

Headstone Manor Park Wayfinder Trails

Play
Discover
Explore



© Neil Greenhalgh



Three trails to
discover, explore
& enjoy the park

Welcome to Headstone Manor Park

Travel back 500 years and this park was part of a noisy, bustling farm supplying the residents of Headstone Manor and people in the City of London with food. As you wander around you can still catch glimpses of its past from woodlands and hedgerows and a water-filled moat.

Today it's a place for local people, and recent work has helped improve the Park for everyone. But the Park's value doesn't stop there - Headstone Manor Park is helping to prevent pollution running into our rivers and reduce the risk of flooding for local communities. Wetlands and flood basins have been recently added and Yeading Brook (which runs into the River Crane) has been opened up for people and wildlife to enjoy after years of running underground.



Reed bunting

Orange Trail

Follow the wayfinder posts to discover the waterways and wetland of the park on this 1km trail.

1 Moat

The moat provides a home for fish such as the stickleback. In spring, the male develops a bright red throat and belly and performs a courtship dance to attract a mate.



Badger

2 Heron

Despite its urban setting, the park attracts much wildlife. Birds are easy to spot but look more closely and you may see insects, like dragonflies. Mammals such as bats and badgers may also be seen at dawn or dusk.



Three-spined stickleback

Continue on past the 'Kodak' big lens sculpture.

3 Sedimentation Pond

New homes like those on the old Kodak factory site put pressure on watercourses. Pollutants such as silt, oil and toxic metals are washed off roofs and roads. The ponds trap some of this silt.

4 Reed Beds

The reed beds are a fantastic habitat for birds such as the reed bunting. Reeds are, however, fast growing so need managing to provide the conditions needed by different animals.



Redwing

5 Orchard

Birds love to feed on the fruit in the orchard. As well as the familiar blackbird you may see other thrushes such as a song thrush or winter visitors like the redwing.

6 Yeading Brook

Now open to daylight after years underground, Yeading Brook is healthier. The presence of animals such as freshwater shrimps indicate cleaner water. Volunteers also test the water for hidden pollution.

7 Picnic Place

Water has been a magnet for people for centuries. In our busy modern lives, the brook offers a calming place to stop and enjoy a picnic, or to take a paddle on a hot day.

8 Trees and Hedges

Trees and hedges provide safe corridors for wildlife. Listen out for the high-pitched calls of flocks of long-tailed tits as they flit from tree to tree.



Kodak factory workers 1919 - with thanks to the Harrow Museums Trust



Freshwater shrimp



Long-tailed tits



YEADING BROOK

9 Sport

The park is valued by the local community as a place for sports such as cricket and football. Flood basins and new drainage installed in 2020 help to keep pitches dry.

10 Outdoor Learning

The old oak trees in the woodland copse close by provide a great nesting site for many birds and mammals, such as bats. Listen out for a woodpecker drumming in late winter or early spring.

11 Environment

Research shows that 80% of ocean plastic comes from rivers. Water from Yeading Brook enters the sea, via the River Crane and the River Thames. Help the environment – please take your litter home.

12 Pollution

Are your drains connected properly? Dirty water from washing machines, dishwashers and even toilets still gets into rivers, killing wildlife. It's estimated that one household in every street has a misconnection. Visit www.connectright.org.uk to check.



Key

- Entrance
- Park
- Other public open space
- Toilets
- Moat Café Visitor Centre
- Get fit while exploring nature and heritage on a 1km trail.
- Explore the waterways and wetlands on a 1km trail.
- Explore Headstone Manor and Museum on a 900m trail.*

*This Nature Finder's trail is partially unsurfaced. The whole trail is only accessible during Museum opening hours.



White Trail

Look out for some local landmarks and birds such as the red kite overhead on this 1 km trail around the south of the park. (NB: there are no posts in this section, the numbers on the map are as a guide only)



1 Wheat Fields
Old maps suggest that these were once wheat fields. Food was also grown here during World War 2 as part of the Dig for Victory campaign. Goats were also grazed in war time and one local resident remembers chasing them as a child!

2 Flood Basins
Excavated in 2020 the basins hold water for short periods when rainfall is high. This prevents flooding downstream. The temporary ponds attract wildlife such as toads and plants like lady's smock which thrive in the damp soil.

3 Views from the Park
On a clear day look to the north to see the hills that mark the boundary between Greater London and Hertfordshire. At around 150m in places, these hills are the highest place in North London.

4 Looking south from this point you can see St Mary's Church spire at Harrow on the Hill. The church is next to the famous Harrow School.

5 Mighty trees
Giant redwood trees stand tall and straight amongst the mighty oak trees in this woodland. The redwoods are estimated to be about 75 years old so they are still relatively small. They can grow to over 70m. That's taller than the white chimney on the old Kodak site!



6 Hedgerow harvest
In early autumn look out for jays as they collect fallen acorns to store away for food in winter. In the summer you can see the pretty flowers of the dog-rose.





© Headstone Manor and Museum

Blue Trail

Pick up a Nature Finder's trail leaflet from the visitor centre to explore the Scheduled Ancient Monument, which is home to Headstone Manor & Museum. The trail takes you around the moat and inside the grounds to discover the Great Barn and the history of this medieval farmstead. Please note – parts of the trail are only accessible when the Museum is open. For information about the Museum, including hours of opening:- www.headstonemanor.org

Find out more about Headstone Manor Park

www.harrow.gov.uk - visit the Headstone Manor Park page for information about facilities available at the Park and details of how to get to the Park.

www.headstonemanorpark.org - a website run by the Friends of Headstone Manor Park. Lots of information about the Park, activities and wildlife. The Friends are a group of volunteers who donate their free time to looking after the Park to ensure it's a special place for people and wildlife.

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