



# Easy access at Queen's Park and Colley Hill



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## Reigate Fort

Reigate Fort was one of 13 'mobilisation centres' built along the North Downs in the 1890s to protect London from invasion by the French. They were built as a second line of defence should England be invaded from the south coast. If an attack took place, the regular army would be sent to the invasion location, while at the same time the Volunteer Royal Engineers would call up the civil contractors to dig entrenched positions. To achieve this, the workforce was supplemented with civilian volunteers who would use the tools stored at the Fort. Volunteers, like the modern Territorial Army, formed the fighting force.

More information about Reigate Fort can be found at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/reigate-hill-and-gatton-park/#>

## Inglis Memorial

This unusual building with its cobalt and gold ceiling showing an astronomer's view of the heavens, was originally built as a drinking fountain for horses using the route along the top of Colley Hill. The fountain has since been replaced with a topograph which indicates the direction of many places which can be seen from this viewpoint.

## Chalk grassland

Chalk grassland is a unique habitat found on thin soils over chalk rocks. It was originally created mainly by the clearance of trees and bushes 8-9,000 years ago, and kept open by grazing livestock. The combination of nutrient-poor soils and the disturbance caused by regular grazing means no single species of plant can dominate and this creates a very diverse habitat where many rare wild flowers and insects can flourish.

## Belted Galloway cattle

Grazing is the best form of management to maintain chalk grassland. Hardy traditional livestock breeds are best suited to grazing these areas as they can deal with the rough grassland which is low in nutrients and exposed to the elements. You might see distinctive Belted Galloway cattle grazing this area during the summer months.

## Views

All along the top of Colley Hill magnificent views can be seen across the Weald to the South Downs.



Silver-spotted skipper butterfly



Eyebright



Green hairstreak butterfly



Harebell



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**How to get there** The best way to access the area is from the pay and display National Trust car park at Margery Wood (Nearest postcode KT20 7EJ, Grid reference TQ245526).

Access to the car park is from Margery Lane, off of the A217 Brighton Road (from the north bound carriageway only).

You can also access the area from the car park at Wray Lane (Grid reference TQ262523). Access to the car park is from A217 (south bound carriageway only) or from Wray Lane.

**Public transport** Bus services are available to Reigate Hill. See [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

**Paths and gradients** The map shows which paths are surfaced, but they can be muddy and uneven in places, and gives an indication of the gradients. Other paths may be narrow, muddy and steep.

**Toilets** Wray Lane car park (including disabled accessible toilet).

**Refreshments** Wray Lane car park.

This area is owned by the National Trust and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, and managed by the National Trust. Please contact the National Trust on 01342 843225 or email [reigate@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:reigate@nationaltrust.org.uk)

This leaflet was produced as part of the Old Surrey Downs Project. The OSD Project aims to restore local chalk grasslands and has two main strands:

- Improvements on site including cutting back scrub, installing fencing enclosures and water supplies, improving access for the public, and conservation grazing using sheep, cattle, ponies and goats.
- Raising interest and awareness about local chalk grassland sites amongst the local community to improve understanding and to protect this special habitat.

The OSD Project has been working on 25 sites across Surrey and South London, and is a limited life project based with the Downslands Countryside Management Project. If you would like more information or would like to help us take action for chalk grasslands, please:

- **Telephone 01737 733933**
- **Email [oldsurreydowns@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:oldsurreydowns@surreycc.gov.uk)**
- **Or visit [www.oldsurreydowns.org.uk](http://www.oldsurreydowns.org.uk)**

The Old Surrey Downs Project is supported by: The Downslands Project (partners: Surrey County Council, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, The London Borough of Croydon, The London Borough of Sutton, Tandridge District Council and The City of London), Guildford Borough Council, Surrey Wildlife Trust, London Wildlife Trust, The National Trust, Natural England and is substantially funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



 **National Trust**

