

Holland Park to Earls Court

Many streets have been omitted from this map

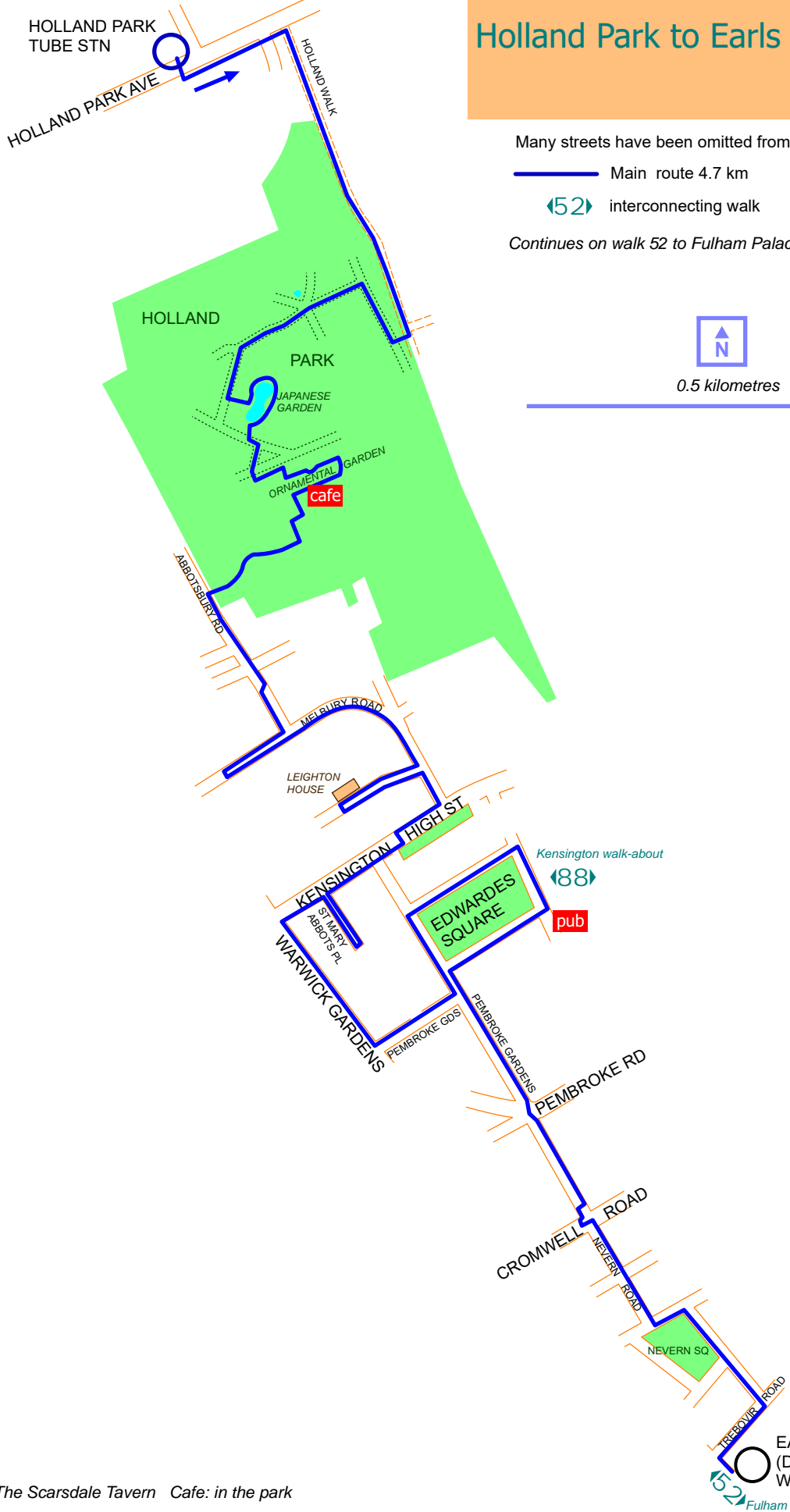
 Main route 4.7 km

 interconnecting walk

Continues on walk 52 to Fulham Palace 5.4 km



0.5 kilometres



Pub: The Scarsdale Tavern Cafe: in the park

 EARLS COURT STA
(District & Piccadilly Lines)
Warwick Road exit
 Fulham Palace and Hammersmith

walk notes

Holland Park to Earls Court

This pavement walk combines with the next one, to end at Fulham Palace

Holland Park

Holland Park was formerly the grounds of a Jacobean mansion called Holland House. Holland House was built for Sir Walter Cope and it later came into the possession of the Rich family, the (Earls of Warwick and Holland) through the marriage of Sir Henry Rich, first Earl of Holland, to Cope's daughter. When Edward Henry Rich the fourth Earl of Holland died in 1721, the title passed to his aunt, Lady Elizabeth Edwardes (née Rich) and was inherited by their son, Edward Henry Edwardes. There is no evidence that any member of the Edwardes family lived at Holland House. In March 1768 Henry Fox, who had recently been created Baron Holland, bought all of William Edwardes's property north of the Hammersmith road. The house itself was devastated by incendiary bombing during the Second World War. The ruins and the grounds were bought by London County Council in 1952 from the last owner. The northern half of the park is semi-wild woodland, the central section around the ruins of Holland House is more formal with several garden areas, and the southernmost section is used for sport. The remains of the house form a backdrop for the open air Holland Park Theatre, home of Opera Holland Park.

Japanese Garden

A main attraction is the Kyoto/Fukushima Garden. In 1991 the garden was donated by the Kyoto Chamber of Commerce in Japan in preparation for the Japanese Festival in London in 1992. Following the terrible disaster that struck Fukushima, Japan in 2011, was reopened as a memorial garden and subsequently renamed 'Fukushima Garden'. The garden was designed by a famous Japanese garden designer to accurately display their style of gardens including the use of stone lanterns, sculptures, tiered waterfalls, water features and koi carp.

Melbury Road

On exiting the park the walk passes numerous grand houses. 8 Melbury Road is a large detached house built in the Queen Anne style by the architect Richard Norman Shaw. It was commissioned by the painter Marcus Stone as a "studio-home" for himself. The house is next to the home of George Frederick Watts, and backs on to the garden of the Leighton House Museum, the former "studio-home" of Frederic, Lord Leighton. 31 Melbury Road (originally no 11), also built in the Queen Anne style by Shaw, was commissioned by the painter Luke Fildes,

and latterly occupied by the film director Michael Winner. It is situated next to William Burges' Grade I listed Tower House. The choice by artistic rivals Fildes and Stone of Richard Norman Shaw as the architect of their houses was an important symbol of their ambition to become academicians, members of the Royal Academy of Arts, and of the art establishment themselves.

The walk visits briefly St Mary Abbots Place with its Arts & Crafts buildings and Edwardes Square with its fine private garden before taking a straight line to Nevern Square, not actually square but nevertheless imposing.

Edwardes Square

Development began in 1811, when Lord Kensington entered into an agreement with Louis Changeur for the building of houses on the south side of the High Street, undertaking to grant ninety-nine-year leases as the houses were covered in. The most striking feature of Edwardes Square is the very large size of the central enclosure—slightly over three acres—in relation to the comparatively small houses surrounding it, a decision which was to lead the developer to bankruptcy. Changeur as a Frenchman gave rise to the canard that the square had been laid out to provide 'cheap little houses' for Napoleon's invading Army. The plan shows a range of twenty-five houses (now Earl's Terrace), four square storeys above basements and virtually identical in outward appearance to houses in Montague Street where Changeur had previously been working, facing the High Road but set well back and guarded by a pair of small single-storey lodges at either end. The south side of the square was to be a mews. The garden at the centre of the Square was laid out by P A Sack, who later became Director of the National Botanic Garden at Buenos Aires.

Nevern Square

Nevern Square was built between 1880 and 1886 in a style known as "Domestic Revival", which harks back to the architecture of seventeenth and eighteenth century English and Flemish houses. The great merit of the square is its uniformity of style and materials. The houses are of contrasting red and yellow brick, with moulded brick pediments and delicately patterned iron railings and balconies. The private garden is about three-quarters of an acre in size; the broad central lawn is surrounded by gravel paths and mixed borders planted with trees, flowering shrubs and perennials. There are several magnificent old plane trees and four Victorian wrought iron gates flanked by decorative piers.