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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are over 200 coal tax posts surrounding London.

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

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

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The Lower Mole Countryside Management Project

As you walk this route it may come as some surprise to you how much attractive countryside there is close to the London, Surrey border. This is green belt land where town meets countryside. However, the countryside does need management, especially in the urban fringe. If left alone then ponds silt up, streams become choked with rubbish and footpaths become overgrown and impassable.

FOR THIS REASON IN 1983 THE LOWER MOLE PROJECT WAS SET UP THE PROJECT COVERS AN AREA OF 141km² 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;
- Preserving 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 signs and signposts, restoring neglected ponds, 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, KT19 8PL.

Tel: 01372 742291 email: mole.project@surreycc.gov.uk www.countryside-management.org.uk

THE LOWERMOLE 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.

How to get there

- BY CAR - Parking is available at Horton Country Park and New 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 your own private property. Remember, you are in a countryside environment and you can make a difference.

This leaflet has been funded by

And supported by The Lower Mole Countryside Trust

A five mile circular walk mainly on public rights of way

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