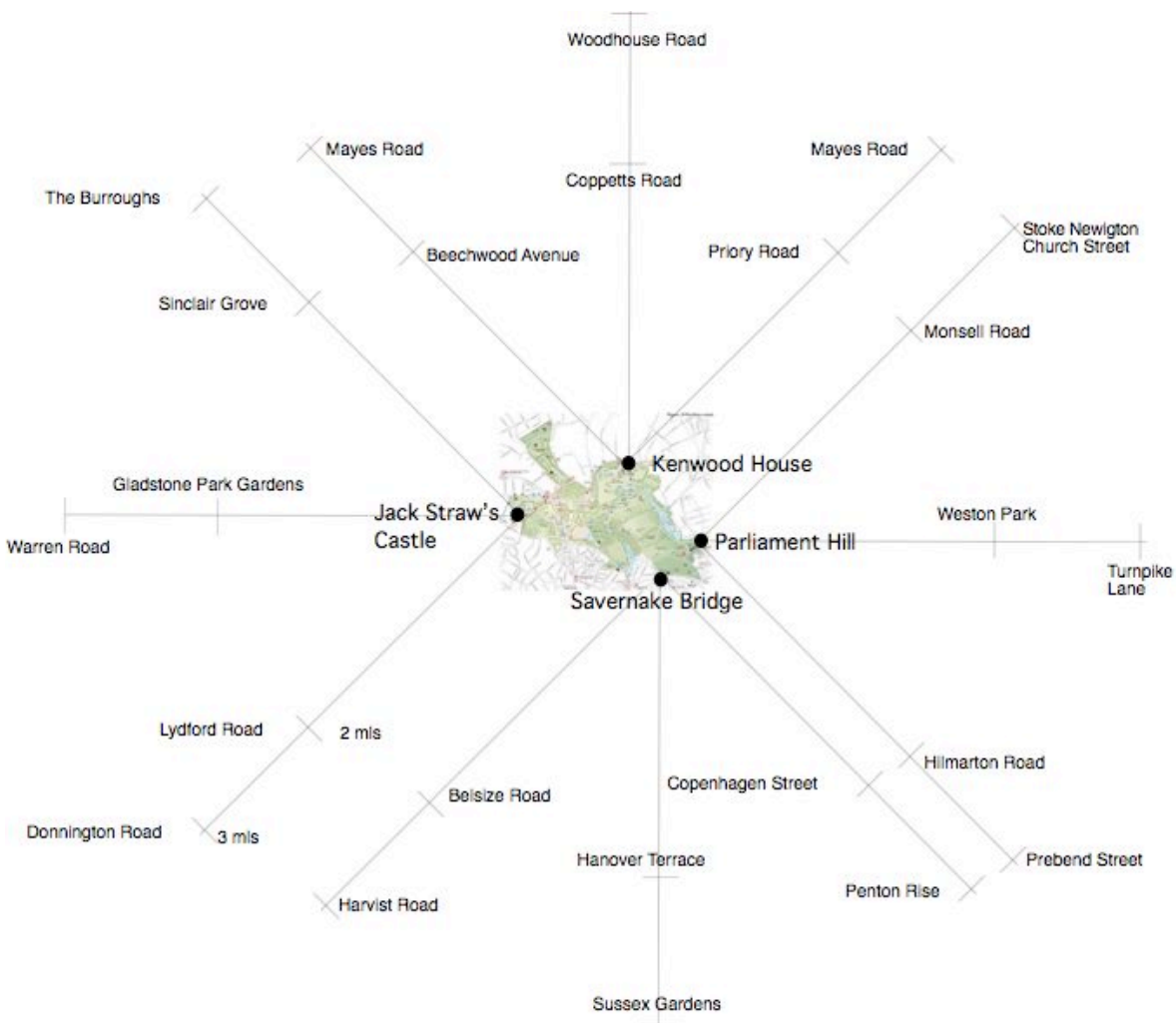


Comparison of journey times for cycle and public transport

The Heath Management consultation document considers improving public transport for journeys to the Heath, whereas cycling is considered only as a leisure activity inside the Heath. We will demonstrate here that cycling is much better than public transport as a substitute for car trips to the Heath.

We used the Transport for London on-line Journey Planner to compare the times taken to come to the Heath by public transport and by cycle. Since the majority of Heath users come to walk, we considered journeys to four of the main entry points to the Heath (Parliament Hill by the tennis courts, Kenwood House, Jack Straw’s Castle and Savernake Bridge). We chose starting points at a crow-fly distance of 2 miles and 3 miles from each entry point, as shown on the map below. In each case, we specified a journey starting at midday on a weekday (in March). Cycling times are given by the Journey Planner for an ‘average’ cyclist.



For public transport the Journey Planner displays a list of options for travel within half an hour after the start time, giving for each one the start and arrival times and the number of changes. We list these together with the time for a cycle journey in the four tables below.

Journeys to Parliament Hill* by tennis courts (on east side of Heath)					
direction	crowfly	starting point	bus/train time	cycle time	changes
NE	2mls	Monsell Road N4 (middle)	0: 18-1:05	0: 20	0-2
E	2mls	Weston Park N8 (middle)	0: 53-1.07	0: 15	1-2
SE	2mls	Hilmarton Road N7 (middle)	0: 46-1.03	0: 15	0-1
NE	3 mls	Stoke Newington Church Street (middle)	1.03-1.29	0: 26	1-2
E	3 mls	Turnpike Lane N8 (middle)	0: 48-1:25	0: 18	1-2
SE	3 mls	Prebend Street N1 (middle)	0: 49-1.07	0: 20	1-2

*Input to journey Planner: ' Sainte Union School'

Journeys to Kenwood House*(on the north side of Heath)					
direction	crowfly	Address	Bus/train	Cycle	changes
NE	2mls	Priory Road N8 (middle)	0:44-1:09	0:13	1
N	2mls	Coppetts Road N10	0:37-1:16	0:16	1
NW	2mls	Beechwood Avenue N3 (middle)	0:32-0:50	0: 13	1
NE	3 mls	Mayes Road N22	1:04-1:09	0:20	1
N	3 mls	Woodhouse N12 (middle)	1:00-1:13	0:21	1-2
NW	3 mls	Holdes Hill Circus NW7 (middle)	0:54-1:02	0:20	1-2

*Input to journey Planner: ' Kenwood House'

Journeys to Jack Straw's Castle* (west side of Heath)					
direction	crowfly	Address	bus/train	cycle	changes
NW	2mls	Sinclair Grove NW11 (middle)	0:29-0:47	0:10	1-2
W	2mls	Gladstone Park Gardens NW2	0:52-1:09	0:15	1
SW	2mls	Lydford Road (middle) W9	0:58-1:14	0:17	1-2
NW	3 mls	The Burroughs (middle) NW4	0:36-0:50	0:16	1-2
W	3 mls	Warren Road (middle) NW2	0:48-1:14	0:20	1
SW	3 mls	Donnington Road (middle) NW10	1:09-1:29	0:18	1-3

*Input to journey Planner: 'Heath Brow junction with North End Way'

Journeys to Savernake bridge* (south side of Heath)					
direction	crowfly	Address	bus/train	cycle	changes
SE	2mls	Copenhagen Street N1	0:34-0:58	0:14	1-2
S	2mls	Hanover Terrace (middle) NW1	0:59-1:07	0:16	1-2
SW	2mls	Belsize Road (middle) NW6	0:46-0:53	0:11	0-1
SE	3 mls	Penton Rise (middle) WC1X	0:44-0:58	0:16	0-1
S	3 mls	Sussex Gardens (middle) W2	0:40-1:11	0:22	0-2
SW	3 mls	Harvist Road NW6	0:33-1:07	0:17	0-2

*Input to Journey Planner: 'Savernake Road NW3 (middle)'

Observations

The times for journeys by public transport are variable and are therefore unpredictable, whereas a journey by cycle always takes about the same time. Journey times by public transport at weekends can take longer due to engineering works. The average times for the above journeys are shown in the table below.

Average Journey times				
	2 miles (crowfly)		3 miles (crowfly)	
	bus/train	cycle	bus/train	cycle
Parliament Hill	51	17	67	21
Kenwood House	50	14	64	20
Jack Straws	55	14	61	18
Savernake bridge	53	14	52	18

The Journey Planner provides detailed cycle routes, generally on quiet roads, making the distance considerably more than the crowfly figure. Take for example, the route from Stoke Newington Church Street to the Parliament Hill entrance which has the longest cycling time: the recommended route is about 5 miles with an average time of 26 minutes: a speed of about 11.6 mph. A cyclist going at 10 mph would take only 30 minutes.

Not one of the cycle journeys takes as much as half an hour, the average being about 15 minutes for the shorter journey and 20 minutes for the longer ones. In contrast, the bus journeys are mostly an hour in duration, apart from a few exceptions. For a journey to the Heath of 2-3 miles, a time of more than half an hour might make people stick to their cars.

We believe that this analysis indicates that a green travel plan would be very beneficial to the Heath.