Roman Enfield

Roman settlement in the Bush Hill Park area close to Ermine Street, which was the Roman road from London to York. Roman remains from the third century found at Churchfields, Edmonton.

8th Century

790  King Offa recorded as giving Edmonton to St Alban’s Abbey

794/ 5  The Lea Valley established as a front line between the Kingdoms of Alfred and Guthrum

13th Century

1290  Funeral procession of Queen Eleanor of Castile, wife of King Edward I passed through Enfield

14th Century

1303  Edward I granted the first market charter giving the right to hold a weekly market at Enfield and two fairs annually to Humphrey de Bohun, the Lord of the Manor of Enfield

1349  The Black Death struck Enfield and by December had decimated the population of Enfield.

1362  A second outbreak of plague struck Enfield.

1371  Existence of a settlement recorded at Southgate ("Suthgate")

15th Century

1425  Act of Parliament for improving the navigation between London and Hertford. Appointment of commissioners to deal with obstructions in the course of the river.

1471  The Battle of Barnet fought on the edge of Enfield Chase near the village of Monken Hadley
16th Century

1539 Elsynge became a royal palace when Henry VIII put pressure on the owner, the Earl of Rutland, to exchange it for other properties.

1557 Enfield Grammar School, Church Walk founded.

1564 1568 and 1572 Queen Elizabeth stayed at Elsynge

1571 Act of Parliament for improving navigation between London and Ware. The river was scoured and embanked in certain areas. By 1577 a pound lock (one of the earliest in the country) had been built at Waltham Abbey.

1581 Attempts to sabotage the river. The banks were cut near Green Street and there was an attempt to burn the lock at Waltham. The unrest was led by Enfield maltmen who had lost business because of malt and barley being carried by river instead of by road.

17th Century

1606 New River Company set up by Act of Parliament to bring fresh water from springs near Ware to London. Construction began c1608/9 and was complete by 1613.

1618 James I granted Enfield a market charter to which the present market traces its origins.

1624 Latymer School, Haselbury Road founded.

1629 Forty Hall built by Sir Nicholas Rainton. Completed in 1632.

1632 Enfield Town Market Place created.

1656 Enfield Chase sold off primarily to army officers

1659 Disturbances at Enfield Chase over subsequent enclosures

1682 Clarendon Arch and Tunnel built.

18th Century

1719 Enfield Parish Workhouse established. Completely rebuilt in 1827. Now the Enfield Community Care Centre
1731/2 Edmonton Parish Workhouse built. Closed and demolished after the opening of the Edmonton Union Workhouse (Silver Street) in 1842.

1753 The Elizabeth Canning case. She falsely claimed to have been kidnapped and imprisoned at a house close to the junction of Welches Lane (Ordnance Road) and the Hertford Road. Initially her story was believed and led to arrests and convictions. She was later found to have lied and was charged with perjury, convicted and sentenced to transportation.

1790 Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, Winchmore Hill built.

1791 Whitewebbs House built by Dr Abraham Wilkinson

1796 Millfield House, Silver Street built.

1797 Grovelands, The Bourne built as a private house for Walker Gray, a Quaker brewer from Tottenham, designed by John Nash with grounds by Humphry Repton. After Gray's death the property was acquired by John Donnithorne Taylor whose family continued to live at Grovelands up to World War I. Part of the estate was purchased by Southgate Council in 1913 to become Grovelands Park. The house became a hospital in 1916 and is now a private psychiatric hospital. The rest of the estate was sold for building.

19th Century

1803 Enfield Enclosure Act

1809 Grout and Baylis' black crape mill established at the junction of South Street and Scotland Green Road, Ponders End.

1813 St Paul's C of E Primary School, Ringwood Way founded.

1815 Royal Small Arms Factory established at Enfield Lock.

1818 Latymer All Saints C of E Primary School, Church Street founded.

1827 Enfield Parish Workhouse, Chase Side Crescent built. Now the Enfield Community Care Centre.

1827/28 St Paul, Church Hill, Winchmore Hill built.

1831 St James, Hertford Road, Enfield Highway built.

1833 St James's C of E Primary School, Frederick Crescent founded.
1835 Jesus Church, Forty Hill built.

1837 Implementation of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. Edmonton and Enfield lost their powers regarding poor relief to the Edmonton Board of Guardians.

1839 Christ Church, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters built.
St Andrew's C of E Primary School, London Road opened.

1840 Opening of the first section of the Cambridge main line from Stratford to Broxbourne. Stations at Angel Road and Ponders End.

1841 St Matthew's C of E Primary School, South Street opened.

1842 Edmonton Union Workhouse, Silver Street built. Now the North Middlesex Hospital.

1847 Gas works opened at Angel Road, Edmonton.

1849 Opening of branch line from Angel Road to Enfield Town with intermediate station on Edmonton Green.

1850 Edmonton and Enfield both adopted the 1848 Public Health Act, setting up directly elected local boards of health. Opening of first section of main line from London to Peterborough. Stations at New Southgate and Potters Bar.

1851 Forty Hill C of E Primary School, Forty Hill opened.

1855 Enfield Waterworks set up.
St James's C of E Primary School, Grove Street founded.
River Lee Water Act authorised a new lock at Amwell Marsh and the removal of Stanstead Lock. Edmonton Lock was to be removed and Picketts Lock rebuilt.

1857 St John, Clay Hill built. 1859 Gas works opened at Ponders End.

1863 Christ Church, Waterfall Road, Southgate built.

1865 St Michael's C of E Primary School, Brigadier Hill opened as the Holly Bush Infant School.

1866 St Michael at Bowes C of E Primary School, Tottenhall Road opened as the Tile Kiln Lane School.

1867 North Middlesex Waterworks built. Palmers Green shown on the Ordnance Survey map as a hamlet consisting of The Fox and a cluster of cottages where Fox Lane and
Hazelwood Lane join Green Lanes. To the south, in the area around the Cock Tavern lay the hamlet of Bowes.

1871 Opening of branch line from Wood Green to Enfield. Station built in Aldermans Hill to serve Palmers Green, the nearest houses were nearly a quarter of a mile away and most of the land consisted of large estates whose owners had no intention of selling for building.

1872 Opening of direct line from London via Bethnal Green, Hackney Downs and Seven Sisters. Linked up with 1849 branch line at Lower Edmonton.

1874 St George's C of E Primary School, Hertford Road opened.


1879 Bycullah Waterworks set up.

1880 Edmonton School Board set up under the terms of the 1870 Education Act. Opening of Bush Hill Park station to serve a new housing development. Opening of Bowes Park station to serve a new housing development.

1881 Separation of Southgate from Edmonton. This was achieved by a private Act of Parliament, following a prolonged campaign for separation. Establishment of the Southgate Local Board of Health. Opening of horse tramway from Stamford Hill to Ponders End. Depot at Tramway Avenue.

1882 Brettenham Primary School, Brettenham Road opened.

1883 St Mary Magdalene, Windmill Hill built.

1885 St Andrew's C of E Primary School, Chase Road opened.

1885/90 Highlands, Worlds End Lane, built as an isolation hospital.

1886 Chase Farm hospital built, originally as a Poor Law orphanage. It became a hospital in 1939. Ediswan took over the former jute mill at Duck Lees Lane, Ponders End and began manufacturing light bulbs and later radio valves.

1888 St Mary's RC Primary School, Alma Road opened.

1889 Establishment of Middlesex County Council. (Local government at county level had previously been carried out by the county magistrates meeting at quarter sessions) St John's C of E Primary School, Clay Hill built.
1891  Opening of Southbury Loop from Edmonton to Cheshunt with stations at Southbury Road and Turkey Street.

1894  Establishment of the Enfield School Board.

1895  Implementation of the 1894 Local Government Act. The local boards of health for Edmonton, Enfield and Southgate were replaced by urban district councils.

1896  Bush Hill Park Primary School, Main Avenue opened.
      Raynham Primary School, Raaynham Avenue opened.

1897  Alma Primary School, Alma Road built.
      Chesterfield Primary School, Chesterfield Road opened.
      Central Library in Fore Street Edmonton opened.

1899  Eldon Primary School, Eldon Road opened.

20th Century

1901  Bowes Primary School, Bowes Road built.
      Chase Side Primary School, Trinity Street opened.
      Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St George, London Road opened.

1902  Beginning of the development of Palmers Green when large tracts of land formerly owned by the Taylors of Grovelands were sold for building. The first area to be developed was the Old Park Estate between Fox Lane and Aldermans Hill. At the same time building work began on the Hazelwood Park Estate between Hazelwood Lane and Hedge Lane.

1903  Banbury and Lockwood Reservoirs completed.
      Brimsdown Power Station opened.
      Houndsfield Primary School, Houndsfield Road built.
      St George's RC Primary School, Cecil Road opened.
      St Aldhelm, Silver Street, Edmonton built.

1904  St John, Green Lanes, Palmers Green built. Completed in 1909

1905  Extension of electric trams from Tottenham to Edmonton (Tramway Avenue)
      Southbury Primary School, Swansea Road opened.
      St Edmund RC Church, Hertford Road built. Completed in 1907
1906  Extension of electric trams from Tramway Avenue to Freezywater (via Hertford Road)
       St Stephen, Village Road built.

1907  Electricity supplied to the Enfield Town area.
       Extension of electric trams from Bounds Green to New Southgate (Station Road) and
       from Wood Green to Winchmore Hill (Green Dragon)

1908  Clappers Green Farm (between Fox Lane and Bourne Hill) was sold. Part was
       acquired by Middlesex County Council forming the site of the Southgate County
       School. The rest was sold for building.
       Extension of electric trams from Freezywater to Waltham Cross
       Hazelwood Primary School, Hazelwood Lane opened.

1909  Eastfield Primary School, Eastfield Road opened.
       Extension from New Southgate to North Finchley. Extension from Winchmore Hill to
       Enfield Town (via Ridge Avenue and Village Road)
       Withdrawal of passenger services on Southbury Loop because of tramway
       competition. (The service was temporarily re-instated 1915/19 for use of munitions
       workers)
       Enfield County School, Holly Walk opened.

1910  Enfield Highway Library, opened.
       Lavender Primary School, Lavender Road opened.
       Opening of railway extension from Enfield to Cuffley. Stations at Grange Park,
       Enfield Chase, Gordon Hill and Crews Hill.

1911  The Lodge estate (between Hazelwood Lane and Oakthorpe Road) was sold off for
       building.
       Railway extension from Ponders End to Enfield Town (via Southbury Road)

1912  Belling began manufacturing electric fires in Lancaster Road, Enfield.
       Central Library, Cecil Road, Enfield opened.
       George Spicer Primary School, Southbury Road opened.
       St Edmund's RC Primary School, Hertford Road, Edmonton opened.

1913  First electric street lighting in the Enfield area completed (at Green Lanes,
       Winchmore Hill)
       King George V Reservoir completed.

1914  St Monica RC Church, Green Lanes opened.
       Tottenhall School, Tottenhall Road built.
       Winchmore Primary School, Highfield Road opened.
1920 Re-organisation of Liverpool Street suburban services to ease rush hour overcrowding on Enfield Town and Chingford trains.

1921 St Mary RC Church, Nags Head Road opened.

1922/3 Reconstruction of locks etc. between Enfield and Hertford. The width was increased from 13ft 3in to 16ft and the length increased to 90ft.

1928 Bruce Forsyth is born on Victoria Road in Edmonton. He would become the most successful entertainer recorded in the Guinness Book of Records as having the longest television career for a male entertainer
Raglan School, Raglan Road opened.

1930 Piccadilly Line Cockfosters Extension sanctioned.

1931 Edmonton County School, Great Cambridge Road built.

1931/32 Hazelbury Primary School, Haselbury Road opened.

1932 Piccadilly Line extension opened as far as Arnos Grove.

1933 Southgate became a borough.
Piccadilly Line extension completed to Southgate, Oakwood and Cockfosters.

1934 Raglan Infant School, Raglan Road opened.
Suffolks Primary School, Brick Lane opened.

1935 Our Lady of Lourdes, Bowes Road opened.
Work started on the Girling Reservoir, work completed in 1951.

1936 De Bohun Primary School, Green Road opened.
Christ the King, Bramley Road RC chapel registered for public worship.

1937 Galliard Primary School, Galliard Road opened.
Edmonton became a borough.
Houndsfield Road Library, Edmonton opened.
Oakthorpe Primary School, Tile Kiln Lane opened.

1938 All tram routes in Edmonton and Enfield converted for trolleybus operation (except for the Southbury Road route which was taken over by motor buses)
Arnos School (later Broomfield), Wilmer Way opened.

1939 Albany School, Bell Lane built.
Brimsdown Primary School, Green Street opened.
De Bohun, Green Road and Bowes Road libraries opened.

1940 Merryhills Primary School, Bincote Road opened.  
Palmers Green Library opened as part of the Southgate Town Hall complex.

1941 St Peter, Vera Avenue, Grange Park built.  
St Thomas, Sheringham Avenue, Oakwood built, completed in 1965.

1948 Bush Hill Park Library opened.  
Cuckoo Hall Primary School, Cuckoo Hall Lane opened.

1949 Carterhatch Primary School opened.

1950 Prince of Wales Primary School, Salisbury Road opened.

1951 Grange Park Primary School, Worlds End Lane opened.  
Honilands Primary School, Lovell Road opened.

1953 Walker Primary School, Waterfall Road opened.  
Wilbury Primary School, Wilbury Way opened.

1954 Eversley Infant School, Chaseville Park Road opened.  
Firs Farm Primary School, Rayleigh Road opened.  
St Monica's RC Primary School, Cannon Road opened.  
Worcesters Primary School, Goat Lane opened.

1955 Enfield became a borough.

1956 Chace School, Churchbury Lane opened.  
Winchmore School, Highfield Road opened.

1957 Eversley Junior School, Chaseville Park Road opened.  
Fleecefield Primary School, Brettenham Road opened.  
Bullsmoor, Kempe Road Library opened.

1958 Capel Manor Primary School, Bullsmoor Lane opened.

1960 Electrification from Liverpool Street to Enfield Town, Chingford, Hertford East and Bishops Stortford. Re-opening of Southbury Loop.  
Southgate School, Sussex Way opened.

1961 All trolleybus routes in Enfield and Edmonton taken over by motor buses. Removal of overhead wires.  
Winchmore Hill Library opened.

1962 Ponders End Library opened.
1963  Ridge Avenue Library opened.

1964  Merryhills Library, Enfield Road opened.
      Our Lady of Walsingham, Holtwhites Hill registered for public worship.

1965  Hadley Wood Primary School, Courtleigh Avenue opened.

      Southgate merged to form the London Borough of Enfield. Abolition of Middlesex

1966  Southgate Library opened.

1967  Bishop Stopford C of E Secondary School, Brick Lane opened.
      Kingsmead School, Southbury Road opened.

1968  St Ignatius RC Secondary School for boys moved to Turkey Street from Stamford
      Hill.
      Electrification of Lea Valley line between Clapton and Cheshunt.

1971  Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School, The Limes Avenue opened.

1972  Aylward School, Windmill Road built.

1974  Building started on Churchfield Primary School, Latymer Road.
      Garfield Primary School, Springfield Road opened.
      St Angela's RC Secondary School for girls moved to Oakthorpe Road from Wood
      Green.

1976  Ordnance Road Library opened. 1977 Bulls Moor School, Bullsmoor Lane built.

1982  Salisbury School, Turin Road opened.

1986  Abolition of the Greater London Council. The powers were distributed among the
      London boroughs and a range of joint committees

1988  Millfield Theatre opened in the grounds of Millfield House on Silver Street,
      Edmonton.

1991  Edmonton Green Library opened. Houndsfield and Fore Street closed