
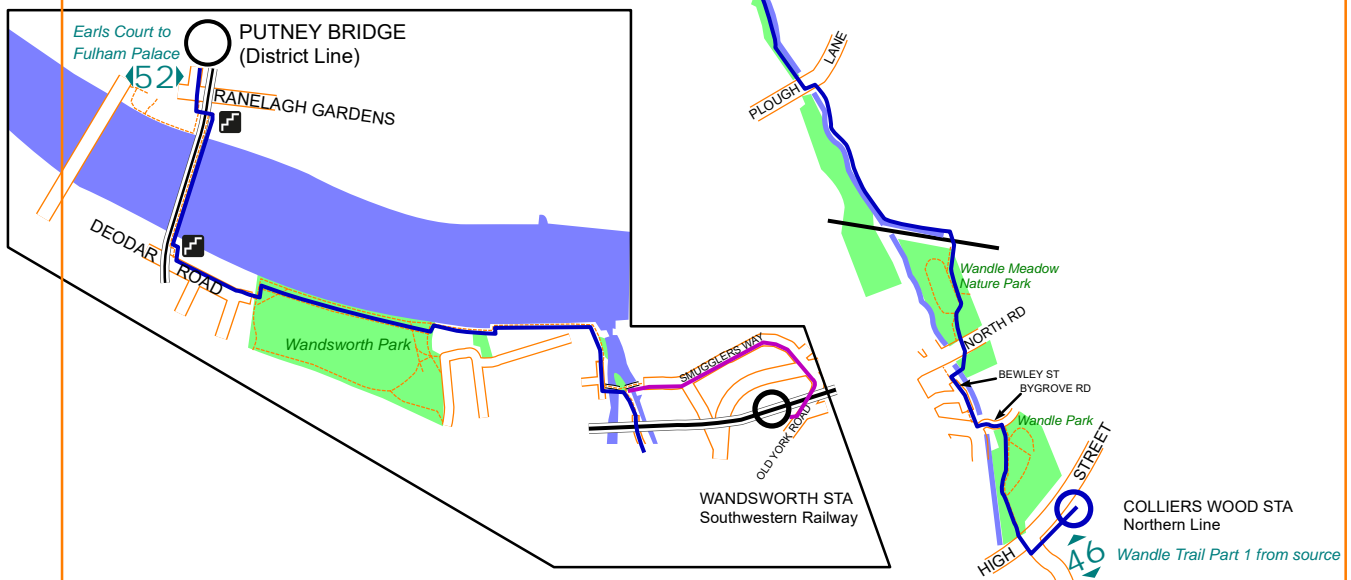


Over the river to PUTNEY BRIDGE STA
See detail below

Wandle Trail 2 Colliers Wood to Wandsworth Park

This walk is the less interesting of the two parts of this designated trail. If doing both parts consider splitting at Morden to make the parts more even.

- Main route 7.5 km
- optional routes (1.3km to Putney Bridge Sta or 0.7 km to Wandsworth Town Sta)
- Railway
- 58 interconnecting walk
- steep steps
- 
- 1 kilometre



walk notes

Wandle Trail part 2

This part of the trail to the Thames is shorter and less scenic, passing through much derelict land. In Wandsworth it follows King Georges Park, originally called Southfields Park. It passes the former Youngs brewery before it moved to Northampton.

Wandle Park

The park was once the site of Wandlebank House owned from 1791-1821 by James Perry who owned the Merton Corn Mill and was also editor of the Morning Chronicle, founded in 1770. Wandlebank House and grounds were purchased by Wimbledon Corporation for a public park and vested in the National Trust, and in December 1905 Mrs Richardson Evans of Wimbledon presented Wandle Park Mill to the National Trust in memory of her brother John Feeney. Wandle Park opened on 11 July 1907. In 1910 the Mill Pond Garden was added to the park, purchased by public subscription and presented to the National Trust. The pond dates from the late C18th, created as a reservoir for the Merton Corn Mill

Wandle Meadow Nature Park

This nature reserve is on the site of the former Wandle Valley Sewage Works, which became redundant in the 1970s. A Derelict Land Grant was received from the Department of the Environment, and above-ground structures were demolished and made safe, with the old filter beds remaining and now an interesting wildlife habitat, and footpaths and cycle routes laid out. It was opened in 1993 as a nature reserve by Professor David Bellamy.

The mixture of habitats creates a valuable oasis for quiet enjoyment of nature, with abundant plant life, including hawthorn, silver birch, ash, hazel, field maple, dog-rose and blackthorn.

Frogs, toads and newts live in the ponds but the bodies of water are not sufficient to support a fish population.

King Georges Park

King George's Park, originally called Southfields Park, was laid out in 1921-23 by Percy Cane and was opened later by King George V. In 1938 a swimming pool was added on the edge of the park, known as Wandsworth Open Air Pool, which closed in 1993. Further works were carried out post WWII. The northern section has ornamental planting with winding paths among lawns and

scattered trees with flowering cherries lining the main north-south path, to the east of which is the lake, now restored, with a footbridge over the southern end. Adjacent to the lake are a heather garden and rockery with poplars to the east, and to the south of the lake are formal beds, a lime avenue, bowling green and enclosed formal rose garden with pergola. A small menagerie is west of the lake, tennis courts south-west.

Wandsworth Town

Wandsworth goes back to Anglo-Saxon times and grew from the crossing of the Wandle by the Kingston Road. The creek afforded a dock for lighters and other small vessels, and wharves and warehouses. The fast flowing Wandle provided power. During the 17th and 18th centuries the Huguenots settled in Wandsworth attracted by its cloth mills on the Wandle and developed a hat industry for which Wandsworth was once famous.

Young's Brewery

Young's began trading when Charles Young and Anthony Bainbridge bought the Ram Brewery in Wandsworth in 1831, and – until 2006 – the group boasted that the site was the oldest British brewery in continuous operation, with evidence of beer-making going back to the 16th century. The earliest records of a commercial brewery at the site date back to the year 1581. At the time, the brewery was owned and operated by one Humphrey Langridge, who was listed as the brewer at the Ram Inn in Wandsworth. The Ram Brewery remained in the Langridge and related Cripps family for more than 90 years. In 2006, Youngs merged with Charles Wells to create the UK's largest family-owned brewery known then as Wells & Young's and moved out. The Wandsworth brewery was sold for development. In 2011 Young's sold out to Charles Wells.

Wandsworth Park

Wandsworth Park is a Grade II listed urban park in the Putney district of London. It is 8 hectares in size and is home to over 350 trees of many different species. Putney Sculpture Trail is in the park. The land, previously allotments, was purchased in 1898 by London County Council, Wandsworth District Board, and by public subscription. It was designed and constructed under the supervision of Lt Col JJ Sexby, the first Parks Superintendent for the LCC. It has a fine avenue of trees along the river.