

HOUNSLOW HEATH NATURE RESERVE

Our knowledge of the history of **Hounslow Heath** dates back almost 1,000 years.

At the time of William the Conqueror the Heath was used as a hunting ground for Norman kings and barons as the site supported wildlife such as wild boar. Although Henry VIII still hunted here in the 16th century over 1700 hectares was common land and people were permitted to rear geese, ducks, cattle and sheep, and gorse and peat could be gathered for fuel. In the 17th and 18th centuries the Heath was a haunt for highwaymen including legends such as Claude Duval .

Between 1789 and 1819 the Heath was parcelled out and converted from 'wilderness' to market gardens, farms and housing. Part of the site was acquired by the government for military training around 1800 and during the First World War the Heath became the centre of aerial defences of London.

After the Second World War gravel was extracted from the Heath and up to the 1970s used as a landfill site for domestic and other rubbish.

The surviving area of wild heathland was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 1991 and comprises 82 hectares of mixed grassland, heathland, meadows, wetland, scrub and woodland. Today facilities include: car park, information centre, nature trail, dipping pond with board walk, bird watching hide and bridle path.

The Ranger Service, undertake site patrols, and litter picking duties, safety checks and bye-law enforcement to ensure that the park is a safe place for visitors. The Rangers also monitor/manage and lead schools and other group visits.



Access Information



- Flat ground
- Paths are worn grass and compacted mud
- Some mud in rainy weather

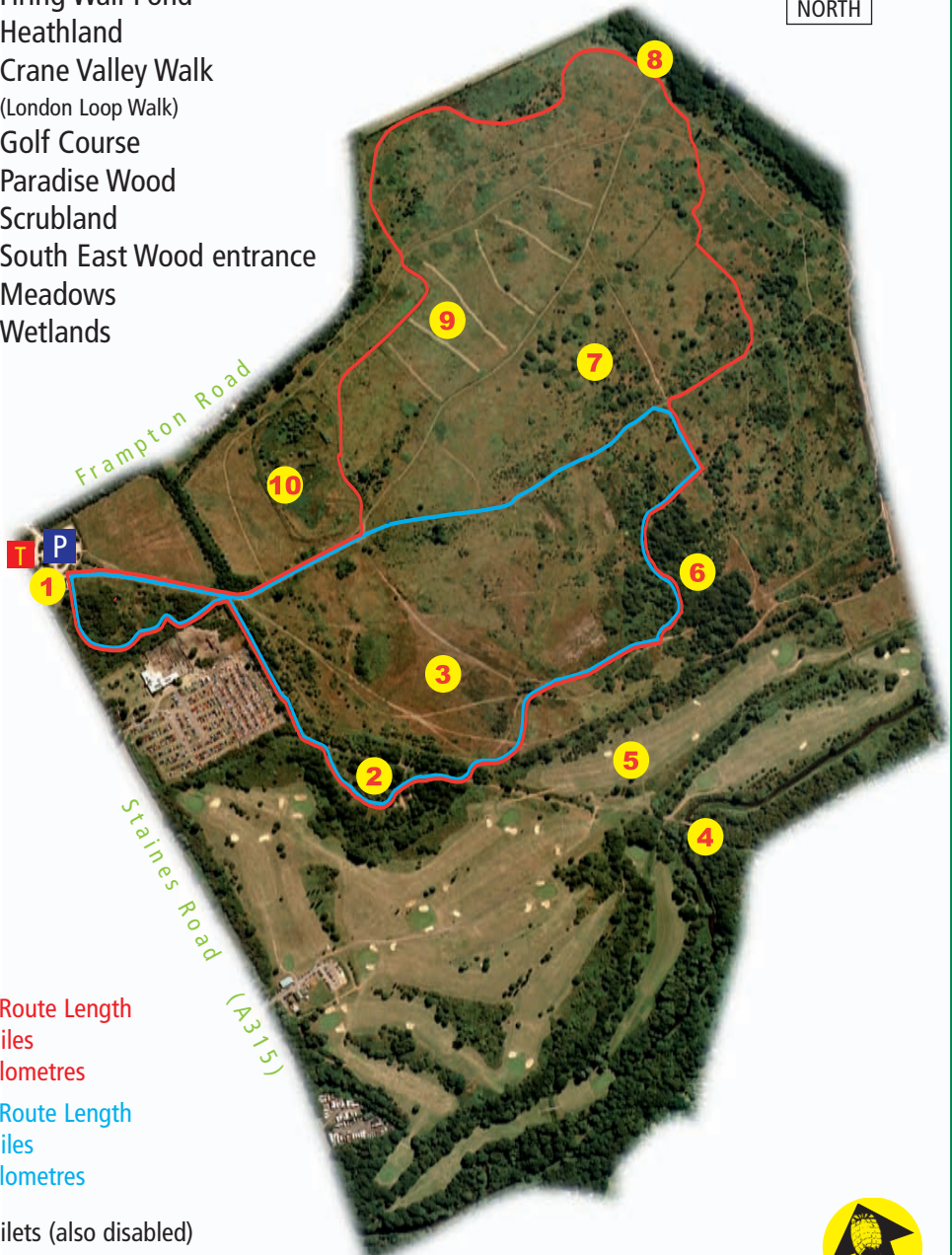
Contact Hounslow Heath Local Nature Reserve on 0845 456 2796

Public Transport Information

- Bus: 237 (terminates here), 116, 117, 235
- Tube: Hounslow West (Piccadilly Line), then a 10 minute walk along Martindale Road (opposite tube station)

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- 1 Car Park and Information Centre
- 2 Firing Wall Pond
- 3 Heathland
- 4 Crane Valley Walk
(London Loop Walk)
- 5 Golf Course
- 6 Paradise Wood
- 7 Scrubland
- 8 South East Wood entrance
- 9 Meadows
- 10 Wetlands



Total Route Length
2.3 miles
3.7 kilometres

Total Route Length
1.5 miles
2.4 kilometres

T Toilets (also disabled)

P Car Park

Map Sourced by: Cities Revealed, The Geoinformation Group,
Telford House, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB1 5HB

