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**Key - Round the Borough Hike & Bike North East**

- Hike & Bike Route
- ▲ Caution Road Crossing
- P - Car Park
- T - Toilet
- R - Refreshments
- i7 - Information (see reverse)
- ◆ Mile Marker
- Bike Only Route
- 0 ↔ 500m

**i9** You now have a choice. The path straight ahead and through the gates leads to historic Ewell Court Park where you can find the cafe and toilets situated to the rear of the house (follow the green route on your map, PLEASE NOTE that this diversion will extend your walk from 20 miles to 20.5 miles). The house was built by the owners of the gun powder mill which operated very close to this spot and was one of several which operated along the river. Their safety record was poor and legislation designed to improve the safety of gunpowder manufacture led to their closure in the 1870s.

**i10** Another choice? You can follow the alternative green route ahead and down the steps (Cyclists dismount) which gives you an opportunity to travel alongside the river towards the 'Stepping Stones'. Do not cross the 'Stepping Stones', turn right by the memorial bench to rejoin the main route.

**i11** Proceed through the tunnel under the railway (Mind your head on the low pipe!) at the other end you emerge close to the former site of the Lower Mill and its pond which is still present today. The Lower Mill was destroyed by fire in the 1930s by which time it was operating as a paper mill rather than a flour mill. Today the old mill house can still be glimpsed through the trees and is attached to a modern office building. A little further on you will arrive at the former Upper Mill. Recorded in the Domesday Book the mill closed in the early 1950s having been in use for at least 900 years! The derelict building was restored to modern offices in the 1980s and today is the national head quarters for the Samaritans. Beyond the building lies the Upper Mill Pond which powered the Mill.

**i12** You have now arrived at Bourne Hall Park, **(Cyclists must dismount)** refreshments and toilet facilities are available here. Bourne Hall itself is a very unusual building and looks like a giant flying saucer has landed! The building was opened in 1969 and is built on the site of the former Garbrand Hall. Today Bourne Hall is the hub of community life in Ewell with a Library, Museum, cafe and conference facilities. The pond is filled by springs and is the head water of the Hogsmill River.

**i13** Turn left on to Church Street on your right is the old 'Watch House' which used to hold the village fire engine and is reputed to have held prisoners! To your left just before you turn right to take the path alongside Ewell Castle School is the oldest building in Ewell, the Tower of the old St Mary's Church, all that was left after demolition in 1840 and re-building of a new church close by. On your left as you travel up the path are the grounds of Ewell Castle School, take a look at all the ancient graffiti etched in to the brick wall on your right, much of it by former pupils. Take care crossing the 'Ewell Bypass'.

**i14** On your left is the former site of the 'Banqueting House' which was part of Nonsuch Palace, its higher location is thought to have provided views of deer hunting in the surrounding park.

**i15** You have now arrived in historic Nonsuch Park. Follow the route on the map to the 'Mansion House' where there are toilet facilities and refreshments for sale at the cafe. The park is owned by Surrey County Council but jointly managed by both the London borough of Sutton and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. Today very little remains to indicate that King Henry VIII palace of Nonsuch once stood in the park. The Mansion House is a much later nineteenth century building.

**A short history of Nonsuch Palace:** King Henry VIII began to build Nonsuch Palace on 22 April 1538. The King's advisors chose a site then occupied by the village of Cuddington, with its church and manor house. These were cleared away and the owners compensated. The palace structure was perhaps substantially complete by January 1541, but the decorations of the outside walls (which were to be the fame of Nonsuch and the explanation of Henry's purpose in its creation) were still in progress five years later. By November 1545 the work had cost £24,536 - half as much again as was spent at Hampton Court in the same period. When Henry died on 28 January 1547, the palace was still unfinished, but what little remained to be done was completed by Henry Fitzalan, Twelfth Earl of Arundel, after his purchase of the palace from the crown in 1556. Elizabeth I regained Nonsuch in 1592 and it remained in Royal hands (apart from the Commonwealth) until 1670 when Charles II gave it to his erstwhile mistress, Barbara Villiers, who became Baroness Nonsuch, Duchess of Cleveland. She demolished the palace in 1682-3 and broke up the parks to sell to cover her gambling debts. The site was excavated in 1959. The location of the palace is marked on your map.

**i16** You are now travelling across 'Warren Farm' which is a nature reserve belonging to the Woodland Trust.

**i17** You are now crossing an area known as Priest Hill Playing Fields and to your right is NESCOL (North East Surrey College of Technology). The college was founded as Ewell Technical College in October 1953, with the aim of providing education in vocational and technical subjects. The college transformed into NESCOL in 1975.

***The route now moves on to the South East map***