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Key - Round the Borough Hike & Bike North West

- Hike & Bike Route
- Caution Road Crossing
- Car Park
- Toilet
- Refreshments
- Information (see reverse)
- Mile Marker

0 500m

i1 Welcome to Horton Country Park Local Nature Reserve. Created in 1973 the Country Park is a landscape of fields, hedgerows, woods, streams, paths and ponds of great wildlife and historical interest.

i2 On your left the tower is a part of the former West Park Hospital one of five hospitals making up what was once one of the biggest complexes of psychiatric hospitals in the world with around 12,000 patients. In recent years the hospitals have been closed and redeveloped for housing.

i3 As you head north you are travelling along the route of the former Horton Light Railway which was used to supply several of the old psychiatric hospitals with coal and other supplies. The photo opposite is of the engine 'Hendon' in January 1938 passing Four Acre Wood, and you are about to pass the exact spot where the photograph was taken!



i4 You are now in Butcher's Grove one of six 'Ancient Woodlands' within Horton Country Park Local Nature Reserve. Woodland that is designated as 'Ancient' is known to have been woodland since at least 1600. In the past woodland was a vital source of timber and fuel, today the woods are also managed for wildlife. Volunteers from the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project have played a vital role in recent decades by re-introducing coppicing, which is the old and sustainable way of managing our woods. The coppice products are used to lay hedges, protect recently coppiced areas from deer and for making benches and signs for the Borough's 'Local Nature Reserves'.

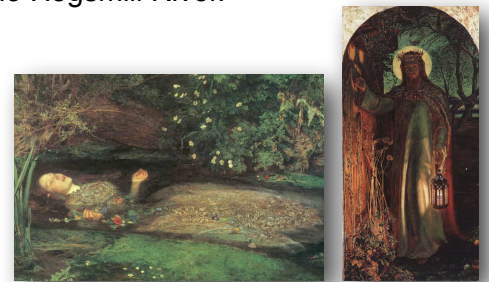
i5 Take care when crossing Chessington Road. Welcome to the Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve which follows the Bonesgate Stream and River Hogsmill as they meander towards the Thames at Kingston. The reserve is a haven for local wildlife, look out for the electric blue of Kingfishers as they dart along the river. Follow the path north with the Bonesgate Stream to your left. The name Bonesgate is thought to refer to the mass burial of London's 'Great Plague' victims of 1665 somewhere in this vicinity.

i6 On the other side of the stream is Tolworth Court Farm Meadows in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. The site of Tolworth Court Farm was first documented in the Domesday Book c1086, with the farm recorded as having 15 families, a mill, 5 hides and 7 slaves.

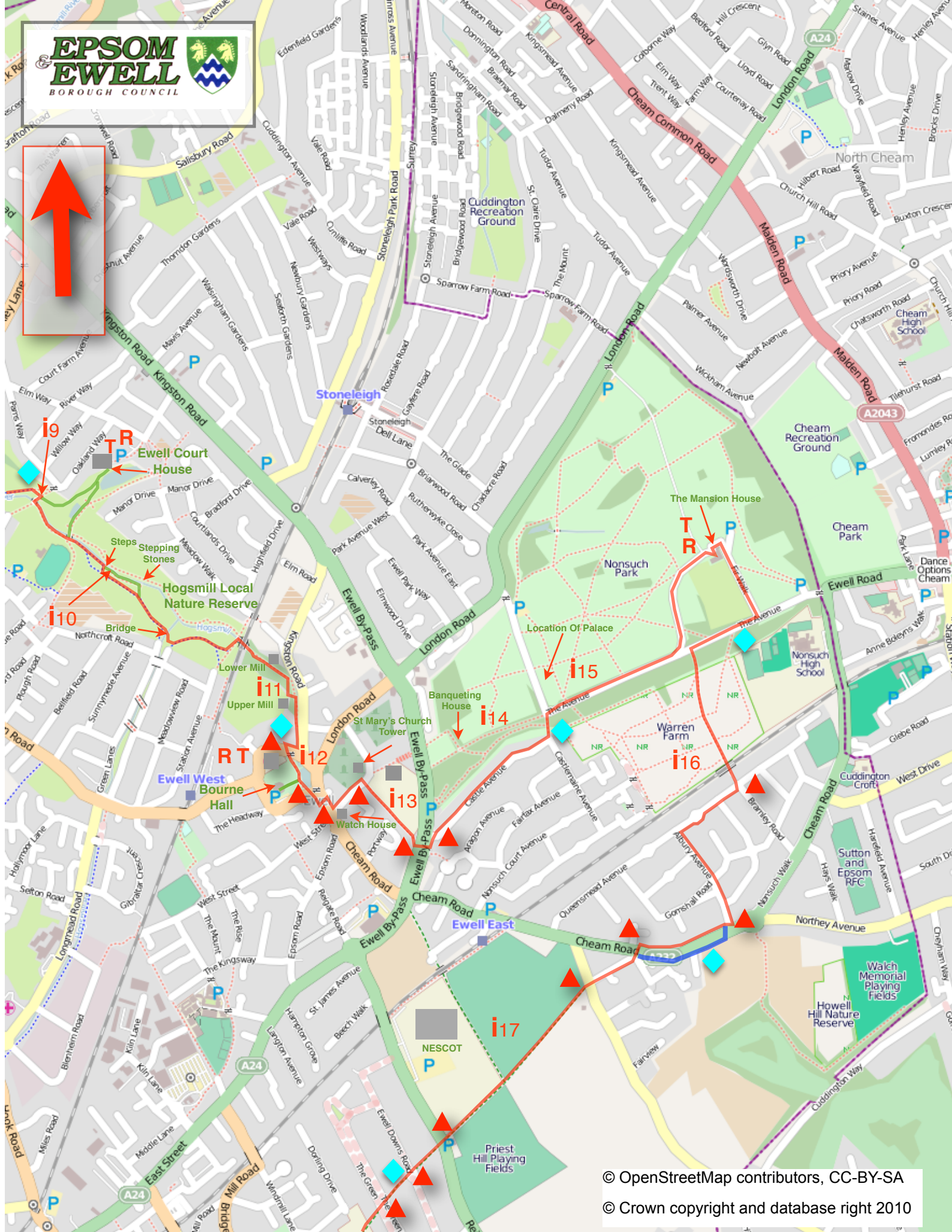
i7 Cross over the Green Bridge and turn right on to the path beside the Hogsmill River.

i8 The Hogsmill river and its surrounding countryside was once the haunt of the Pre-Raphaelite painters John Everett Millais and William Holman Hunt. World famous paintings such as *Ophelia*, by Millais and the *Light of the World* by Hunt were painted in and alongside the river. In the 1850s when they stayed in Ewell this area was a rural landscape and remained so until the huge house building boom between the first and second world wars. Today the Hogsmill Local Nature Reserve is a last remnant of those far off rural days. You can find out more about the Pre-Raphaelite's by using this link.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Raphaelite_Brotherhood



The route now moves on to the North East map



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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.

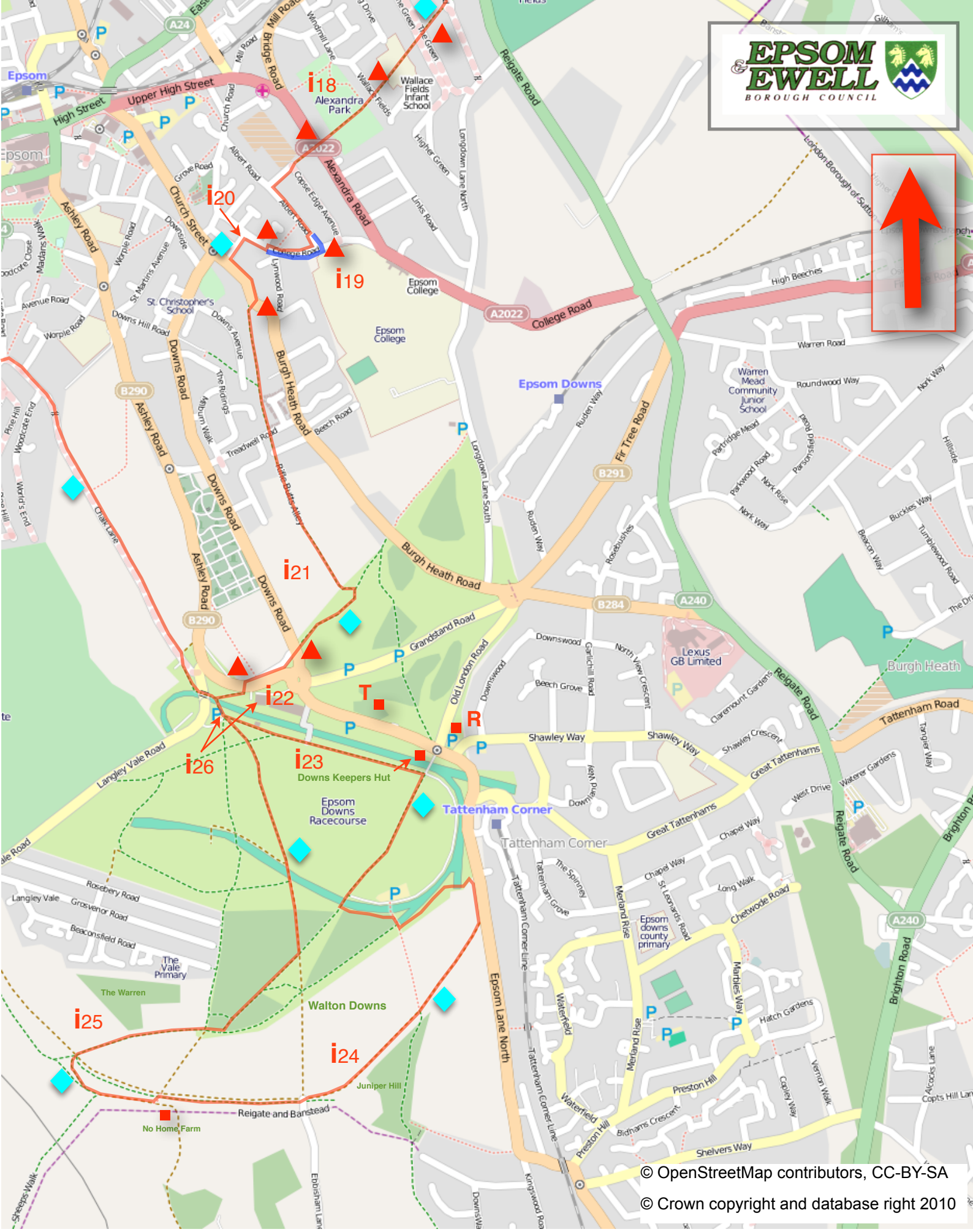
i15 You have now arrived in historic Nonsuch Park. Follow the route on the map to the 'Mansion House' where there are toilet facilities and refreshments for sale at the cafe. The park is owned by Surrey County Council but jointly managed by both the London borough of Sutton and Epsom & Ewell Borough 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



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0 ↔ 500m

i18 Welcome to Alexandra Recreation Ground the oldest park in the Borough. It was purchased on 16th December 1898 for £3,197.

i19 As you turn right in to College Road you can see the playing fields of Epsom College. The College was opened in 1855 to provide support for poor members of the medical profession. After a national fund raising campaign the college was opened by Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria who had consented to be patron, as has each succeeding monarch, including our current Queen.

i20 Turn left in to Randolph Road.

i21 You are now travelling up a path known as 'Rifle Butts Alley' so named because during the nineteenth century until the building of Grandstand Road the area was used for shooting practice. A short climb now to the top of Epsom Downs and a choice of two pubs the Derby Arms or Rubbing House.

i22 Welcome to Epsom Downs, home of the Derby the world's most famous horse race and some stunning views! The Derby was first run in 1780 and organised by Lord Derby who wanted to test young (3 year old) horses whose abilities were not yet known, making the betting more exciting! The race grew in popularity to become London's day out with hundreds of thousands attending. The Derby is held every year on the first Saturday in June and remains one of Britain's most popular sporting events.



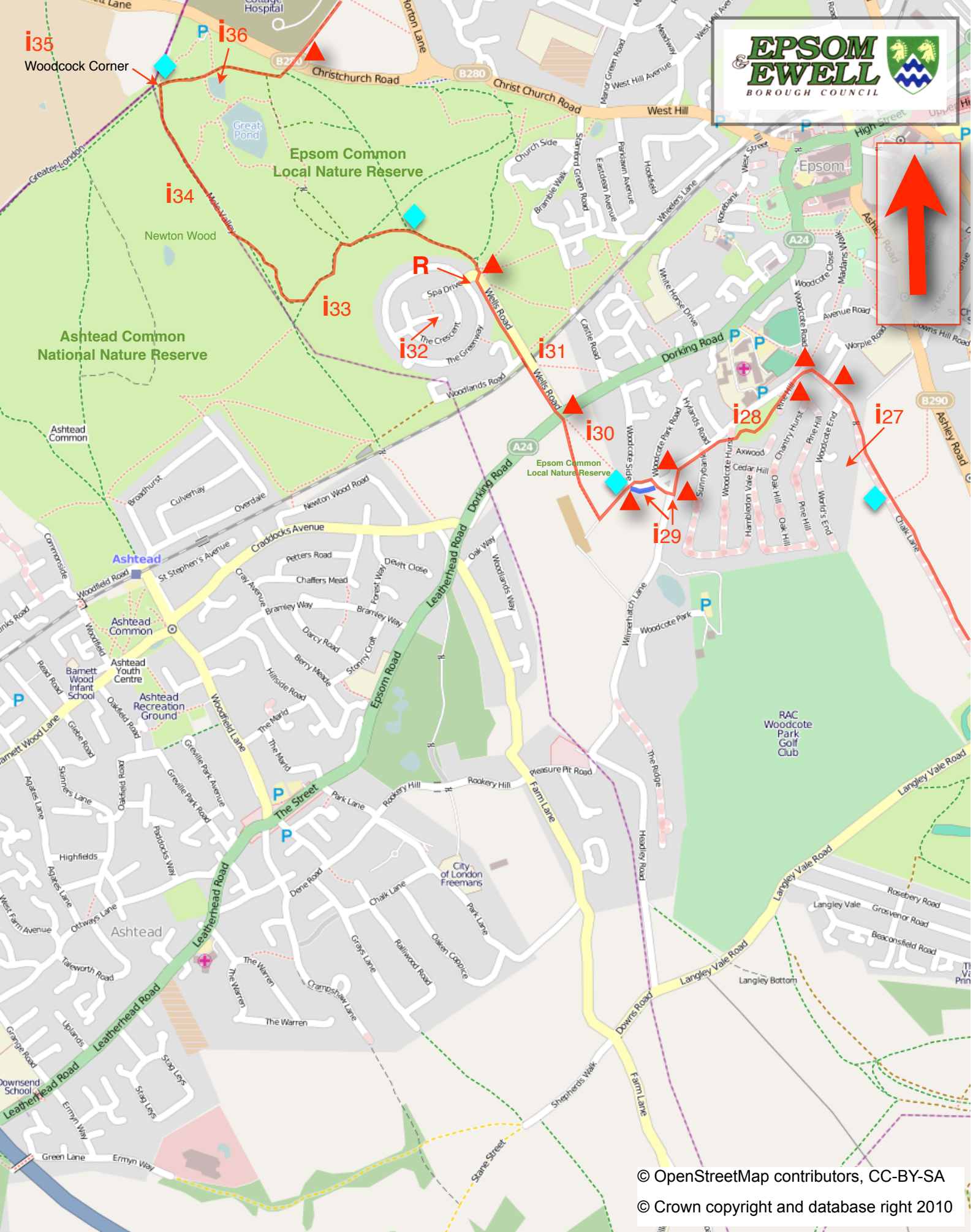
i23 The famous race course and the Queen's and Duchess's Stands are on your left as you travel towards the Downs Keepers Hut. Across the road there are toilets and also a hut selling refreshments, everything you need for a well earned rest. Take care crossing the road.

i24 You are now at the foot of Walton Downs with Juniper hill on your left.

i25 On your left is a woodland called the Warren and remnants of a large red brick wall which used to enclose a Hare Warren. Today the wall is listed and in recent years local volunteers and students have been restoring sections of the wall and have re-introduced coppicing to the woodland which was declared 'Ancient Woodland' in 2011 meaning that it is known to have existed before 1600.

i26 Before crossing the race course again, on your left is the Rubbing House Pub and beyond views to the North Downs and Surrey Hills, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As you cross the hallowed turf of the race course, the finish line is just to your right opposite the Royal Box in the Queen's Stand. Turn left and head off the Downs along Chalk Lane.

The route now moves on to the south west map



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i27 On your left at the bottom of the hill you will pass a grand old house called the Durdans which used to be owned by Lord Rosebery a former Prime Minister during Queen Victoria's reign. Shortly after passing the Chalk Lane Hotel on your left, you will pass the Amato Pub named after a Derby winning horse and at the end of Chalk Lane at the junction with Woodcote Road you will pass the former Ladas Pub also named after a Derby winning horse.

i28 You have now reached Woodcote Millennium Green created in the year 2000 and managed by local residents. The green is a tranquil haven for wildlife, why not have rest on one of the benches by the pond.

i29 Cross Wilmerhatch Lane on to Woodcote Side **and take care on the sharp bend** as you arrive at Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve.

i30 Welcome to Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve. Most of Epsom Common is part of the Epsom & Ashted Commons Site of Special Scientific Interest, a nationally and internationally important site for wildlife. You are now travelling across a part of Epsom Common known as Woodcote Heath. **Take great care crossing the A24, it is a very busy road!**

i31 As you proceed down Wells Road you will cross over the main railway line to Guildford constructed in the 1850s by excavating a huge cutting across Epsom Common.

i32 In the centre of the Wells Estate lies one of Epsom's best kept secrets, the original well where in 1616 Henry Wicker discovered the spring that led to Epsom becoming a Spa Town and giving its name to the world famous Epsom Salts. As you travel down Wells Road you will be walking/cycling in the footsteps of the famous seventeenth century diarist Samuel Pepys who wrote about visiting the well. Don't miss the shop at the end of Wells Road if you need refreshments. Bare left past the notice board as you walk back on to the Common.

i33 On your left is 'Rye Meadow', one of three areas grazed by cattle each summer. Grazing was re-introduced in 1997 having been absent since the early twentieth century and today once again plays a vital role, by maintaining a mosaic of different wildlife habitats across the common. Much of the nature conservation work on the common is carried out by volunteers including helping to look after the cattle.



i34 On your left is an 'Ancient Woodland' called Newton Wood a little further on, also on the left are ancient oak pollards on Ashted Common National Nature Reserve. The path you are travelling along runs along the boundary between Epsom & Ewell and Mole Valley and used to be part of the main road between Kingston and Walton on the Hill.

i35 Turn right at Woodcock Corner and head down hill to the Stew Pond.

i36 The Stew Pond is the only fishing pond in the borough of Epsom & Ewell and the meadow on your left was once Epsom's swimming pool!

The route now moves on to the north west map