

Appendix U

WARD ELECTORATES: SOURCES AND ISSUES

1934 Election [1933 Register]

The first Harrow UDC election, held on Saturday 24 March, was conducted using the 1933 *Register of Electors* that came into force on 15 October 1933. Organising the election must have resulted in many inconveniences for electoral administrators in the new urban district: the 1933 *Register* had been published (as was normal at that time) using Parliamentary divisions as their foundation. Each Parliamentary *Register* could typically contain areas from several local authorities: the 1933 *Registers* for the Harrow, Hendon and Uxbridge Parliamentary divisions were no different and had been compiled using polling district (PD) boundaries tailored to the needs of the different local authorities in existence on 15 October 1933. No acknowledgement of the forthcoming Harrow UD boundaries, or those of the 12 wards, was present in the *Registers*.

Figure 1 shows extracts from the 1933 *Register* for Harrow, namely the first pages for the sections containing polling districts R and T. Note that PD R, although in an area to be included in Harrow UD, makes no mention of that fact, nor the ward (Wealdstone South) that it would become part of within six months.

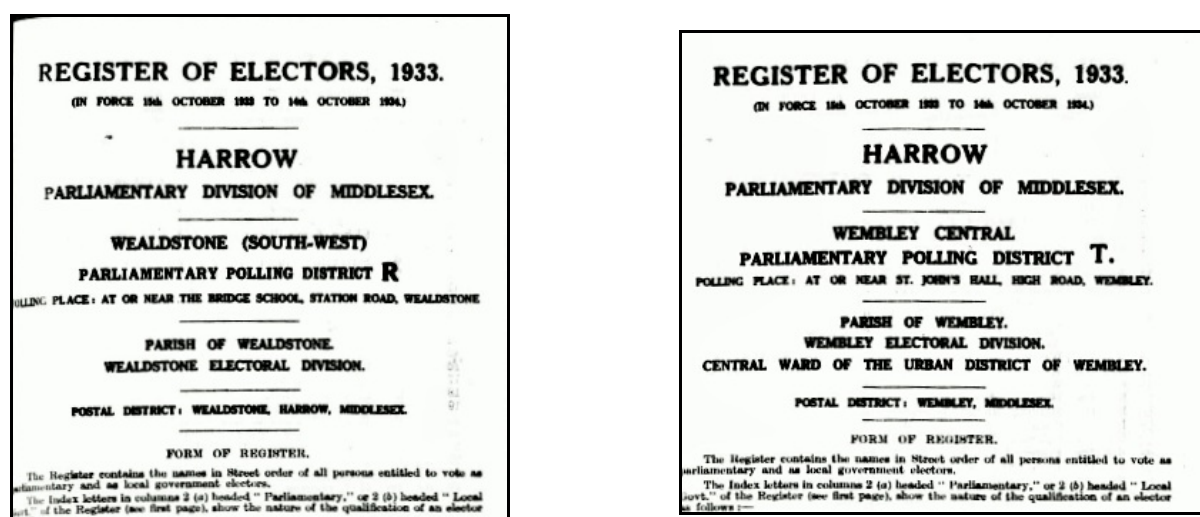


Figure 1: Extracts from the 1933 *Register of Electors* for the Harrow Parliamentary division. Left: first page of polling district R; right: first page of polling district T.

Similarly, the Hendon *Register* contained areas from inside and outside the boundaries of the new Harrow UD (Figure 2); there are no indications that PD D is to form part of the new Kenton ward of Harrow UD.

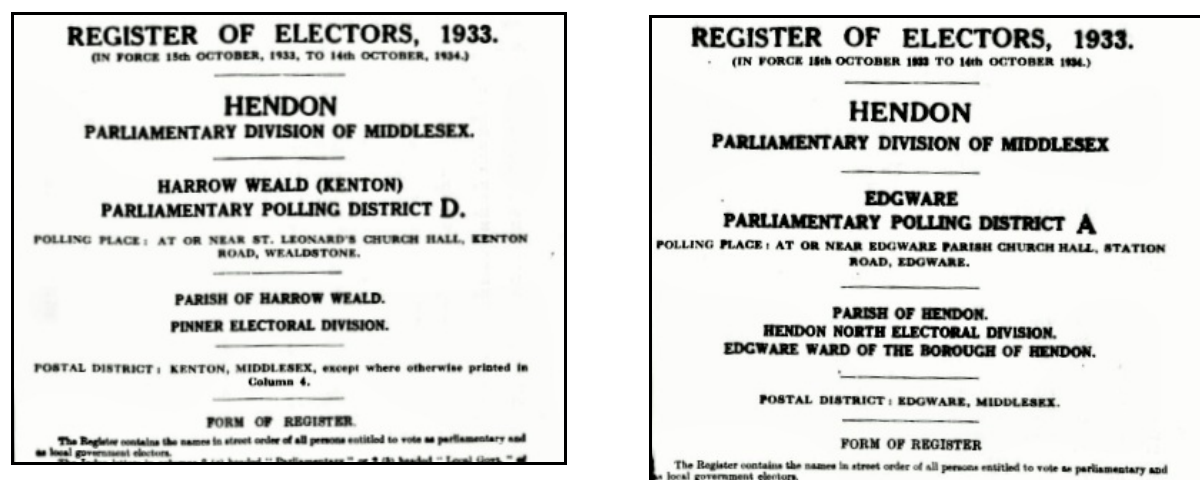


Figure 2: Extracts from the 1933 *Register of Electors* for the Hendon Parliamentary division. Left: first page of polling district D; right: first page of polling district A.

In view of these complexities with the *Registers*, the decision was made to source electorates from the edition of the *Harrow Observer and Gazette* for 31 March 1934. The newspaper reported the results of the first Harrow UDC election, and included the number of local government electors for each ward (except Pinner South, where there was an unopposed return), and those figures have been used in the results pages.

As the 1933 *Registers* were not organised by the new ward boundaries there is little incentive for a modern-era compilation of the electorates: such an exercise would be extremely time-consuming, subject to misidentification of the location of boundaries as well as the usual concerns about potential counting errors. The figures quoted by the *Observer* seem ‘fit for purpose’ as they would have been obtained from officers of the new urban district, representing their calculations at that time, of the electorate of each ward.

An alternative source for electorate figures for the 1934 election is an orange-coloured sheet of paper — of proven accuracy for later elections — held on file at the Elections Office, London Borough of Harrow. It contained slightly different electorate figures as follows:

Ward	<i>Harrow Observer</i> 31.3.34 Electorate	‘Orange’ sheet 1933 Register	Diff*
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	5,285	5,264	-21
Harrow Weald	4,148	4,157	+9
Headstone	4,968	4,981	+13
Kenton	5,318	5,295	-23
Pinner North	4,718	4,769	+51
Pinner South	-	4,548	n/a
Roxeth	5,143	5,123	-20
Stanmore North	3,748	3,841	+93
Stanmore South	4,975	4,955	-20
Wealdstone North	6,595	6,758	+163
Wealdstone South	5,929	5,914	-15
West Harrow	5,044	5,062	+18
TOTAL	60,419†	60,667	+248

* Difference = ‘Orange’ sheet electorate - *Observer* electorate

† Total includes 4,548 electors assigned to Pinner South ward

The biggest discrepancy between the two sources were for the Stanmore North and Wealdstone North wards, with electorates about 2.5% greater than the *Harrow Observer* value. For the urban district as a whole the ‘orange’ sheet provided about 0.4% more electors than the *Observer*.

1935-1937 Elections [1934-1936 *Registers*]

The 1935 election was fought using the 1934 *Register* of electors which came into force on 15 October 1934. By this date, the polling districts (and their entries) for the Harrow UD area were properly categorised, and wards clearly indicated (as exemplified in Figure 3).

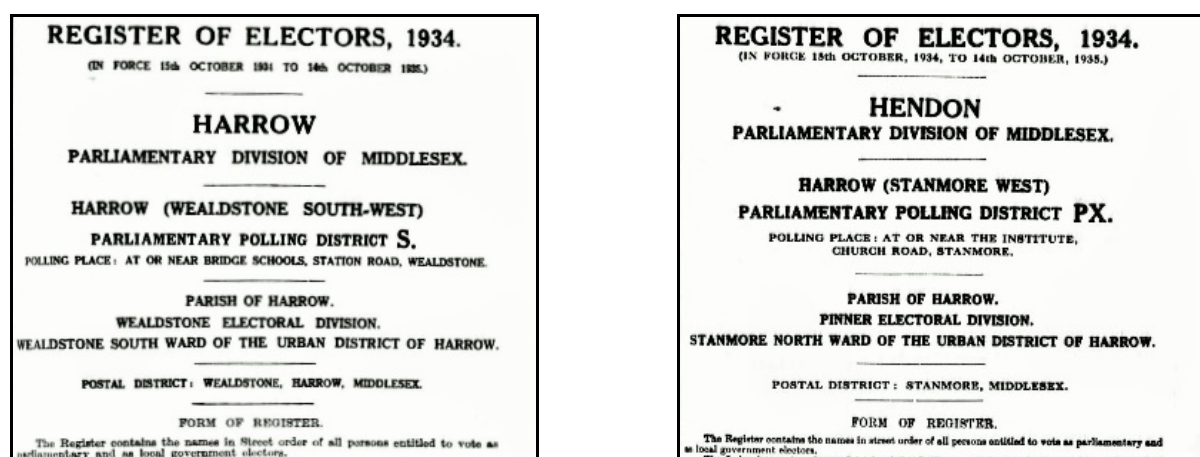


Figure 3: Extracts from the 1934 *Register of Electors* for the Harrow and Hendon Parliamentary divisions. Left: first page of polling district S (Harrow); right: first page of polling district PX (Hendon).

The proper identification of wards puts the researcher in a position to examine *Registers* and compile a list of the polling districts within each ward (see Appendix P, for example), with the option of counting the number of local government electors. It would still be a lengthy and tedious task, but identifying the composition of each ward is no longer a problem. Fortunately, the previously mentioned 'orange' sheet of paper, held on file in the Elections Office at Harrow Council, also contained a listing of the ward electorates as shown below:

Ward	'Orange' sheet 1934 Register	'Orange' sheet 1935 Register	'Orange' sheet 1936 Register
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	5,426	5,493	5,583
Harrow Weald	4,688	5,856	6,806
Headstone	5,048	5,200	5,380
Kenton	6,006	7,089	8,351
Pinner North	5,193	5,608	5,945
Pinner South	6,622	8,171	9,857
Roxeth	6,051	7,188	8,956
Stanmore North	4,487	5,284	5,869
Stanmore South	6,622	7,515	10,070
Wealdstone North	6,972	7,806	8,397
Wealdstone South	6,000	6,056	6,289
West Harrow	5,405	5,794	6,251
TOTAL	68,520	77,060	87,754

Knowing that the numbers on the 'orange' sheet originated from properly organised 1934, 1935 and 1936 *Registers* allowed confidence that they could now be used in the tabulation of results for the 1935, 1936 and 1937 UD elections, respectively.

Another set of electorate data was collected at some point during research in the early 1980s, but unfortunately the source and location was poorly recorded at the time. The heading in the notebook reads "'F. Kelly' Local Electors April 1939", and there follows ward electorates for the 1935-1938 *Registers*. On the whole the figures agreed with the 'orange' sheet, but with some noticeable exceptions. The tabulation below compares the differences for the 1935 and 1936 *Registers*, i.e. for the 1936 and 1937 elections.

Ward	'Orange' / 'Kelly' 1935 Register	Diff*	'Orange' / 'Kelly' 1936 Register	Diff*
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	5,493 / 5,493	-	5,583 / 5,583	-
Harrow Weald	5,856 / 5,583	-273	6,806 / 6,806	-
Headstone	5,200 / 5,300	+100	5,380 / 5,380	-
Kenton	7,089 / 7,089	-	8,351 / 8,351	-
Pinner North	5,608 / 5,608	-	5,945 / 5,945	-
Pinner South	8,171 / 8,171	-	9,857 / 9,857	-
Roxeth	7,188 / 7,188	-	8,956 / 8,956	-
Stanmore North	5,284 / 5,284	-	5,869 / 5,869	-
Stanmore South	7,515 / 7,515	-	10,070 / 10,070	-
Wealdstone North	7,806 / 7,607	-199	8,397 / 8,397	-
Wealdstone South	6,056 / 6,056	-	6,289 / 6,280	-9
West Harrow	5,794 / 5,794	-	6,251 / 6,251	-
TOTAL	77,060 / 76,688	-372	87,754 / 87,745	-9

* Difference = 'Kelly' electorate - 'Orange' sheet electorate

So as to clarify which figures were correct, the original 1935 *Registers of Electors* was examined and a count conducted, in the relevant sections, of all the local government electors in the three wards that showed a difference. For Harrow Weald ward a total of 5,857 electors was found, a difference from the 'orange' sheet of +1; for Headstone the count was 5,200 (exact agreement with the 'orange' sheet); and for Wealdstone North it was 7,785 (-21). This verification gave confidence in the use of the 'orange' sheet for electorate data for the 1935, 1936 and 1937 elections, rather than the modifications in the 'Kelly' group.

1938 Election [1937 Register]

A set of electorate figures for this election were the final ones included on the 'orange' sheet held in the Elections Office at Harrow Council. Another sheet of paper on file there, this time green in colour, featured an alternative set of figures that differed from the 'orange' sheet in five wards, while the previously discussed 'F. Kelly' variant was also available, only differing in one ward. The table below shows all three sets of figures; any variation of the 'green' or 'Kelly' figures from the 'orange' sheet are also indicated.

Ward	'Orange' sheet	'Green' sheet	Diff*	'Kelly' figure	Diff†
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	5,589	5,565	-24	5,565	-24
Harrow Weald	7,302	7,295	-7	7,302	-
Headstone	5,451	5,451	-	5,451	-
Kenton	9,248	9,308	+60	9,248	-
Pinner North	6,354	6,354	-	6,354	-
Pinner South	12,137	12,137	-	12,137	-
Roxeth	10,143	10,143	-	10,143	-
Stanmore North	6,462	6,462	-	6,462	-
Stanmore South	12,188	12,188	-	12,188	-
Wealdstone North	8,803	8,785	-18	8,803	-
Wealdstone South	6,460	6,460	-	6,460	-
West Harrow	6,799	6,868	+69	6,799	-
TOTAL	96,936	97,016	+80	96,912	-24

* Difference = 'Green' sheet electorate - 'Orange' sheet electorate

† Difference = 'Kelly' electorate - 'Orange' sheet electorate

The good level of agreement between the 'orange' sheet and 'Kelly' sources suggest these electorates were preferable for use, rather than those from the 'green' sheet. With regard to Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill ward, the 'orange' sheet electorate of 5,589 was chosen so as to maintain continuity of source for the four annual elections of the 1935-1938 period.

1939 Election [1938 Register]

With no electorate figures for this election on the 'orange' sheet, the two other sources — the 'green' sheet and the 'F. Kelly' data — have to be considered for use: their numbers are provided below.

Ward	'Green' sheet	'Kelly' figure	Diff*
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	5,624	5,578	-46
Harrow Weald	7,666	7,666	-
Headstone	5,592	5,562	-30
Kenton	10,457	10,457	-
Pinner North	6,891	6,891	-
Pinner South	13,201	13,201	-
Roxeth	10,900	10,900	-
Stanmore North	7,123	7,165	+42
Stanmore South	13,824	13,824	-
Wealdstone North	9,125	9,092	-33
Wealdstone South	6,834	6,834	-
West Harrow	7,355	7,355	-
TOTAL	104,592	104,525	-67

* Difference = 'Green' sheet electorate - 'Kelly' electorate

With exact agreement for eight wards and close agreement for the remaining four, it was not obvious which set of data might be preferable. Lacking further information at this stage, the 'Kelly' figures have been used *pro tem*; in due course a count in a couple of wards may resolve the issue.

1939 Register

The 1939 *Register of Electors* was published on 15 November 1939. The Local Elections and Register of Electors (Temporary Provisions) Act 1939 postponed the district election due in 1940 which, in normal circumstances, would have been conducted using the 1939 *Register*. See Appendix H for further details.

1946 Election [1945 Register]

The autumn 1945 *Register of Electors* was published on 15 October 1945; a *Supplementary Register* came into force on 1 March 1946. The purpose of the *Supplement* was to improve the accuracy of the original document, principally by adding further Service voters and those discharged from the Services. Appendix Q describes the structure of the *Register* further whilst Harrow Weald ward is examined in detail.

The table below shows the number of entries for each ward in the original October *Register*, together with the eventual number of electors at the election, as reported by the *Harrow Observer and Gazette* on 4 April 1946.

Ward	October 1945 Register Electorate	Harrow Observer 4.4.46 Electorate
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	8,680	8,930
Harrow Weald	11,060	11,380
Headstone	8,304	8,460
Kenton	14,702	15,000
Pinner North	10,429	10,670
Pinner South	n/a	19,450
Roxeth	15,487	15,870
Stanmore North	11,420	11,890
Stanmore South	19,694	20,180
Wealdstone North	12,856	[13,210]
Wealdstone South	9,840	10,080
West Harrow	10,884	11,160
TOTAL		156,280

The difference between the values in the two columns arises from the number of electors added from the *Supplementary Register*. The *Observer* did not publish an electorate for Wealdstone North ward as there was an unopposed return there; 13,210 electors have been assigned after a study of the *Registers*.

As there is no tabulation of the urban district's electorate in the files currently held by Harrow Council, the only realistic choice for ward data rests with the *Harrow Observer* report — the figures no doubt being supplied to the newspaper by officers of the council. It is known, however, from the Harrow Weald ward study, that there could nevertheless be some inaccuracies in the electorate data. That study explained how a full reconciliation, after all known factors were taken into consideration, was elusive:

October 1945 <i>Register</i> electorate:		11,060
Less one non local government elector:	-1	11,059
Plus number from <i>Supplementary Register</i> :	+299	11,358
Corrections (nett) due to known <i>Register</i> errors:	+3	11,361
Remaining difference from 11,380:		19

1947 and 1948 Elections [1946 and 1947 Registers]

A sheet of paper (white in colour) in files in the Elections Office at Harrow Council records the number of electors at the 1947 and 1948 district council elections. These data are shown below and are compared to figures supplied in reports in editions of the *Harrow Observer and Gazette*, for 3 April 1947 and 1 April 1948, respectively.

Ward	'White' / Observer 1947 Election	Diff*	'White' / Observer 1948 Election	Diff†
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	9,188 / 9,188	-	9,277 / 9,277	-
Harrow Weald	11,524 / 11,525	+1	11,994 / 11,994	-
Headstone	8,582 / 8,582	-	8,551 / 8,551	-
Kenton	15,162 / 15,162	-	15,323 / 15,323	-
Pinner North	10,686 / 10,686	-	10,833 / 19,798	+8,965
Pinner South	19,523 / 19,523	-	19,798 / 10,933	-8,965
Roxeth	16,159 / 16,159	-	16,273 / 16,273	-
Stanmore North	11,976 / 11,976	-	12,540 / 12,540	-
Stanmore South	20,496 / 20,496	-	20,593 / 20,593	-
Wealdstone North	13,497 / 13,567	+70	13,509 / 13,509	-
Wealdstone South	10,452 / 10,452	-	10,409 / 10,409	-
West Harrow	11,203 / 11,203	-	11,329 / 11,327	-2
TOTAL	158,448 / 158,519	+71	160,429 / 160,427	-2

* Difference = *Observer* electorate 3.4.47 - 'White' sheet electorate

† Difference = *Observer* electorate 1.4.48 - 'White' sheet electorate

Apart from an obvious transposition error for the two Pinner wards in 1948, there is exact or close agreement between the two sources, except for Wealdstone North ward in 1947. Lacking any other information at this stage, the 'white' sheet electorates have been used in this book.

1949-1953 Elections [1948-1952 Registers]

Electorate data was included as part of the full ward-by-ward results on file in the Elections Office at the London Borough of Harrow.