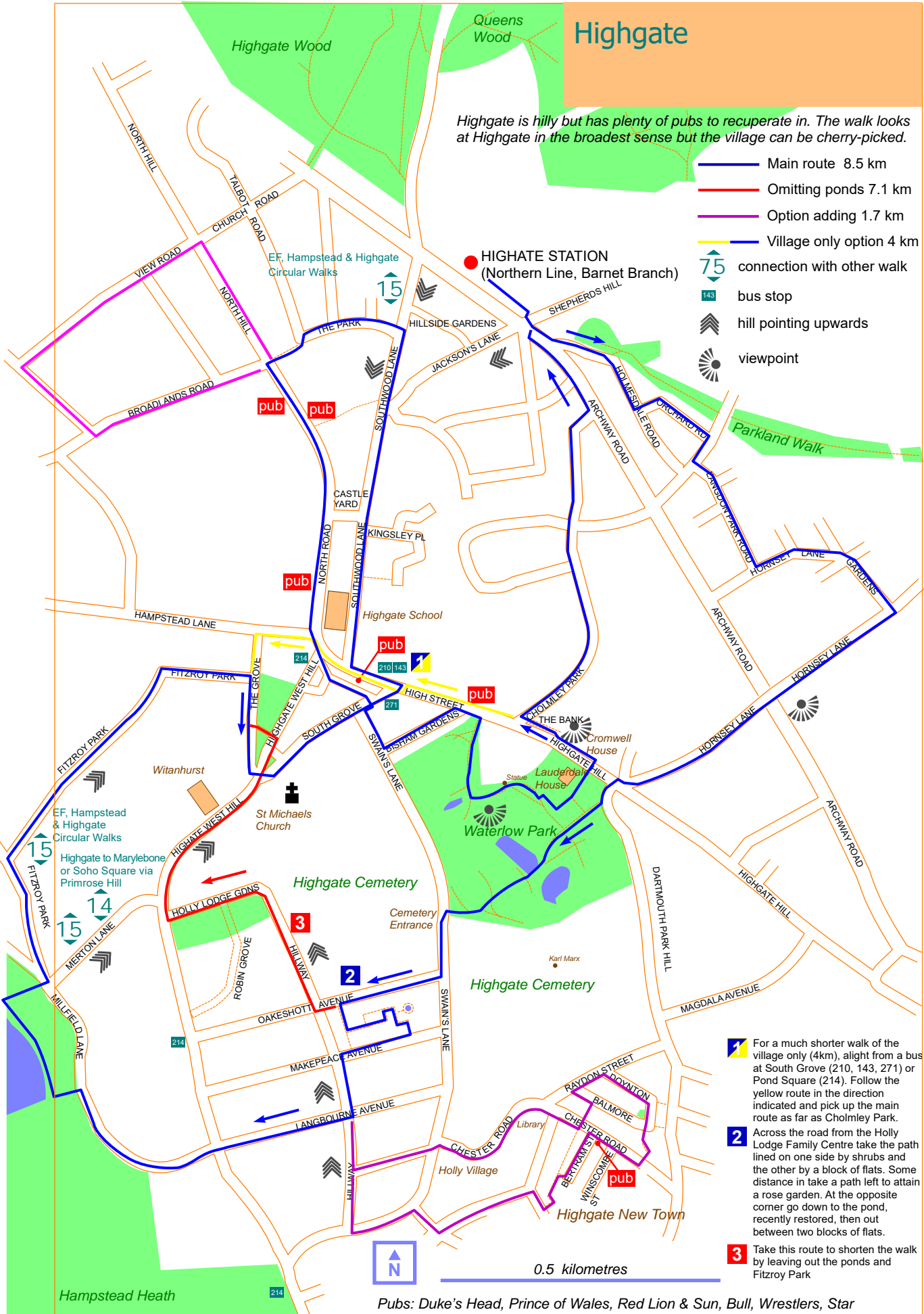


Highgate

Highgate is hilly but has plenty of pubs to recuperate in. The walk looks at Highgate in the broadest sense but the village can be cherry-picked.

- Main route 8.5 km
- Omitting ponds 7.1 km
- Option adding 1.7 km
- Village only option 4 km
- ↕ 75 connection with other walk
- 143 bus stop
- hill pointing upwards
- viewpoint



- 1** For a much shorter walk of the village only (4km), alight from a bus at South Grove (210, 143, 271) or Pond Square (214). Follow the yellow route in the direction indicated and pick up the main route as far as Cholmley Park.
- 2** Across the road from the Holly Lodge Family Centre take the path lined on one side by shrubs and the other by a block of flats. Some distance in take a path left to attain a rose garden. At the opposite corner go down to the pond, recently restored, then out between two blocks of flats.
- 3** Take this route to shorten the walk by leaving out the ponds and Fitzroy Park

N 0.5 kilometres

Pubs: Duke's Head, Prince of Wales, Red Lion & Sun, Bull, Wrestlers, Star

walk notes

Highgate

This circular pavement walk involves some steep hills and has some fine views over London. North Hill is noted for its amazing variety of architectural styles.

Highgate Village

Highgate suffers from being on the boundaries of three administrative areas, a sure sign of late birth. Despite its looks, the village is not that old. Highgate as a single unit was not delimited until the Lighting and Watching Act of 1774.

North of what is now the Gatehouse pub was the Bishop of London's hunting park which stretched all the way to East Finchley. Because of problems of mud on the main routes north, the Bishop had a new road constructed through his park and by 1318 was collecting tolls.

Highgate Hill soon followed. At the entry to the park a hermitage was established to maintain the road, and around the gate house a few buildings emerged to service the park and the travelers. These gradually developed southward to form the High Street.

St Michaels and Highgate School

A chapel of ease for the community grew out of the hermitage. During the dissolution of the monasteries chapel and hermitage were closed and the land acquired in 1562 by Roger Cholmeley who gained permission to build a school, and in 1576 a new chapel was built to serve school and community. As Highgate expanded, there were arguments over whether to expand the chapel so that when the 1818 Act of Parliament for the Building of Additional Churches in Populous Parishes was passed, Highgate was included. The new St Michael's on South Grove however could not be consecrated immediately because it was not situated within the diocese of London. A further Act of Parliament was passed to overcome this.

The Architect was Lewis Vulliamy and the builders were William and Lewis Cubitt.

The spire stands taller than any other in London.

Roger Cholmeley's school is known today as Highgate School.

Lauderdale House and Waterlow Park

The original house was built in 1582 for Sir Richard Martin, the Master of the Mint and three times Lord Mayor of London.

Over the next 60 years, it was lived in by various individuals until Mary, Dowager Countess of Home, bequeathed it to her daughter Anne, wife of the Scottish Royalist John Maitland, the Earl of Lauderdale, (who provides the L in King Charles II's CABAL.)

Lauderdale's last private owner was Sir Sidney Waterlow, another Lord Mayor of London. By 1883 the House lay empty, so in 1889, Sir Sidney gave the house and grounds to the London County Council 'for the enjoyment of Londoners'. The 29 acres of land then became a public park and the House was restored in 1893 to serve as a Park tearoom and park-keepers' flats. Sadly, during the course of further renovation in 1963, a fire broke out, destroying the roof and much of the interior of the House.

Archway

Highgate Hill saw the introduction of a cable tramway similar to the one in San Francisco. However the hill was considered too steep for conventional trams. Even before then, however, as far back as 1808, a tunnel was planned, routed directly under the village. A modified scheme for a shorter tunnel along the line of existing Archway Road was approved in 1810 with Cornishman Robert Vazie as architect. Sadly the tunnel collapsed during construction and was replaced by a cutting, with a bridge for Hornsey Lane, designed by John Nash. This scheme had flaws. The cutting had to be widened and lowered and the bridge replaced. The requirement to use the Archway Road for a new arterial tram route provided the impetus and the new

metal bridge was opened in 1900.

Burdett-Coutts and HollyLodge Estate

The Coutts family owned a large parcel of land around their mansion, Holly Lodge. Two women are associated with the family. Harriott, the mistress whom Thomas Coutts married, and Thomas Coutts' granddaughter Angela Burdett Coutts, the philanthropist and the second richest woman after Queen Victoria. Holly Lodge no longer exists, but the grounds to the south, and the former driveway, now known as Robin Grove, remain in modified form. Angela had difficulty selling off Holly Lodge Estate. Due to slow sales the higher ground the land to the east of the new central road was sold to the Lady Workers' Homes Limited to build blocks of rooms for single women moving to London in order to work as secretaries and clerks in the city.

The little garden between Oakeshott and Makepeace was originally Traitor's Hill, a spot where Miss Coutts would bring visitors to admire the view over London.

Holly Village

With the help of Charles Dickens and architect Henry Darbishire, Angela Burdett-Coutts set up this pretty enclave of cottages. There have been many conflicting theories as to the motivation behind the building of Holly Village, the most popular being that they were built as homes for her former estate workers or retired Coutts Bank employees. However, the evidence shows that even if this was her first intention the cottages were in fact home to those from the professional middle classes.

Holly Village was completed in 1865 by Henry Darbishire, who was also responsible for a number of designs for George Peabody.

HLSI

In 1839 Harry Chester, a young civil servant and Highgate resident, called a public meeting in the Gatehouse tavern. He wanted to form 'a society for the improvement of the mind ... in

subservience to the interests of morality and the glory of God'. A provisional committee was elected and some seventy people joined on the spot – gentlemen, professional men, schoolmasters and local shopkeepers. Rooms were rented in Southwood Lane where a library and reading room were set up. Lectures were held in the Gatehouse until permanent premises were found in 1840, the handsome building in South Grove which the HLSI still occupies today. Harry Chester was chosen to be the first President.

Highgate New Town

Highgate Newtown was the development of Harry Chester, resident of South Grove and President of the HLSI. It soon developed into a slum. Much of it was cleared by the council in the 1970s, but the parts that survive are being gentrified.

Witanhurst

The original estate, dating from 1774, was known as Parkfield. The current house, built between 1913 and 1920, was designed by architect George Hubbard for soap magnate Sir Arthur Crosfield on an 11-acre site. Witanhurst was bought by the family of the Russian billionaire Andrey Guryev in 2008.

Highpoint

Highpoint consists of two apartment blocks erected in the 1930s for the entrepreneur Sigmund Gestetner, but was never used for its intended purpose of housing Gestetner company staff. The architectural design was by Berthold Lubetkin, the structural design by Ove Arup and the construction by Kier. When the building was completed, it became widely renowned as the finest example of this form of construction for residential purposes.

Cromwell House

Cromwell House was built in 1638 by Sir Richard Sprignell and is Grade 1 listed. It has no connection with Cromwell. There have been numerous suggestions as to the use of the cupola as a look-out.