



# Silk Stream Way Trails

Embark on a journey along the 'Silk Stream Way,' tracing the route of the Silk Stream and its tributaries - the Edgware Brook, Edgwarebury Brook, the Deans Brook and the Burnt Oak Brook - through North West London's Boroughs of Harrow and Barnet before converging with the River Brent at Welsh Harp.

This trail unveils a linked community of blue-green spaces across the Silk Stream catchment, that create a vital green corridor amid urban surroundings. Discover the natural beauty of the Silk Stream as it meanders through parks like Silkstream Park, Montrose Playing Fields and Rushgrove Park. These green oases offer a perfect vantage point to appreciate the unique ecosystem supported by the watercourse.

Explore nature's wonders as you encounter an array of wildlife and enjoy a trail of ecological discovery, where ongoing efforts to enhance water quality and biodiversity showcase the beauty of nature and environmental stewardship.

Immerse yourself in nature, connect with the outdoors and improve your health and wellbeing.



# Points of interest in Harrow

## Bentley Priory Nature Reserve

A Site of Special Scientific Interest with diverse habitats that surround the 1775 Bentley Priory. Explore the nature trail, watercourses in the Priory and from Brewery pond in Stanmore Common. Bentley Priory Museum explores its important Battle of Britain history as HQ fighter command.

## Greater Stanmore Country Park

Once the grounds of the 18th Century Warren House, the park became public open space in 1937. It has ancient woodlands with wild service trees and hornbeam and a diverse array of wildlife including bluebells, butterflies and birds such as tawny owls, buzzards and kestrels.

## Stanmore Recreation Ground

The park offers leisure facilities and a coffee shop. Mature oaks stand at the Dennis Lane entrance and a watercourse from Spring and Caesars Ponds flows through from Stanmore Common.

## Beatty Road

The watercourse from Stanmore Common flows underground to Beatty Road and Stanmore Marsh. The proposed design from 2026, will include flood storage, new habitat for wildlife and improved water quality.

## Temple Pond

From Summerhouse Lake in Bentley Priory, the river passes through Temple Pond; a fish pond on the former RAF Stanmore Station formed by damming the Edgware Brook.

## Morecambe Gardens

Proposed from 2026, some green spaces will be transformed into shallow basins and rain gardens to store surface water during rainfall and treat storm water runoff.

## Lake Grove Park

A quiet wooded green space with a beautiful tree-lined lake that is part of the Duke of Chandos' estate, shared with Canons Park and the North London Collegiate School. It is home to a range of wildfowl and wading birds.

## Canons Park

A Grade II Historic Landscape with unique features and over 1,000 trees that is linked to the Duke of Chandos and Canons Mansion. Spot the Swamp Cypress by the temple and enjoy views of Hallet's villa and St Lawrence Church. Explore the gardens, orchard, meadows and woodlands and encounter woodpeckers and bats.

## Stanmore Marsh

From the Old English 'stan' meaning a stony pool, this site boasts diverse wetlands, including marsh and woodland pools. Follow the Winterbourne Stream, which joins the Edgware Brook and flows into the Silk Stream. Spot kingfishers, little egrets, frogs, butterflies, oaks, willow, marsh marigolds and bluebells.

## Chandos Park

### (Chandos Recreation Ground)

Named after the Duke of Chandos, the park has a pre-war layout with tree-lined avenues, recreational facilities and a central pavilion which serves as a children's nursery and is also used by the local cricket team. The 2024 improvements to the Edgware Brook will enhance habitats and biodiversity.

# Points of interest in Barnet

## Edgwarebury Park

Once part of the Earlsbury Manor, the park is home to mature oak, ash and wild service trees, a small conifer plantation, ancient hedgerows and diverse wildlife, it's perfect for birdwatching. The channel of the Brook will be naturalised enhancing its ecological charm. Spot leaky dams, unwind in ornamental gardens and visit the café.

## Stoney Wood Lake

The 300m lake was formed by the damming of Deans Brook, it serves as flood storage. Discover wildlife including herons, cormorants, foxes and muntjacs here.

## Stoneyfields Park

A three-hectare oasis with grasslands, ancient oak and hazel woodlands, hedgerows and play areas. The ornamental lake supports coots, moorhens, mallards, amphibians and dragonflies amidst a reed-mace fringe. Plans for a northern wetland will improve water quality.

## Stonegrove Park

Offers gardens, a playground and tennis courts for local enjoyment. A waterway flows under the park.

## Lyndhurst Park

A small open grassland area dominated by old hedgerow trees. Planned wetlands will enhance flood storage.

## The Meads Open Space

A linear strip of grassland through which the Burnt Oak Brook flows. The area is prone to flooding and plans to enhance the river's natural features and new tree planting will slow the flow and improve water quality.

## Watling Park

Once an area of farmland, the park was opened in 1924 as part of the Watling Estate. The estate was named after the nearby Roman Road - Watling Street and was built in a Garden Suburb style. It provides visitors with facilities including an outdoor gym, playground, sports courts and a small rose garden, centred around the Burnt Oak Brook, a tributary of the Silk Stream. 2024 improvements include river restoration and creation of wetlands in the central area of the park.

## Silkstream Park

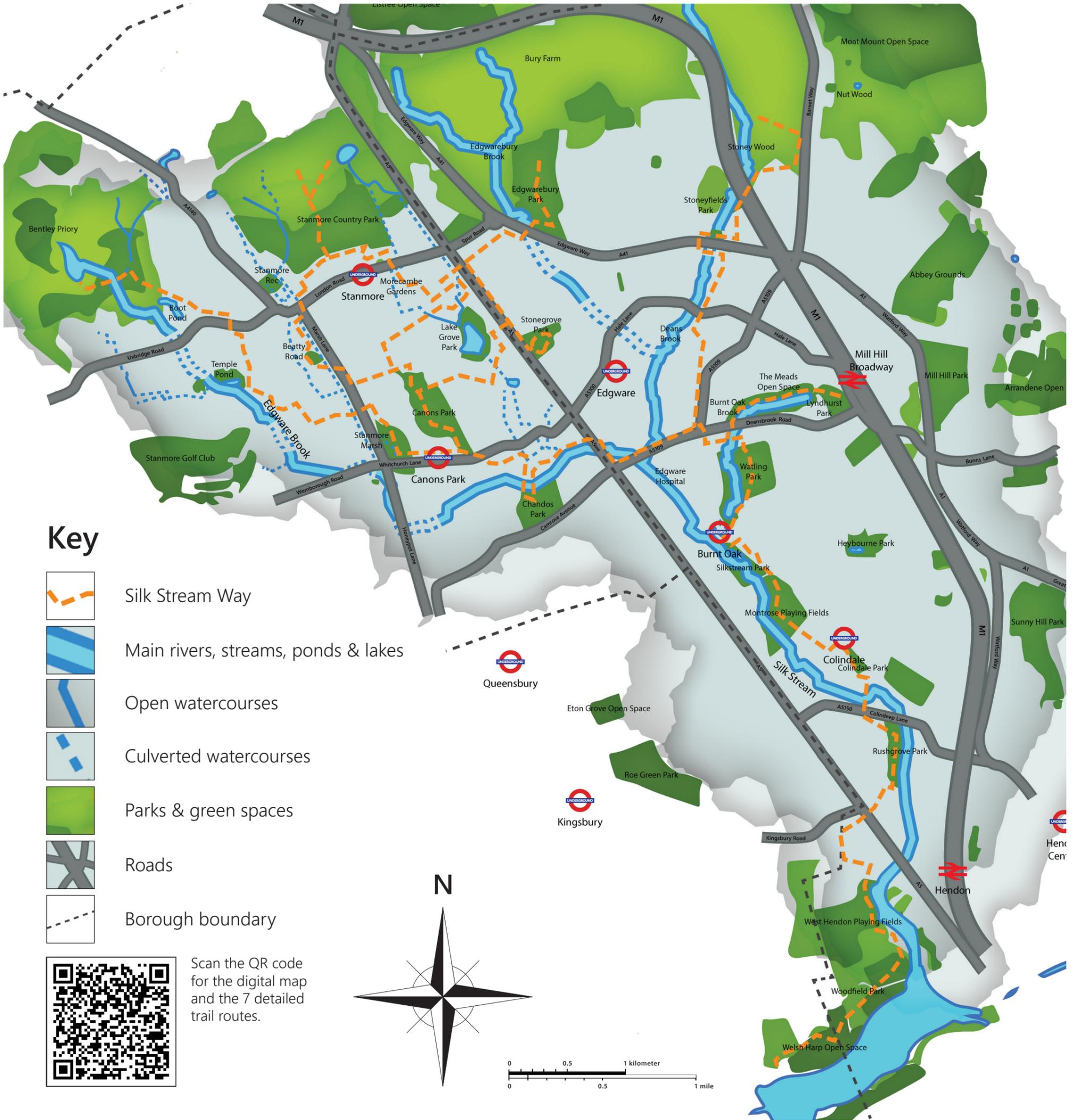
The Silk Stream meanders through the park. Explore the wetland and spot old oaks and hawthorns on the banks of the river from when there were fields and hedgerows here.

## Montrose Playing Fields

Connected by the Silk Stream, the park provides a range of recreational facilities including an outdoor gym, table tennis and skate park as well as a woodland walk and meadows.

## Rushgrove Park

A picturesque park with winding paths, a rock garden, water features and trees. From here the Silk Stream flows to the Welsh Harp Reservoir.



The Silk Stream Way spans both the London Boroughs of Harrow and Barnet and provides multiple routes through the catchment. The waymarked trail has been split into seven manageable sections of between one and eight kilometres in length. Some of the best sections of the catchment trails are highlighted below.

Trail 1: Bentley Priory – Watling Park (via Temple Pond, Stanmore Marsh and Chandos Park).

Distance: 6.95 km. Terrain: Park footpaths and road, mostly flat.

Public Transport: Stanmore tube station. Multiple bus stops on Uxbridge Road.

Trail 3: Stanmore Country Park – Watling Park (via Lake Grove Park and Canons Park).

Distance: 7.11 km. Terrain: Park footpaths and road, mostly flat.

Public Transport: Stanmore tube station.

Trail 6: Lyndhurst Park – Watling Park (via The Meadows Open Space).

Distance: 1.37 km. Terrain: Park footpaths and road, mostly flat.

Public Transport: Multiple bus stops on Deansbrook Road.

Trail 7: Watling Park - Welsh Harp Reservoir (via Silkstream Park and Rushgrove Park).

Distance: 7.38 km. Terrain: Park footpaths and road, mostly flat.

Public Transport: Burnt Oak tube station, multiple bus stops on Orange Hill Road. Colindale tube station, multiple bus stops on Edgware Road.

*Information correct at time of publication.*

Note the trail may be muddy in places, be careful of flooding during heavy rainfall. Please keep dogs on a lead and help keep our rivers, parks and greenspaces clean and litter-free. Respect wildlife and do not pick wildflowers.

Many of these sites have associated friends groups and volunteers who help care for and protect the blue/green spaces – their work is greatly appreciated.



This trail map was produced as part of the Action for Silk Stream project led by the London Boroughs of Barnet and Harrow, funded by DEFRA under the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme, managed by the Environment Agency, and the Greater London Authority under the Green and Resilient Spaces Fund.

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