



# WANDLE VISTAS A GUIDE TO VIEWS IN THE WANDLE VALLEY

# ADDINGTON HILLS

## GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY



This is a magnificent panoramic view north, seen from a sandstone ridge at the edge of the North Downs. It reveals the geology and topography of the Wandle Valley within London's wider Thames Valley system, and you can also see many London landmarks in the distance.

Explore 130 acres of natural landscape with oak/birch/pine woodland and London's largest heathland, which supports a wide range of plant, animal, insect and bird species. It is also on section 4 of the London Loop Recreational Path.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**BOROUGH:** Croydon

**POSTCODE:** CR0 5HQ

**BUS:** 130, 466

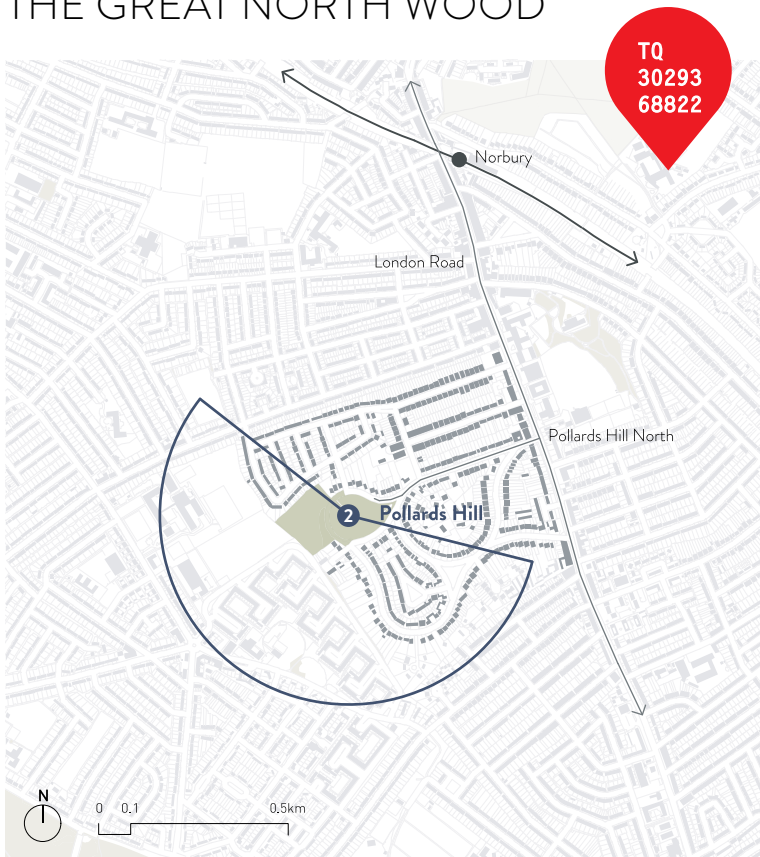
**RAIL:** Coombe Lane Tram

**WALK:** London Loop 4,  
Vanguard Way 1

**CYCLE:** Route 21 (NCN),  
Route 75 (LCN)

# POLLARDS HILL

## EARLY INHABITANTS AND THE GREAT NORTH WOOD



Pollards Hill is a peaceful neighbourhood park at the highest point in Norbury. This isolated hill has a long history as a viewpoint: a possible prehistoric hillfort, Roman signal station, and later use by the Ordnance Survey as a triangulation station. Its name comes from the management of trees in the ancient Great North Wood, which covered this area.

Sweeping panoramic views extend south towards Croydon and along the Wandle Valley towards Wimbledon in the north-west. These include many Wandle Valley landmarks seen against a backdrop of distant treed ridges.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**BOROUGH:** Croydon

**POSTCODE:** SW16 4NX

**BUS:** 463, 109

**RAIL:** Norbury

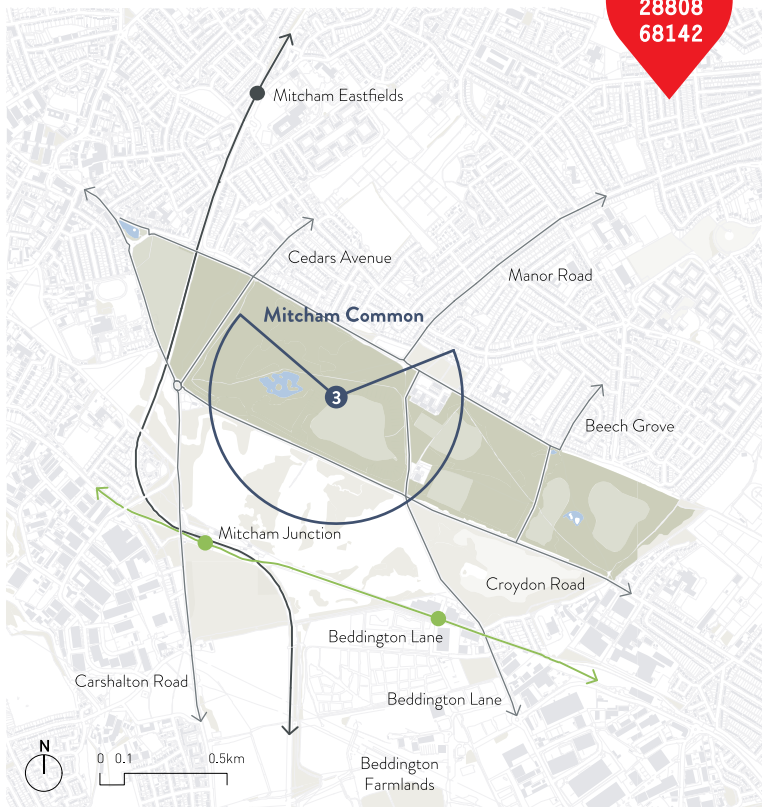
**CYCLE:** Route 5 (LCN)

**NEAR TO:** Mitcham Common,  
Norbury Park

# MITCHAM COMMON

## COMMON LAND

TQ  
28808  
68142



From here you can enjoy a near 360 degree view from the floor of the Wandle Valley, encompassing Mitcham Common with Wandle Valley landmarks on the horizon. The viewpoint is an artificial raised mound east of Seven Islands Pond.

This area has been common land for many hundreds of years, and has seen different uses in that time. Today it contains a range of habitats and is managed for recreation and wildlife. Look out for birds, frogs, toads and dragonflies near the pond, and butterflies around the wildflower meadow and heath.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**BOROUGH:** Merton

**POSTCODE:** CR4 1HT

**BUS:** 118, 264

**RAIL:** Mitcham Junction,  
Mitcham Eastfields,  
Beddington Lane Tram

**CYCLE:** Route 20 (NCN)

**NEAR TO:** Pollards Hill,  
Morden Hall Park,  
Beddington Farmlands



# 4 ST MARKS ROAD CAR PARK

## FROM RURAL RETREAT TO URBAN CENTRE



An example of an ‘everyday’, serendipitous viewpoint. From the top deck of the car park there are excellent views in all directions. Nearby is Eagle House, built in 1705 as a country retreat with a viewing cupola on the roof. Since that time the scene has changed from rural to urban, but it’s still a great view.

From here you can see familiar Wandle Valley landmarks, and wider London landmarks including Wembley Stadium arch, the post office tower, Battersea Power Station, skyscrapers in the City of London, and the Shard.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**BOROUGH:** Merton

**POSTCODE:** CR4 2JS

**BUS:** 127, 152, 200, 118, 264

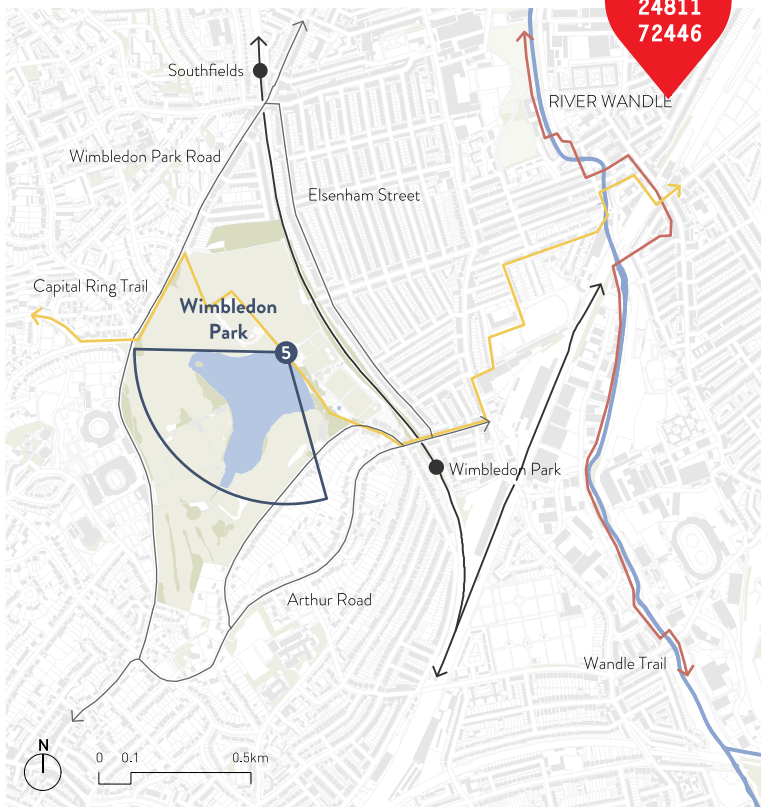
**RAIL:** Mitcham Eastfields

**NEAR TO:** Mitcham Common

# WIMBLEDON PARK

## DESIGNED VIEWS AND CAPABILITY BROWN

TQ  
24811  
72446



This is a rare surviving example of a 'designed view' in the Wandle Valley. It was designed by Capability Brown as part of his plans for Wimbledon Park (1765-1783). It utilises the elements of water, woodland, landform and church spire (a focal point) to create a very pleasing composition.

Today the park is a hub for sport and recreation and an oasis for wildlife, featuring veteran trees, remnant historic woodland, bats, amphibians, waterfowl and many other birds. It is on sections 5 & 6 of the Capital Ring Recreational Path.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**BOROUGH:** Merton

**POSTCODE:** SW19 8AU

**BUS:** 156, 493, 39

**RAIL:** Wimbledon Park

**WALK:** Wandle Trail,  
Capital Ring Trail 6

**CYCLE:** Route 20 (NCN)

**NEAR TO:** Wandle River

# NORWOOD GROVE

## SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT



From this valley-side viewpoint there is a splendid view looking west across and along the Wandle Valley, including the tributary valley of the Norbury Brook. This view tells the story of the different stages of suburban development following expansion of public transport connections from Central London.

Norwood Grove was enclosed from common land in the seventeenth century and laid out as a country estate. The house is still standing and the private park was saved from development as a public open space. The Capital Ring Recreational Path passes close by.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**BOROUGH:** Croydon

**POSTCODE:** SW16 3AL

**BUS:** 249, 417, 250

**RAIL:** Norbury, Streatham, Streatham Common

**WALK:** Capital Ring Trail 4

**CYCLE:** Route 5 (LCN)

**NEAR TO:** The Rookery & Streatham Common, Norbury Park

# WANDLE DELTA

## INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF THE WANDLE



This river prospect from the north bank of the Thames is directly opposite the confluence of the Thames and Wandle. The view is dynamic, changing with the tides and weather. Historically it has been a key industrial area with wharves for ships to tie up and transfer cargoes. Today it is being redeveloped with high-rise residential blocks.

The Wandle appears unobtrusive in the view but the river, bridges, wharves, bankside trees and 'spit' are visible. Glimpses of Wandsworth town centre to the south include the tower of St. Anne's church.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**BOROUGH:** Hammersmith & Fulham

**POSTCODE:** SW6 3EJ

**BUS:** 28, 295, C3

**RAIL:** Putney Bridge, Parsons Green, Wandsworth Town

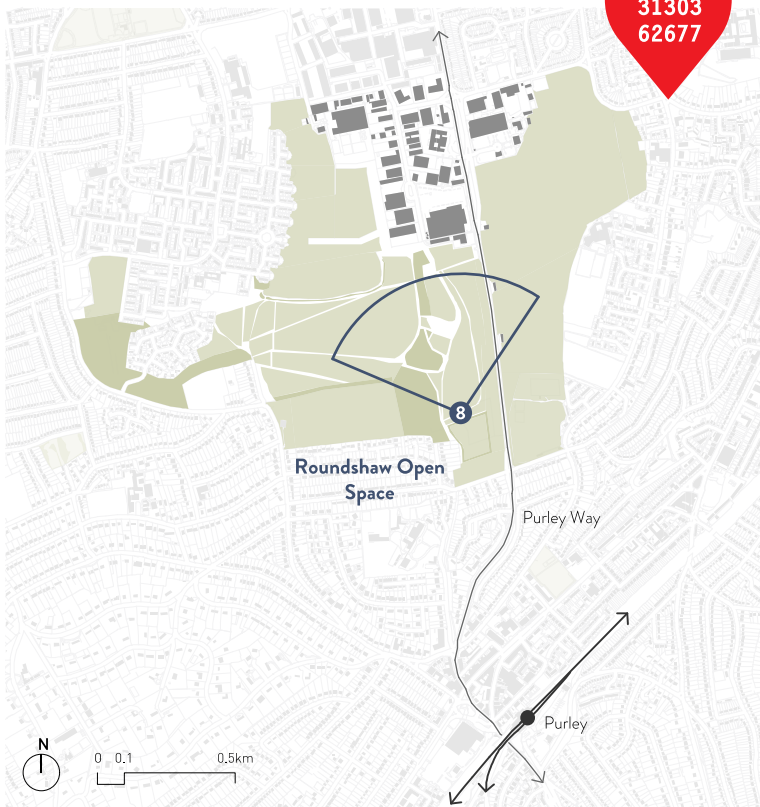
**WALK:** Thames Path N&S, Wandle Trail

**CYCLE:** Routes 4/20 (NCN), Route 8 (CS)

# ROUNDSHAW OPEN SPACE

## CROYDON AERODROME AND CHALK GRASSLAND

TQ  
31303  
62677



This viewpoint is in one of the largest areas of chalk grassland in South London, and is close to a Local Nature Reserve containing rare plants, mammals and birds. Listen for the skylarks which nest here. The site was formerly part of Croydon Aerodrome (1920 – 1959) and the viewpoint is close to the site of the airport beacon.

There are splendid views north along the Wandle Valley to the City of London and beyond. Look out for the Shard, St George Wharf Tower, Battersea Power Station and Wembley Stadium arch.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**BOROUGH:** Croydon / Sutton

**POSTCODE:** CR20 4RL

**BUS:** 289, 119

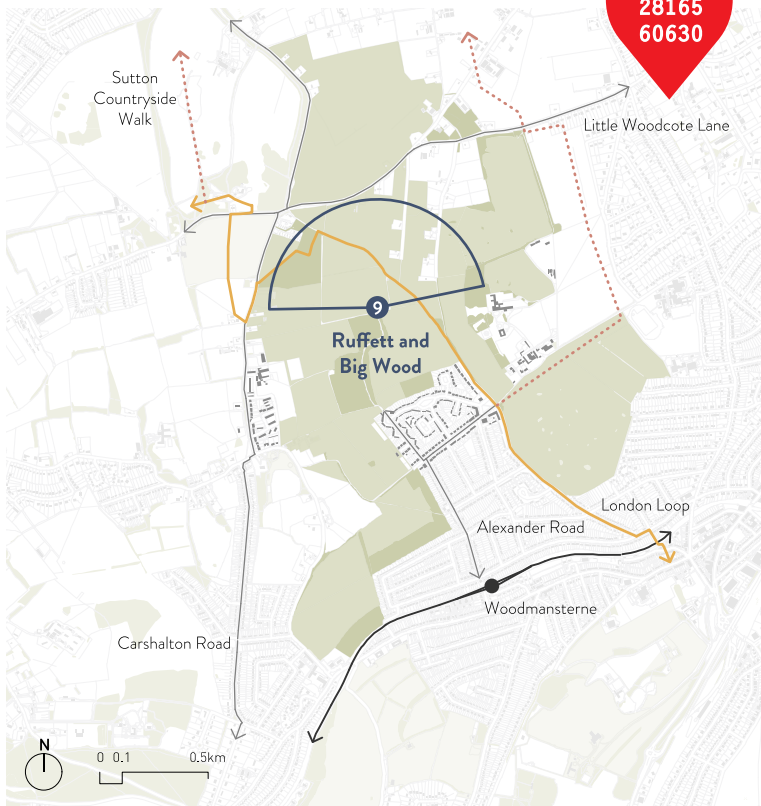
**RAIL:** Purley

**CYCLE:** Route 23/77 (LCN)



# RUFFETT AND BIG WOOD

## GREEN BELT AND HORTICULTURE / SMALLHOLDINGS



This elevated viewpoint is in a rural Green Belt location on the edge of woodland and offers an outstanding panorama of the Wandle Valley and Greater London in a countryside setting. This area has a long history of horticulture and smallholdings, with lavender growing a continuing local tradition.

The woodland contains oak, ash, hazel, sycamore and beech, and is actively managed by the Woodland Trust to promote habitat diversity. The London Loop and Sutton Countryside Walk pass close by.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**BOROUGH:** Sutton

**POSTCODE:** CR5 2QU

**BUS:** 166, 2, 463

**RAIL:** Woodmansterne

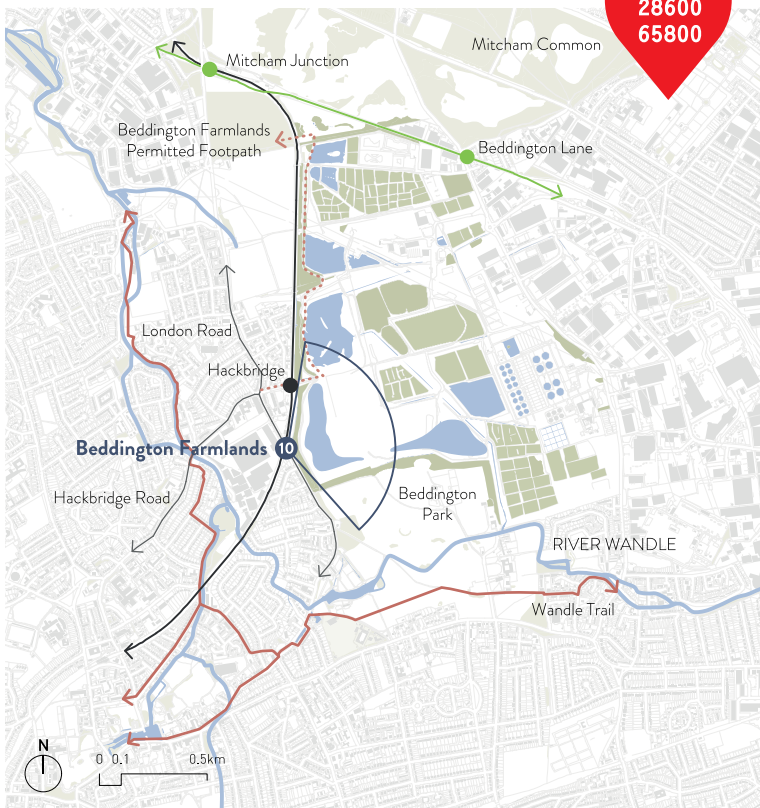
**WALK:** London Loop 6,  
Sutton Countryside Walk

**CYCLE:** Routes 20/22 (NCN)

# BEDDINGTON FARMLANDS

## NEW LANDSCAPES

TQ  
28600  
65800



From this viewpoint you can watch a new landscape being created, as the extraction and landfill site of Beddington Farmlands is restored into a nature reserve. The viewpoint looks across artificial waterbodies and mounds which support hundreds of birds. In the distance dumper trucks move rubbish and spoil to create new landforms. Croydon and the historic Beddington Park are to the south, with wooded ridges forming the skyline beyond.

This is a temporary viewpoint; in time there will be a publicly-accessible viewing point within the nature reserve.

### HOW TO GET THERE

**BOROUGH:** Sutton

**POSTCODE:** SM6 7ET

**BUS:** 151, 2, 127

**RAIL:** Hackbridge

**WALK:** Wandle Trail

**CYCLE:** Route 20 (NCN),  
Route 75 (LCN)

**NEAR TO:** Mitcham Common,  
Beddington Park

Within the Wandle Valley there are many places from which to appreciate wonderful long views - or 'vistas' that can connect us with the wider landscape of which we are a part.

This leaflet describes ten particular views and viewpoints which contribute to both the sense of place and the story of the Wandle Valley.

From downland to delta, common to car park, heathland to historic landscape, or more contemporary urban settings, vistas offer significant, long views which include many distinctive local and wider London landmarks and features.

All are free to access, within easy reach of public transport and several are close to recreational walking routes.

Use the context map, local area plans, vista descriptions and travel information in this guide to explore the Wandle Vistas for yourself.

For more information visit:  
[wandlevalleypark.co.uk](http://wandlevalleypark.co.uk)

Consultants: Untitled Practice  
and Fiona Fyfe Associates  
Design: April



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



USING THIS GUIDE

With wooded ridges, church spires and chimneys, town centres and towers - Wandle Vistas are rich in character and content, and from higher viewpoints many wider London landmarks are clearly visible.

Whether you have 20 minutes, 2 hours or a whole day, this leaflet is intended to help you find and explore 10 significant panoramic views within the Wandle Valley.

Each Vista offers a new perspective and an invitation to slow down, look across the horizon and soak up the atmosphere of a scenic view.

MAPS

This large scale map and key show the locations of 10 Wandle Vistas in their wider urban context. Corresponding photographs with a sample of each view can be seen in the column opposite.

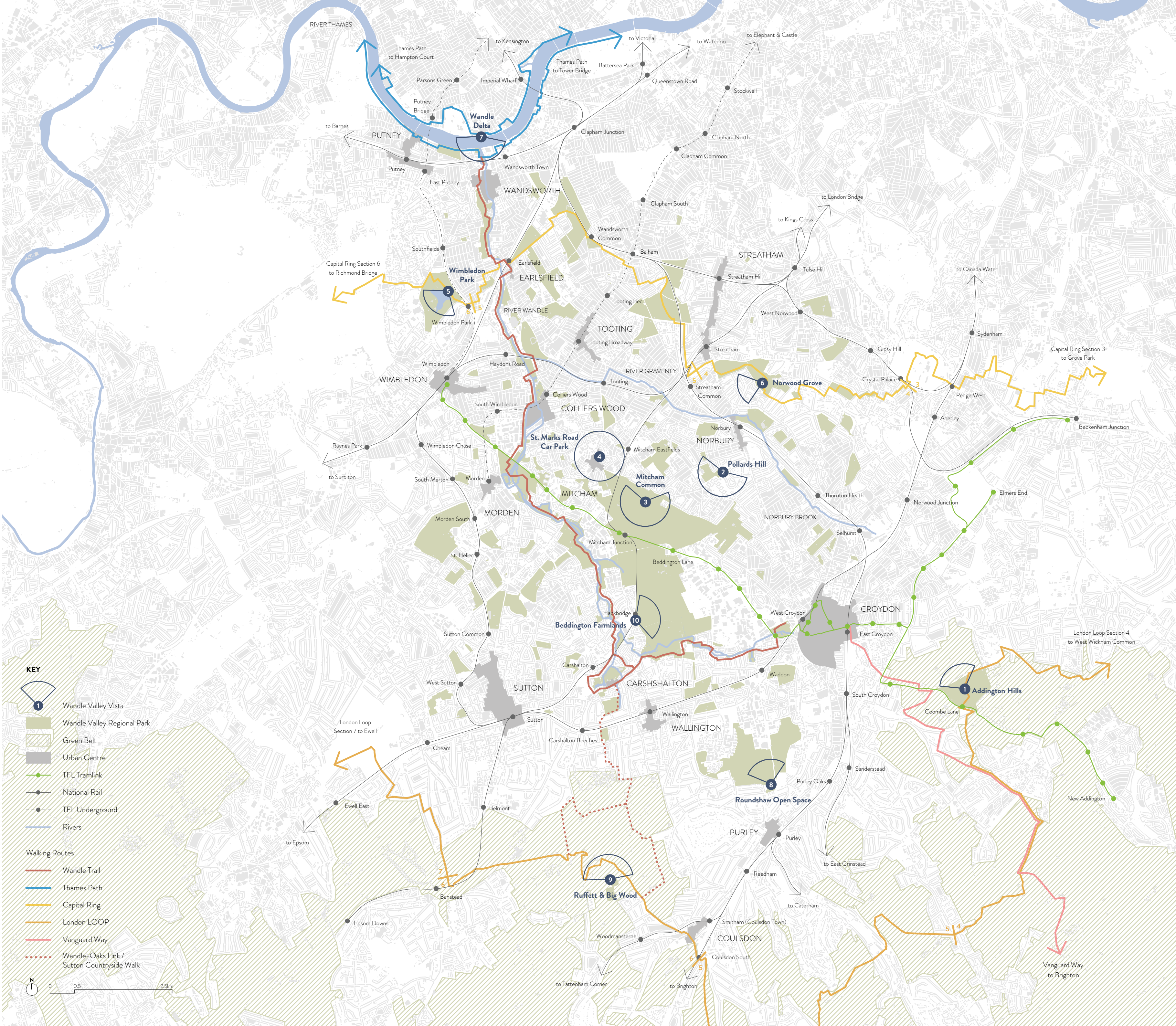
The map highlights local town centres, the tram and rail network, key recreational walking routes, open spaces and of course, the River Wandle and its tributary, the River Graveney.

Overleaf there are detailed individual maps of each Vista, along with information on how to get there, a theme and short description.

Some of the uniquely local landmarks are shown below in descending order: Beddington Farmlands incinerator; Merton Civic Centre with pylon; Croydon Town Centre, Saffron Tower and the Crystal Palace ridge with transmitter towers behind; Ikea chimneys; St. Helier hospital.

Enjoy the view!

To find out more, and watch the Wandle Vistas film, 'A View to the Future' visit [wandlevalleypark.co.uk](http://wandlevalleypark.co.uk)



KEY



Wandle Valley Vista

Wandle Valley Regional Park

Green Belt

Urban Centre

TFL Tramlink

National Rail

TFL Underground

Rivers

Walking Routes

Wandle Trail

Thames Path

Capital Ring

London LOOP

Vanguard Way

Wandle-Oaks Link / Sutton Countryside Walk



0 0.5 2.5km