

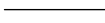



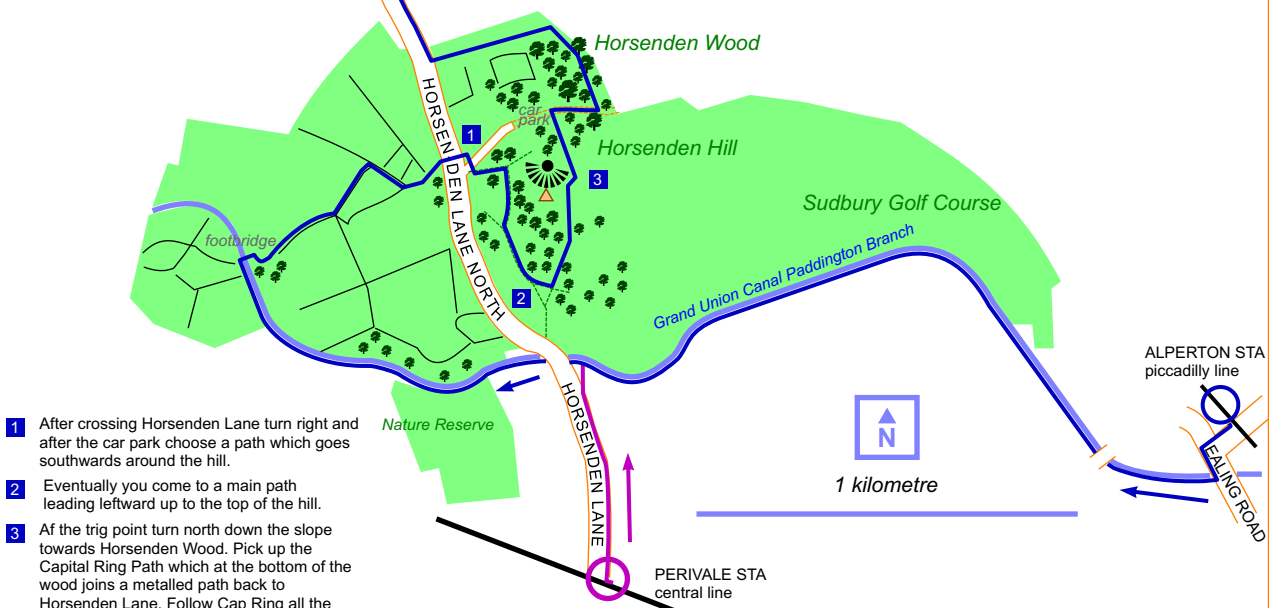
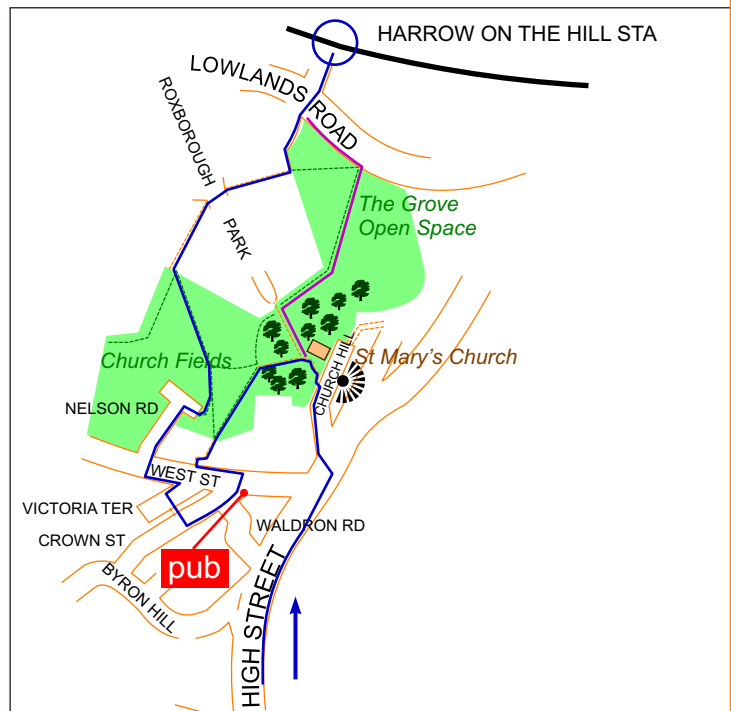
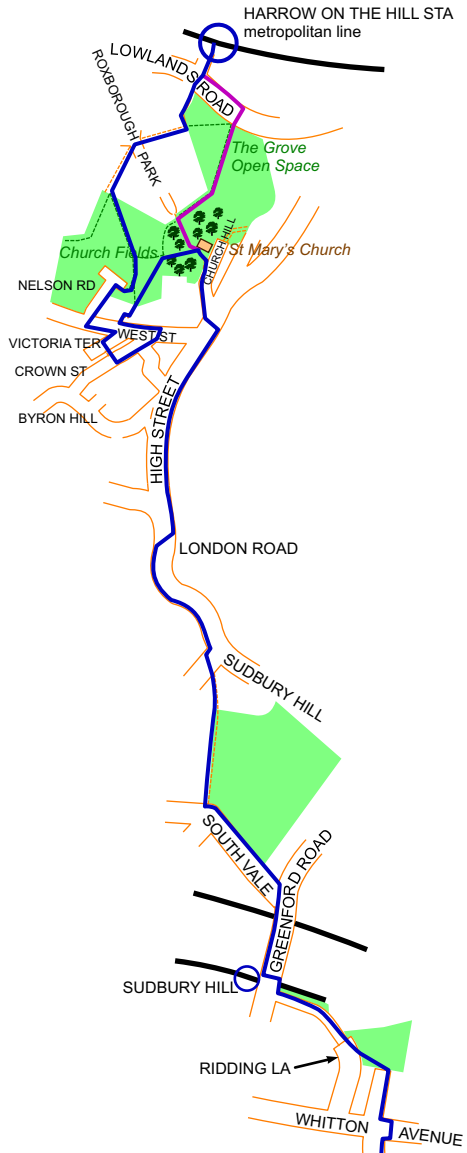


# Horsenden Hill to Harrow on the Hill

Much of this walk follows Capital Ring. Main route 10.7 km; taking the options and starting from Perivale reduces this to 8 km

-  Main route 10.7 km
-  Options
-  Field Boundaries
-  Railway
-  Trig point
-  viewpoint



- 1 After crossing Horsenden Lane turn right and after the car park choose a path which goes southwards around the hill.
- 2 Eventually you come to a main path leading leftward up to the top of the hill.
- 3 At the trig point turn north down the slope towards Horsenden Wood. Pick up the Capital Ring Path which at the bottom of the wood joins a metallated path back to Horsenden Lane. Follow Cap Ring all the way to Harrow on the Hill

Pub: The Castle

## walk notes

### **Horsenden Hill to Harrow on the Hill**

*This walk includes a stretch of Capital Ring from Horsenden Hill to Harrow on the Hill, together with a stretch of the canal which winds past the foot of the hill. Sadly no way was found to convert the walk to a circular one.*

### **Horsenden Hill**

Horsenden Hill rises 276 feet above sea level and is the site of an iron-age hill fort. Together with the Grand Junction/Grand Union canal which winds past its foot since 1801 it makes a fine open space. Archaeological evidence has shown that people occupied the site for at least 7000 years. The soil on the hill top suggests Neolithic farming, and considerable numbers of Iron Age pot shreds were discovered in 1987. The site was scheduled as an ancient monument in 1976. The patterns of fields, hedgerows and small woods which can be seen today has escaped the influences of recent times.

During the last century and well into this one there was a small settlement, Brabsden Green, on the western slope of the hill besides Horsenden Lane. It consisted of a few cottages, a village shop and a public house, the Ballet Box Public House, so called because of its use as a polling station for canal boatmen. The pub was re-sited after the Second World War and the rest of the houses of Brabsden Green was demolished in 1970s.

### **Harrow on the Hill**

Harrow Hill is 407 feet above sea level and is dominated by the Parish Church of St Mary which can be seen from miles around including Hampstead Heath. The roofs of the nave and transept are reckoned to be the finest in Middlesex with over 300 carvings, while the spire is covered with 12 tons of lead. Much of the rest of the hill is occupied by Harrow School and its services. The brass to John Lyon, founder of the school is to be found on the wall of the nave.

### **Harrow School**

The school in its current form was

founded in February 1572 under a Royal Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I to John Lyon, a wealthy local farmer to re-found a free grammar school for the boys of the parish of Harrow, to send two scholars to Cambridge and two to Oxford, and to improve the highways between Edgware and London. It was only after the death of Lyon's wife that the construction of the first school building began. It was completed in 1615 and remains to this day, however it is now much larger.

Lyon died in 1592, leaving his assets to two causes: the lesser was the School, and by far the greater beneficiary was the maintenance of a road to London, 10 miles (16 km) away. The school owned and maintained this road for many years following Lyon's death, and the whole school still runs along this 10-mile road in an event called "Long Ducker" every November. At first the primary subject taught was Latin, and the only sport was archery. Both subjects were compulsory; archery was dropped in 1771. Although most boys were taught for free, their tuition paid for by Lyon's endowment, there were a number of fee-paying boys from outside the parish. It was their presence that amplified the need for boarding facilities. By 1701 for every local there were two "foreign" pupils; these generated funds for the School as fees increased. By 1876 the ratio was so high that the John Lyon School opened at the bottom of the Hill as an independent day school for the outnumbered local boys. The opening of this school signalled the formation of the Harrow Foundation, which today comprises Harrow School, The John Lyon School, and John Lyon's Charity - the modern incarnation of John Lyon's road maintenance trust, which gives over £5 million a year to projects benefiting young people in nine London boroughs, including a bursary at Harrow. The majority of the school's boarding houses were constructed in Victorian times, when the number of boys increased dramatically.