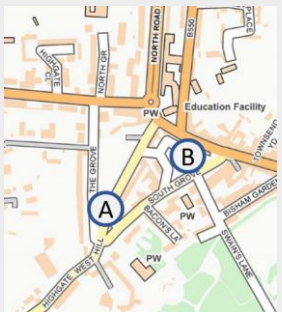




Visit Highgate Board A The Flask



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Funded by a grant from the
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3 The Grove in Coleridge's day



The Old Hall



View from spire of St Michael's, c 1880

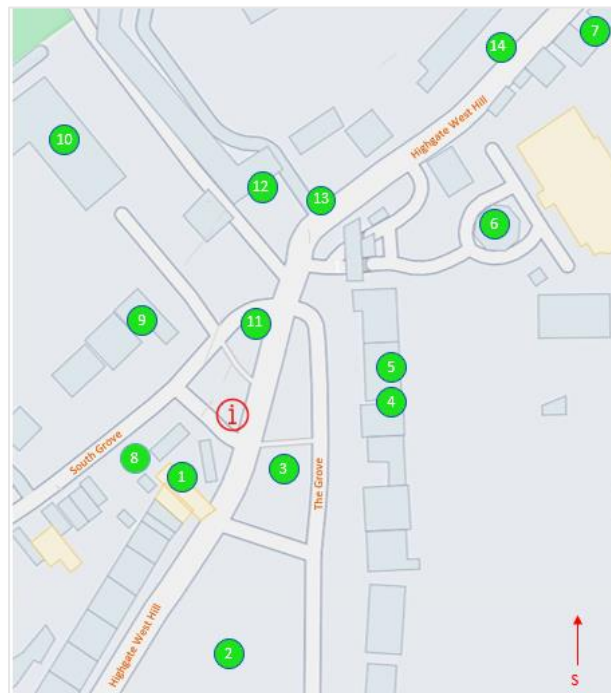


1930s road sign



View across Hampstead Heath

- 1 The historic **Flask public house** dates from at least 1716. It acquired its name from the flasks of chalybeate water it sold, sourced from the Spa Wells opposite. The artist William Hogarth (1697-1764) was a regular visitor.
- 2 The **Highgate Reservoir** lies between Highgate West Hill and The Grove. It was built by the New River Company in 1854 to provide Highgate's first piped water supply. The pump house and railings are listed historic monuments.
- 3 The grassed area across the road to your right is the last fragment of **Highgate Green**, which once stretched from The Grove to the High Street. It was gradually developed during the 19th century and now Pond Square is the only part of it which remains as public open space.
- 4 **1-6 The Grove** was built c.1700 on the site of the 17th century mansion Dorchester House. Known in the Regency era as "Quality Walk", it is one of suburban London's most important early 18th century developments. Leigh Hunt, Yehudi Menuhin, Gladys Cooper, Robert Donat and George Michael are among its former residents.
- 5 No 3 is where the poet **Samuel Taylor Coleridge** spent his last years (1823-34) living with Dr James Gillman and his family. Coleridge was buried in the Highgate School Chapel crypt, but in 1961 he was re-interred in St Michael's Church, where you can view a permanent display of his life. The house also bears a plaque commemorating the novelist and playwright J.B. Priestley (1894-1984) who lived here between 1931 and 1945 with his wife, the celebrated archaeologist Jacquetta Hawkes.
- 6 To your right you can see the entrance gates to **Witanhurst**, a French chateau-style house, erected in 1917 by architect George Hubbard for soap magnate Sir Arthur Crosfield (1865-1938), celebrated for his role in saving Kenwood House for the nation. Witanhurst is thought to be the second largest house in London after Buckingham Palace. Its fine gardens, originally landscaped by Harold Peto, once hosted pre-Wimbledon tennis tournaments but were built over in the 1960s, despite vigorous local opposition. Acquired by a Russian oligarch it has undergone substantial alteration, including the addition of a mock-18th century "Orangery" and a 12,000 cubic metre basement.



- 7 An inscription on the 1898 building at **39-40 Highgate West Hill** states: "Site of the Old Fox & Crown". Dating from at least 1704, it is the location of an event which could have had a major impact on the course of world history. In 1837, as the young Queen Victoria was travelling down the hill, her horses bolted. If the landlord, James Turner, had not managed to stop the carriage Victoria would have been killed and there would have been no Victorian era! Turner's reward was a royal coat of arms which, since the pub's demolition in 1896, is displayed in the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution.
- 8 The **workers' cottages** above the stables to the rear of the Flask are a rare survival of rural village architecture, sensitively restored c.2010.

- 9 **The Old Hall** is a splendid mansion built c.1690. It is currently divided into three homes. It incorporates parts of the 16th century Arundel House, owned by the great collector and patron of the arts Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel (1586-1646). Its gardens once extended down to Parliament Hill.
- 10 Nearby **Bacon's Lane** recalls the philosopher and statesman Francis Bacon who died at The Old Hall in 1626, it is thought from pneumonia contracted while experimenting with preserving food by stuffing a chicken with snow. Local legend asserts that nearby Pond Square is still haunted by the ghost of the chicken. Bacon's Lane contains interesting houses from the 1950s designed by architects Sir Anthony Cox, William Yuille and Leonard Manasseh.
- 11 **St. Michael's Church** stands on the site of the 17th century Ashhurst House. Designed by Lewis Vulliamy, it was consecrated in 1832 as the new village church, replacing Highgate School's Chapel, which had been a chapel-of-ease until a legal dispute in the 1820s. A mark on the vestibule wall is level with the top of the cross on St. Paul's Cathedral. The rear overlooks Highgate Cemetery, also laid out on the grounds of Ashhurst House whose front door survives at 44 Highgate High Street.
- 12 The **road sign** at the apex of this island, indicating "Highgate Village" and "The North", is one of London's oldest surviving road signs. Dating from the 1930s it was restored and preserved by local people in about 1990.
- 13 The construction of **South Grove House** in the 1930s was vigorously opposed by local residents. So too was that of the now-classic Highpoint in North Road. These campaigns resulted in the formation of the Highgate Preservation Society, predecessor of the present day Highgate Society.
- 14 The milestone in front of the important late 16th-18th century **Voel House** states "IV Miles from St. Giles Pound", the spot from which distances to the centre of London were once measured.
- 15 A short walk further along the road to the brow of West Hill affords a fine view across Hampstead Heath to Highgate's twin village of **Hampstead** on the opposite hilltop.