



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.



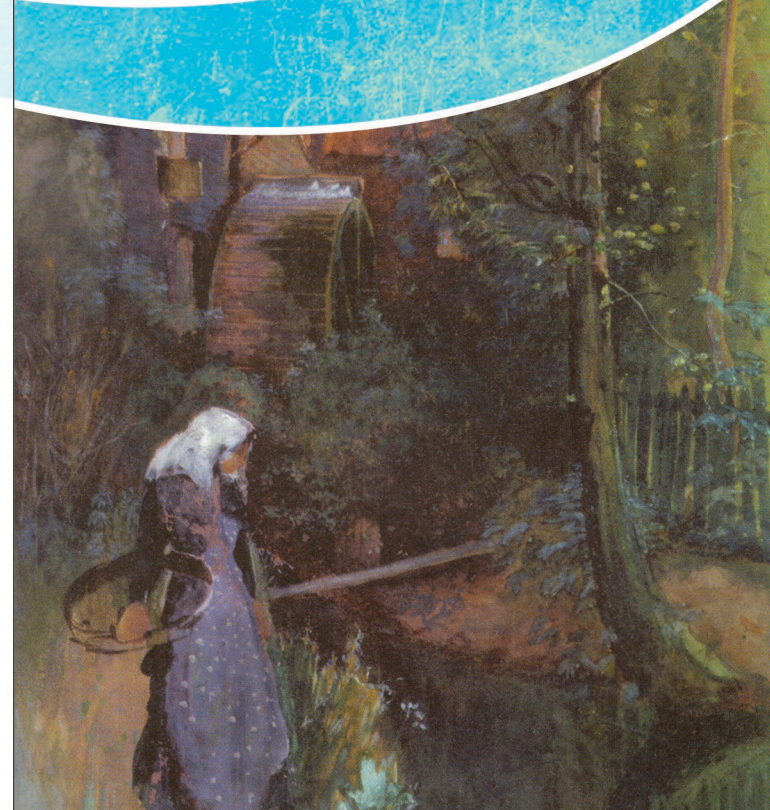
3



DISCOVER THE SOURCE OF THE WANDLE

walk three

CARSHALTON/CROYDON





2 Wandle power!

The Wandle provided a local source of water and energy, with the course of the river diverted to power industry. The dry **Westcroft Canal** in front of you is what remains of an old mill leat, constructed in the late 18th century to power a snuff mill. Most of these former channels are now empty and dry due to the increased abstraction of water.

1 Start at the source

Carshalton Ponds are now considered one of the two sources of the Wandle. They date back centuries, with early Saxons settling here – not surprising given the supply of clean Wandle water fresh from the chalk. However, back then they were not the source of the Wandle.

Carshalton Railway Station

7 The spring line IV

The Wandle appears to disappear underground here at the end of Richmond Green. It continues underground in a culvert, past **Waddon Ponds** and appears briefly in a car park at **Toys R Us** before going underground again and resurfacing in Wandle Park.

8 The last spring

Waddon Ponds are the last natural spring that this walk passes. These springs are a reminder that the Wandle is a chalkstream and once flowed through Croydon.

3 Spring pond

The Wandle is a chalkstream with its water coming from chalk springs which form where the permeable underlying chalk meets the impermeable clay, forcing water above ground. **Elm Pond** is fed by one of these natural chalk springs.

4 The spring line

Manor Pond is another example of a spring. Look carefully and you'll see what appears to be sand bubbling up from the pond. Try looking from the small concrete bridge under the fence. These spring ponds occur along the local spring line – where the chalk of the North Downs meets the impermeable clay of London.

→ Report pollution

You can help protect the Wandle by keeping an eye out for pollution and reporting anything you see to the **Environment Agency hotline** on **0800 80 70 60**.

9 Culverts and cholera

You're now standing in **Wandle Park**, another place where the Wandle's been returned to the surface. The river was culverted around 1850 after the growth in the local population led to its streams becoming little more than open sewers which in turn led to local outbreaks of typhoid and cholera.

5 The spring line II

The villages of Carshalton, Beddington, North Wallington and Waddon all developed along this spring line simply because clean water was plentiful. **Smee's Garden** is fed by a very small artesian well.



10 Resurfaced river

The Wandle today is much improved thanks to the modern sewer system and local community efforts. There has been action to bring it back to the surface like here in **Wandle Park** where the culvert is now the first point where the river is visible above ground – its modern 'source' in other words.



6 The spring line III

As you follow the river through **Beddington Park**, keep an eye out for more springs. The best place to see water bubbling out of the ground is about 50 metres upstream from the flint bridge, on the northern bank of the Wandle where it feeds into the river.



Painted by Sara, Kingsley Primary School, Croydon

11 The Wandle's 'beast'

If you stand near the culvert, you may hear a noise that the Victorians believed to be **'The Beast of the Wandle'**. According to legend, the beast developed a taste for meat when a local abattoir began throwing waste into the river. After terrorising local folk, the river was culverted to trap the beast underground...