

## The Royal Borough of Greenwich

Available from the web. Print: £30

<https://www.thisismikehall.com/londonboroughs>

This map is from Mike Hall's varied oeuvre, and is one of series, details of which are available from the link above. The cartography is 'inspired by 1960s graphic design'.

It shows just one Borough in isolation, which can sometimes look strange at the edges and in narrow sections of the Borough.

It is printed at A2 size, and at an unstated scale that fits the borough nicely to the page.

The map is essentially decorative in purpose, so the lack of road names on smaller roads is not a problem.

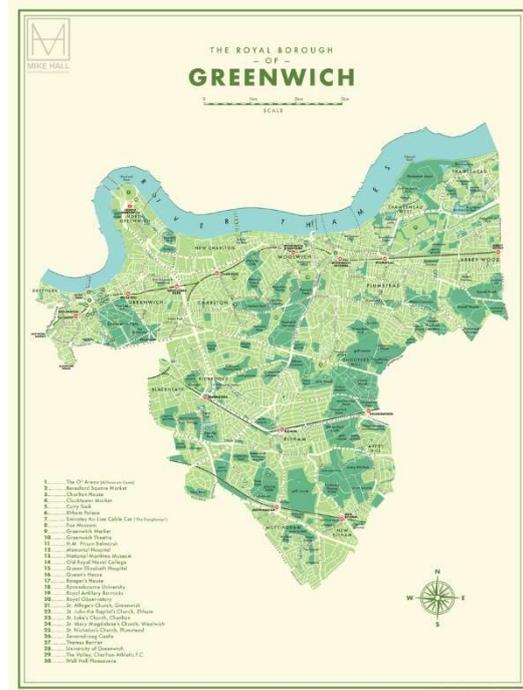
It has a simple, muted, predominantly green colour scheme. It is nice to see the Futura typeface in use on the maps, as it works well for this particular amount of information. The overground trains and the one tube station are clearly shown. However, the five DLR stations are a bit lost with their light green symbology (it is four on the Docklands branch and the one at Woolwich Arsenal, at the end of the London City Airport branch).

The 'green space' is highlighted in a darker green than the background, which does show the distribution within the Borough well. In the North West the open space is pretty much just Greenwich Park, and there is very little of it on the South Bank of the River Thames. There seems to be plenty in the rest of the Borough though. But be warned – it is not all publicly accessible; as it includes golf courses, cemeteries and allotments.

There are 30 selected locations highlighted and shown in the key in numerical order. Although I know the borough reasonably well, I had to look some of them up – including The Dangleway (apparently what locals call the Emirates airline); Ravensbourne University; and Severndroog Castle. It was quite pleasing to find that Severndroog Castle has a William Roy connection. So, a little deviation is due here. According to the castle's history it was used by General William Roy in his trigonometric survey linking the nearby Royal Greenwich Observatory with the Paris Observatory. A 36-inch theodolite (now in London's Science Museum) was temporarily installed on its roof. This survey collaboration between Britain and France Survey led to the formation of the Ordnance Survey. In 1848, the Royal Engineers used the castle for their survey of London.

But back to the map. I would have liked to have seen the Greenwich Meridian delineated, another carto-connection with the Borough. It would show how little of the Greenwich Meridian actually goes through Greenwich (the Borough).

One other interesting feature of London that this map shows is how little surface water there is in inner London Boroughs. Having said that Greenwich is shown to have two of the finest river names: the rivers Quaggy and Wogebourne. The River Quaggy in its upper reach is known as Kyd Brook,



hence the locality of Kidbrooke, east of Blackheath, which in my family's lore was the very definition of the term 'concrete jungle'.

My wife grew up in the Borough of Greenwich. We were (re)visiting the other day – some parts have definitely changed a great deal. My son and wife have just moved there, and they will be hanging this lovely map on their wall in their flat. Hopefully they will use it to plan the exploration of their new surroundings.

I like these Mike Hall maps for their simplicity and style. If you live in London, or have some affinity with any of the Boroughs, I strongly recommend you take a look at the maps in this series. For myself, I will be back for more of Mike Hall's work, perhaps some of the more graphical output.

**Steve Chilton**