

- 11 Walk up Lakes Road for 120m and turn right into Keston Gardens. Take Footpath 303 on the left hand side (between numbers 4 & 5). This path leads to Commonsides, next to 'The Greyhound' pub; you may like to take a break here or at 'The Fox' pub nearby.
- 12 Cross over Commonsides on to the green. Walk past the water fountain and on to the wooden bar gate on the far side. Immediately after the second gate, turn left and continue on to Baston Road.
- 13 Cross Baston Road and follow the path to the right of the car park. At the junction, take the right hand path and follow it until you reach a second fork. Here, carry straight on to a crossroads, where you turn left and cross over the bridleway. Follow the path as it bends round to the right and on to West Common Road. Cross over and then follow the path round to the left.
- 14 Cross Croydon Road and follow the path straight on until you reach a fork. Take the left hand fork and follow straight on. Continue to follow this path until you reach a crossroads. Turn left and continue straight on until you reach Croydon Road. Cross over towards West Wickham Common, managed by the Corporation of London. Walk down Hartfield Crescent and take the footpath on your right behind the house.
- 15 Here the walk joins the London LOOP. Follow the signs for the LOOP through the woodland. On a clear day you will get some good views of Well Wood, New Addington and Coney Hall. Continue to follow this path straight on and down the hill, following the LOOP signs at all times.
- 16 At the end of the common, cross Gates Green Road and walk to the pedestrian crossing on Croydon Road. After crossing over, turn right up Croydon Road, crossing Coney Hill Road. Turn left when you reach Pole Cat Alley, byway 102 and follow this path till it opens out at the entrance to the Warren. Continue straight on down Warren Wood Close and follow this path back to the start of the walk.



## How to get there...

### BUSES:

146 Bromley to Downe  
 246 Bromley to Chartwell  
 320 Biggin Hill to Catford  
 664 Biggin Hill to New Addington  
 R2 Petts wood to Biggin Hill

### TRAIN:

Nearest station: Hayes

### CAR:

Turn off the main Croydon Road (A232) at Prestons Road. Continue on this road until the junction with Warren Road.

### PARKING:

Limited on-road parking in Warren Road and the surrounding roads.

Please check: [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://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...

A 5 mile walk through the commons of Hayes, Keston and West Wickham, plus Ravensbourne Open Space and Padmall Wood.

### Short cut from Point 5:

Continue along the path for a short way and you will reach a small meadow area. Cross this and take the right hand path through the woodland on the other side. Follow this path as it bends round to the right. Cross the next meadow area and turn right at the end. This brings you out at Baston Road. Cross over and rejoin the main walk at point 13.

The land surrounding the commons has been farmed and settled for at least 1,200 years. The commons themselves have poor soil and were used for grazing. Since the grazing ceased earlier this century the commons have been colonised by trees.

# Walks



## around the Borough

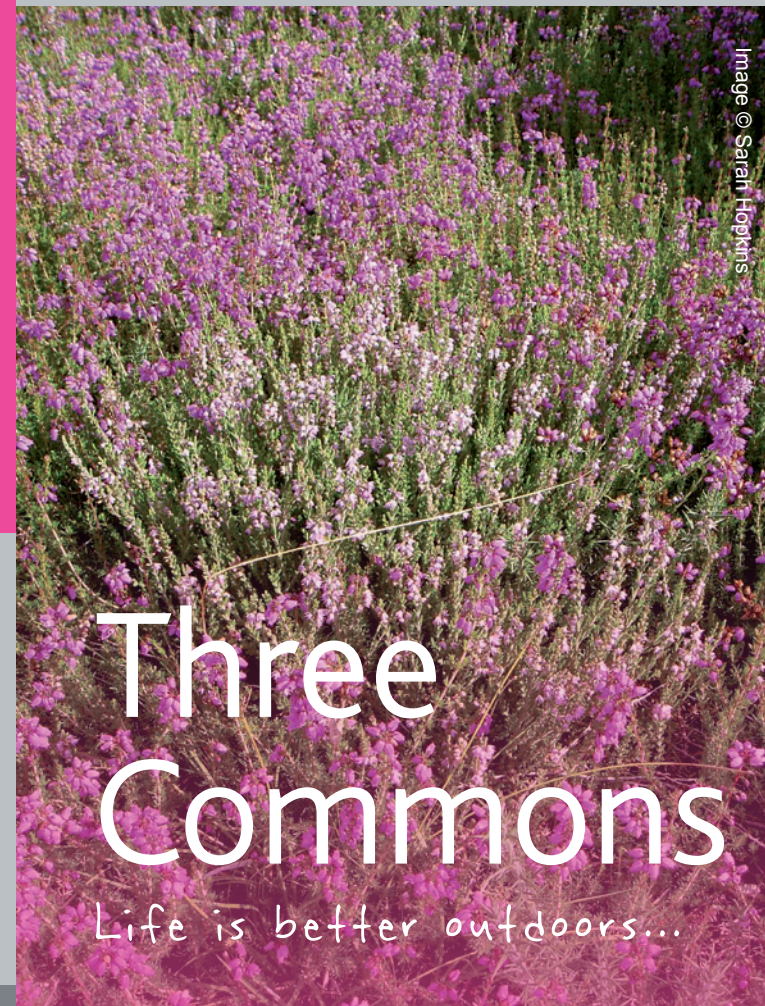


Image © Sarah Hopkins

# Three Commons

Life is better outdoors...

**Starting point:** Warren Road, opposite Station Hill, Hayes.

**Distance:** 5 miles

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Short cut route:** Point 5 to Point 13



# Three Commons

**1** Start at Warren Road opposite Station Hill. Cross the grassland, taking the path on the far left and then go through the woodland. Cross Prestons Road and keep on the main path. Notice the pebbly soils; these are typical of the area's Blackheath beds geology. Common to these poor, acid soils are oak and birch trees, bracken, bramble, bilberry, gorse and heather. Continue on this path following the signs until you reach a major crossroads.

**2** Turn left here, passing an avenue of hornbeams; note their snake-like bark. Follow this path as it bends round to the left and head towards West Common Road. Cross West Common Road and follow the main path straight ahead for 90m until it forks.

**3** Keep to the right hand path and follow it round as it bends to the left. Eventually you will cross over the bridleway. A short way after this you will reach Baston Road.

**4** Cross Baston Road and follow the main path all the way to Croydon Road where there is a row of cottages to the left. Carefully cross Croydon Road and follow the path ahead for 125m.

**5** To continue on the circular walk take the first path on your left. (As an alternative route you can continue straight ahead and take the short cut - see additional information). When you reach the path fork take the right hand path. At the next fork, take the left hand path, and continue for 50m. Follow the path as it bends round to the left. At the next major junction of five paths, take the second left.

**6** Walk onto Commonsides, cross over and enter Padmall Wood through the kissing gate. Cross the grassy area and take the right hand path where it forks. This coppiced woodland consists mainly of sweet chestnut and birch trees. The former is an extremely useful fencing timber and is still harvested today. In 1275 William Pessum makes mention of a water mill at 'Padmille'. Continue following this main path, past a small bridge on the left until you reach a T-junction.

**7** Here turn left and enter Ravensbourne Open Space. Cross over the small footbridge and take a sharp right. This path is fringed by the River Ravensbourne on your right. Follow the path along the river crossing two more footbridges. Follow this path until you reach a large pond. Follow the path across the pond, over the bridge and turn left. Climb the steps at the end of the path, turn left and cross Fishponds Road.

**8** This next pond is the largest of the three Keston ponds, constructed below Ceaser's Well by John Ward in the 1830's. Where the path forks by the pond, take the right hand fork up the small slope and follow this path, keeping the ponds on your left and the grassy areas to your right. Continue on this path until you reach the car park.

**9** Take the right hand path just before the car park and continue uphill until you reach a crossroads. Continue straight on following this path until you reach another crossroads. Here, turn left and follow the path to a T-junction. At this junction turn right and follow the path down hill as it bears round to the right. Continue straight on following the main path until your reach a crossroads. Here, turn left and then immediately right and follow this path until you reach Fishponds Road.

**10** Cross Fishponds Road and take the path ahead of you until you reach a T-junction. Turn right and follow this path downhill, turning left at the junction crossing a small stream. Follow FP129 past Keston Primary School on your left until you reach Lakes Road.

