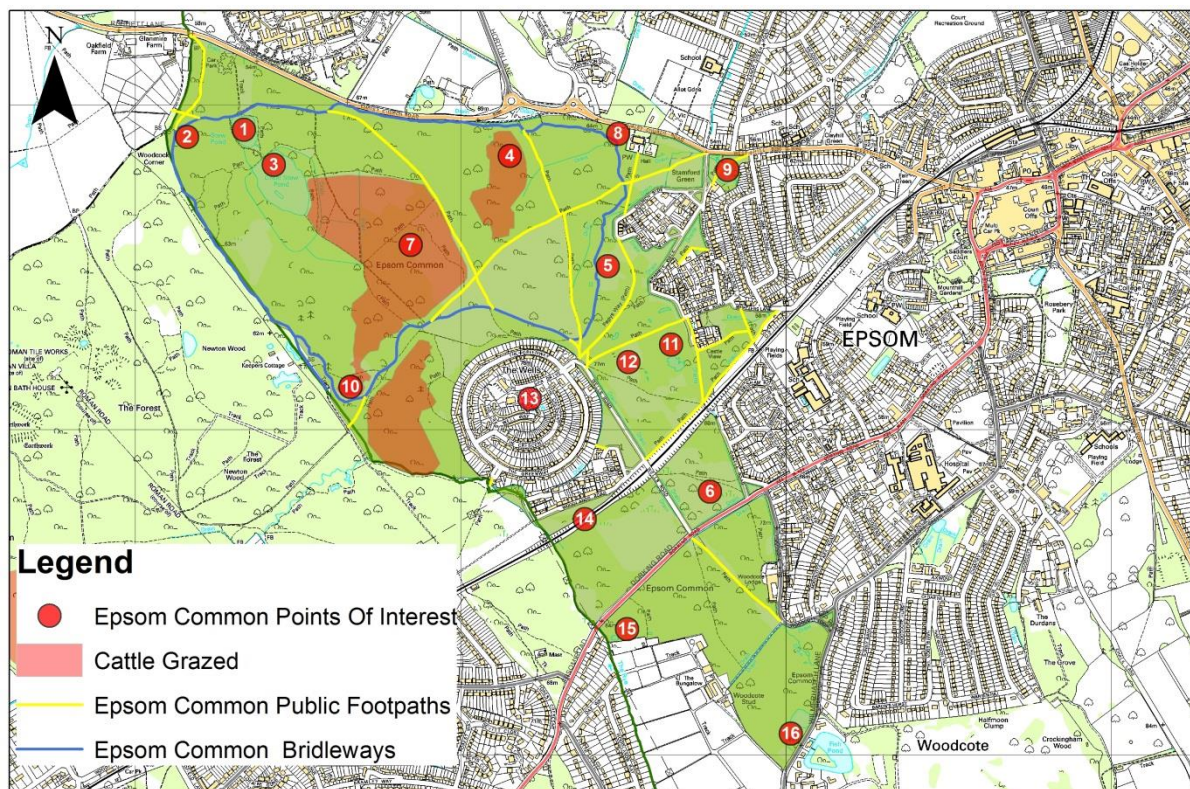


## Epsom Common LNR Map and Tour

If you would like to take a tour around Epsom Common, please refer to the following map and numbered points.

[Return to the Epsom Common LNR 'Home page'](#)



Area = 175 hectares/436 acres

- 1. The Stew Pond is a haven for many types of wildlife in and around the pond. Day tickets for fishing are available on the bank side. Parts of the bank are accessible for disabled fishermen. There is a large free car park. This car park is locked half an hour before dusk. There is also a 6 foot 6 inch height barrier at the entrance.



- **2. Woodcock Corner** derives its name from a bird called the Woodcock which lives in the thick undergrowth often found in woods. From here you can also access Ashted Common National Nature Reserve, owned by the City of London.



- **3. Great Pond** is the largest pond on the Common. Restored by the Epsom Common Association in 1979, it is now managed as a wildlife reserve and is home to fish, amphibians, bats and birds. The



pond was originally constructed by the Abbey of Chertsey in the twelfth century as a fish pond to provide fresh meat in winter. Great Pond 2008:



- 4. Horton Heath is one of the three remaining areas on Epsom Common where plant species such as heather and purple moor grass survive. Lowland heathland is a threatened habitat of international importance. The Council has therefore taken action on Horton Heath to clear the scrub and woodland that has been encroaching on this area and this has been aided by the re-introduction of grazing.



- 5. Bramble Heath is one of three remnants of lowland heathland on Epsom Common. Work has been carried out on Bramble Heath by local volunteers to clear encroaching scrub which threatens to out-compete the heather.



- **6. Castle Heath is one of the three remaining areas of heathland on Epsom Common where plant species such as heather and purple moor grass survive. Local volunteers have worked hard over many years to keep the encroaching scrub at bay.**



- **7. Great Pasture. Not long ago this area was thick scrub threatening to completely take over this previously more open part of the Common. Over many years both volunteers and contractors have been employed to cut back the scrub to ensure that this part of the Common remains more open and ecologically diverse as it has for generations. To help maintain these areas cattle have been used since 1997. In summer three large areas are fenced using temporary electric fencing, to allow the**



cattle to graze. The grazed areas remain open to the public but please keep your dog under control. This area is also accessible to horses via two gates on either side of Great Pasture.



- 8. Christ Church was built between 1867 and 1876 when it was consecrated. It was built with money donated by Elizabeth Trotter, a local philanthropist who lived in Horton Place (subsequently became the Manor Hospital in the 1890s and now a part of the Manor Park housing estate). It was hoped that the congregation would be made up of local, working class people, although a large number of worshippers were attracted from Epsom town.



Christchurch in 1960 showing how open Epsom Common used to be

- 9. Stamford Green Pond and Cricketers Pub. This pond is a favourite with children thanks to the many kinds of waterfowl that can be found here. The Cricketers Pub located next to Stamford Green Pond is one of the oldest taverns in Epsom, and an excellent place to stop, either for lunch or just a rest break.





- **10. West Heath.** Unlike the other three heaths, West Heath no longer has any heather. In 2016 grazing was reintroduced to help control bracken and encourage a more diverse range of plants.



- **11. Blakes Pond.** This is one of the many small ponds that are dotted around the Common, which are currently being restored by local volunteers.



- **12. Webb's Folly. Who was Webb? Nobody seems to know. It is known that this was a Council landfill site in the 1950s.**



- **13. Epsom Well. The well that made Epsom world famous was situated on Epsom Common. The well, discovered in 1618 by a cow herder call Henry Wicker, was the source of Epsom Salts. Once popular across Europe as a cure for constipation, the Well's popularity declined at the beginning of the 18th century. In the 1980's the site of the well located in the middle of the Wells housing estate was**



restored to commemorate its fame. Today the world famous Derby horse race keeps Epsom in the international spotlight.



- 14. The Railway. In 1859 the laying of the railway was very controversial. Back in 1825, plans had been drawn up for a Grand Imperial Ship Canal linking London with Portsmouth, which would have crossed Epsom Common. The plans were dropped as the railways were developed.



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- 15. Dixie's Pond is located in the southern part of Epsom Common near Woodcote Heath. The pond lies next to the Rye Brook and is not located near any main paths so it is a very tranquil.



- 16. Baron's Pond is located on the southern tip of Epsom Common, this large pond faces long term management issues due to the introduction of non-native plants which threaten the native aquatic wildlife by completely choking the pond. Restoration is an expensive challenge!

