



The Wandle Trail Walk and Cycle Route

www.wandletrail.org



Wandsworth Museum

10 WANDLE PARK TO PLOUGH LANE (1.56km, 21 mins)

Along Bygrove Road, cross the bridge over the river, along the path. When you reach the next bridge* cross the river into the **Wandle Meadow Nature Park**.

Wandle Meadow Nature Park was until recently a sewage works, but is now managed as a Local Nature Reserve.

Under the road bridge and leaving the river, walk past the pylon through the centre of the park towards the railway. Leave the park via the gateway next to the tunnel under the railway line.

This tunnel indicates the position of the Surrey Iron Railway (early C19th).

Pass under the railway, continuing along the path to Plough Lane. Turn left and cross Plough Lane at the controlled crossing in the middle of the bridge. Turn right and then immediately left along path, with the river on your right.

On your left used to stand the former home of Wimbledon Football Club, winners of the FA Cup in 1988.

*this bridge is planned for construction in 2005

9 MERTON ABBEY MILLS TO WANDLE PARK (Merton) (0.78km, 11 mins)

When you reach Merantun Way cross at the controlled crossing, and go through the archway. Cross over Station Road and go left along the riverside path. Soon you will see Savacentre on your right across the river, and you will pass a plaque marking the site of the C19th William Morris factory. Exit the path and turn right across the bridge over the river (towards Savacentre) then turn left with the river on your left. Follow the path across the bridge over the Pickle Ditch and turn right, follow the path round the building and down some steps to Merton High Street, then cross over the access road to Priory Retail Park (to avoid the steps, keep right after the Pickle Ditch and go around the pub keeping it on your left). You then come to a large road junction. Turn right and cross using controlled crossing towards **Wandle Park**. Enter the park, follow path over 2 footbridges, then turn right and follow the path, leaving the park, with the Lodge on your right, turn into Bygrove Road.

The large former water mill building on your left is the old Connolly's Mill, built in the late C18th by John Rennie, and which was linked to Wandsworth by the Surrey Iron Railway.

8 MORDEN HALL PARK TO MERTON ABBEY MILLS (1.76km, 25 mins)

Follow the avenue of trees through the park. Cross the bridge over the main river channel. Ahead you will see **Morden Hall**.

Morden Hall was built in the mid-C18th on the site of an earlier building by Richard Garth, lord of the manor of Morden.

Then cross the two smaller bridges and turn right again. Follow the path through the wetland to the tramlink crossing. Cross carefully, checking both ways for trams. Turn right over the small wooden bridge, then follow path round to turn right into river on your right. Continue past **Deen City Farm** on your left, coming out at Phipps Bridge. Continue left along tarmac road. Cross over Windsor Avenue. Continue left. Soon you will see **Merton Abbey Mills** on your right across the river.

Merton Abbey Mills and their C18th wheelhouse were used by Littletons in the C19th, and Liberty's Print Works in the C20th.



Ravensbury Park



The Wandle near Dale Park

The River near Wilderness Island

Countryside Code

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep all water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Make no unnecessary noise
- Follow the Good Cycling Code

7 POULTER PARK TO MORDEN HALL PARK (1.87km, 25 mins)

Pass Bishopsford House and sports pitches on left. Continue to Bennetts Hole. Go left, past Watermeads Nature Reserve on your right, to Bishopsford Road. Turn right over road bridge and cross the road using central refuge. Turn right into **Ravensbury Park**. Cross over 2 small bridges, turn right. Continue left through park, with river on your left, to emerge at Morden Road by **Ravensbury Mill**.

Ravensbury Mill still retains 2 water mills which were in operation until the middle of the C20th. Ravensbury Park is managed as a Local Nature Reserve.

Along Morden Road and cross at controlled crossing. After 50 metres turn right into **Morden Hall Park**. Morden Hall Park took on most of its present character when it was acquired and laid out in the middle of the C19th by the Hatfield family.



Wandle Park

11 PLOUGH LANE TO KING GEORGE'S PARK (2.10km, 30 mins)

Follow the path for about 1 km, through the **Lower Wandle Nature Reserve**. The path emerges at Trewant Street Bridge. Turn right over the bridge into Trewant Street.

Muddy deposits at the edge of the river allow some plants to get a foothold, including the pretty, but invasive Himalayan Balsam and Pendulous Sedge.

Along Summerley Street then turn right again onto Garratt Lane. Pass under the railway bridge with Earlsfield station on your right. Turn right into Penwith Road then turn right into Acuba Road. At the junction of Acuba Road and Bodmin Street, enter **King George's Park**.

KING GEORGE'S PARK (1.27km, 17 mins)

Before rejoining the river you will pass an acid grassland, the remains of a WW2 army coal depot.

Keeping to the right of the Park (and left of the river), follow the river over Kimber Road, into a sports field, then leave the river to travel down to a lower field. Turn right to travel behind the Leisure Centre over a footbridge into Garratt Lane, then turn right into Mapleton Road. At the junction with Neville Gill Close, re-enter King George's Park.

The walls of the river here support a range of ferns, including Male Fern and Harts Tongue Fern.

Turn right in the Park to pass ornamental gardens, tennis courts, bowling green and lake, then turn right onto Buckhold Road. At the High Street cross, then turn right.



King George's Park

12 KING GEORGE'S PARK TO THE THAMES (1.15km, 16 mins)

Looking downstream, you can see Youngs brewery on the right. This is the oldest site in Britain upon which there has been continuous brewing. There are shoals of Dace in the river here. The Grey Wagtail is a frequent visitor. Hemlock, Water-Dropwort and Hemp Agrimony grow on the shelves at the base of the concrete channel.

Almost immediately turn right into Wandsworth Plain, using the left-hand pavement. All Saints Church is on your left at the junction. Cross the busy Armoury Way. Turn right on the other side, by the Crane pub into The Causeway, which bears left as it rejoins the river.

Looking North, the patch of silty land to your left provides a nesting ground for Moorhens each Spring. Water Mint and Brooklime have found a foothold on the recently added tidal terrace. You can sometimes see a Kingfisher here.

Follow the river round past Bell Lane Creek to The Spit, and a view of the River Thames.

The walls of Bell Lane Creek are heavily vegetated with Marsh Yellow Cress and Garden Angelica. There are large numbers of Eels in this stretch and Pike can occasionally be seen taking advantage of this food source.

The Spit is an area of land protruding into the Wandle just below its confluence with the River Thames. Smelt, Dace and Flounder spawn in this area, attracting a variety of birds including the Great Crested Grebe. Tidal terraces have recently been created to encourage such bird life.



The Wandle near Young's Brewery



Lower Wandle Nature Reserve

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Walk and Cycle Route



How to get there



By train to East Croydon Station (Brighton/Gatwick Airport-London/Luton) (Purley/Tattenham Corner/East Grinstead-London) (south coast-London)

By train to Waddon Station (Dorking/Epsom/Sutton-West Croydon/London) Ring 08457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

By tram to Wandle Park tram stop/East Croydon Station. Trams run about every 10 minutes Ring 020 7222 1234 or visit www.tfl.gov.uk/trams for details

By bus numbers 64, 119, 130, 194, 197, 198, 312, 367, 409, 410, 466, 726 and T33 to East Croydon Station Ring 020 7222 1234 for local guides/times or visit www.tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner

Useful numbers & Contacts

Groundwork Merton Telephone: 020 8687 4050 www.groundwork.org.uk/merton

Sustrans Telephone: 0845 113 0065 www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk (for interactive mapping)

London Borough of Sutton Telephone: 020 8770 5000 www.sutton.gov.uk

London Borough of Merton Telephone: 020 8274 4901 www.merton.gov.uk

London Borough of Wandsworth Telephone: 020 8871 6000 www.wandsworth.gov.uk

1 EAST CROYDON STATION TO WADDON PONDS 2 (2.08km, 30 mins*)

Leave station into George Street. Cross Park Lane and continue along George Street. At North End down Crown Hill towards church. Turn into Old Palace Road at the Gun Tavern, first into Church Road. 20 metres, down alley towards church, along side of church, past west front. Through subway beneath Roman Way, then up along St John's Road. First into Sylverdale Road and at end through alleyway, to Waddon New Road. Over footbridge into Wandle Park(Croydon). Then next to leave park, cross tram track by Wandle Park tram stop. (To avoid bridge turn along Waddon New Road, at lights along Waddon Road. Rejoin Trail at Vicarage Road).

Along Vicarage Road, into Waddon Road. Keep up. Cross Purley Way, down Mill Lane to Waddon Ponds.

*Estimated walking time for this and other sections of the Trail, are based on an average walking speed of 4.5kmph

Did you know that walking can have benefits for your health?

As well as being a great way to get out in the fresh air and see your surroundings, walking can help to:

- Increase your fitness, stamina, confidence and well-being
- Reduce the risk of heart disease
- Control body weight
- Strengthen bones
- Reduce high blood pressure
- Reduce stress and anxiety

The Story of the Wandle Trail

The River Wandle has two sources, in Waddon and Carshalton, and flows to join the River Thames at Wandsworth. In its industrial heyday, it was Britain's 'hardest working river', with over 90 mills along its banks.

The Wandle Group, the Wandle Industrial Museum and the riparian London Boroughs have developed the (20 km/14mile long) Wandle Trail. The Trail allows local people to enjoy the heritage interest and flora and fauna of this typical chalk stream in the heart of some of south London's most industrialised landscape.

The route description guides walkers from south (East Croydon) to north (the River Thames), but is easy to follow in either direction. We have included estimated walking times for each section.

In places, the ground is uneven, making the Trail difficult for wheelchair users. However, the Wandle Trail Partners are committed to making it safer and more accessible for all users. Improvement work is in progress. The text describes alternative routes for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility, where necessary.

The map shows both walking and cycling routes, which coincide for much of the way but differ in places. It also shows links to other cycle routes and public transport. Part of the Trail is National Cycle Network Route 22.

The Wandle Trail Art Programme is providing numbered gateways, viewing platforms and distinctive waymarkers. A travelling 'waste wall' will be the focus of community rubbish collection events. Visit www.wandletrail.org for further information.

The Wandle Trail partners (the London Boroughs of Sutton, Merton and Wandsworth, Groundwork Merton and Sustrans) have published this map leaflet. The idea developed from the Wandle Industrial Museum's earlier map and 'The Wandle Guide', published by the London Borough of Sutton for the Wandle Group.

2 WADDON PONDS TO CAREW MANOR 3 (1.44km, 20 mins)

Pass the Ponds on your left, continue up along bridleway. At Mill Lane Trading Estate, take right fork in path. At Lavington Road, cross footbridge over river, along Richmond Green. Take left fork in path at junction with Petersham Terrace, follow river. Turn at junction of Kingston Gardens and Wandle Road. In front of mill into Bridges Lane. Pass the row of cottages called Mount Pleasant.

Beddington Mill was probably founded on the site of a medieval mill. During the eighteenth century it was used to grind corn and later to grind tobacco into snuff. The existing brick mill was built in the 1890s for J and TH Wallis, who ran a bakery as well as a flourmill.

Take riverside footpath between Wandle Court (on left) and river. At end of path, cross Hilliers Lane at controlled crossing, go into Guy Road. 100 metres across the bridge. Turn and keep river on your left, take left fork behind first block of flats. Path curves right into a copse and left at the large cedar tree. When path forks (tarmac path goes right), follow track to left towards **Carew Manor**.

Carew Manor was the home of the Carews of Beddington for 500 years. The house still contains a Great Hall with an impressive timber arch-braced hammer-beam roof, which dates from around 1500. You can also see the Dovecote, dating from the early eighteenth century. It has nesting boxes for pigeons, which were reared for food.



Beddington Park



Canon Bridges' bridge



Waddon Ponds

3 CAREW MANOR TO ELMS POND 4 (0.86km, 12 mins)

At the end of the brick wall, follow rough path across an open space, until it emerges into a car park. Cross car park, walking past the cottages, then across bridge over river. Turn and continue through Beddington Park. Pass **Canon Bridges' terracotta bridge** on your left.

The Watcombe Pottery, Torquay, built this ornamental terracotta bridge for Canon Bridges, the Rector of Beddington, at the end of the nineteenth century. He acquired the Park in 1859 when the last of the Hallowell-Carew family was forced to sell the estate to pay gambling debts.

Continue up through a gap in a post & rail fence, through a copse, past a small flint bridge on your left. Beyond bridge up towards the lake. Keep lake on your left, cross 2 small bridges before coming to a car park. Cross car park diagonally and into the gardens. Go through gardens and cross Derek Avenue into Lakeside. Go up, cross Quinton Close and into London Road. Cross London Road, using the central refuge. Turn and pass Elms Pond on your right.



Carew Manor

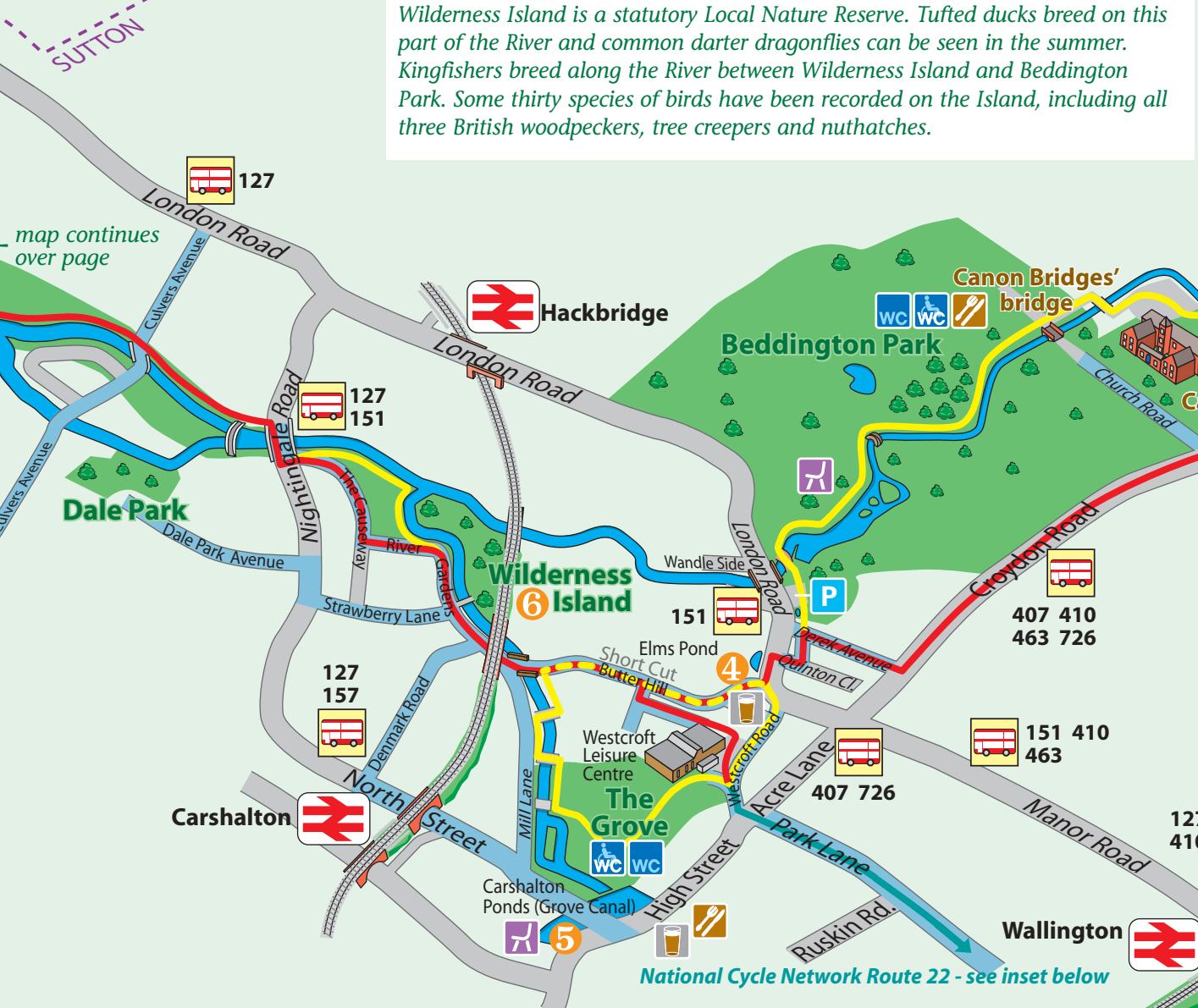
5 CARSHALTON PONDS TO WILDERNESS ISLAND 6 (0.84km, 12 mins)

Keep the ponds on your left and turn left before the bridge spanning the river. Continue past weir and alongside river on your left to park entrance. Cross bridge here and turn left along shared pedestrian and cycle path between houses and river. Cross Papermill Close, then across the footbridge, then along tarmac path to Butter Hill. Turn across river again. (At this point short cut rejoins Wandle Trail) Cross Butter Hill, continue up under railway bridge. Pass the entrance to **Wilderness Island**.

Wilderness Island is a statutory Local Nature Reserve. Tufted ducks breed on this part of the River and common darter dragonflies can be seen in the summer. Kingfishers breed along the River between Wilderness Island and Beddington Park. Some thirty species of birds have been recorded on the Island, including all three British woodpeckers, tree creepers and nuthatches.



Carshalton Ponds (Grove Canal)



6 WILDERNESS ISLAND TO POULTER PARK 7 (2.72km, 40 mins)

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Keep up into River Gardens. 150 metres on, just after River Gardens swings left, along riverside public footpath. Pass a weir and an industrial estate to a grassed area. Cross this diagonally to Nightingale Road. Turn over bridge. Cross Nightingale Road and then onto riverside path (pedestrians can use left hand path, closer to river). Pass the white bridge on your left, and continue up through a play area, to Culvers Avenue. Cross Culvers Avenue and keep up along shared-use path with houses on right and river on left. Take left fork in shared-use path, then next left fork. Turn towards bridge and cross it, then towards industrial estate. At Budge Lane, then continue along shared-use path to Middleton Road. Cross at controlled crossing. Turn then into Watermead Lane. Pass the cottages and go up into **Poulter Park**.

The River is most attractive in its semi-rural setting by Poulter Park. The water is much cleaner due to the extensive submerged vegetation filtering it. Reed mace, reed sweet-grass, nettles and creeping thistle grow here on the banks.



Wilderness Island from River Gardens

4 ELMS POND TO CARSHALTON PONDS 5 (1.26km, 17 mins)

(Short cut: turn into Butter Hill. At far end, cross bridge and turn into Mill Lane.)

Cross Butter Hill towards Rose and Crown pub. Turn past shops then into Westcroft Road. 250 metres along, Westcroft Road is split by bollards - turn towards Westcroft Leisure Centre. Before you reach front of leisure centre, turn across bridge over canal into Grove Park. Follow path up, passing the bowling green on your left. At T-junction of paths, turn and follow tarmac path past the café and toilets, then between the Council buildings. With the main building on your right go down slope towards **Carshalton Ponds**.

The two ponds at Carshalton were probably created in the early eighteenth century. The white stone bridge where the River leaves the ponds is often attributed to the Italian architect Giacomo Leoni. It bears the griffin from the arms of the Scawen family. They lived in Stone Court, a large house that stood on the west side of the River, one hundred yards downstream.



The Oaks Park