

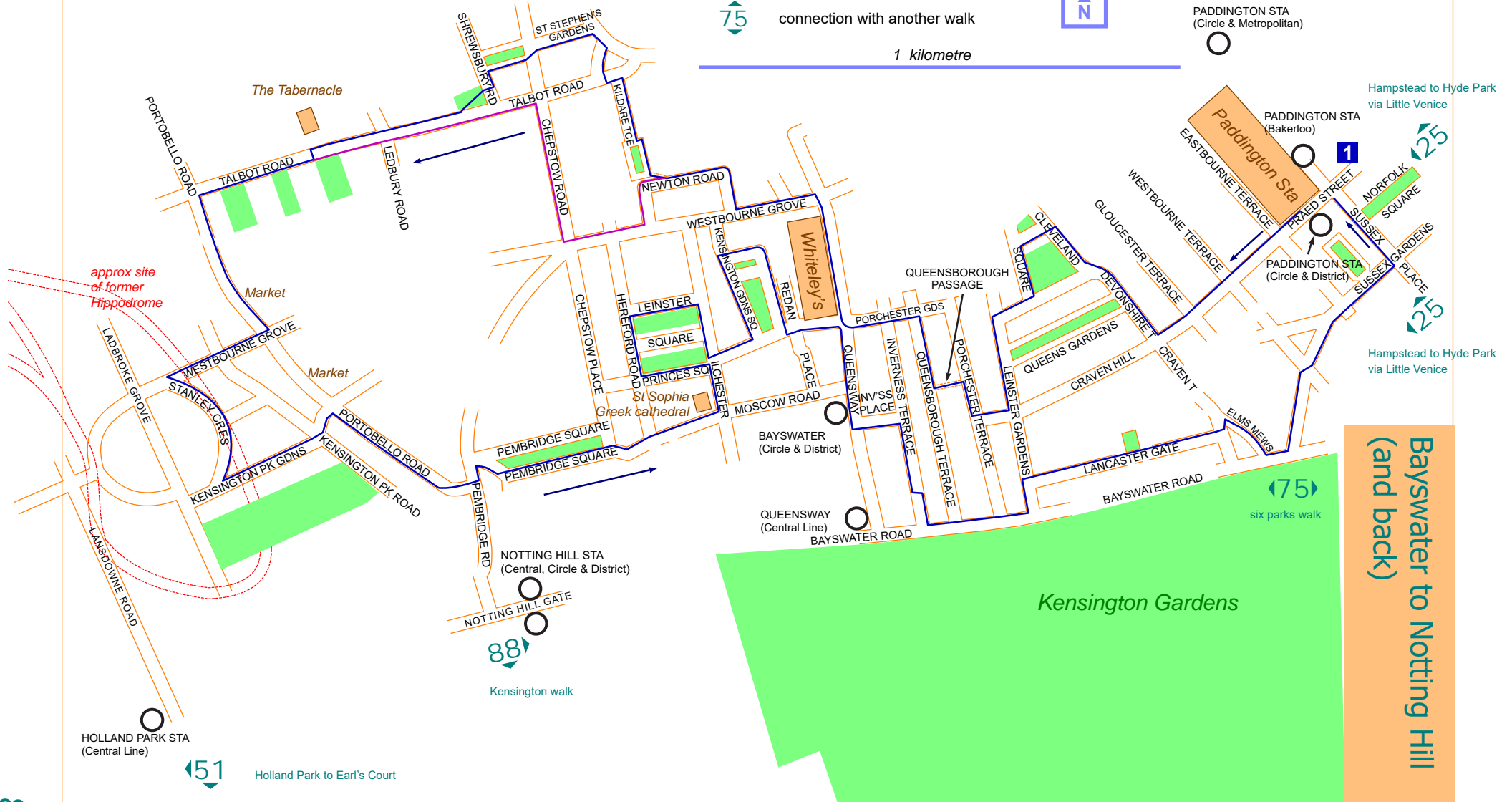
1 At Paddington make your way to the front of the station and (back to main station) turn right along Praed Street.

Bayswater is beset with stuccoed terraces and squares. On attaining Portobello Road Market the walk strikes right, uphill to the virtual summit of what gave Notting Hill its name and turns left along what was part of the Hippodrome.

— Main route 9.2 km
 — options
 75 connection with another walk



1 kilometre



Bayswater to Notting Hill
(and back)

This pavement walk through Bayswater to Notting Hill and back includes a trip to Portobello Market and passes many stuccoed squares typical of the area.

Bayswater

Bayard's Watering Place is recorded in 1380, a spot on the Westbourne near the current Bayswater Road. Seventeenth-century Bayswater was a small hamlet known for its tea gardens and water supply.

Craven

William Craven inherited his father's vast fortune at the age of about ten and, after a brief career at Trinity College, Oxford, he took up soldiering. In 1632, he sailed for Germany as one of the leaders of the English force enlisted to serve under Gustavus Adolphus in the hope of restoring King Charles I's sister, Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, and her husband, Frederick, to the Palatinate. In recognition of his martial services on the continent, he was raised to the peerage, as Baron Craven of Hamstead Marshall, at the age of 21

In 1733 William 3rd Baron Craven (a founding governor of the Foundling Hospital) bought Upton Farm with its 9 acres of land in the common fields of Bayswater. He replaced the farm with a large house and accompanying grounds, ponds and buildings, the construction of which were permitted provided that in the

event of another plague, the buildings would be converted to a hospital. This estate was passed as whole through the family until 1825 when it was divided amongst the heirs of William 7th Baron Craven.

Bayswater Develops

Speculative builders began to grab the land in 1809, led by Bond Street printmaker Edward Orme. The popularity of stucco was influenced by John Nash's Regent's Park estate developed for the Crown Estate. Single and paired villas with gardens were initially the favoured types of dwellings but tree-lined, terraced avenues, squares and crescents rapidly extended the district in the 1840s and 1850s.

In the early 1800s the wealthy brickmaker John Elkins realised Bayswater Terrace, next to the Black Lion Inn. Edward Orme, print seller, developed the area around Moscow Road and St Petersburg Place - probably named after Tsar Alexander I's visit to England in 1814. By 1823 Porchester Terrace had also been laid out to run north to Westbourne Green, and freestanding villas were built along it. The road ended at Hall field - the current Hallfield Estate. There was open land south of Craven Hill, including the Nursery Ground. The Black Lion Lane was renamed Queen's Road on the accession to the throne in 1837 of Queen Victoria, who used to go horse riding

there. It would become Queensway in 1936. 13-16 Craven Hill Gardens were designed as four separate residences and built in about 1850. They shared a garden, in which plane trees and lime trees were planted - the same ones that are there today. The land was still owned by the Craven family, who had granted 90-year leases for the buildings.

Large town houses were also constructed in Cleveland Square; Westbourne, Eastbourne and Gloucester Terraces were built in the 1840s and 1850s. The choice for terraces instead of detached houses may have been made to hide the new railway, or perhaps terraces were already popular at the time; they were built along Queen's Road, too, and soon lined Inverness Terrace and Queensborough Terrace.

A 'splendid new town' had come into existence by the time Bayswater station opened in 1868. The terraced houses along Lancaster Gate were said to be the most handsome houses in London.

Cleveland Square

A roughly triangular area between Bayswater Road with Cleveland Gardens at the apex was developed by speculative builder Henry de Bruno Austin. Cleveland Square or Court was the name given to the courtyard in front of Cleveland House. Cleveland Square is virtually complete and most of the houses were built in

the early 1850s; beneath it runs the Westbourne River, en route to Hyde Park. Along the north side of the square are stately 'back-to-front' (Pevsner's phrase) 6-storey plus basement stuccoed houses with terraces leading directly onto the garden, which is one of the largest in the area.

When walking along Leinster Gardens, look out for nos 23-24. These are simply facades to hide the railway below.

Whiteleys

Whiteleys takes its name from visionary entrepreneur, William Whiteley, who in 1863 opened his first 'Fancy Goods' shop in Westbourne Grove. A little over a decade later he had strategically acquired a number of stores in pursuit of his dream of establishing a single store where almost anything could be bought; the modern department store.

By 1890 more than 6,000 staff were employed in his business. His two sons continued to build the business after his death in 1907.

The first Whiteleys store was devastated by an enormous fire in 1897; one of the largest fires in London's history. A large replacement building, on the site of the baths, was planned and opened in 1911, with the colonnaded façade that still dominates the Bayswater scene today completed in 1925. It was the height of luxury at the time, including both a theatre and a golf-course on the roof. The

building is Grade II listed.

Porchester Hall and Baths

Porchester Centre public baths and wash-house deigned by Herbert Shepherd, a local architect for Paddington MB, opened in 1925. Turkish baths, library and assembly rooms were added in 1927-9. Portland stone and brick with steel frame and slate roofs. The earlier phase was constructed as a First World War memorial, with large and small pools, a wash-house and a first-floor committee room. The interior is particularly elaborate for a public baths complex of the 1920s. Entrance hall is a double-height rectangular space decorated with glazed terracotta, teak woodwork, panelled plasterwork and a marble floor. Against one wall an apsed niche houses a World War I memorial, with above it tiled spandrels decorated with the arms of the Abbey and City of Westminster who once owned the land. The later phase fronting Porchester Road has Turkish baths to south and library to north. The whole effect is exceptionally sumptuous and surviving remarkably preserved. The Turkish baths complex is now exceptionally rare, and is thought to be the best surviving example, whilst the hall is an unusually rich example of its date.

The Tabernacle

The old tin Tabernacle' on Talbot Road in

Powis Square was established in 1869 as a 'non-sectarian Church of Christ' by the Scottish evangelical preacher Gordon Forlong, in opposition to the high church All Saints down the road. The Romanesque red brick Talbot Tabernacle was completed in 1888, after the foundation stone was laid by The social reformer Lord Shaftesbury. Into the mid 1970s the premises were still being used for religious purposes; at one point it is said to have become a Chinese temple. Then in 1975 the Tabernacle closed as a church and would have been demolished if it were not for another local community campaign, which forced the Council to buy it for use as a community centre.

Portobello & Notting Barns

At the of the nineteenth century there were two large farms at the northern extremity of the parish of Kensington. Portobello Farm—so named in honour of the capture of Puerto Bello by Admiral Vernon in 1739—had been purchased in 1755 by Charles Henry Talbot, of the Inner Temple. It was then described as 170 acres of land, 'parcel of the Manor of Notting Barns', The farmhouse stood on the east side of the road upon the site now occupied by St. Joseph's Home.

The other farm was known as 'the Manor or Lordship of Notting Barns', and in 1767 was conveyed to William St. Quintin. By 1843 it had

been reduced in size by sales to the Great Western Railway Company and other purchasers. The farmhouse stood at the junction of St. Quintin Avenue and Chesterton Road.

Kensington Hippodrome

The Kensington Hippodrome was a racecourse built around the high ground of Notting Hill, in 1837, by entrepreneur John Whyte on land leased from James Weller Ladbroke, owner of the Ladbroke Estate. He enclosed the slopes with a 7-foot high wooden paling.

Unfortunately, because the racetrack bordered on the "Potteries and Piggeries" of Pottery Lane, (then a notorious slum known as "cut-throat lane") and a public footpath crossed the enclosed land, the race meetings were easily accessed by some of the poorer inhabitants of the neighbourhood and it was difficult to eject these 'unappealing' visitors. Another serious problem was the heavy clay soil characteristic of the neighbourhood (high quality clay was dug for brick making at nearby Pottery Lane), making for poor drainage, as a consequence of which the training ground became waterlogged and was unusable for long periods. From 1837 to 1842 just 13 meetings were held, with many jockeys refusing to take part, saying that the heavy clay ground made riding too dangerous. The race course was not a financial success and closed in 1842, the

land being developed soon afterwards, as Ladbroke began building crescents of houses on the former race course, Stanley Crescent an example.

Portobello Market

This Market was one of several street markets operating at the turn of the century and started as a food market. The trade in Antiques grew markedly with the closure of the Caledonian Market in 1948. The boundaries of today's market are much the same, except that Saturday mornings see the addition of antique stalls in the stretch of road between Westbourne Grove and Chepstow villas.

Saint Sophia Cathedral

St Sophia is a Byzantine Revival design by architect John Oldrid Scott. completed in 1879. Scott was responsible for many significant British churches, including St Stephen's Greek Orthodox Chapel in West Norwood Cemetery. From the outside the Cathedral appears relatively modest, only hinting at its style through the domed roof and arched windows. Inside it is elaborately decorated with polychromatic marble, the walls adorned with Byzantine-inspired mosaics.

Kensington Square Gardens

Leinster, Princes and Kensington Gardens Squares were part of a scheme by speculator George Wyatt, which he began in 1856. Each of these garden squares provided communal

gardens for the surrounding houses and Leinster Square was the first to be completed, in 1864.

The communal garden for Kensington Gardens Square is roughly triangular in plan, divided east west by a terrace. The gardens once had a central feature shown on the 1872 OS map, no longer in evidence.

Lancaster Gate

Lancaster Gate stands alongside Hyde Park Gardens as one of the two grandest of the 19th-century housing schemes lining the northern side of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. The development was planned in 1856-57 on the site of a nursery and tea gardens.

Talbot Square

Talbot Square was laid out after 1842 on the site of the former Lower Reservoir of the Grand Junction Canal Company, probably to the design of George Gutch. The square's central garden was at that time reserved for the use of occupants of the surrounding houses, who were jointly responsible for its maintenance.

There are two notable London plane trees dating from the early layout, and other trees include a weeping ash that has a new bench around it surrounded by circular paving. The main entrance onto Sussex Gardens has an attractive metalwork arch.