



Wandle River and Trail

The river Wandle itself is a tributary of the Thames to the south west of London, consisting of 15 miles of rich chalk stream habitat in good condition, which in its industrial heyday, was the 'hardest working river in London', with over 90 mills along its banks throughout time. The river rises in two sources Waddon and Carshalton.

The Trail mostly follows the Wandle River, and runs for about 12.5 miles (20km) from East Croydon Station to the Thames Path in Wandsworth near Wandsworth Town train station. There are 2 main starting points: Wandle Park, Croydon (12 mile walk) or Carshalton Ponds, Carshalton (9 mile walk). In places the trail is narrow and uneven for wheelchair users.

The Trail map shows a cycle route and walking route and highlights the fascinating places to visit along its length.

The Trust have worked hard over the years with partners to improve the Trail and we will continue to secure investment to make the Trail safer and more accessible for more people to enjoy.

To find out more about the Regional Park, the Wandle River, its history and our partners, or give us your feedback and ideas, please visit our webpage:

www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk

The Wandle Valley Regional Park

The Wandle Valley Regional Park is a vibrant network of over 40 green spaces, and 12 nature reserves, linked by the River Wandle, covering 900 hectares. The Wandle Valley has a rich history, deriving from its industrial heritage, unique natural environmental and wildlife attributes.

The Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust

The Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust is a charitable trust that was established in 2013 and has been set up to provide the leadership and coordination to build a new regional park for Londoners stretching from Croydon in the South, through Sutton, Merton and to Wandsworth in the North.

Our shared vision

Our shared vision is for the Wandle Valley to be a coherent and vital part of London's green space network, creating a place, rich in heritage, where people are proud to live, work and play, that contributes to the economic vibrancy of South London.

Contact us

Visit us online at www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk

twitter.com/wandlevalley
facebook.com/WandleValleyPark
info@wandlevalleypark.co.uk

Or you can write to us at:

Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust
The Old Bookshop
Morden Hall Park
Morden, Merton
SM4 5JD

This guide has been created by **Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust** and **First Base**, as a result of their shared commitment to help raise awareness of and open access to the Wandle Trail.

www.firstbase.com



FIRST BASE



Wandle Valley

Wandle Trail

15 miles of largely uninterrupted heritage, flora and fauna



Key

— Wandle Trail for walkers and cyclists

Parking

Bar/restaurant/cafe

Toilets

Cyclists take care!

Wandle Trail Highlights

1 The Wandle Delta

This is the point where the River Wandle meets the Thames.

2 Ram Brewery

Until its closure in 2006 the site of Youngs brewery was the longest scene of continuous brewing recorded in these islands. Several historic listed buildings survive alongside the 'Spread Eagle' pub opposite with its high Victorian interior.

3 Confluence with the Graveney

Just north of the railway bridge and adjacent a site once occupied by the Surrey iron railway the meeting with the tiny River Graveney is marked by a viewing platform. The name along with that of Tooting Graveney derives from the Huguenot De Gravenel family.

4 Wandle Meadow Nature Park

Until 1970 a sewage works, now a reclaimed habitat of increasing diversity.

5 Merton Priory Walls

Surviving sections of the old priory wall can still be found in many of the areas gardens, especially near Liberty Avenue.

6 Merton Priory Chapter House

Merton was a major Augustinian priory, founded in 1117 and dissolved in 1538, whose foundations are preserved in a chamber under Merantun Way.

7 William Morris factory site

This site formerly housed a range of picturesque old timber buildings including a calico printing works was acquired by William Morris in 1881 and turned out his famous printed textiles, hangings and stained glass. The site later housed the Merton Board Mills.

8 Merton Abbey Mills

The craft market alongside the Wandle at Merton occupies a range of Arts and Crafts style buildings built by Arthur Liberty for his printing works and rescued from dereliction. Older buildings like the Liberty Mill with its working wheel and the curious Colour House nearby are reminders of the rich industrial history here.

This illustration is an artist's interpretation of the Trail and therefore it is not geographically accurate. Please refer to official Ordnance Survey or equivalent maps for full wayfinding information.



Wandle Trail Highlights

- 9** [The Pickle Ditch](#)
The former course of the Wandle through Merton survives as a 1km long backwater bypassed by a mill cut.
- 10** [Deen City Farm](#)
Farm and riding stables offering children's events and educational programmes.
- 11** [Morden Hall Park](#)
50 hectare rump of a large country estate left to the National Trust by Gilliat Hatfeild the last heir of a tobacco merchant's family in 1941. A pair of former snuff mills, the stable block, historic outbuildings and Morden Hall itself survive. The Wandle Trail is well signed through the park, open free of charge.

- 13** [The Wandle Industrial Museum](#)
The Museum's mission is to preserve, store, and interpret the heritage and history of the industries and people of the River Wandle.

- 14** [Watermeads Nature Reserve](#)
An 11 acre Nature Reserve with wetland habitats recently opened to public access. One of National Trusts' earliest acquisitions.

- 15** [Culvers Lodge](#)
This remnant of the Culvers Estate provides a window to a fascinating family story of wealth, commerce, and Victorian philanthropy.

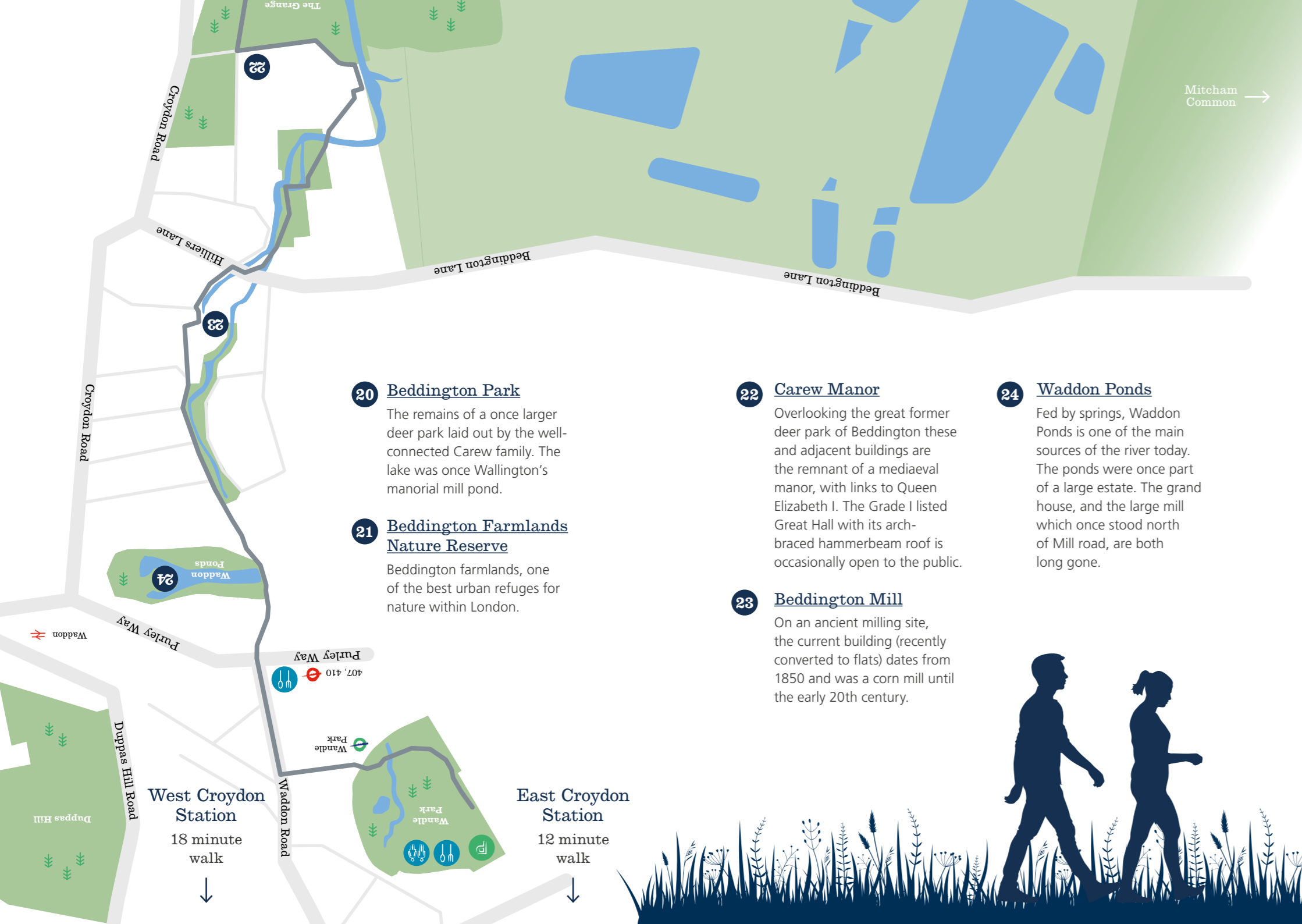
- 16** [Wilderness Island](#)
A nature reserve with full public access. Once an important industrial site with large mills and a branch terminus of the Surrey Iron Railway

- 17** [Carshalton Ponds](#)
The springs and ponds in the centre of old Carshalton date back for centuries, probably explaining why there was an early Saxon settlement here

- 18** [Honeywood Museum](#)
Edwardian house overlooking ponds and now home to a museum of local history.

- 19** [Carshalton Water Tower](#)
Unique early C18th building in the grounds of Carshalton House. Contains wonderful delft tiled bagnio or bath chamber, orangery and saloon.





GET ACTIVE Wandle Valley



Parks, trails and rec facilities provide opportunities for physical activity and can help people of all ages lead a more active lifestyle.

Get walking!

A walk from Morden Hall Park to Colliers Wood Station will take you just 30 minutes. If you did this just five times a week, you'd reach your target of 150 minutes!

10,000 steps per day

Is just under half of the Wandle Trail and equates to about 5 miles, that's like walking from East Croydon Station to Morden Hall Park!

✉ getactive@wandlevalleypark.co.uk

Cycling is wheely good

A 30 minute ride burns, on average, over 300 calories. You could cycle from Wandle Park in Croydon to Wandle Park in Merton during that time!

Spoilt for choice

In the Wandle Valley, there are over 40 green spaces so there's plenty of room to be active!

20 Beddington Park

The remains of a once larger deer park laid out by the well-connected Carew family. The lake was once Wallington's manorial mill pond.

21 Beddington Farmlands Nature Reserve

Beddington farmlands, one of the best urban refuges for nature within London.

22 Carew Manor

Overlooking the great former deer park of Beddington these and adjacent buildings are the remnant of a mediaeval manor, with links to Queen Elizabeth I. The Grade I listed Great Hall with its arch-braced hammerbeam roof is occasionally open to the public.

23 Beddington Mill

On an ancient milling site, the current building (recently converted to flats) dates from 1850 and was a corn mill until the early 20th century.

24 Waddon Ponds

Fed by springs, Waddon Ponds is one of the main sources of the river today. The ponds were once part of a large estate. The grand house, and the large mill which once stood north of Mill road, are both long gone.

West Croydon Station
18 minute walk

East Croydon Station
12 minute walk



The Wandle Trail Code

Shared use paths away from the road help many people make their everyday journeys safely and they are also important for leisure. Many people including young, elderly and disabled people benefit from shared paths, which provide valuable opportunities to travel in a traffic-free environment, and to relax, unwind and play.

Trail top tips

-  **Share the space**
Be considerate to other users
-  **Drop your pace**
Slow down in good time
-  **Pedestrians go first**
Let people walking have priority
-  **Be visible to others**
Have lights on your bike, wear bright clothing, have a bell to sound
-  **Be careful on junctions**
-  **Keep your dogs under control**
and put them on a lead in narrow spaces
-  **Don't drop litter**