

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.

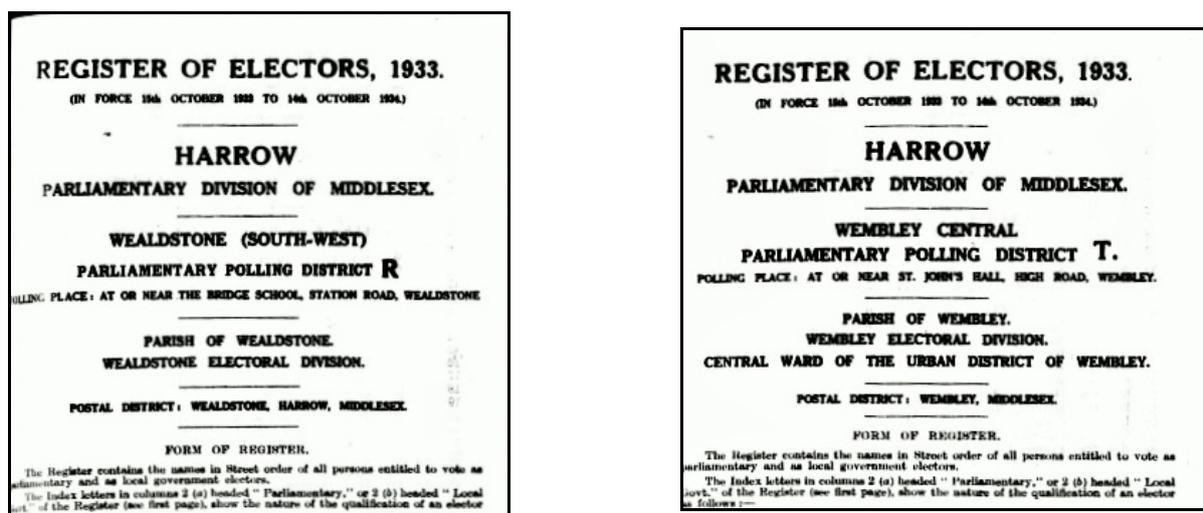


Figure 1: Extracts from the 1933 *Register of Electors* for the Harrow Parliamentary division. Left: first page of polling district R; right: first page of polling district T.

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.

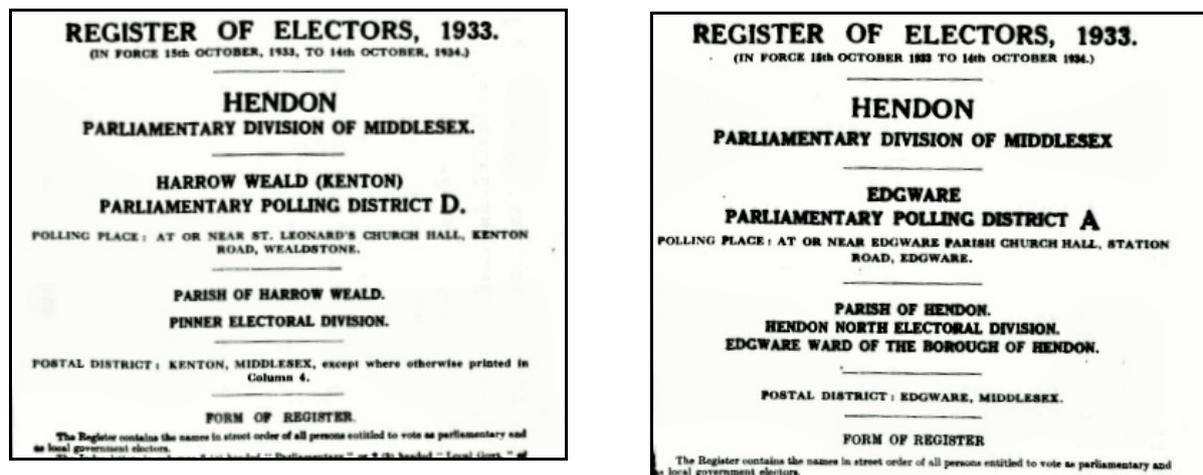


Figure 2: Extracts from the 1933 *Register of Electors* for the Hendon Parliamentary division. Left: first page of polling district D; right: first page of polling district A.

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 Election [1934 Register]

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).

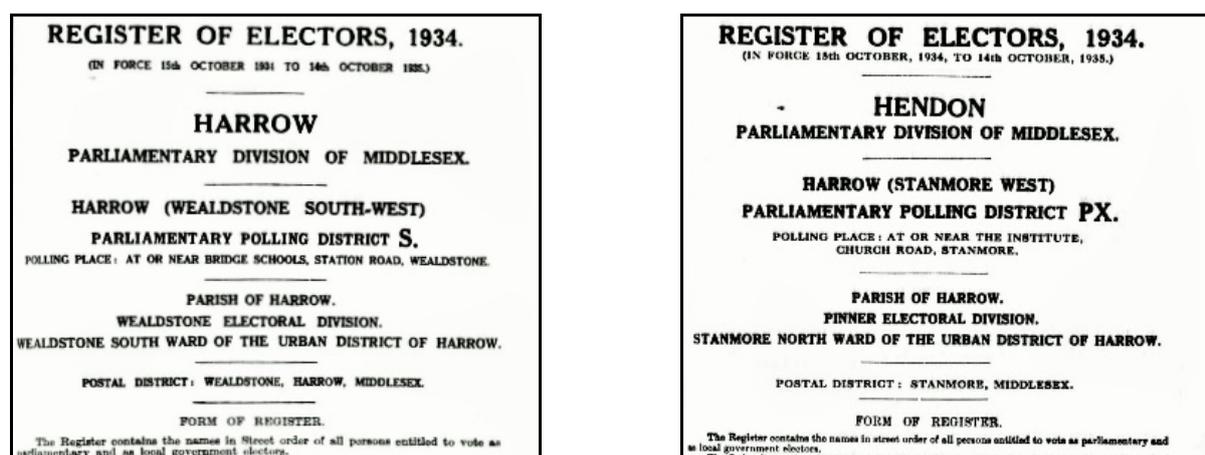


Figure 3: Extracts from the 1934 *Register of Electors* for the Harrow and Hendon Parliamentary divisions. Left: first page of polling district S (Harrow); right: first page of polling district PX (Hendon).

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 in the 1934 *Register*, and for the subsequent three years, as shown below:

Ward	'Orange' sheet 1934 Register	'Orange' sheet 1935 Register	'Orange' sheet 1936 Register	'Orange' sheet 1937 Register
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	5,426	5,493	5,583	5,589
Harrow Weald	4,688	5,856	6,806	7,302
Headstone	5,048	5,200	5,380	5,451
Kenton	6,006	7,089	8,351	9,248
Pinner North	5,193	5,608	5,945	6,354
Pinner South	6,622	8,171	9,857	12,137
Roxeth	6,051	7,188	8,956	10,143
Stanmore North	4,487	5,284	5,869	6,462
Stanmore South	6,622	7,515	10,070	12,188
Wealdstone North	6,972	7,806	8,397	8,803
Wealdstone South	6,000	6,056	6,289	6,460
West Harrow	5,405	5,794	6,251	6,799
TOTAL	68,520	77,060	87,754	96,936

Knowing that the numbers on the 'Orange' sheet originated from a properly organised 1934 *Register* allowed a measure of confidence that they could be used in the tabulation of results for the 1935 election.

1936 Election [1935 *Register*]

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 notebook heading reads "'F. Kelly' Local Electors April 1939", and there follows ward electorates for the 1935-1938 *Registers*. It is shown in the table (p. 94) that the figures agreed with the 'Orange' sheet, but with three notable exceptions.

For this election only a third collection of ward electorate data exists, to be found in paragraph 33 of the *Petition for Charter of Incorporation* submitted by Harrow UDC to the "King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council" in November 1935, see Figure 4. These data are also included in the table and compared to the data on the 'Orange' sheet.

PART V.				
CONSTITUTION OF COUNCIL.				
33. THE District is divided into twelve wards, in respect of				Wards.
which the Council do not propose any alteration. The names and				
the electorate of the wards are respectively as follows :—				
Name of Ward.	Local Government Electors,			
	1935 Register.			
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill				5,518
Harrow Weald	5,856
Headstone	5,200
Kenton	7,076
Pinner North	5,596
Pinner South	8,178
Roxeth	7,176
Stanmore North	5,292
Stanmore South	7,639
Wealdstone North	7,786
Wealdstone South	6,118
West Harrow	5,776

Figure 4: Paragraph 33 from Harrow UDC's *Petition for Charter of Incorporation*, November 1935.

Ward	'Orange' / 'Kelly' 1935 Register	Diff*	'Orange' / 'Petition' 1935 Register	Diff†
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	5,493 / 5,493	-	5,493 / 5,518	+25
Harrow Weald	5,856 / 5,583	-273	5,856 / 5,856	-
Headstone	5,200 / 5,300	+100	5,200 / 5,200	-
Kenton	7,089 / 7,089	-	7,089 / 7,076	-13
Pinner North	5,608 / 5,608	-	5,608 / 5,596	-12
Pinner South	8,171 / 8,171	-	8,171 / 8,178	+7
Roxeth	7,188 / 7,188	-	7,188 / 7,176	-12
Stanmore North	5,284 / 5,284	-	5,284 / 5,292	+8
Stanmore South	7,515 / 7,515	-	7,515 / 7,639	+124
Wealdstone North	7,806 / 7,607	-199	7,806 / 7,786	-20
Wealdstone South	6,056 / 6,056	-	6,056 / 6,118	+62
West Harrow	5,794 / 5,794	-	5,794 / 5,776	-18
TOTAL	77,060 / 76,688	-372	77,060 / 77,211	+151

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

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

So as to clarify which figures were correct, the original 1935 *Register 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 the 'Kelly' figures. 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 1936 election, rather than the modifications found in the 'Kelly' group.

It is interesting to note that the manual count for Wealdstone North ward gave a figure (7,785) that was extremely close to that presented in the *Petition* (7,786). There was no difference between the 'Orange' sheet and the *Petition* for the Harrow Weald and Headstone wards, so the only hesitation for using the *Petition* data are the relatively big discrepancies seen for Stanmore South and Wealdstone South. In the absence, at this stage, of any manual counts of other wards, the 'Orange' sheet has been adopted as the source for electorates at the 1936 election.

Note that the issue of the *Harrow Observer* dated 27 March 1936 gave electorate figures for four wards only: Headstone (5,300), Pinner South (8,771), Stanmore North (5,284) and Wealdstone North (7,807). These numbers bear resemblance to those in the 'Orange' sheets if allowance is made for misprints by the newspaper. It is unclear how the *Observer* could report the total electors at the election as 79,761.

1937 Election [1936 Register]

The table compares ward electorates from the 'Orange' sheet with the 'Kelly' data.

Ward	'Orange' / 'Kelly' 1936 Register	Diff*
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	5,583 / 5,583	-
Harrow Weald	6,806 / 6,806	-
Headstone	5,380 / 5,380	-
Kenton	8,351 / 8,351	-
Pinner North	5,945 / 5,945	-
Pinner South	9,857 / 9,857	-
Roxeth	8,956 / 8,956	-
Stanmore North	5,869 / 5,869	-
Stanmore South	10,070 / 10,070	-
Wealdstone North	8,397 / 8,397	-
Wealdstone South	6,289 / 6,280	-9
West Harrow	6,251 / 6,251	-
TOTAL	87,754 / 87,745	-9

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

With the exception of West Harrow ward, exact agreement is observed between the two sources. For continuity, the 'Orange' sheet electorates are used as the source of electorates at the 1937 election.

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 manual counts in a couple of wards that show discrepancies 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 [October 1945 *Register* + March 1946 *Supplement*]

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, with Harrow Weald ward 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. (The *Observer* data set gives every appearance of having been 'rounded' to the nearest decade.)

Ward	October 1945 <i>Register</i> Electorate	<i>Harrow Observer</i> 4.4.46 Electorate	Difference
Harrow-on-the-Hill and Greenhill	8,680	8,930	+250
Harrow Weald	11,060	11,380	+320
Headstone	8,304	8,460	+156
Kenton	14,702	15,000	+298
Pinner North	10,429	10,670	+241
Pinner South	n/a	19,450	n/a
Roxeth	15,487	15,870	+383
Stanmore North	11,420	11,890	+470
Stanmore South	19,694	20,180	+486
Wealdstone North	12,856	[13,210]	[+354]
Wealdstone South	9,840	10,080	+240
West Harrow	10,884	11,160	+276
TOTAL		156,280	

The differences between the values in the two columns should arise, almost exclusively, 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 at this election 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. However, it is known from the Harrow Weald ward study in Appendix Q that some inaccuracies in the electorate data could still remain. That study explained how a full reconciliation for the ward, even after all known factors were taken into consideration, was elusive:

October 1945 <i>Register</i> electorate:		11,060
Less 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 (<i>Observer</i>):		19

1947 and 1948 Elections [1946 and 1947 Registers]

A sheet of paper (white in colour), on file in the Elections Office at Harrow Council, records the number of electors in each ward at the 1947 and 1948 district council elections. These data are shown below and are compared to figures available in editions of the *Harrow Observer and Gazette*, for 3 April 1947 and 8 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 / 10,833	-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 8.4.48 - 'White' sheet electorate

Apart from an obvious newspaper transposition error for the two Pinner wards in 1948, there is exact or very 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.

Conclusion

The following list summarises the sources selected for electorate data in this volume of *Harrow Votes* in the belief that they currently offer the most accurate choice.

Election(s)	Source
1934	<i>Harrow Observer</i> , 31 March 1934. [Pinner South ward: 'Orange' sheet.]
1935-1938	'Orange' sheet of paper containing ward electorates, held on file in the Elections Office, London Borough of Harrow.
1939	'F. Kelly' electorate data held in author's collection, provenance uncertain.
1946	<i>Harrow Observer</i> , 4 April 1946. [Wealdstone North ward: estimated from <i>Registers</i> .]
1947-1948	'White' sheet of paper containing ward electorates, held on file in the Elections Office, London Borough of Harrow.
1949-1953	Full detailed ward results held on file in the Elections Office, London Borough of Harrow.