

- 11 Continue towards the village hall and 'Old School' building. At the path fork, turn left and follow the signed footpath away from the road edge. Follow the path through the common to where it meets the main road, cross with care back to the starting point opposite.

2a Detour: Turn left down Jackass Lane and walk down Church Road. Keston Court is the large white timber boarded building to the right. In feudal times the courts of the Manor of Keston were held here. Keston Church is a small, attractive flint and stone Parish Church. Records show that a Saxon Church was here in 1050. Some parts of the Nave and Chancel arch are Norman. Walk back along Church Road and down Jackass Lane to rejoin the circular walk.

How to get there...

BUSES:

146 Bromley to Downe
246 Bromley to Chartwell
320 Biggin Hill to Catford
R2 Petts Wood to Biggin Hill

TRAIN:

Nearest station: Hayes

CAR:

Turn onto Heathfield Road, off the main A233, in Keston.

PARKING:

Heathfield Road car park, Keston.

Please check: www.tfl.gov.uk for further details
or call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

All details correct at time of printing (2013).

Additional Information...

An enjoyable 4.2 mile walk passing through the ancient hamlet of Nash and taking the walker through attractive woodland, farmland and Hayes and Keston Common.

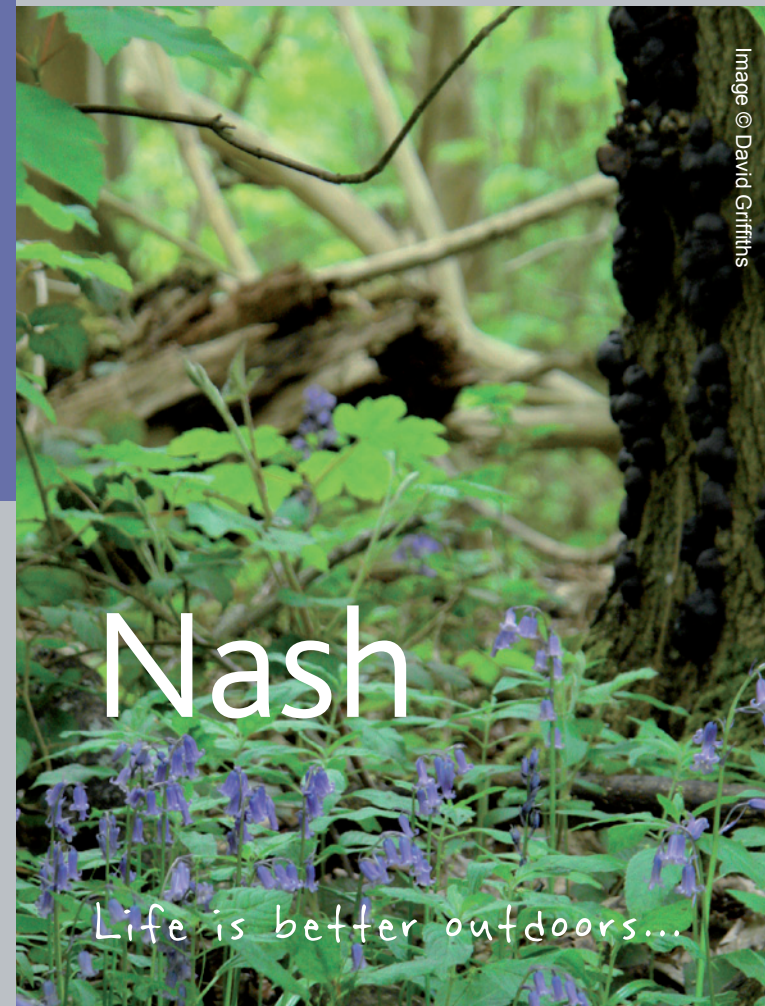
Short cut from Point 3:

Leave Nash on footpath 225 adjacent to Nash House. Looking across to the left, see Rouse Farm. At Jackass Lane cross to Fox Lane. Take the footpath on the right, cross a field and climb up to Keston. Once on Leafy Grove continue ahead, at Heathfield Road turn right and walk on to rejoin the walk shortly after Point 10.

The name Nash is derived from the Old English for 'near an ash'. This hamlet dates back to 1310, being cited in the records of Wickham Court.

Walks

around the Borough



Starting point: Heathfield Road car park, Keston
Distance: 4.2 miles
Duration: 2 hours
Short cut route: Point 3 to Point 10

Nash

1 Take the signposted path on the south side of Heathfield Road car park, Keston. Continue to Westerham Road turn right and follow the road round the corner. To the right is Warbank, once a hillside Roman settlement with one of the largest Roman tombs in Britain. Carry straight on and turn right onto footpath 227 just before the railings. At the end of the footpath emerge onto Jackass Lane.

2 Turn right onto Jackass Lane to continue the walk (or you can take a short detour to Keston Court and Church - see end - 2a). 250m along Jackass Lane is footpath 226 on the left. Take this path and skirt a field, at its corner is James Wood. The wood is rich in wildlife and contains some ancient coppiced ash. Keep on the footpath to Nash.

3 Nash is an old hamlet consisting of Nash Farm and a cluster of cottages. Nash, Rouse and Layhams Farms are mentioned in the manor records of Wickham Court in the early 1400s. The impressive Nash House was built in the 1700s. At Nash you can take the short cut - see additional information. To continue on the main route, follow the footpath through the stables to the road. At the end of the footpath turn right on to Nash Lane and first left up North Pole Lane, past the barn on the right. At the bend take footpath 214 on the right up the hill along the line of an old hedge. On your right is Rouse Farm. Turn right and skirt the edge of the field. The path now bends left over a stile and into Well Wood.

4 Well Wood is an attractive Bromley-owned woodland of oak, ash, yew, cherry and holly with chestnut coppice. Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management where trees are cut back periodically to their base, or stool, to produce a harvest of stems for use in turnery, fencing and furniture making. Both trees and wildlife benefit from this process as the tree canopy is opened. Take the left fork in the path and continue on the main path.

5 Turn right at the path junction and walk out to the end of Queensway. Here, turn right and then immediately left to follow the bridleway around the school grounds.



6 At Gates Green Road turn right and take the second path (FP217) on the left. To the left is Hast Hill House, a large red brick Victorian House holding a commanding position over the valley.

7 At the top of the hill, turn right and continue past Baston Manor. Take the next right and follow the path along the edge of Hayes Common onto Keston village. Hayes Common, extending for over 200 acres, is one of the largest public open spaces in the Borough. It has been farmed and settled for over 1200 years, records also make reference to a Bronze Age farmstead here. Since grazing by commoners ceased in the early 1900s this acid heathland has been colonised by trees, mainly birch and oak. Part of the Common is managed by The London Borough of Bromley as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, conserving the heath and its wildlife which includes woodpeckers, lizards, badgers and butterflies.

8 Continue straight ahead until you reach the mini roundabouts. Go straight over and head up Heathfield Road. There has been a settlement here since Roman times and the medieval village moved here from the parish church area, after the Great Plague. Leave the village by turning left at Lakes Road. At the bottom continue straight on the path between a play area and the school grounds on your right.

9 Turn right around the school grounds and onto Keston Common. Ahead is the shallow valley of the River Ravensbourne with its associated ponds, wet meadows and woodlands. Follow the path to the end where it meets the junction of Fishponds Road and Heathfield Road and turn right on meeting Fishponds Road.

10 Cross over Fishponds Road and turn left up Heathfield Road passing the war memorial on your left. As you walk on notice Keston Windmill to your right. This old weather boarded Post Mill is one of the oldest surviving in Kent. Milling ceased after the Great Storm of 1878 when its sails were severely damaged.