

Welcome to Bookham Commons

You can start your walk at the Hundred Pound Bridge car park, Mark Oak car park or the Tunnel car park. It's a circular walk and at a gentle pace should take you 2 hours.



There are plenty of places to stop on the way for a picnic, to watch the birds, climb trees or build dens. You can walk the route in any direction you like.

The commons – Great Bookham, Little Bookham and Banks Common, were given to us between 1923 and 1925 and we've looked after them ever since.



More Information

Find out more about what happens on the Surrey Hills

The National Trust looks after much of the Surrey Hills – from Limpsfield Common in the east to Hindhead Common in the west. In between are Box Hill, Leith Hill and Bookham Commons to name but a few of the places we care for. Our places are great for running around and exploring, building dens and seeing the wonderful wildlife that lives there. You could take a kite on windy days and wear wellie

boots for splashing on wet days. Pack a picnic and make a day of it, or come along for just an hour or two.

Take a look on our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/surreyhills to read about our latest news and events, to download more trail leaflets, or make friends with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalTrustSurreyHills



National Trust

The National Trust is an independent conservation charity and needs your continued support. If you would like to know more about the National Trust, local places to visit, or how to become a member, please contact our local office:

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Surrey

Free
(donations welcome)

Bookham Commons

Family trail



National Trust





Explore...

A kingdom of ancient trees, magical ponds and amazing creatures.



Things to look out for along the way

A Central and Eastern Woods

Take some time to explore the woods. Rustle through leaves or splash in the puddles. You could build a den using branches and twigs that you find on the ground – please don't tear any from the trees.

In this part of Bookham Commons grow our "king trees" – ancient English oaks and holly, both of which are native to the British Isles - some date back at least 500 years when the woods provided timber for housing and shipbuilding. Records suggest that timber may have been felled from the commons to build King Henry VIII's palace at Nonsuch in Cheam.

Did you know?

You can work out the age of a tree with this simple formula:

Measure the distance around the trunk of the tree (its girth). If the tree has lots of branches and is in an open position, then every 25mm of the girth will be one year's growth. If the trunk of the tree is tall and straight, with no branches, then every 12mm will be one year's growth.

B Bird Hide

Looking over Upper Eastern Pond is our bird hide. Sit quietly and be patient and you may well see some native and non-native birds. In spring the dabchick, or little grebe, nests here and in

Listen carefully – lots of bird song means that the wood is dense enough to provide home, food, shelter and nesting places at different heights for birds. In the spring and summer months, the woodland glades support a variety of orchids. During the autumn months, the woods display a wonderful collection of fungi such as fly agaric, chicken-of-the-woods, sulphur bracket and the wood blewit.



Don't miss!

Look out for the heronry marked on the map. Herons raise their young high up in broad nests. They tend to come back to the site that they hatched at to raise their own young. You might even hear the distinctive noise they make when clacking their beaks together.



winter, kingfishers and herons can sometimes be seen.

Watch for roe deer on the opposite bank;



they like the peace and quiet of this undisturbed part of the commons. You could let us know what you see at the hide by joining our Facebook page – search for National Trust Surrey Hills.



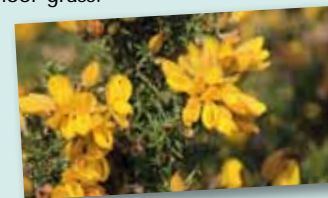
Did you know?

You can tell the origins of a pond by its shape and size. The largest ones were usually dug for rearing fish; steep sided ponds are old "borrow-pits" where soil, stones or rock was taken away to be used on roads, walls or houses. Most of the medium-sized ponds were dug for farm animals to drink at.



C Eastern Plain

Due to a different, sandy soil, this open area of the commons supports plants such as heather, dwarf gorse and purple moor-grass.



Look out for!

Triangular craters in the ground... these were anti-aircraft gun emplacements from the Second World War and were manned by the Royal Artillery. Though the concrete bases were taken-away after the war, they retain the same unusual shape and are home to caddis-fly larvae and burr marigold.

D Western Plain

This part of Bookham Commons is less wooded than other parts because it was once open grassland, where cattle grazed. The Western Plain is prime hunting ground for sparrow hawks and goshawks. On a May evening, you may be lucky enough to hear the strident call of a male nightingale as he sings for his mate.



