



DISCOVER THE SOURCE

What's so special about the Wandle?

The Wandle is a chalkstream. There are only 200 chalkstreams remaining worldwide. And it is our job to protect them.

All our rivers, including the Wandle chalkstream, are invaluable to us. Not only do they create the landscapes we know and love around us, they have also been instrumental in the development of our towns, our industry and our businesses; providing us with a vital source of freshwater.

With increasing populations, the demand for water from our rivers is growing and many are suffering the consequences.

Love Your River!

You can help protect the Wandle and other local rivers by saving water. The more water we save, the more water there is in the river for the fish and other wildlife.

www.wandletrust.org

Find water saving ideas on the SES Water website: www.seswater.co.uk



Explore more of the Wandle

The Wandle Trail largely follows the course of the river for 12.5 miles from East Croydon Station to the Thames Path. Visit the Wandle Valley Regional Park website to download the full Wandle Trail map and explore even more of the river!

This guided walk was created as part of the Discover the Source of the Wandle Project, part of the Heritage Lottery Funded Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme.



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DISCOVER THE SOURCE OF THE WANDLE

walk one CARSHALTON





12 Carshalton Ponds

The end of the walk and the present-day source of the Wandle. The current Ponds are largely man-made but natural springs are present and date back centuries in Carshalton. With increasing abstraction, the Ponds are now largely filled by water recirculated from downstream, keeping the Carshalton arm of the Wandle flowing.

11 Carshalton House Lake

The serpentine lake was created in the late 18th century as the centrepiece for the grounds of Carshalton House. Replacing an earlier canal, it remained in use as a boating lake up until the 1960s. Today, due to water abstraction, the Lake has disappeared.

10 Carshalton Water Tower

The water tower was originally used to provide water for the residents of Carshalton House (now St. Philomena's College and St. Mary's School) and for the fountains in the gardens. The tower features a saloon, orangery and bathroom with a plunge bath lined with 18th century tiles.



8 Anne Boleyn's Well

The traditional story behind the name of Anne Boleyn's Well suggests a blow from the hoof of her horse caused the spring to appear – further evidence that Carshalton is situated on a spring line where chalk meets clay. A more likely story is that the well was on land owned by the Counts of Bologne in the 12th century, with the name corrupted over time.

→ Save Water for the Wandle

The River Wandle needs water, just like us. The more water we use, the less is then flowing down the Wandle. Help protect your local river by saving water at home and in the office. Visit the SES Water website for information packs on how you can save water.

1 Where to look?

Old paintings and photographs are a great place to start when researching the past. This spot marks the former home of William Tatton Winter who lived in the village for around 15 years. He produced 100 views of the local landscape – all of which provide a useful glimpse of the history of the Wandle and its source.



2 Wandle-powered Industry

During the 18th and 19th century industries began to harness the power of the Wandle. Flour, leather, copper, gunpowder, snuff, paper, and linseed oil were all worked in the mills along the river. Textile bleaching and calico printing were also common. Although most signs of this have disappeared, this water wheel in Grove Park survives as a reminder of the industrial past.



3 Dry remains

The original Wandle was diverted to power the many mills in the area. You can see signs of these old channels here. This is Westcroft Canal – constructed in the late 18th century to help power a snuff mill. Now dry, like many of the former industrial features in the area, the canal fills only in extremely wet weather, such as the winter of 2014.

4 Wandle Sink Hole

The river once flowed down the channel in front of you and along the road to Westcroft Canal. Nowadays the water disappears down this hole and goes under the road.



5 Remnant Rivers

This dry channel is another example of where the Wandle used to flow. The water flowed from the Grotto in Carshalton Park. You can see still the old weir structures in the channel.

→ Where is the water?

Like many former water features in the area, the Grotto and its canal are now dry. So where has the water gone? The answer is found below in the underlying geology of the Wandle – chalk! The Wandle is a chalkstream, with its water coming from chalk springs which form where the permeable underlying chalk meets the younger impermeable clay.

6 The Grotto

You are now in Carshalton Park at the Grotto. Built by Thomas Scawen II around 1724, it tapped into groundwater from the hillside with a series of culverted pipes which filled the pool and canal. The dry depression of this is still visible. In its heyday, it had intricate ironwork gates featuring the Scawen family crest, marble pavements and walls decorated with shells.



7 The Hog Pit

You're now standing at the Hog Pit, a natural chalkpit with springs along its southern edge. This was once full of water, but nowadays local abstraction means that this feature, and others such as Westcroft and Grotto Canal, are now dry. We've effectively moved the source of the Wandle through our use of water!

