

HISTORY HIKE

Discover the hidden history of Hounslow Heath, from bronze boars to biplanes, batties to bloodshed!

Use the orange route for the History Hike

START HERE

Can you find the **3** stolen jewels?

Those pesky highway bandits hid them in three of the waymarker posts...

Stand and deliver!

Choose a person in your group to play the part of Moll Cut-Purse. Run ahead and hide from your friends, then suddenly jump out and demand some treasure!

Face and chase

It is said that Claude Duval never used violence. Choose a person to be 'it' - they make the scariest face they can and try to catch the others. If caught, they make a scary face and become 'it' too.



Name Game

What would you call yourself if you were a highwayman or highwaywoman? Here's how:

Your age or Your house number + Sword or Pistol or String + Your nickname or Your pet's name = **Your highway name!**



You'll find 15 posts along the way

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1. Extreme Pedestrianism

18th and early 19th Century

From Hounslow to Hanworth, a fashion for fast walking over great distances known as Extreme Pedestrianism began. In 1806 Mrs Lucy Hawkins of Hounslow knew the area very well, bets were placed on her completing a twenty mile walk in under 3 hours, with wagers placed on her timing for the outgoing and return journey.

2. Vickers Vimy Plane

1919

The world's first long distance plane journey took place right here in a small biplane. From Hounslow to Australia. The Commonwealth Government of Australia offered a prize of £10,000. The flight took 135 hours 55 minutes, the Pilots were awarded handsomely.

3. Claude Duval

1643 -1670

Highwayman Claude Duval started of life as a pageboy in Paris. However, on moving to England he soon found the life of a highwayman to be far more profitable. Hounslow was the perfect place to do it. After 10 years he was caught and hung at Tyburn.

4. Celtic Bronze Boar

150 BC - 50 BC

Hidden underground for 1000 years this bronze boar was found by farm workers in the 1800s. Wild boars were an important part of Celtic life and hunted for food. They were swift on their feet with sharp tusks. Certainly not boring!

5. Duel

1603-1852

In a dual there were two participants, each were accompanied by an attendant known as a 'second'. They would start back to back, take ten paces, turn and fire! Rules to the dual were very strict, there were 17 rules in England, 84 rules in France!

6. Sword Mill

1630 - 1655

In the 1600's there was a particular Sword Mill which became famous for its excellent reputation. Five different types of swords were made there. Swords fit for Kings made by the famous sword makers of the heath, known as the 'Blademakers' of Hounslow.

7. Sixteen String Jack

1750-1774

Sixteen String Jack wore eight coloured strings attached to each knee of his breeches. He was a cunning Highway man of style, and one for ladies. Eventually though he was caught, put on trial and executed for robbing the Chaplain to a Princess.

8. The Great Balloon Race

1908

Up, up and away! Pilots from all over Europe flew 31 hot air balloons 30 miles across the heath on a sunny day in May. Thousands gathered to watch the event with picnics and parasols, with competitors from France, Germany, Belgium and Switzerland.

9. William the Conqueror

1028 -1087

William the Conqueror made use of the wild boars left by the Celts, using Hounslow Heath as a hunting ground to entertain Nobility. Hunting down boars on horseback with Norman kings and barons!

10. Gunpowder

1655 - 1926

Can you turn a corn mill into a gunpowder mill? During the reign of Elizabeth I due to the expansion of naval enterprise that's exactly what they did, right here in Hounslow. King James the First then granted Royal Charter to the manufacturer's here on the heath.

11. Iron age village

700 BC

Archeologists discovered the remains of a burning furnace and the ruins of a round house here on the heath, marking the site of an ancient iron age village. This village would have covered a large area of the Heath until around 43AD when the Romans arrived.

12. Moll Cut-Purse

1585-1659

Moll Cut-Purse was a formidable highway-lady! She was first caught at the age of 16, cutting the strings that attached the leather purse to your belt. She was tried for treachery and sentenced to death, but paid her way out of it for a fee of £2000!

13. Roman Soldier

55BC - 410 AD

Run, its the Romans! On the heart of the heath lies a super straight Roman road, originally linking London to Western Britain and out to the North on what is now known as A4 Bath Road. Roman Camps were also based here towards the end of the Celtic era.

14. Oliver Cromwell

1599 -1658

Oliver Cromwell's armies were stationed here at the end of the English Civil War, this was because of the Heath's advantageous location between Windsor and Hampton Court. Once again, more battle and bloodshed!

15. Heathrow Airport

1946

Heathrow Airport opened for commercial air travel in 1946. It's the busiest two-runway airport in the world, welcoming around 1,300 combined take-offs and landings each day. Before that, the little village of Heathrow existed since medieval times and is roughly where Terminal 3 is today.



London Borough
of Hounslow

Go to www.hounslow.gov.uk/hounslowheath
for more info and free downloads.