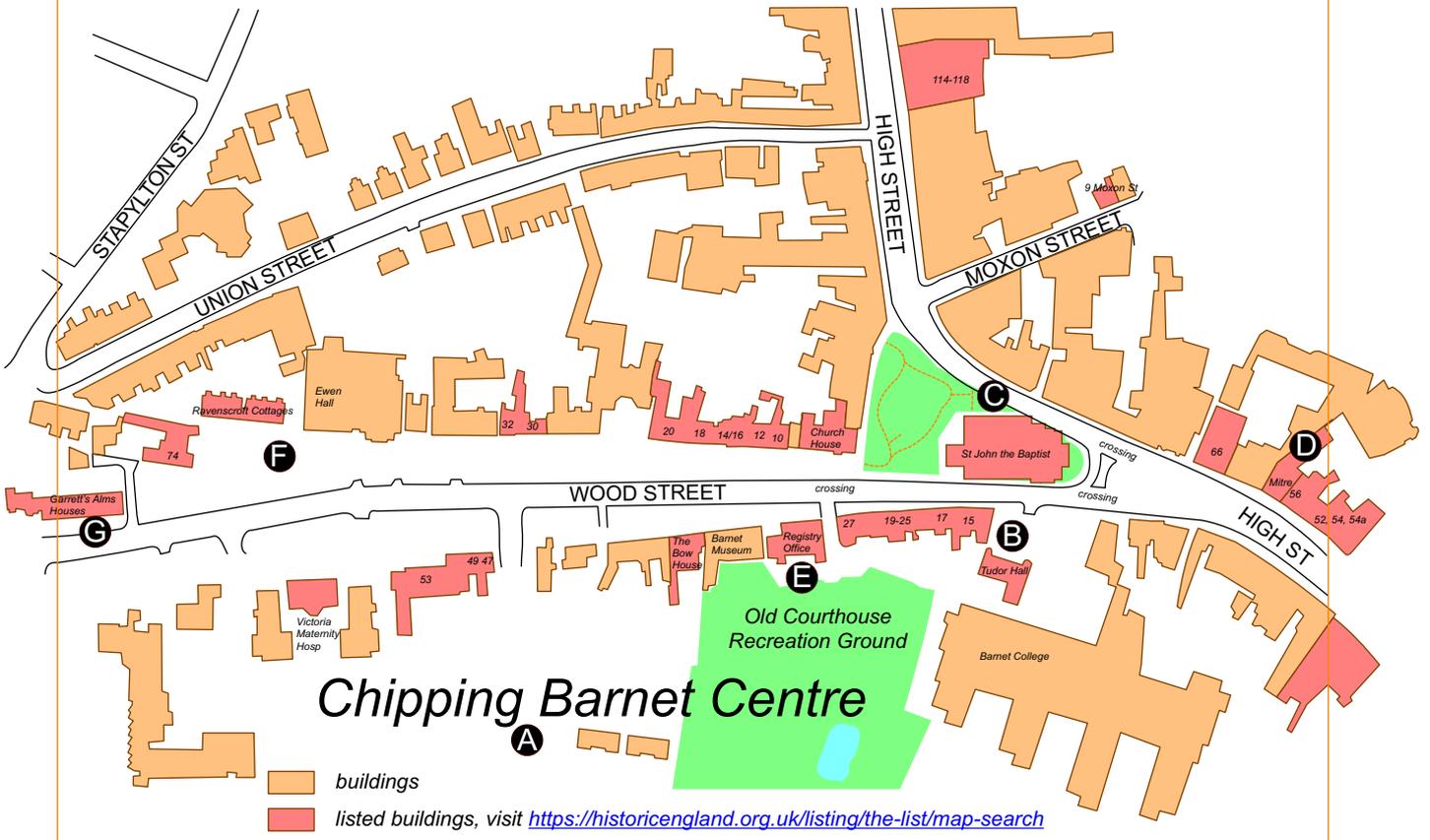
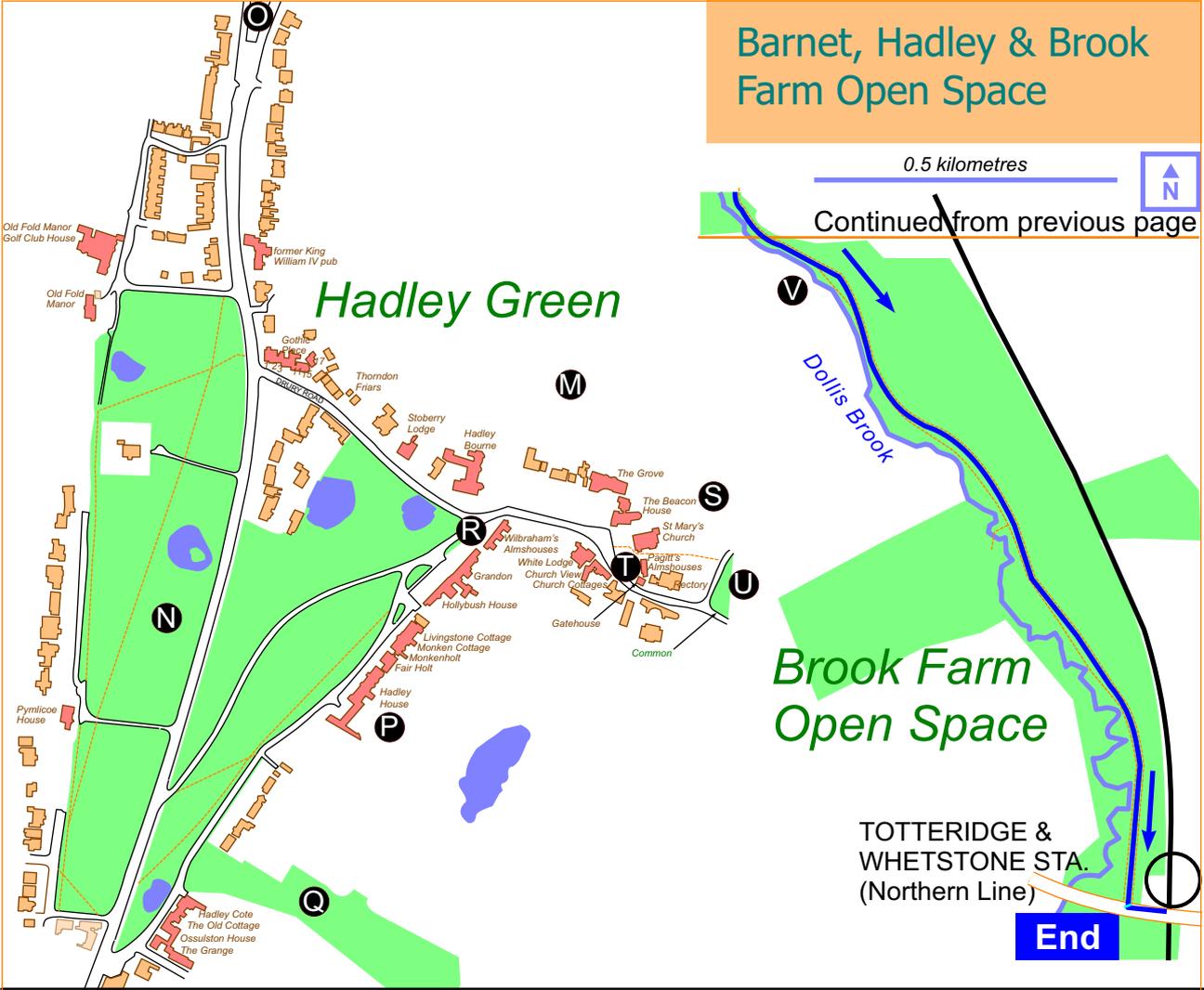
Continued on next page

# Barnet, Hadley & Brook Farm Open Space

0.5 kilometres



Continued from previous page



## **Chipping Barnet**

Ⓐ As its name implies, Chipping Barnet developed as a market town, situated at a fork on the Great North Road running north out of London (where the High Street meets Wood Street today). The Abbey of St Albans acquired a charter from King John, granted to the Lord of the Manor in 1199 for a market to be held here once a week, to allow the buying and selling of cattle, horses and at a later date, pigs, although a variety of other goods, including corn, pottery, wool and hides were also sold. A series of coaching inns developed with stable yards behind, the Mitre Inn being the oldest remaining. A second charter for a horse fair was issued by Queen Elizabeth in 1588.

Barnet acquired its railway station High Barnet in 1872, courtesy of the Great North Railway, who built the branch line from Finsbury Park via Finchley. The line was not particularly successful until the line was connected to the underground system at Archway in 1939, and subsequently detached from the railway network. The station still retains much of its original Victorian architectural character today, including the creamy brickwork typical of the branch line architecture.

The market has relocated several times and settled near St Albans Road in the mid-19th century. Railway and motorised traffic took over and the last auction of cattle took place in 1959. Until 1965 Barnet was located on a 'pan handle' of Hertfordshire; it was swapped with Potters Bar and became part of Greater London.

The High Street is typical of a rural market town; the most interesting buildings lie along Wood Street.

## **Ⓑ Tudor Hall**

Elizabeth I established 136 new grammar schools to help ease England's religious transition.

At the request of Robert, Earl of Leicester, she granted a Charter "for one Common Grammar School in or near the town of Barnet which shall be called the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, for the education, bringing up, and instruction of boys and youth" A copy of the charter resides in the entrance hall and is displayed on special occasions.

Donations of churchgoers financed the construction in 1573 of the schoolhouse for 60-90 boys incorporating a dwelling for the Master, dormitories in the roof space and turrets with staircases at either end. Although Elizabeth gave her approval to the school, its building had to be funded by monies that were raised locally and all pupils had to pay an admission fee!

## **Ⓒ Church of St John the Baptist**

Manor Court records show that a chapel was in existence in 1272, built to serve the needs of the people of the village, the market and travellers. In 1415, the Abbot of St Albans granted permission to enlarge the church and it was rebuilt in the perpendicular style around 1420.

Restorations recommended by Victorian architect William Butterfield were carried out in 1872-1875: The galleries were removed, the old churchyard to the south was used for a new nave and 70 foot tower with the old 1420 church incorporated into a double north aisle.

In the mid-twentieth century, the roof was repaired, and Church House restored. A fire in 1974 severely damaged the choir vestry under the tower. Further changes in 1984, included new glass doors as the main entrance under the tower, the creation of a new choir vestry and alterations to the organ.

There are 159 pew ends within the church, each one carved with a different symbol or picture from the Bible or Christian history. The carving was carried out in 1896 by Harry Hems, one of the foremost sculptors of that time. The bell chamber holds eight bells, all recast in 1892.

## **Ⓓ The Mitre Public House**

A pub has been on this site since 1449. This C17 building is timber framed, refronted in C19 and stuccoed. Three window, 2 storey. Double bay window to ground storey. Good etched glass. It is still a popular real ale pub.

The Red Lion opposite was rebuilt by Meux Brewery in 1930 while retaining the old Victorian pub sign.

## **Ⓔ Registry Office**

Originally these were the municipal offices for Barnet Urban District Council, formed in 1894, (then in Hertfordshire). A competition was held for the design in 1913; the winning entry was that of Henry Arthur Cheers who designed a number of public buildings. However, W B Chancellor of Lichfield was selected as surveyor in 1914 and produced plans for the final scheme. Of interest as a handsome, well-detailed municipal building in the neo-Baroque style, it is one of only a few unaltered surviving examples of the smaller purpose-built local government headquarters built to serve the expanding London's suburban fringes, late C19 /early C20. The building became a registry office after 1965 when Barnet UDC, along with Boroughs of Finchley, and Hendon and Urban Districts of Friern Barnet and East Barnet, were merged to create the present London Borough of Barnet. Mentioned in Pevsner.

## **Ⓕ Ravenscroft Cottages**

Founded circa 1679 for "six poor ancient women

of Barnet" by James Ravenscroft. Altered, and largely rebuilt late C19. Brick with stone dressings and tiled roof. Casement windows, plain doors, tall chimneys. Still remaining from the original building is the central archway with plaque and pedimented gable over. James Ravenscroft was a lawyer and a merchant whose wealth came from dealing in lace, currants and glass. He also owned land and left 10 acres of it to provide an endowment with which to support the almshouses. These buildings were restored in 1887, although the central archway and large stone tablet above, as well as the tablets in the rebuilt gate pillars, are all original.

His father George Ravenscroft was a person of great importance in the world of glass manufacture, for it was he who helped free English glassworkers from a dependence upon imported raw materials. In the 1670s he began to experiment with materials available in England and eventually produced a lead crystal of such quality that English glass reigned supreme for the next 100 years.

In 1679 The Jesus Hospital Charity was established by James and his wife Mary, who drew up an agreement to ensure the support and maintenance of lady residents, known as Sisters, residing in Ravenscroft Cottages. The Jesus Hospital Charity provides 63 unfurnished dwellings for ladies aged 50 plus, who reside alone and are fit and able to care for themselves. The Alms houses are situated in Barnet in Potters Lane, Grasvenor Avenue, Monken Hadley, Wood Street and Union Street.

#### © Garrett's Almshouses

The Garrett's Almshouses were the gift of John Garrett, a citizen and merchant of London who died in 1728. He left, among other bequests, a sum of £800 which was to be used to purchase a piece of land upon which could be built six almshouses. Built in 1731, much restored in circa 1902. Simple, single storeyed building of brick with a tiled roof, providing 6 cottages for old women. Cambered arches to altered windows and doors. Stone plaque in end gable.

#### Ⓜ Common & Chalybeate Well

Barnet Common covered the whole area south of Wood Street including places such as Duck Island, and Underhill as far as the Dollis. Originally the area was a wood, which was In 1729 the lord of the manor, the Duke of Chandos External link, enclosed 135 acres of the Common. In return for the loss of rights of pasture the Duke provided a charity for the poor, the Fuel Lands. The rest of the common was enclosed in 1815. Barnet Physic Well was discovered on the common during the 17th

century and the parish (who owned the well) had a well house built and appointed a keeper. The water was bottled and sold in London. The waters lost popularity and the original building was demolished. The well was rediscovered in the 1920s, and in 1937 another well house was built in Well House Approach.

#### Ⓜ Ravenscroft Park

Thomas Smith, who built most of the adjacent housing, bought up a remnant of Barnet Common in 1883 and created Barnet's first public park.

#### Ⓜ Leathersellers' Almshouses

The Leathersellers Company bought the land in 1603 and for the following 200 years it was mainly used for grazing animals. Then, in 1838, the company decided to build almshouses here for its elderly members. These buildings were largely rebuilt in the 1960s although the small lodge beside the gates survives in original form. Early C19, white brick Gothic round 3 sides of a square. North block - circa 1837. Mid Victorian Chapel inserted in centre block. Decorative chimneys. Ironwork gates.

#### Ⓜ Christ Church

Christ Church was built as a chapel of ease by George Gilbert Scott in 1845, this area being in the parish of St Giles, South Mimms. Inside is a gallery originally for orphans of soldiers who fought in the Crimean War, from Silesia College off Wood Street.

#### Ⓜ Pumping Station

Formerly of the East Barnet Gas and Water Co

#### Ⓜ Monken Hadley

Monken is said to refer to the Abbey of Walden, Essex, when a hermitage at Hadley was given to the Abbey in the 12th century.

The affluent picturesque rural village has a wide range of buildings, from grand mansions to small clapperboard cottages, in a wide variety of styles of gothic, Georgian, Victorian and modern.

#### Ⓜ Hadley Green

Hadley Green or the Old Common, a badly drained open area of 10 ha, was never part of Enfield Chase. This acid grassland, studded with trees and ponds is at 400 feet above sea level and has several rare species of plant. Attempts at enclosure were encouraged by the lord of the manor, but the vestry won an action against him in King's Bench in 1815 and finally secured the green as an open space after a further action in 1818.

Houses grew up around the green, the earlier, grander ones on the south eastern side, with its fine views.

#### Ⓜ Battle of Barnet

Hadley Highstone marks (approximately!) the site of the Battle of Barnet in 1471 between

Edward IV and his former ally, the Earl of Warwick. Edward secured a resounding victory and despatched Warwick the second most powerful man in the kingdom.

North of the monument is a track running east from the A1000 towards the Monken Mead Brook, from where it is possible to gain a closer view of the marshy valley from which Edward's army probably launched its attack.

### 📍 **Hadley House**

The manor-house at Hadley had 27 hearths in 1664. It was described as the old manorhouse in 1724 and seems to have been replaced soon afterwards by a large red-brick building, with a main front of five bays and two storeys surmounted by a pediment. Soon after its sale in 1795 it acquired the name Hadley House.

The residence known as the Manor House in the 19th century stood farther south, also on the east side of Hadley Green. After its purchase in 1829 by John Bonus Child it remained the seat of successive lords of the manor until 1934.

It was purchased in 1890 by the milliners Rhoda Wyburn and her sister Emily. It was destroyed by fire in the early 1930s and the site purchased by East Barnet council in 1934 on Rhoda's death.

At about the same time, Rhoda gave to the public the land known as Hadley Manor Fields to the rear of the manor house, which was combined with purchases from adjacent estates such as the Hadley Hurst Estate and Gladsmuir Estate to form King George's Fields. The house was demolished in 1935, giving access to the fields from the Green.

### 📍 **King George's Fields**

King George's Fields is a 28 hectare Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation, Grade II consisting of a patchwork of fields, intersected by overgrown hedgerows, narrow strips of woodland and small streams. The Shirebourne brook runs north-south through the fields.

### 📍 **Wilbrahams Almshouses**

Wilbraham's Almshouses are named after Sir Roger Wilbraham of Clerkenwell (who lived from 1553 to 1616), who had these houses built in 1612 for six 'poor, decayed, housekeepers'. There is a memorial to him and his family in St Mary's church.

### 📍 **Monken Hadley Church**

The style of the building is late perpendicular and the nave, chancel and transepts are built from flint stone.

On the site of earlier religious buildings dating back to C12, the Grade II listed church of Saint Mary the Virgin was rebuilt in 1494. Over the main entrance is a rare example of early Arabic numbers showing this date. The strange shape

looking like the top half of a number '8' represents half that amount i.e. '4'. Arabic numbers had only started to be used in England in the 1450s and still had not quite formed into what we would recognise today.

On the roof of the early 16th century flint and ironstone tower is a beacon, earliest use unknown.

The church was much modified by the architect George Edmund Street in 1848-50. An assistant to George Gilbert Scott, Street was one of the most prominent architects in Victorian England, responsible for popularising the Victorian Gothic style.

The interior has a fine encaustic tile pavement by the altar. The church was painted by J.M.W. Turner in the 1790's.

### 📍 **Pagitt's Almshouses**

Gothic Revival style Pagitts Almshouses were named after a local lawyer, Justinian Pagitt who left provision for six poor couples of Hadley. The present houses were constructed in 1822 and 1848.

### 📍 **Monken Hadley Common**

The former 3380 ha. royal hunting ground of Enfield Chase, owned by the Duchy of Lancaster, was enclosed by 1777, and Hadley Common was allotted to the freeholders and copyholders of Hadley.

The land allotted to the parish of Monken Hadley consisted of 97 ha., of which 77 ha. was common land, the only part of the former Chase which remains as common land to this day.

The Common, which includes Hadley Woods, is managed under its own Act of Parliament. The freehold is vested in the church wardens of Monken Hadley Church in perpetuity in trust for the commoners, who have their own rules concerning vehicular access, grazing and use of the woods by the public.

Gates mark the boundary of the land.

With the coming of the railway, the Common was reduced to 70 ha.

### 📍 **Dollis Brook**

The Dollis Brook begins on Moat Mount and flows into the Brent Brook then into the Thames at Brentford. The first half of its length it flows through Green Belt land. The second half is behind residential back gardens, forming the ancient boundary between the Hundreds of Ossulstone and Gore/ Finchley and Hendon.

### 📍 **Brook Farm Open Space**

Like much of the area, Brook Farm was used to produce hay for London's horses. The regular harvesting created a special habitat where certain flowers and insects thrived. In summer the fields are rich with the different colours of wild flowers and grasses.