

# Earls Court to Fulham Palace

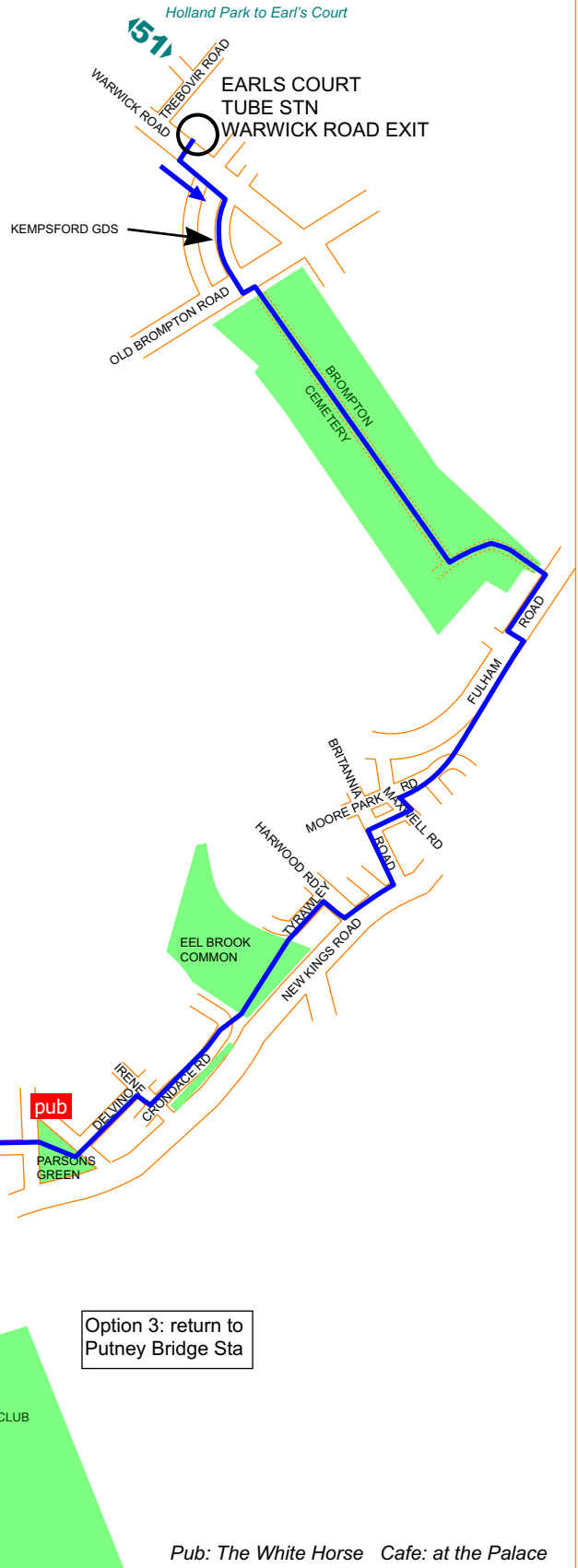
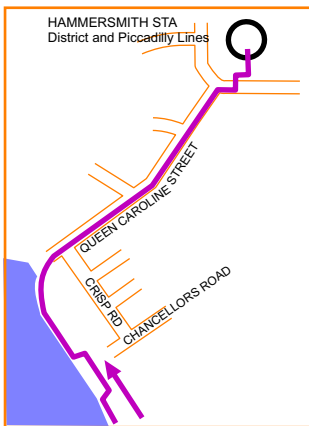
This walk combines well with 51 to make Holland Park to Fulham Palace

Many streets have been omitted from this map

- Main route 5.4 km
- Extension to Hammersmith 3 km
- 14 Bus stop
- ↔ interconnecting walk



1 kilometre



Option 1: extend walk along Thames to Hammersmith

Option 2: take bus 14 into central London/Warren St

Option 3: return to Putney Bridge Sta

Pub: The White Horse Cafe: at the Palace

Wandle Trail 2 Colliers Wood (from Wandsworth Park over bridge)

## walk notes

### **Earls Court to Fulham Palace via Parsons Green**

*This pavement walk makes use of Brompton Cemetery to cut through to the King's Road.*

#### **Brompton Cemetery**

Brompton Cemetery is a magical place, combining historic monuments, trees and wildlife with the stories of the remarkable people buried here. It is designated Grade I on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens and is the only Cemetery in the country owned by the Crown and managed by The Royal Parks on behalf of the nation. The burial and cremation records for Brompton Cemetery can be accessed online, the complete record collection comprising approximately 205,000 burials for the period 1840 to 1997.

#### **Eel Brook Common**

Eel Brook Common is common land, the name is a derivative of 'hill brook common' - which relates to Musgrave Crescent, off Tyrawley Road, which is raised much higher than the surrounding land. This is thought to be artificial and it probably was originally a Bronze Age mound - either to defend against attackers, or as a burial mound. In 1883 and 1891 a then local amateur football team, Fulham F.C., played their home games there. It usually hosts a circus in early summer - and has three other fairs there every year - including Carters Steam Fair.

#### **Parson's Green**

Evidence of an Iron Age settlement has been discovered at Lady Margaret school. The green's name derives from the presence of Fulham rectory; which stood on the site of St Dionis' church from the 14th century but was pulled down about the year 1740. A clump of trees on the west side of the green was known as Parson's Grove by 1424. Parsons Green had only 16 ratepayers in 1625 and the village remained sparsely populated for the next two centuries.

The White Horse coaching inn was a meeting place for Fulham Albion cricket club, one of the first in England. It is said that the parson played bowls on the green in the early 18th century, when the old rectory was demolished and replaced by two brick-built houses.

Wealthy Londoners were able to build country retreats here with spacious grounds because the land was not progressively subdivided into small tenements.

From the 1840s suburban dwellings began to replace Parsons Green's grandest houses, although some survived as schools. The

Midland District Railway opened a station in 1880 and within a decade an irregular grid of terraced houses had filled the entire vicinity. St Dionis' church and the White Horse were rebuilt and the village pond, known as Colepitts, was drained.

#### **Fulham Palace**

The Manor of Fulham was bought by Waldhere, the Bishop of London, from Tyrhtilus, the Bishop of Hereford, about 700AD and served as a Bishop's residence for over 12 centuries. By Tudor times, Fulham Palace was the Bishop of London's country home, providing the Bishop and his family with a healthy rural retreat in summer months. The manor house became known as Fulham Palace because bishops were considered to be 'princes of the church'. The Manor covered the whole of what is now Hammersmith and Fulham, Ealing, Acton and Finchley. The Bishop ceased to be Lord of the Manor in 1868.

Fulham was mainly used as a summer residence until the 20th century when it became the principal home of the Bishop of London until Bishop Stopford retired in 1975. The parish vestry developed into Fulham Borough Council and was then amalgamated with Hammersmith in 1965.

Although the Bishop of London first acquired the Manor of Fulham about 700, there is evidence of much earlier occupation. Excavations from 1972 to 1986 by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group revealed Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman artefacts. Some of the existing house dates back to Tudor times, including an enchanting entrance courtyard with fountain, and its excellent gardens are open to the public free of admission. One wall is smothered in Wisteria so early to mid-spring is a good time to visit. There is a herb garden, and bees are kept in the walled field.

#### **The Bishop's Park**

Following a public meeting in 1883, the Bishop of London offered the area known as Bishops Meadow, between the Palace moat and the river, to the Vestry, for a park. The offer was not that generous as the area was a marshy, dangerous rubbish tip bordered by a very polluted river. This was followed gradually by 5 accretions, starting with the West Meadow in 1891, and the area nearest the bridge, demolishing Vine Cottage, in 1900, shortly followed by land to the west as far as Craven Cottage.