

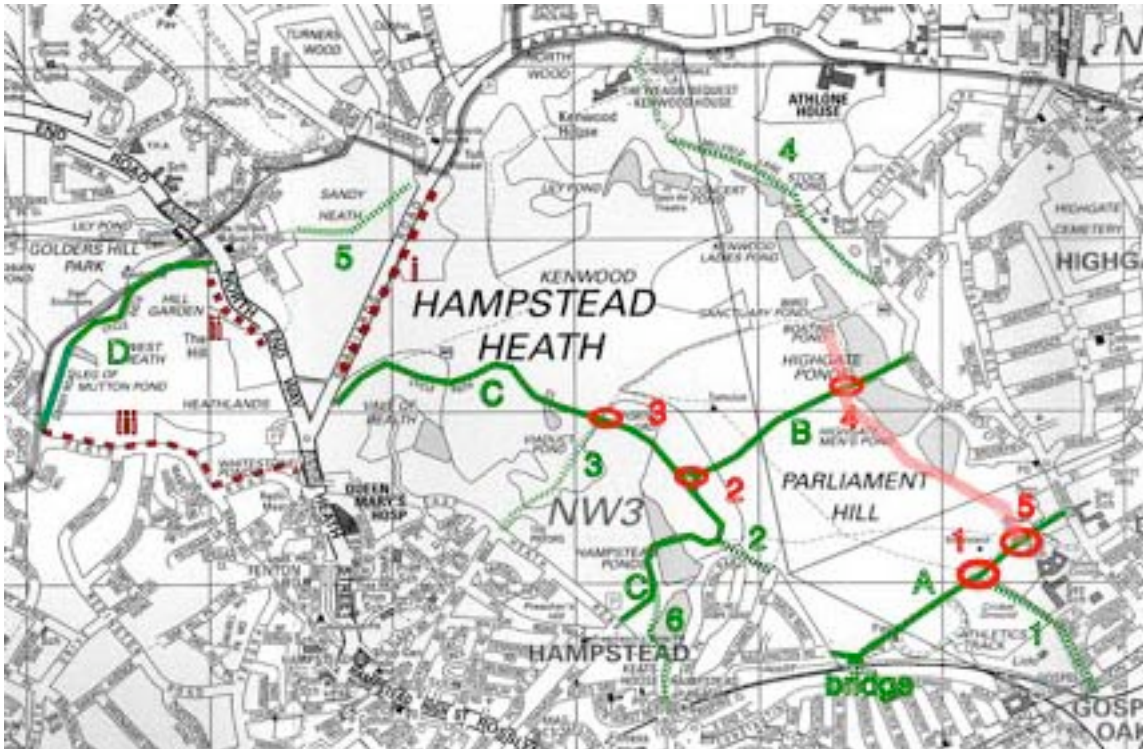
Appendix A: Cycle Counts

CCC carried out two sets of cycle counts: one on a weekday at the times when children would be travelling to and from school. Another on a Saturday in the afternoon. Dates and times: Thursday 19th October 2006, between 8 and 9 am and 3 and 4 pm; and on Saturday 28th October between 3 and 4pm. It rained for about 20 minutes during both Thursday sessions. There was no rain on Saturday - the temperature was mild.

The counting was done at five locations (shown as red ellipses labelled 1-5) on the map below. The locations were chosen so as to study the use of the three cycleways on the main Heath as well three other paths:

- the path labelled as 1 which links the Lido to cycleway A;
- Lime Avenue (the path labelled as 3);
- the path by the ponds shown in pink.

We distinguished between adults and school children. Anyone in school uniform or obviously below the age of 16 was included in the latter classification



Counts for cycleway A and the lido path

Counts were taken at positions 1 and 5 on the map above. This cycleway runs roughly west to east. In the rows of the table below, we record counts on the cycleway to the west of position 1; in the middle (average of the counts to the east of position 1 and west of position 5 respectively); and to the east of position 5. The 'middle' figures are similar, as the positions are close together there are no side paths between the two observation points. The last row shows the counts on Link 1 (the Lido path).

Table 1	Thur. 19.10.06 8-9 am		Thur. 19.10.06 3-4 pm		Sat. 28.10.06 3-4 pm	
	adults	children	adults	children	adults	children
west of 1	54	14	13	11	14	33
middle	51	16	13	13	15	32
east of 5	51	14	16	10	16	18
Lido path	3	2	2	3	1	3

Comments from the observer at point 1

On Thursday morning, the majority of cyclists were riding eastwards, mostly lone adults or unaccompanied schoolchildren.

On Thursday afternoon there were as many unaccompanied schoolchildren as adults. But not a single schoolgirl cycling. The majority were riding westwards.

On Saturday afternoon there was a wonderful parade of junior cyclists on mini-bikes, trikes, scooters and rollerblades. I saw several girls cycling this time, always in pairs or groups, unlike the earlier day when there were no schoolgirl cyclists. The counts of scooters and rollerbladers are not included above.

Nobody on wheels ever went up Parliament Hill either day.

Comments from the observer at point 3

On Thursday afternoon the majority of the children were 10-14 years, three smaller children were accompanied by an adult.

Counts for cycleway B

Counts taken at positions 2 and 4 on the map above.

This track runs roughly west-east. In the rows of the table below, we record counts on the cycleway, in the middle (average of the counts to the east of position 2 and west of position 4 respectively); and to the east of position 4. We would expect the 'middle' figures to be similar as there are few side paths between the two observation points.

Table 2	Thur. 19.10.06 8-9 am		Thur. 19.10.06 3-4 pm		Sat. 28.10.06 3-4 pm	
	adults	children	adults	children	adults	children
middle	20	2	7	0	11	6
east of 4	22	2	8	0	15	13

Comments from the observer at positions 2 and 4

On the Thursday morning, the majority of the morning cyclists were going west (about 3/4). Of these, about 2/3 turned south on cycleway C. The two children on the cycleway B on Thursday morning were accompanied by parents (one on a tandem). They turned north on cycleway C.

Nobody went straight north on cycleway C on either Thursday morning or afternoon.

On Saturday, many of the users of cycleway B came from or went to the ponds path instead of using the east section up to Millfield Lane. Most of the adults on the ponds path were with children.

Counts for cycleway C and Lime Avenue

Counts taken at positions 2 and 3 on the map above.

Cycleway C runs from NW to SE between positions 2 and 3. In the rows of the table below, we record counts on the cycleway to the north-west of position 3; in the middle (average of the counts to the south-east of position 3 and north-west of position 2); and to the south-east of position 2. The last column refers to counts on Lime Avenue.

Table 3	Thur. 19.10.06 8-9 am		Thur. 19.10.06 3-4 pm		Sat. 28.10.06 3-4 pm	
	adults	children	adults	children	adults	children
NW of 3	9	0	0	0	10	6
middle	13	3	5	1	12	8
SE of 2	14	2	7	0	9	4
Lime Avenue	4	3	3	5	2	0

Comments from the observers at positions 2 and 3

On Thursday, one unaccompanied child went E on Lime Avenue and then south. Two accompanied children (1 on a tandem) went down Lime Avenue, the two other adults pushed their bikes. Cyclists on Lime Avenue west of the junction with cycleway C (link 3b on map) were stopped by a Heath constable. One man on Cycleway C went down and then up again on both Thursday morning and afternoon.

Counts for ponds path

Counts taken at positions 4 and 5 on the map above. We would not expect any similarity between the middle figures as there is a fair distance between positions 4 and 5 and many possibilities for joining and leaving the paths. The path which is shown in pink on the map above runs roughly north-south.

Table 4	Thur. 19.10.06 8-9 am		Thur. 19.10.06 3-4 pm		Sat. 28.10.06 3-4 pm	
	adults	children	adults	children	adults	children
north of 4	0	3	4	2	3	9
south of 4	2	6	5	2	7	16
north of 5	2	0	6	6	6	25

Comments from the observer at positions 4 and 5

At the weekend really large numbers of children were observed cycling on the ponds path in both directions. Many cyclists, particularly at weekends ride between the ponds path and cycleway B.

Some observations

Counts for children cycling to school

The counts on cycleway A show that about 14 school age boys travel eastwards in the morning and westwards in the evening. It is likely that these are pupils of William Ellis School. Our paper on the 'potential of the Heath for safer routes to schools' shows that in 2005-6 there were 152 pupils in the catchment area that might access this cycleway at the western end. At a guess, approximately 10% of that catchment may be cycling to school. William Ellis has recently (autumn 2006) joined the Sustrans Bikelt scheme and acquired a new Bike Shed. It looks as though, with encouragement, 10% or more (given time) may cycle to school.

The small numbers on the Lido path (Link 1) and on Lime Avenue can be attributed to the fact that cycling is not permitted on these paths.

Cycling on the ponds path

This path is very popular with parents and children at the weekend. Our study on catchments suggests that it would not be particularly useful for travel to school. However, the fact that it is used so heavily at weekends is a problem to be addressed.

Acknowledgements

The counts were carried out by: Anne Boston, Paul Braithwaite, Stefano Casalotti, Sebastian Casalotti, Jean Dollimore, Colleen Macaulay, and Meade McCloughan.

22nd November 2006