



**Bus Routes**  
 184, 221,  
 232,34, 382,  
 298, 251



# New Southgate Heritage Trail

This is an easy going, flat linear walk which takes 45 minutes to one hour to complete. Starting at New Southgate Overground Station and finishing a short distance from Arnos Grove Underground Station.

To view images to supplement the walk please download from this QR Code or visit [www.enfield.gov.uk](http://www.enfield.gov.uk)

## New Southgate

The area that is now known as New Southgate was largely undeveloped in the early 1800s apart from two groups of farm buildings along Bowes Road. The district was known as Colney Hatch (from the hamlet in nearby Friern Barnet) and most of the land was covered by Tottenham Wood.

- Rapid development of the area started after 1850 with the opening of the Railway Station.
- In 1851, on a site just within Friern Barnet, the Colney Hatch Pauper Lunatic Asylum was built.
- In 1858 a gas works was built to the south by the railway
- In 1867 a waterworks was built near the top of the High Road.

The essentially triangular shape of the area, lying roughly within the High Road, Palmers Road and Bowes Road, had now formed and been built upon. The name Colney Hatch soon became associated with mental illness due to the local asylum and in the belief that this was impeding local development, the name of the area was changed to New Southgate. By the beginning of the First World War, development of the area had spread between the High Road and Station Road and to Oakleigh Road and Brunswick Park Road on the borders with Barnet.

*Special thanks to Colin Barratt for all his assistance in the making of this walk.*

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Listed status.  
 both the swimming pool and the library were awarded Grade II  
 and the memorial was a gift from his wife and daughter. In 2000  
 building. Mr Smiles was Divisional Officer in the Southgate Area  
 BA BSc can be seen in the entrance lobby area of the Library  
 memorial consisting of a clock and photograph to Mr HR Smiles,  
 Bohun School and Library situated in Green Road in Oakwood. A  
 and HW Burchett, who were also responsible for designing De  
 County Council. They were designed by the architects WT Curtis  
 These two adjoining buildings were built in 1939 by Middlesex

## 10 Boves Road Library & Arnos Swimming Pool

September 19th 1932 when it was then the most northerly point  
 of the Piccadilly Line, and would remain that way until Oakwood  
 Station (then Enfield West) was opened in March 1933. There  
 was some indecision about the name of the Station, so notices  
 were placed locally inviting residents to choose from a list of  
 alternatives. Options for the name also included Arnos Park, and  
 Bowes Road. The station was awarded Grade II listed building  
 status in February 1971; this was upgraded to Grade II\* in July  
 2011. There is a small museum space in the centre of the ticket  
 hall that outlines its history.

The coming of the tube service with the Piccadilly line in 1932 provided further momentum for development of the district with building work across the old Arnos Grove Estate. The area was badly damaged by bombs during World War II and as a result became run-down. This led to Southgate Council devising a redevelopment scheme that began with the construction of the first tower blocks, Highview Gardens, which were opened in 1960. Development continued when Southgate Borough merged with Enfield & Edmonton Boroughs to become the London Borough of Enfield in 1965, and accelerated up to the mid 1970s. The gas works and all the housing around it, the houses and shopping centres south of Woodland Road and Springfield Road were demolished. Much of this was replaced by new housing estates, known locally as the “Red Brick Estate”.

## 1 Railway Station

The station has undergone a series of name changes, including Colney Hatch, Southgate & Colney Hatch (1855), New Southgate and Colney Hatch (1876), New Southgate for Colney Hatch (1883), New Southgate & Friern Barnet (1923) and finally New Southgate (1976).

## 2 Woodland Road

On the north side of the road little has changed in over 100 years. The large houses would have been occupied by middle class commuters with their families and servants. The south side, however, is very different; the houses on this side were demolished in the 1970s as part of the redevelopment of the area. At the end of the road is St Paul’s Parish Church which

This underground station was designed by the architect Charles Holden (1875–1960) and it is an example of Scandinavian influenced architecture. Holden’s stations are generally considered to be the best looking in London, and it is believed that this was his favourite station. The station was opened on

## 9 Arnos Grove Station

The Post Office Sorting Office has stood on this site for over one hundred years. It is still in use by Royal Mail today and its Edward VII Post box can be seen outside. Next door, on the corner of Lombard Road, stands Bethell Lodge; this was once a so called “Primitive” Methodist Church. It was closed in 1934, and later became a community hall and warehouse before being demolished in the 1970s. A look at the bottom of the wall around Bethell Lodge reveals some embedded engraved stones. These stones were saved from the demolished church and commemorate groups and individuals who contributed to the building of the church. On the south side of the road stands Garfield School. The original school opened in Garfield Road but was later moved to Springfield Road in 1974, keeping its old name. The school celebrated its centenary on November 5th 1983.

## 8 Springfield Road

convert the cinema to sound and it became a dance hall until the start of WW2 when it was converted into a powder puff factory. In 1930 a new cinema was built next door to the original cinema to accommodate these new “talkies”; the New Coronation became a very popular venue, but in 1952 it too was closed down. Both cinema buildings were demolished in 1970.

was built to accommodate the religious needs of an expanding population. It was designed by the eminent architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, and opened in 1873. Opposite, next to the Conservative Club, stands Woodland House, which was a former private school that was closed around 1900.

## 3 Grove Road and High Road

Suffered significant bomb damage during World War II. On the night of the 17th April 1941 during the Blitz a high explosive bomb caused damage to the Baptist Church and Hall Rest Centre. Three years later on 19th July 1944 a V1 Flying Bomb struck in the area. Grove Villa, which was believed to have been built during the 1850s, and Woodland Lodge were both destroyed and formed the site of the “Bombie” today. Both the Baptist Church and St Paul’s and their halls were seriously damaged in the blast. St Paul’s Hall was repaired and reopened in 1952; this is recorded on an engraved stone set in the wall. The “Bombie” site became an area for local children to play after the war and has remained an open space ever since. The site has recently been redeveloped and now has a an interpretation board that details some of the area’s history. The High Road was once a busy shopping centre and originally ran from Friern Barnet Road down to the North Circular Road. It was closed off at the Northern end as a through route in the 1960s, and flats were built across the top of the road.

One local resident of note was born at Number 8 Grove Road, (now the site of Massey Close). WW1 Victoria Cross winner Alastair Malcolm Cluny McReady-Diarmid, born Arthur Malcolm Drew was born on 21st March 1888 to Herbert L. Drew and Fanny A. Drew. On the 30th of November 1917 at the Moeuvres Sector, France, Captain McReady-Diarmid led his company through a heavy barrage and immediately engaged the enemy,

This is another remnant of the old High Road, at the junction with Upper Park Road. It is named after Sir John Weid, who moved into Arnos Grove in 1610 (he built the Weid Chapel in 1615 close to Southgate Green on Waterfall Road; the building was replaced by Christ Church in 1863). The original Coronation Cinema, named in honour of the newly crowned King George V, stood here showing silent films. Built in 1911 on a former builder’s yard, it showed two programmes a week with musical accompaniment on a piano, with a variety night on Fridays for locals to show off their talents. It had a fairly prosperous existence into the 1920s until the advent of “talkies” films. No attempt was made to

## 7 Weid Place

Until 1999 this was a neglected area of grassland created during the 1970s re-developments. It was leased by Enfield Council to a charitable trust who transformed the space into a Millennium Green. The central sculpture of the prow of a boat was inspired by the book “Three Men in a Boat” by the author, dramatist and essayist Jerome K Jerome. Jerome lived as a child in the area for three years from 1870, in a house on Springfield Road, around where the entrance to Garfield School is now.

## 6 Millennium Green

gate was located allowing railway access to the grounds. Further down the road stood the Southgate & Colney Hatch Gas Light and Coke Company. This major gas works, built in 1858, did much to encourage population growth in the area and became a major local employer. The surviving single gas holder was built in 1912 and is the only remaining part of the gas works, which was demolished during the 1970s along with all of the neighbouring housing.

driving them back, causing numerous casualties and taking 27 prisoners. The following day the enemy attacked; driving back another company which had lost all its officers. The Captain called for volunteers and leading the attack again drove the enemy back. It was entirely due to his throwing of bombs (hand grenades) that the ground was regained; he was eventually killed that day by a bomb.

## 4 High Road.

On the corner of Whitmore Close (which used to be Garfield Road) stands the former police station which was built in 1888 and closed 1996. Whitmore Close was named after either Sir Thomas Whitmore or his son Sir William Whitmore. The Whitmores were owners of Arnolds Estate, later called Arnos Grove, between 1651 and 1699. Opposite stands the Sikh Temple, which was formerly a Wesleyan Methodist Church built in 1899. It was converted into a Temple in 1978 acquiring the two buildings either side of it; Seawards the Undertakers and a former engineering works. Further down the road on the left stands the former Public House that was called the Northern Star, which dates back to circa 1870, it was finally closed down in 2002 and converted to flats. On the corner of Springfield Road is a former dairy that was used over 100 years ago for milking the cows grazing in the surrounding fields. (To get to Point no 5 please use the footpath through the Red Brick Estate to Station Road).

## 5 Station Road

On the opposite side of the road, on top of the wall, there can be seen a row of spikes where the old footbridge used to cross over the railway line. This bridge went across to the Line Path, next to the original high outer wall of the Asylum, where a large