

# Chessington Countryside Walk



Please follow the country code - Leave no litter, Keep to the right of way, Protect wildlife, plants and trees, Fasten all gates, Keep off walls, fences and hedges, Safeguard against all risk of fire, KEEP DOGS ON LEADS, Respect the life of the country, Cross roads carefully.



7 Not so long ago horses and carts would have regularly used Green Lane



6 The pill box has been converted to a new use as a bat roost. Please do not disturb the residents!



5 The lesser celandine is one of the many early spring flowers that make Castle Hill an attractive place to visit.



4 The green woodpecker is the symbol of Horton Country Park and is often seen here.



3 It's worth stopping for a while at the ponds on Epsom Common, where a wide variety of wildlife can be seen.



2 There are over 200 coal tax posts surrounding London.



1 Some of the oak pollards on Ashtead Common are over 300 years old.



## The leaflet has been funded by:

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, the City of London, and Chessington World of Adventures.

Printed on 80% recycled paper with 20% of pulp from mixed sources.

Please note: This walk is not suitable for disabled people as there are several stiles along the route.

Follow this five mile circular walk through the beautiful countryside of Chessington and discover much local history and diversity of wildlife.

For more information please phone  
**01372 743783**

## KEY

	The Route to follow		Busy road!
	Other footpath		Parking
	Bridleway		Picnic site/toilet
	Stream		Built up area
	Woodland		Stile/gate
	Golf course		Pub
	Church		Viewpoint
	Railway		
	Road		
	Bus stop		

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A five mile circular walk mainly on public rights of way

Allow up to 4 hours. Boots or stout footwear recommended.



*Countryside Management in Action!*

The white cast iron post is a City of London coal duty Boundary Mark or coal tax post. From late medieval times to 1890 the Corporation of the City of London had the right to levy a duty on coal brought into the City. This duty helped to pay for the rebuilding of St Paul's Cathedral and several other churches that were destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. After the 1861 London Coal and Wine Continuance Act enlarged the area for collection of duties, over 200 coal tax posts were erected on the boundary. Some including this one have been restored by the Lower Mole Project.

### Coal Tax Post

For more information contact the Ashstead Estate Office on 01372 279083

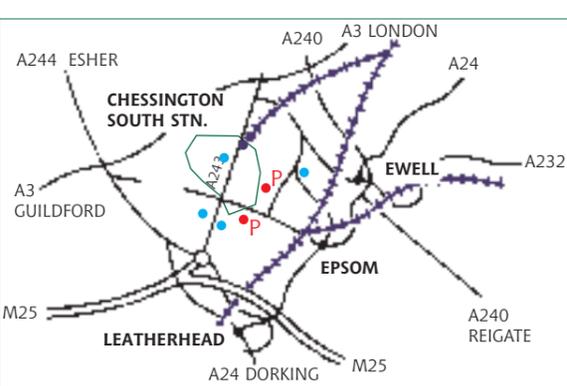
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### Ashstead Common



### How to get there

- **BY CAR** - Parking is available at Horton Country Park and Stew Ponds car park. Please do not park in or near farm or field entrances. **P = Parking**
- **BY TRAIN** - Chessington South BR Station
- **BY BUS** - There are regular bus services from Kingston, Epsom and Leatherhead serving the main roads.



Remember to treat the Chessington Countryside Walk as an adventure, take adequate outdoor clothing, an OS map, allow plenty of time and enjoy yourself. The Chessington Countryside Walk was initiated by the Lower Mole Project to encourage local people to explore the countryside on their doorstep. Most of the rights of way have been waymarked by the Lower Mole Project. Ideally this leaflet should be used in conjunction with an Ordnance Survey map (Landranger 1:50 000 176 or 187, or Explorer 1:25 000 161).

THIS LEAFLET HAS BEEN FUNDED BY:



And supported by: The Lower Mole Countryside Trust

If you encounter any problems or would like further information on other walks in the area please contact: The Lower Mole Countryside Management Project, 2 West Park Farmhouse, Horton Country Park, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8PL Tel: 01372 743783 Fax: 01372 742291 email: mole.project@surreycc.gov.uk www.countryside-management.org.uk

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If you would like to know more about the Country Park or Epsom Common please contact Epsom & Ewell Borough Council on 01372 732000 or email [contactus@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@epsom-ewell.gov.uk) or visit [www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk)

means fish pond.

other is known as Stew Pond which breached in the mid-19th century. The being drained when the dam was only recently (1975-79) been restored after in the 12th Century. The larger, Great Pond, has the two ponds were constructed by the Abbots of Chertsey Common its Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status. open areas to conserve the diverse flora that gave the conservation grazing has been introduced on part of the Now, with large areas of developing woodland.

growing, but during the War it was ploughed and cultivated. Manor. Until World War II the Common was used for Borough Council in the 1930's after the demise of the Nature Reserve. It was bought by Epsom and Ewell belonging to the Manor of Epsom but is now a Local Epsom Common was once the unenclosed common waste Nature Reserve.

Horton Country Park was established in 1973, when 400 acres of land were purchased by Epsom and Ewell Borough Council from the Greater London Council, which had built five psychiatric hospitals in the area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The land sold to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council had previously been farmland which supplied food and work for the patients of the hospitals. The Country Park is a rural landscape of fields, hedgerows, woods and ponds of wildlife and historical value and is designated a Local Nature Reserve.

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### Horton Country Park

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### Chessington Countryside Walk

Winey Hill is a public open space. From here there is a magnificent view towards the North Downs to the south and across the Thames Valley and London to the north. Volunteers from the Lower Mole Project constructed the viewpoint which indicates famous landmarks which can be seen from here.

### Castle Hill

Castle Hill is leased by the Royal Borough of Kingston as a Local Nature Reserve. The "castle", a scheduled ancient monument, is probably the remains of a moated farmstead dating from the 13th Century. This can be reached via Horton Country Park by following the Thames Down Link which goes all the way to the River Thames at Kingston.

### Winey Hill

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### Sixty Acre Wood

The private wood to the south west of this point is called Sixty Acre Wood. It has features of ancient woodland i.e. woodland that dates back to at least 1600.

### Pill Box

This World War II pill box has been converted to a new use as a bat roost! This work was carried out in 1991 by the Lower Mole Project volunteers, in conjunction with Surrey Wildlife Trust, and involved bricking up the gun slits and hanging tiles inside to create crevices.

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### Green Lane, Chessington

This public right of way follows the line of a route that has been in use since at least 1495. Much of the surrounding land has been in the ownership of Merton College, Oxford since the thirteenth century. It was an important link between Kingston and Leatherhead. However most evidence of it has disappeared on the ground. This stretch appears on aerial photographs as recently as 1945 as a hedged lane.

FOR THIS REASON IN 1983 THE LOWER MOLE PROJECT WAS SET UP. THE PROJECT COVERS AN AREA OF 141km<sup>2</sup> OF GREEN BELT IN THE NORTH SURREY, CHESSINGTON AREA.

The aim of the Project is to carry out countryside improvements for the benefit of people and wildlife, by:

- Improving public access to the countryside for informal recreation;
- Increasing public knowledge and understanding of the countryside;
- Conserving landscape features and enhancing the natural beauty of the countryside;
- Encouraging greater community involvement in the countryside.

The Project organises mid-week and weekend tasks for volunteers to help us undertake this. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our work, and there is little doubt that without them far less would be achieved.

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK INCLUDE - tree planting, woodland management, erecting stiles and signposts, restoring neglected ponds and assisting community groups with environmental projects.

Everyone can help - by becoming a volunteer or by encouraging their employers to sponsor a project. If you are interested please contact The Lower Mole Countryside Management Project, 2 West Park Farmhouse, Horton Country Park, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8PL Tel: 01372 743783 Fax: 01372 742291 email: [mole.project@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:mole.project@surreycc.gov.uk) [www.countryside-management.org.uk](http://www.countryside-management.org.uk)

THE LOWER MOLE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY Surrey County Council, Elmbridge Borough Council, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, Royal Borough of Kingston, Mole Valley District Council, the City of London and Natural England.