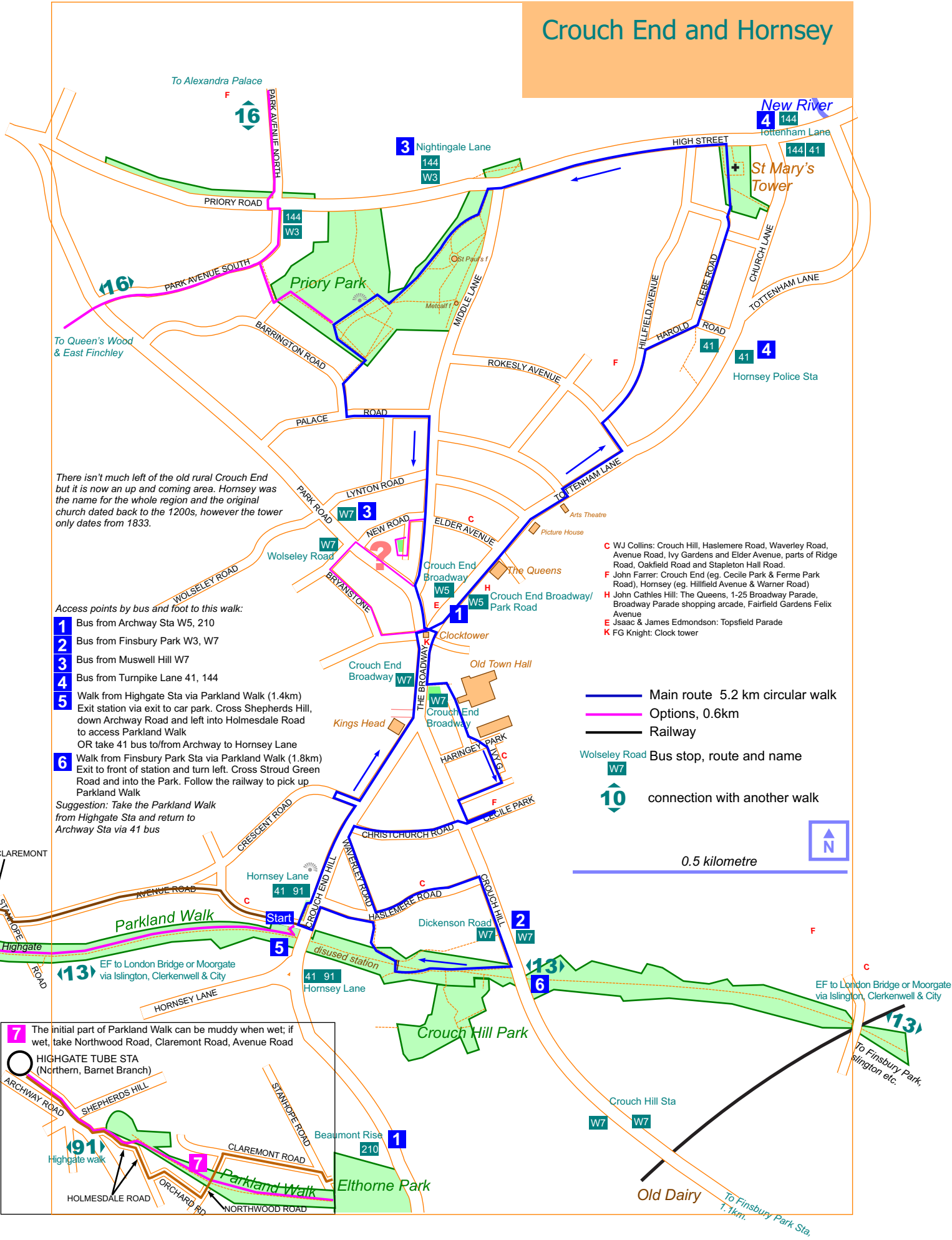


Crouch End and Hornsey



There isn't much left of the old rural Crouch End but it is now an up and coming area. Hornsey was the name for the whole region and the original church dated back to the 1200s, however the tower only dates from 1833.

Access points by bus and foot to this walk:

- 1** Bus from Archway Sta W5, 210
- 2** Bus from Finsbury Park W3, W7
- 3** Bus from Muswell Hill W7
- 4** Bus from Turnpike Lane 41, 144
- 5** Walk from Highgate Sta via Parkland Walk (1.4km)
Exit station via exit to car park. Cross Shepherds Hill, down Archway Road and left into Holmesdale Road to access Parkland Walk
OR take 41 bus to/from Archway to Hornsey Lane
- 6** Walk from Finsbury Park Sta via Parkland Walk (1.8km)
Exit to front of station and turn left. Cross Stroud Green Road and into the Park. Follow the railway to pick up Parkland Walk

Suggestion: Take the Parkland Walk from Highgate Sta and return to Archway Sta via 41 bus

- C** WJ Collins: Crouch Hill, Haslemere Road, Waverley Road, Avenue Road, Ivy Gardens and Elder Avenue, parts of Ridge Road, Oakfield Road and Stapleton Hall Road.
- F** John Farrer: Crouch End (eg. Cecile Park & Ferme Park Road), Hornsey (eg. Hillfield Avenue & Warner Road)
- H** John Cathles Hill: The Queens, 1-25 Broadway Parade, Broadway Parade shopping arcade, Fairfield Gardens Felix Avenue
- E** Jsaac & James Edmondson: Toppis Parade
- K** FG Knight: Clock tower

- Main route 5.2 km circular walk
- Options, 0.6km
- Railway
- W7 Bus stop, route and name
- 10 connection with another walk

7 The initial part of Parkland Walk can be muddy when wet; if wet, take Northwood Road, Claremont Road, Avenue Road

HIGHGATE TUBE STA (Northern, Barnet Branch)

walk notes

Crouch End is an upcoming suburb with a wide range of architectural styles as a result of bombing and development. Developers honed their Edwardian architecture here, with its red bricks and ornate white woodwork, before going on to Muswell Hill. Some of the information below was extracted from a character appraisal document produced by Haringey Council (see sources); other sources include British History On Line and Wikipedia

Origins

The Manor of Hornsey belonged to the Bishop of London as part of his Stepney estate since Saxon times. There was no Manor House. Crouch End, Hornsey village, Muswell Hill and north Highgate, all originated in the parish of Hornsey. Until medieval times most of the area was covered by the forest of Middlesex. Clearance began gradually, giving way to hay making and grazing of cattle and sheep such that by the 18th Century only Highgate Wood, Queens Wood and Coldfall Wood were left. The population of the area remained sparse.

Hornsey Village

Hornsey village in 1815 straggled along the later High Street and Priory Road. Building was mainly north of the road and more concentrated towards the east. West of Middle Lane there were only a few isolated houses, among them Jacob Warner's new red-brick building, replaced around 1826 by a castellated Gothic mansion called the Priory. (In the late 19th century this was the residence of Henry Reader Williams, a wine merchant and the first Chairman of the Hornsey School Board.) Farther east the parish watchhouse, school, and workhouse were grouped together and immediately beyond the first bridge over the New River stood two buildings, one of them apparently the Elms, a large single-storeyed villa that existed until 1939. Beyond it in 1876, half encircled by the Moselle, was the Rectory, shortly to be rebuilt. Around 1896 the Priory estate, known as Priory Park, was sold. The seven roads constructed across it from Priory Road northward to Alexandra Park contained mainly three-storeyed terraces. The Priory itself was demolished in 1902.

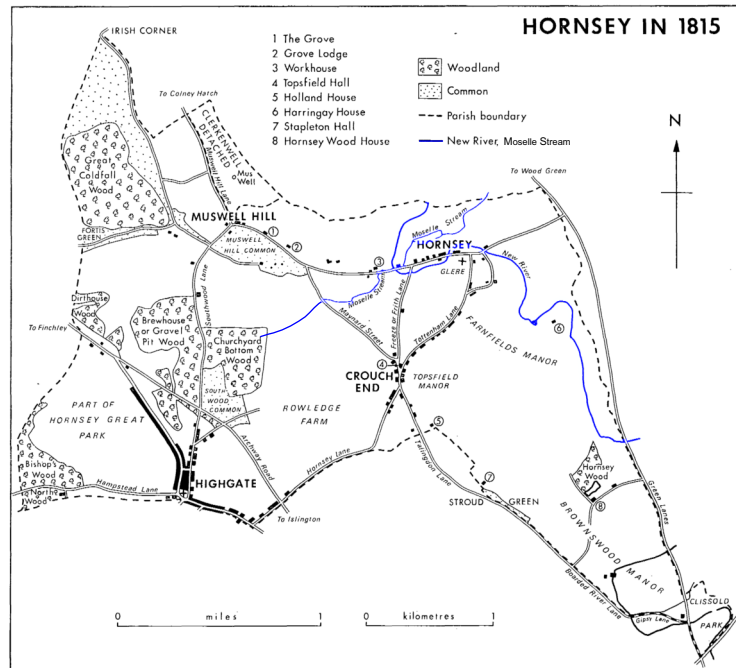
Priory Park

The park to the south was laid out in two phases. The first from 1895 onwards followed Hornsey Local Board's acquisition of two parcels of land off Middle Lane together with adjacent waste land and laid out for what would become Middle Lane Pleasure or Recreation Grounds. The park's serpentine walks, shrubberies, trees and formal beds were completed in 1899.

The second phase of the park followed in 1926 when a further 9 acres of land to the west known as Lewcock's Field was purchased from the family

of that name, and from this time the enlarged park was re-named The Priory Park.

The park contains two drinking fountains transferred from elsewhere. In 1895 a grey granite drinking fountain with an obelisk was moved from Crouch End Broadway. Inscribed with the words 'The Gift of C.T.P. Metcalf 1879'.



In 1909 a much grander granite fountain was located and the north end of the Park. This was originally erected in St Paul's Cathedral Churchyard in 1880 but in 1909 the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's gave it to Hornsey. Made of 50 tons of Lamorna granite, it formerly boasted a vertical jet from the vase and four jets spouting up into the upper basin. Note City of London insignia.

Hornsey Church

Hornsey church was first referred to in 1291. A replacement church was built in 1833 and in 1889 a new perpendicular style church was constructed, leaving the other church unused, except for the bell tower, which now served the new church. By 1969 both churches had gone, except for the bell tower.

Initial Development of Crouch End

Early development of the hamlet of Crouch End occurred at the joining of five locally important roads known today as Crouch Hill, Hornsey Road/Crouch End Hill, Tottenham Lane, Park Road and Middle Lane. Before the 14th Century, Hornsey Road and Park Road formed a primary route north from central London, but because of flooding from stream water off the ridge of Highgate Wood, traffic was elsewhere diverted along a new toll road route up Highgate Hill. One of its first buildings of note, at the north end of the settlement, was a 14th Century predecessor of Topsfield Hall, the seat of the Lords of Topsfield Manor, reflected today in the name Topsfield

Parade where this was situated.

Towards the end of the 18th century some large villas and new estates began to develop in Crouch End. It still remained little more than a rural village until the middle of the 19th Century. The Booth family, gin distillers, had acquired Topsyfield Hall in 1812 and also owned Old Crouch Hall on the east side of the Broadway. In 1820 they built a new Crouch Hall on the western side of Crouch End Broadway, with extensive grounds, ornamental lakes and landscaped gardens. By 1850 the village pump and a cluster of shops, including a bakery and a post office, had appeared at the northern end of the Broadway, with a blacksmiths forge and a public house established at the southern end.

Development accelerates

The arrival of the railway acted as a stimulus for development. Hornsey Station opened in 1850, and Crouch End Hill station in 1868. The station on Crouch End Hill led to the development of Hornsey Lane and Crescent Road by Charles Scrase Dickens, who also donated the land for the construction of Christ Church in 1863 with the tower and stone spire added in 1873. During this period Crouch End Hill was a popular location for wealthy families, and the Grade II listed church, designed by A. W. Blomfield, was surrounded by impressive properties on Crescent Road.

The most intensive period of development in the evolution of Crouch End began in the 1880s, approximately 400 new houses being built between 1882 and 1892. In 1882 Crouch Hall and its 10 acre estate was sold to the Imperial Property Investment Company, who demolished the Hall and laid out Crouch Hall Road. During the 1880s twelve roads between Coolhurst Road and Park Road were laid out by the Imperial Property Investment Company and high quality two and three storey terraces were developed. The new residential area became known as Crouch Hall Park. The Company also purchased the Crouch End Academy and by 1891 had erected 60 new homes on the site and introduced a shopping parade to its Broadway frontage.

In 1888 Old Crouch Hall and Linslade House were demolished. The southern part of Elder Avenue and Weston Park were developed to the designs of architect John Farrer in 1889 and the development of adjoining roads followed. The area surrounding Cecile Park, Fairfield Road and Tivoli Road, and many of the properties on these streets were also designed by John Farrer.

During the last decade of the 19th Century and early years of the 20th Century, Crouch End Broadway developed into a major high street and Crouch End became a major shopping centre.

In 1894 Topsyfield Hall and the associated Estate were acquired by James Edmondson and soon after, the site was cleared and the distinctive Topsyfield Parade shopping arcade was constructed along the Crouch End Broadway

frontage from Middle Lane to Tottenham Lane. (Edmondson went on to develop most of the parades of Muswell Hill.) The centre of the triangular site incorporated the Queen's Opera House, opened in 1897 and later known as the Hippodrome Variety Theatre and the Gaumont Cinema with its entrance at No. 31 Topsyfield Parade. The northern part of Elder Avenue and Rosebery Gardens were laid out as part of the same development.

Clock tower

In 1895 the Grade II listed Crouch End Clock Tower designed by F.G. Knight was erected at the northern end of the Broadway. The four storey Broadway Parade shopping arcade was developed on the south eastern side of Tottenham Lane by J.C. Hill who also laid out nearby Fairfield Gardens and Felix Avenue and designed the Grade II* listed Queens Hotel public house. In 1911 a cinema known as The Picture House was erected to the north of Broadway Parade beyond the current boundary of the conservation area. Parts of the residential area formed by Crouch Hill, Christ Church Road, Waverley Road and Haslemere Road were also developed in the 1890s, probably by the local builder W.J. Collins.

Hornsey Town Hall

The 1935 the new public park on the eastern side of Crouch End Broadway was selected as the location for the new Hornsey Town Hall, the loss of this fairly new open amenity space being regretted by many of the local residents.

The distinctive Grade II* listed Town Hall designed by R.H. Uren dominates the eastern side of the Broadway. The adjacent buildings were subsequently designed in a sympathetic manner to create a harmonious civic complex around a public square that included some open green space to acknowledge the loss of the park. The appearance of the exterior with its plain surfaces of specially chosen small bricks, dominating tower and elongated windows, pays direct homage to the Town Hall at Hilversum by W.M. Dudok, who was awarded a RIBA Gold Medal in 1935. Dudok cited the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright.

The Town Hall was innovative in its own right and is unusual for the quantity of sculpture (by A.J. Ayres). Uren softened the severity of Dudok's brick style with Ayres's carved stone lintel and the generous use of ornamental metalwork.

Much attention was also given to interior finishes, in which plan and function took precedence over design, and ornament was eliminated in favour of a 'machine aesthetic' in which the nature of modern materials – glass, concrete, steel – could be honestly expressed. All survive remarkably complete, even down to the original furniture and drapery, designed by Uren and made by Heals. When Hornsey was absorbed into Haringey, administrative functions were moved out, and the area is under development