

## Route 2 - Gladstone Park, Mapesbury Dell and surrounds

### Route Highlights

Stroll through Gladstone Park and enjoy the views over the city of London and the walled gardens. This route also includes historic sites including the remains of Dollis Hill House, a WWII underground bunker and Old Oxgate Farm. The route finishes by walking through Mapesbury Conservation area to the award-winning Mapesbury Dell.

**1 Start** at Dollis Hill Tube Station and **2** take the Burnley Road exit. Go straight up **3** Hamilton Road. At the end of Hamilton Road turn left onto **4** Kendal Road and then right onto **5** Gladstone Park. Walk up to the north end of the park when you are nearing the edge **6** turn right. In the north east corner of the park you will see the Holocaust Memorial and the footprint of Dollis Hill House. Exit the park at **7** and walk up Dollis Hill Lane, and turn left onto Coles Green Road **8**. Continue up until you reach Old Oxgate Farm **9** and then retrace your steps back to the park. Enter the park where you left it **10** and follow the footpath down the eastern side of the park to the outdoor gym area **11**. Exit the park and follow Melrose Avenue **12**, cross over the junction where Walm Lane turns onto Chichele Road and continue on Walm Lane **13**. Turn left onto Keyes Road **14** and right into Hoveden Road where you'll find the entrance to Mapesbury Dell between two houses **15**. Walk back onto Walm Lane which curves around at St Gabriels Church, and onto Willesden Tube station where this **walk ends 16**.

### Places of Interest/Heritage



**Gladstone Park:** evolved from the Dollis Hill Estate and became a public park at the turn of the 20th Century. Initially called Dollis Hill Park, this was later changed and named after the former Prime Minister, Sir William Gladstone.

The Park was opened in May 1901 and many of its features date from that time, including the fine tree lined avenues.

On the northern boarder of the park, you'll find the **Holocaust Memorial** dedicated to Prisoners-of-War and Concntration Camp victims. Next to this, you will see the footprint of **Dollis Hill House**.

This was an early 19th century farmhouse destroyed by fire in the 1990s. The house was opened to the public in 1909, was used as a hospital during the First World War and in the Second World War housed some of Winston Churchill's War Cabinet meetings in 1941. The footprint of the house has been retained due to its previous Grade II listed building status.



Take your time to soak up the view, visit the walled garden and duck ponds and see what else you can find.

Just off route up Brook Road, you will see the **Paddock War Room Bunker**, codeword for the alternative Cabinet War Room Bunker. An underground 1940's bunker used during WWII by Winston Churchill and the Cabinet, it remains in its original state next to 107 Brook Road. You can take a full tour of the underground bunker twice a year. Purpose-built from reinforced concrete, this bomb-proof subterranean war citadel 40ft below ground has a map room, cabinet room and offices and is housed within a sub-basement protected by a 5ft thick concrete roof.



**Old Oxgate Farm** is a Grade II listed building thought to be the oldest surviving house in the borough. Sitting relatively unnoticed in between flats, shops and houses it has been standing since the 1400's and forms part of the old Manor

of Oxgate land which spanned over 1000 acres. All that is left today is the farmhouse which has suffered structural damage and is in need of investment.

**Mapesbury Dell:** is an award-winning park, hidden away in the heart of Mapesbury. The entrance is between two houses on Hoveden Road. There's a play area, picnic tables and bird feeders, buzz towers for bees and a pond full of wildlife.



**St. Gabriel's Church, Cricklewood:** the original church opened in 1891.

**Facilities:** This route has full facilities in both parks, and many refreshment options at the end of the route at Willesden Green Tube.

#### Distance

3.9 miles - 6.4 km - 9,110 Steps

#### Time

**Fast** - 1hr, **Medium** - 1hr 20mins, **Slow** - 2hrs 10min

#### Calories

**Fast** - 420, **Medium** - 380, **Slow** - 360

#### Difficulty

Route is accessible to all, although the path to the Old Oxgate Farm does involve a steep hill.

#### Start / end station

Dollis Hill to Willesden Green

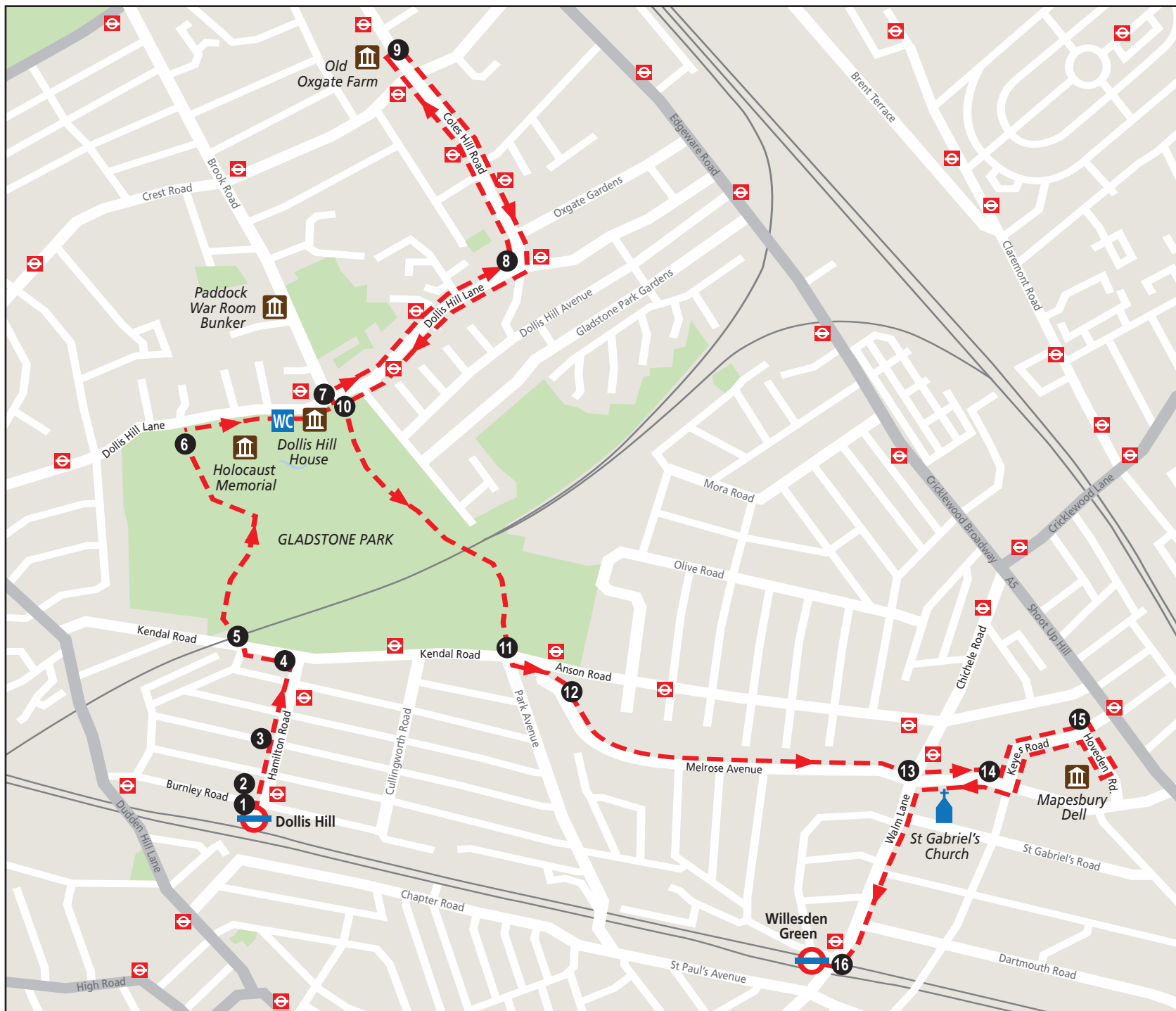
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