

Scadbury Park Local Nature Reserve

Easy Access Trail

How to Get There..

Scadbury Park is on the following bus routes:

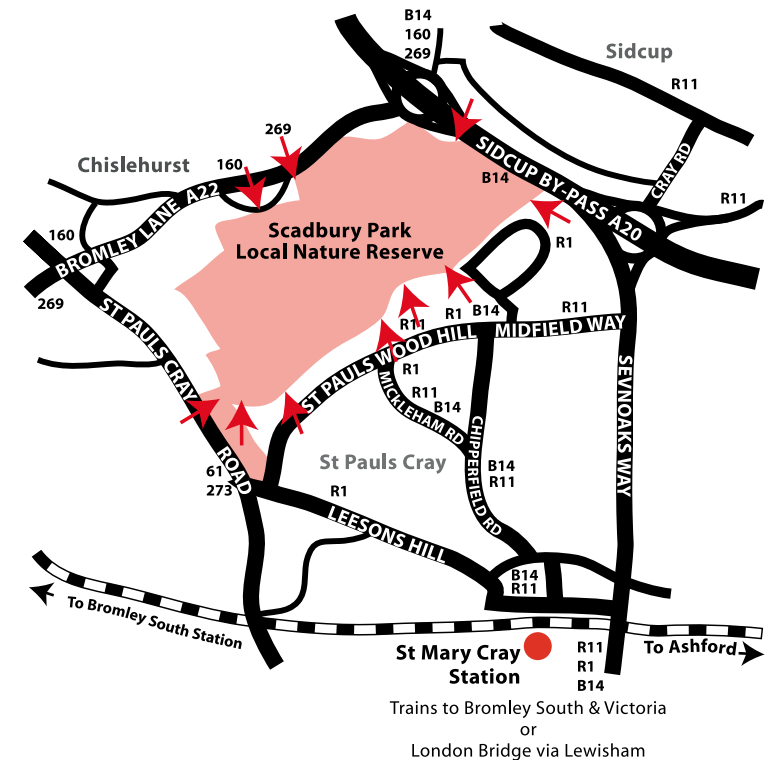
- R1** From Green Street Green via Orpington and St Mary Cray Station
- R 11** Green Street Green to Sidcup via Orpington and Footscray
- B 14** (Mon.-Sat) Orpington to Bexleyheath via Sidcup
- 61** Bromley North to Chislehurst via Orpington
- 273** Petts Wood to Lewisham via Chislehurst, Grove Park, Lee and Hither Green
- 160** Sidcup to Catford via Chislehurst, New Eltham and Eltham
- 269** Bromley North to Bexleyheath via Chislehurst, Sidcup and Bexley

Trains:

Nearest stations: St. Mary Cray, Chislehurst, Orpington, Sidcup and Petts Wood.

Correct at time of going to press.

Latest information from Traveline: 020 7222 1234.



With many thanks to Roy Hopper, Alan Hart, Tony Allnut and Keith Heselden who advised on the history and Andy Purcell/CEC for use of mole image.

If you are interested in Scadbury Park and would like to become more involved, please contact the Friends of Scadbury Park at www.scadbury.net For further details about Bromley's countryside including accessibility and nature trails contact Bromley Countryside Service on 01689 862 815, e-mail countrysideandparks@bromley.gov.uk or see www.bromleybiodiversity.co.uk




Supported by



Emergency Phone No Evenings and Weekends 020 8464 4848
Emergency Phone No During Office Hours 020 8313 4471

What to see along the trail

The trail leads from Old Perry Street car park, through part of Scadbury Park Local Nature Reserve and returns via Old Perry Street. Some of the houses you will pass were built a long time ago, and some of the people who lived in them in the past worked on Scadbury Estate and would have been familiar with the plants and animals you will see. Some of these are indicated as you follow the trail, others may be difficult to spot and are shown in some of the pictures opposite. Tick the circles and see how many can you find!

Score: 10-20 magnificent mole, 20-30 brilliant bat, over 30 Scadbury Star! 

Looking Back to the Past

First references to the Manor of Scadbury date back to the mid 1200s, but the Tudor manor house visited by Queen Elizabeth I was the home of the Walsinghams from 1424-1655. Demolished in the 1730s it became part of the Frognal estate belonging to the Townshends (later Lords Sydney) from 1752, passing to the Marsham-Townshends, until it was sold to Bromley Council in 1983.

Old Perry Street still marks the northern boundary of Scadbury in some places and was once part of the main road from Chislehurst to Sidcup. It was a continuation of Bull Lane, Chislehurst which also passed the old house of Farringtons where Farrington and Stratford School is now. The name, 'Perry' is thought to be a reference to the presence of pear trees or pear orchards and the earliest references to it in this area seem to be in connection with 'Adam del Perer' and Henry and Edward 'de Piro' who witnessed deeds relating to the nearby manor of Kemnal in 1259. In 1530 'Peristrete' was described as a lane leading from 'Chesilhurst to Fotiscray' on the south side of the manor of 'Kemyhall'.

How to get around

The Easy Access Trail is 1 km long (5/8 ml) and at the time of going to press was accessible for self propelled wheelchairs. There are no steps or stiles but 3 speed humps as shown on the map.

Recommended direction is south via the park to avoid uphill gradients (max 10%). Take care on the tarmac roads. Old Perry Street is quite narrow and busy at times. Please remove your dog waste and within the park follow the Countryside Code and keep to the footpaths. Cycling, horse riding and fishing are not allowed. Scadbury Park By-laws apply.



A

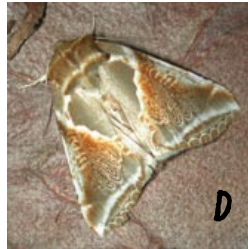


B



C

Many of the animals which live along the trail are secretive and difficult to see but the variety of plants and habitats encourages a variety of animals including: **SOME THAT EAT MAINLY PLANTS**



D



E

A Wood Mouse: eats fruit, seeds, nuts and berries.

B Longhorn Beetle (*Stenocorus meridianus*): Adults feed on flowers, larvae eat dead wood, helping break it down.

C House Sparrow: eats a variety of food including seeds and prefers to live in colonies. Numbers in London have fallen by 80% in the last 50 years. Please let us know if you have a colony near you.

D Buff Arches Moth: caterpillars eat bramble.

E Pillbug: Armour-plated relative of crabs, breaks down dead plant remains.

AND SOME THAT EAT OTHER ANIMALS.

F Moles: Molehills show where moles have been making tunnels in which they trap earthworms to eat.



G



H



I

SEE HOW MANY DIFFERENT GRASSES YOU CAN FIND



J



K



L



M

Long and short grass support different plants and animals, so some areas of grass are left uncut until autumn. The clippings are removed to stop food from dead plants returning to the soil. This lowers soil fertility which encourages a greater variety of plants and therefore animals that eat them. Why not make a mini-meadow of your own?

J Yorkshire Fog: eaten by caterpillars of small skipper butterflies.

K False Oat Grass: can be dried for flower arranging.

L Spikes of Timothy Grass with a Meadow Grass, the latter is food for caterpillars of meadow brown and gatekeeper butterflies.

M Cocksfoot: caterpillars of meadow brown, large skipper and speckled wood butterflies eat this grass.

Scadbury Easy Access Trail

Leave car park via the southern end (furthest from the road). Turn left towards picnic area.



▲ Ash leaves & fruit

◀ Ash flowers



Sycamore flowers

1. There is a big sycamore tree at the barrier and a tall ash on your right. In spring look for wind-pollinated purple flowers of ash and pendulous sycamore flowers whose nectar attracts insects for pollination. In autumn look for the wind-dispersed fruit of both and the fungus *Stereum hirsutum* which breaks down dead wood.



Stereum hirsutum



Peacock Butterfly

2. As you go along the path avoid the nettles whose stinging cells release acid into the skin if touched. Young leaves when cooked taste like spinach; fibres obtained by soaking their stems were used to make cloth. Over 100 types of insects are commonly found on nettles; many eat the leaves, including caterpillars of comma, peacock, small tortoiseshell and red admiral butterflies.



Red Admiral



Stinging Nettle flowers



Comma Butterfly



Ear fungus

3. On your right, near Post 20 of the Acorn Trail, look for the jelly-like Ear Fungus growing on dead elder.



Holly Blue Butterfly

4. Just beyond the post some of the holly leaves have blotch mines; each one is home to the larva of a tiny fly. It lives, feeds and spends winter inside the leaf, forming a chrysalis and emerging as an adult the following spring. Buds of holly flowers provide food for caterpillars of holly blue butterflies in spring, berries feed birds in autumn.



Blotch mine in Holly leaf



5. Hazel on the right has catkins pollinated by the wind in spring. In summer and autumn look for the nuts eaten by many small mammals.



Above: Hazel leaves
Right: Hazel catkins



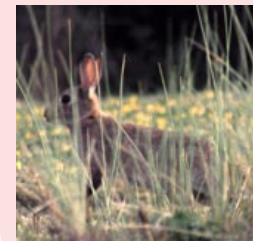
6. The oak tree on the right may be about 300 years old. Notice the zones of green staining on the trunk, especially in winter. The bright green near the base consists of millions of tiny plants, each one a single cell. They are green algae called *Desmococcus*, which have to be surrounded by a film of water to grow and reproduce. The paler blue-green zone slightly further from the base is the lichen *Lepraria incana*. Listen for the laughing cackle of green woodpeckers which live in tree holes near here and sometimes feed on ants in the picnic area.



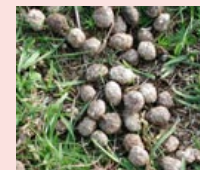
Green Woodpecker



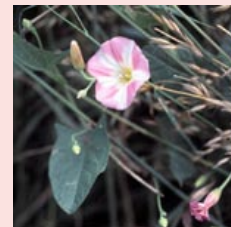
Desmococcus



7. In summer as you enter the picnic area look for field bindweed whose stems twine anticlockwise. Its almond scent attracts many different insects. Bramble around the edge of the clearing thrives in the increased light here providing food and homes for many different minibeasts. Its thorny stems give cover and protection for larger animals such as rabbits, mice, voles and hedgehogs. Rabbit droppings show that they graze the grass here when no-one is around.



Rabbit Droppings



Field Bindweed

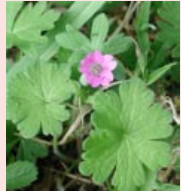
8. The living sundial can be used to tell the time in summer. In winter, subtract an hour. As you leave the picnic area look for the twisty bark of sweet chestnut trees on the right.

Turn left onto tarmac road

9. On your left, some grass is left long in summer to provide food for grasshoppers and caterpillars of brown and skipper butterflies. The shorter grass close to the tarmac suits the tiny doves-foot crane's-bill and creeping cinquefoil whose creeping stems root at the nodes. The feathery leaves of yarrow form rosettes in the grass which also escape the mower, allowing it to flower between the spring and autumn cut.



Creeping cinquefoil



Dove's-foot Crane's-bill



Yarrow

10. Behind the grass verge on your right a new hedge of native trees has been planted. As it grows it will provide food, homes and safe passage for many animals. Further along, raspberries suggest past crops grown on this part of Scadbury estate.



Raspberries

11. As you walk towards the main road, look on your right for the closely related trees: rowan, wild service and varieties of whitebeam. The berries are eaten by birds such as the song thrush. Look at the undersides of the whitebeam leaves, thick hairs help prevent moisture loss. The wild service or chequer tree is one of Britain's rarest trees and is mainly found in the south-east. It grows very slowly and does not germinate well.



Rowan



Whitebeam



Wild Service Tree

At the end of the driveway turn sharp left into Old Perry Street and cross the road

You are in front of Chestnut and Waggoner's cottages, which were probably built in the 1700s. In 1840 they belonged to a John Skiggs who let them to tenants. Chestnut Cottage is thought to have been a beer house in the 19th century which once had a bar in one of the rooms.

12. Almost opposite is a terrace of 5 red brick houses, called Orchard Cottages and a little further along is a terrace of 5 houses, then 2 more, called Orchard Villas. These were built for Scadbury estate workers between 1893 and 1909, on the site of an orchard shown on maps of the 1840s.

13. Next door, the Old School House is a timber framed cottage with low ceilings probably built in the 18th century. Lady Sydney started a school here in 1875 for local children. In 1879 a classroom and schoolroom were added, rebuilt in 1891. This addition is now a timber yard but look for the terracotta monogram of 2 Es with an S (for Emily, Countess Sydney) and the earl's coronet above it. A school log book describes a rather remote community living here isolated from both Sidcup and Chislehurst by a narrow country lane which was blocked by snow during hard winters. In about 1902 the school was closed and the new school building became Rose Cottage Laundry, until it was rented by the Empire Banana Company.

14. Rose Cottage, just beyond the timber yard was built in the 1700s for Scadbury Estate workers. It probably started as one cottage, but was later divided into 3 and is now a single dwelling. The house is timber framed, with one wall of weatherboard and the other 3 of red bricks, some of which came from Pascall's brickworks at Red Hill (where Red Hill School is now).



15. Opposite Rose Cottage are the gate piers of Homewood and its East Lodge. Homewood was a large house built in 1630 and demolished in the 1920s, which stood on what are now playing fields on new Perry Street.

16. Homewood Villas, next door to the lodge were built in Victorian Gothic style between 1863 and 1897.

17. The Sydney Arms was an 18th century inn, extended in Victorian times, when it had tea-rooms and advertised its garden, bowls, quoits and cricket. It was called The Swan until renamed in the 1880s in honour of John Robert Townshend, Lord Sydney. The sign shows his coat of arms.

18. Ivy Cottage near the Sydney Arms is timber framed and may be of 16th century date.



Turn left into a driveway, laid in the late 1930s which leads into Scadbury Park.



The Sydney Arms

19. In spring Queen Anne's Lace flowers behind the information boards. In summer this gives way to hogweed, so-called because it used to be gathered and fed to pigs. People also ate the young leaves after they had been boiled but the plant contains a chemical which may react on the skin in sunlight, so it is best not touched.



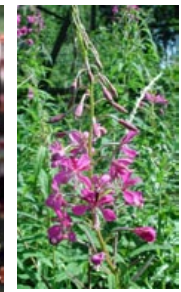
Queen Anne's Lace



Hogweed



Enchanter's Nightshade



Rosebay Willowherb



Elephant Hawkmoth



20. As you go along the driveway in summer look for Enchanter's nightshade. Its pale flowers attract small flies which pollinate it. This member of the willowherb family has seeds covered in small hooks which are dispersed by animals, unlike the rosebay willowherb in the car park which has wind dispersed seeds. Look for caterpillars of the elephant hawkmoth which feed on the leaves of both.

21. As you reach the car park you can see Turkey oak trees. These were originally introduced from Turkey in the 2nd half of the 19th century and have now become naturalised in some areas. Look for the whisky stipules at the leaf bases and mossy acorn cups in autumn.



22. Around the car park a dead hedge provides habitat for fungi and minibeasts which break down dead wood, returning nutrients to the soil. In this area evergreen cherry laurel has been flowering and fruiting well and many young seedlings are growing. This very poisonous plant contains cyanide and was introduced by the Victorians as cover for game birds. Cut stems can cause skin irritation while gas from cut leaves can make you feel unwell.



Cherry Laurel



We hope you enjoyed the trail!