

## Trobridge Walk No. 1 - Thatched timber cottages:

This is a fairly level walk, which will probably take around 45-60 minutes.

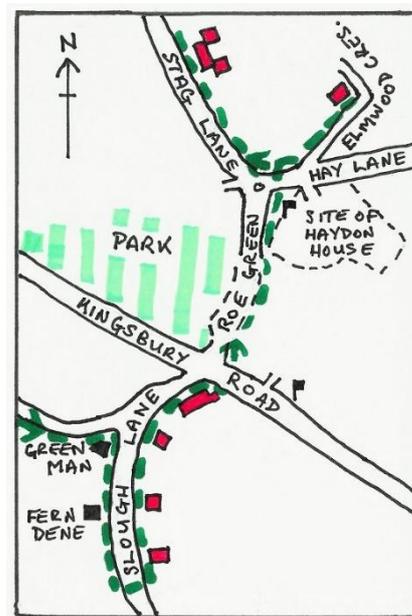
Turn left out of Kingsbury Library, and walk along to The Lodge, by the entrance of Roe Green Park. Use the crossing over Kingsbury Road, and on your left take the right-hand fork. Walk along Old Kenton Lane, which was the original main road until a new, straight section past the park was built in 1924. After a few minutes, you will come to the "Green Man" pub.

By the horse trough, turn right down Slough Lane, past flats called Ferndene, on the site of a Victorian mansion with the same name. Ernest Trobridge bought the mansion's 10-acre field in 1920 for his first estate of thatched cottages, built using his compressed green wood construction method. [See: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16415088/ernest-trobridge-the-compressed-green-wood-construction-leaflet-february-1920.pdf> ]

Continue down the lane until opposite No.134, an original Trobridge design rebuilt after its thatch caught fire in 2009. The modern homes at 130/132 next door would have been the site (had they been built) for a pair of semi-detached houses, above a reinforced concrete garage which would convert to an air raid shelter for up to 90 people, which he designed in 1938. [For details see: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/387521/Ernest%20Trobridge.%20Air%20Raid%20Structures%20Consultant.pdf> ]

Cross the road, and walk back up Slough Lane past two brick bungalows. As you do, look at the side of the next thatched cottage, No. 142, noting that it is a semi-bungalow, single storey at the front and two storey at the back, a typical Trobridge style. Passing the house, see the front door, which is an original feature made to one of Trobridge's patented designs.

From outside the 1960's block of flats, Arnellan House (after a thatched cottage of that name originally on the site), you get another side view of No. 142. Continue back up the lane, and opposite the "Green Man" is No. 148, a Trobridge home extended and re-thatched in 2007. Note the use of timber in the design, and the leaded light windows, some with stained glass.



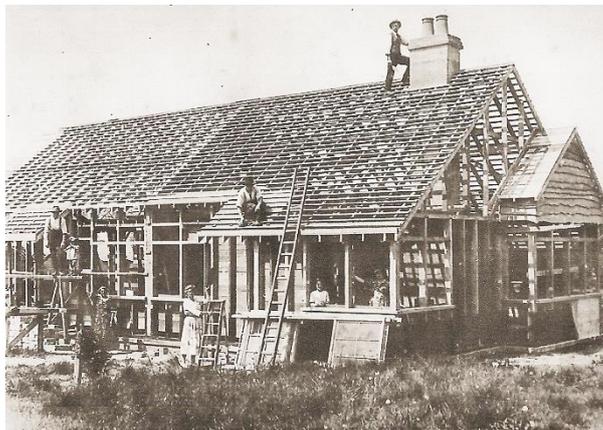
Passing two modern brick houses, you come to a beautiful group of three Grade II listed thatched cottages. "Hayland", at the Kingsbury Road end, was originally a detached house, where Trobridge lived from 1921 until his death in 1942. His growing family needed a larger home, so in 1928 he built an extension. "The Den" (No. 152) was a cottage sold to pay for this, while "Midcot" (No. 154) was extra rooms for "Hayland", designed so that it could be converted to a separate home for his retirement. From the gate, look at how the thatch frames "Midcot's" lovely windows!

Turn right into Kingsbury Road. On the end wall of "Hayland" is the "Thatched Office", built in 1920 as a stand-alone site office for the FernDene Estate, and later added to Trobridge's home. This is where he drew up most of his later plans, for homes you can go and see on walks 2, 3 and 4.

Cross Kingsbury Road at the lights. [Just along to the right is the bus stop for the 302 bus to Walk No. 4.] Walk up Roe Green, opposite the park, for around 5 minutes. Just before you reach Hay Lane, the land (now developed) on the right is the site of Haydon House, the smallholding which Trobridge moved to with his family in 1915.

Carefully cross Hay Lane. Kenwood Court (built after a fire in 1964) is on the corner of Trobridge's 1922-1924 Elmwood Estate. Amy Johnson lodged in a thatched cottage here, while working at Stag Lane Aerodrome before her 1930 solo flight to Australia. [For details see: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16404897/amy-johnson-flying-from-kingsbury.pdf> ]

Go right for 20 metres, then left into Elmwood Crescent. No. 5, though rendered and with a slate roof, was designed by Trobridge as a timber framed house for the Pugsley family to self-build.



**The Pugsley family building their Trobridge-designed Elmwood Crescent home in 1922 >**

Retrace your steps to Hay Lane, and follow the path right, into Stag Lane. After a short walk you come to four thatched cottages, originally Nos. 1-4 on the Elmwood Estate, with the two end homes at right-angles to the middle pair.

Sadly, new owners have fenced off "Rose Cottage" (No. 351), so that you can only see the upstairs end and roof. You get a good view of the front of Nos. 347 and 349 (the back is two storey). "Penny Farthing Cottage" (No. 345) at the end has extra chimneys, as Trobridge designed an extension for it in 1930.



**< "Rose Cottage" as it used to look, before the fence and gate.**

That is the last of the thatched timber cottages on this walk, and I hope you have enjoyed seeing these century old Trobridge designed homes, each one slightly different from the others. To return to the centre of Kingsbury you can either retrace your steps, across Hay Lane, to the

Fairfields Crescent bus stop, and catch a 204 or 324, or carry on walking for around 15 minutes.

For the return walk, continue along Stag Lane for about 100 metres, and cross outside the chemist's. Turn left along Goldsmith Avenue, and you will be walking through Roe Green Village. This "arts and crafts" style estate, designed by Sir Frank Baines, was built for workers at a nearby First World War aircraft factory. At the end of Goldsmith Avenue, go left then right, and follow the path across Roe Green Park back to Kingsbury Road.