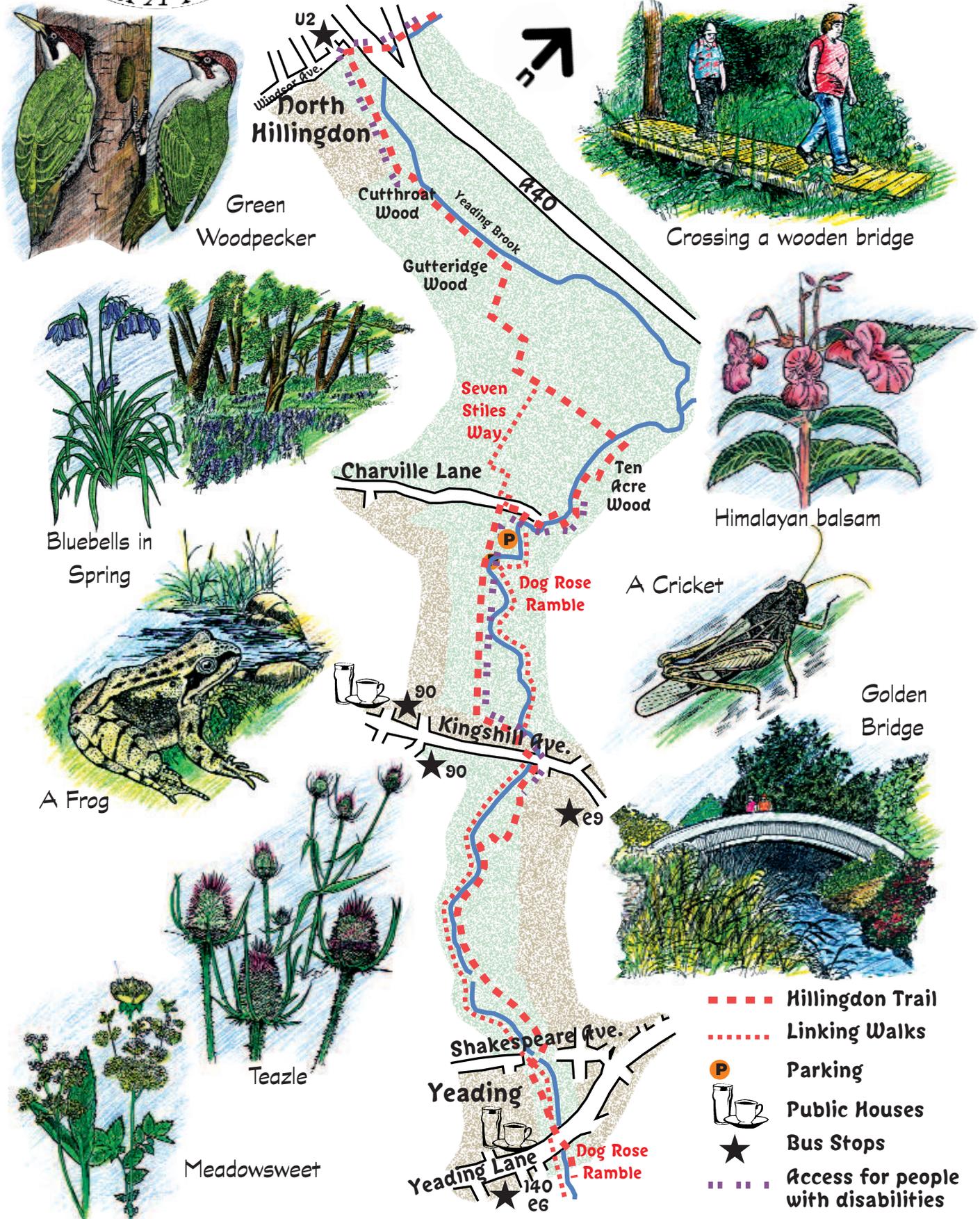




YEADING VALLEY

Yeading Lane - A40



YEADING VALLEY WALK

Yeading lane to A40 3 miles (2 - 2½ hours)

Catch the E6 bus from Broadmead Road towards Bulls Bridge. Get off at Shaftsbury Way. When you get off the bus turn and walk back towards the start of the walk. See map

The walk starts at Yeading Lane.

From Yeading Lane walk across the open space to the bridge over Yeading Brook and cross the open space, to the bridge over Yeading Brook opposite Warley Road, keeping the Brook on your left.

The tarmac footpath marks the southern edge of the Yeading Brook Meadows Local Nature Reserve, managed by the London Wildlife Trust, to attract as much wildlife as possible.

Two hollows were dug out after the last war and one was intended to be a children's paddling pool, the other a boating lake but neither was developed. Consequently, they had been colonised by some unusual plants, including grass vetchling, common spotted orchid, lady's smock, marsh wound-wort and several sedges; yellow flag iris occurs in the southern hollow and narrow-leaved waterdropwort may be seen in the north hollow.

Continue north along the side of the Brook to Kingshill Avenue. Cross the road (carefully) and Yeading Brook, continue past the football pitch then turn right [north].

The ditch is the canal feeder. This is the Michael Frost Park, opened in 1979, with a pond, paths and trees.

Follow the footpath ahead to Charville Lane, turn right (east) and go to Golden Bridge. The Dog Rose Ramble continues eastwards, from here.

Golden Bridge was built in 1986 although a Golden Bridge existed in this area as far back as the 16th century. It has appeared in maps as early as Rocque's of 1754 as a proper name. The present bridge was opened by the actor Lord Bernard Miles who, in 1929 took part in one of the last actions by local people against the landowner to preserve rights of way.

Cross Charville Lane from Golden Bridge and continue north along the track.

The field, known as Cowslip Meadow, is part of Yeading Woods Local Nature Reserve and part of a large Countryside Conservation Area. In the hedgerow are some spindle trees, notable in winter for their attractive but highly poisonous pink and orange berries (Spindle Wood was used for spinning bobbins).

Cross over the Yeading Brook. Follow the bank northwards for a short distance before leaving the

brook to enter Ten Acre Wood.

Ten Acre Wood is a 19th century plantation of oak over hazel coppice and London Wildlife Trust manage this land, for the benefit of wildlife.

Follow the path crossing a wooden bridge over a ditch to enter a wet meadow and cross Yeading Brook via a bridge.

Butterflies, dragonflies, kestrel, sparrowhawk and all 3 species of woodpecker may be seen; listen, too, for crickets and grasshoppers. A different part of the meadow is mown each year to maintain a variety of conditions.

Cross the stile, pass along the southern edge of a grazed field and cross the canal feeder. Go along the northern edge of a grazed field, then into another field and proceed westwards towards Gutteridge Wood.

The field is the site of a former sewage works. In the corner is a stile, leading south to a recreation field (bounded by a very old hedge which forms the parish boundary between Ickenham and Hayes and the Great Hedge Field is referred to in the Hayes Inclosure Award enrolled in 1816).

Enter Gutteridge Wood.

Gutteridge, formerly Grutedge and before that Great Hedge, is hundreds of years old and is dominated by oak, with relict hazel beneath. Managed by London Wildlife Trust, it is being restored by coppicing, which results in beautiful displays of bluebells in Spring.

Follow the trail through the wood, over the Canal Feeder, to the bank of Yeading Brook emerging at Lynhurst Crescent Open Space. Follow the path, turning right along the rear access of the houses. Continue behind the houses, then west onto a path across the open space, then north to the A40.

A car park is located at Hillingdon Circus, half a kilometre to the west. The Master Brewer motel is nearby, offering hospitality to suit all tastes.

Return journey to Grand Union Village:

Walk to Hillingdon Station take the Metro/Piccadilly Line to Ruislip Station. Catch the E7 bus to Ruislip Road at the junction with Broadmead Road.

Alternatively walk from Reservoir Road to Ducks Hill Road and catch the 331 bus to Midcroft. Then catch the E7 bus to Ruislip Road at the junction with Broadmead Road.