

CROYDON HERITAGE WALK

Croydon Market Town

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NORTH END



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ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS



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ELECTRIC HOUSE



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SEGAS HOUSE



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QUEEN'S GARDENS



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CLOCKTOWER



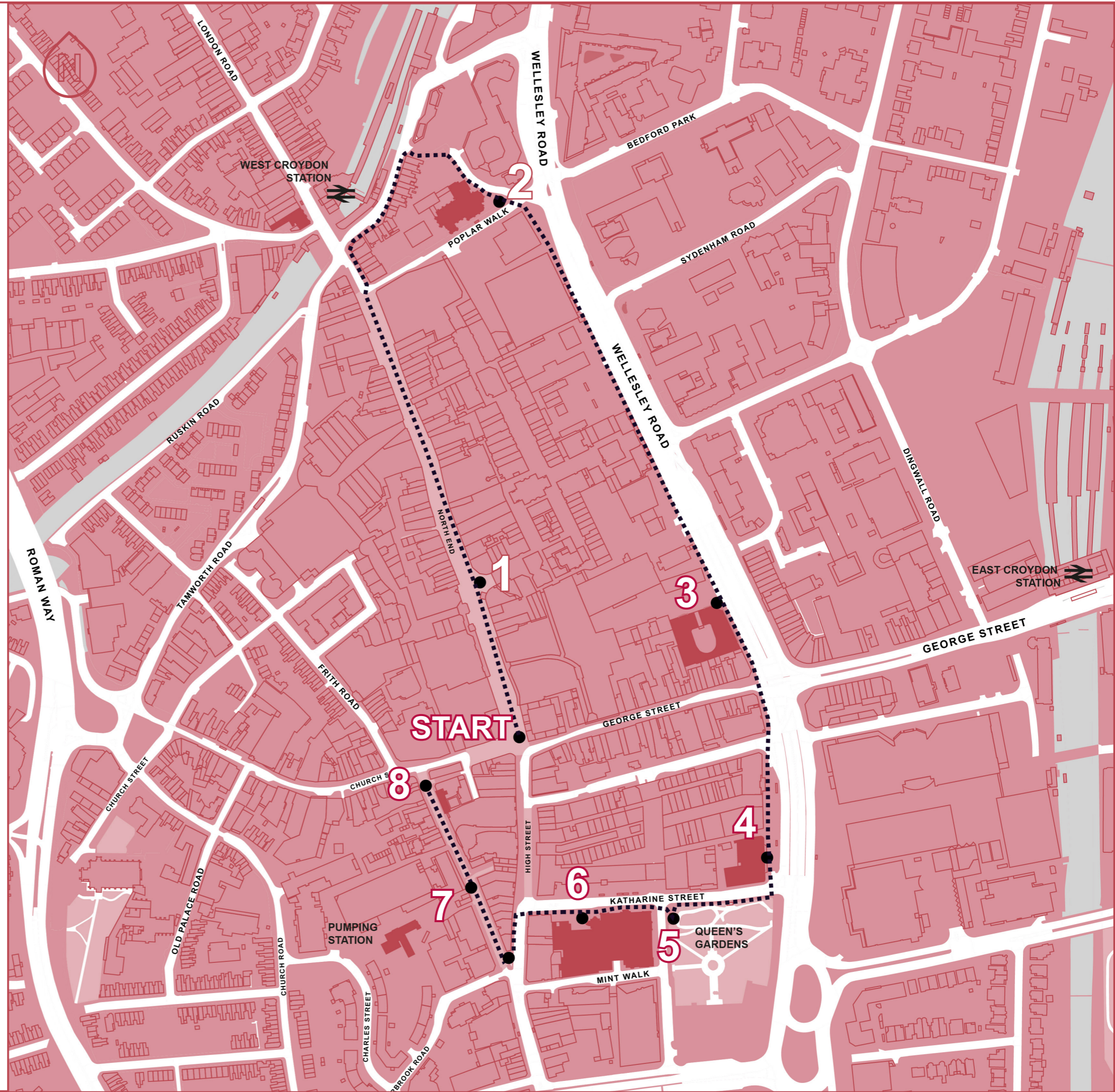
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PUMPING STATION



8

SURREY STREET MARKET



4 SEGAS HOUSE

Segas House was built for the South East Gas Company in the Moderne style, and constructed using new technologies such as artificial Empire Stone and permanent concrete shuttering ('shockcrete') slabs. Both Segas and Electric House are notably modern in style compared with earlier civic buildings reflecting developments in architecture and building technology at the time. After the war this section of Wellesley Road was completely transformed with road widening and construction of high rise concrete buildings such as Apollo House, Luna House and No.1 Croydon.

5 QUEEN'S GARDENS

'Town Hall Gardens' opened in 1896 on the site of the former Katherine Street railway station, which closed in 1890. The land was used for a civic complex including town hall, library, police station and park. This part is below street level because it was built on the railway cutting leading into the station. It was renamed the Queen's Gardens and reopened by Queen Elizabeth in 1984.

As you walk towards Surrey Street look out for the plaque on the corner commemorating the widening of the High Street in 1896 by the High Street Improvement Committee, which was established after Croydon attained Corporation status.

7 PUMPING STATION

The Public Health Act was passed by parliament in 1848 following much campaigning and a severe cholera epidemic linked to poor sanitation. Croydon was one of the first towns to adopt the Act, and the new Board of Health began to improve sanitary and social conditions. Ponds and ditches were drained and the polluted Wandle was culverted (sent underground). To ensure a clean water supply, a reservoir and water tower were built at Park Hill. These were filled by pumping water uphill from a well in Surrey Street via the Surrey Street Pumping Station.

Why do you think the water tower was located at Park Hill?

It is high ground. The water supply was powered by gravity.

6 CLOCKTOWER

Work on the Town Hall started in 1895. The complex included a new library as well as Braithwaite Hall. The statue of Queen Victoria was added in 1903 and the war memorial was added in 1921. The building was renovated in the 1990s to create Croydon Clocktower - an arts venue.



The scrolls around the front entrance of the Town Hall are labelled *Education, Protection, Justice, Order, Sanitation* and *Recreation*, reflecting the priorities of the newly formed Croydon Corporation. The five decorative panels above the entrances to Braithwaite Hall show figures representing health, study, religion, recreation and music, with related scenes.

The portrait busts above the windows depict great figures from the arts, sciences, politics and philosophy. Do you recognise any famous names?

8 SURREY STREET MARKET

Surrey Street market is one of the oldest markets in London. It has been in continuous operation since the year 1275!

Before 1834 Surrey Street was called Butchers Row, but that name is now used for the row of timber-framed buildings with galleried upper floors at the northern end of the street (numbers 34-38). These buildings have been here since the 18th century and are some of the oldest buildings in the area.

These days you can enjoy stalls, street food and events on Surrey Street.



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Fold 1

Electric House was built 1939-42 as showrooms and offices for the electricity board. It has a concrete frame clad in Portland stone. The central courtyard was designed to house a cookery demonstration hall that was never built. Portland stone columns in the courtyard are decorated with carved square urns, dedicated to *Fire, Air, Earth, Water, Time, Energy* and *Flight* as well as *Elysium* (afterlife) and *Hesperides* (nymphs of the evening light) from Greek mythology.

ELECTRIC HOUSE



The Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels was built in 1880 to replace a smaller wooden building, which was too small for the rapidly growing parish. The simple exterior of the building belies the impressive vaulted interior and decorations. It was designed by gothic revival architect J.L. Pearson who is known for his work on churches and cathedrals. St Michael's was described by the poet John Betjeman as 'one of Pearson's loveliest churches' and it is a Grade I Listed Building – meaning it is recognised as being of exceptional national importance.

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS



Fold 2

CROYDON HERITAGE WALK

Croydon Market Town

Distance: 1 mile
Time: 45 minutes (walking time 30 minutes)
There are no steep hills or staircases

In the 19th century, Croydon became a thriving market town. The town centre and expanded after the opening of new railway stations, and boasted impressive shops, offices and pubs. The Victorian era was a time of rapid urban expansion and change with advances in public health, education and technology. The town received a charter of incorporation, a coat of arms, and a motto: *Sanitate Crescimus* ("May we grow in health").

This walk explores the impressive historic high streets civic buildings, infrastructure projects and public facilities from this era.

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Fold 3

It is the white building at 127 North End. The rest of the building has been converted into shops.

The dome of the former Prince's Picture House still survives as reminder. Can you find it?

The area had a vibrant nightlife with many places of entertainment. The characterful Fox and Hounds pub opposite the station has occupied the same site since 1850. By 1930 six cinemas had opened in North End alone, but none of these have survived.

Start at the Whittgift Almshouses (one of Croydon's oldest buildings) and head North. The town centre expanded northwards in the 19th century and North End transformed from a residential avenue to a busy commercial street. It was served by the new West Croydon Station which opened in 1839. Be sure to look up as you walk along North End to see the impressive building facades in a variety of styles. The Whittgift shopping centre was built in the 1960s on the former site of the Whittgift School, but the historic street frontage along North End was preserved.

NORTH END



Croydon Market Town

CROYDON

HERITAGE WALK

