

Sutton Countryside Walk

5 Miles

Visit the Oaks Park and enjoy the surrounding countryside on this five mile circular walk through woodland, farms, and the Woodcote Estate.

Allow around three hours to enjoy the walk at a steady pace or use one of the escape routes for a shorter stroll. There are refreshments available at The Oaks Park and on the route. The walk has been waymarked with coloured arrows and the walk symbol. Simply follow the arrows. A few of the paths can be wet and muddy - good footwear is recommended. There are several stiles along the way.

-  ROUTE TO FOLLOW
-  OTHER FOOTPATH
-  ESCAPE ROUTE
-  ROUTE TO/FROM RAILWAY STATION
-  VIEWPOINT
-  STILE
-  GATE OR BARRIER
-  BUSY ROAD
-  TEA ROOMS
-  PARKING
-  TOILETS
-  WOODLAND CRAFT CENTRE



OS Maps

1:25,000 Explorer

1:50,000 Landranger 176 and 187



New lavender plants - photo by Biregional



The map is based on Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100089550, 2018

1:25,000 Explorer

1:50,000 Landranger 176 and 187

New lavender plants - photo by Bioregiona

Start 1

The Walk begins at **The Oaks Park Café**, where refreshments and parking are available. The park lies on the most northerly outcrop of chalk on the North Downs, before the clays of the London Basin. The thin alkaline soil conditions become very dry during the summer, supporting a wide variety of specialised plants and insects, such as lady's bedstraw and the common blue butterfly.

From the cafe turn left and take the track straight ahead through the trees, and follow it to the pedestrian crossing. On the other side turn right, cross the stile and follow the field edge until you reach a signpost. Turn left and go across the fields of **Oaks Farm**. Some of these fields are now managed by Mayfield Lavender for lavender growing - visit in spring or summer to experience an amazing spectacle of colour. Before reaching the central hedge, which is of considerable age and interest, look out for views to the north east including cattle and sheep grazing on Old Lodge Farm.



English Lavender


After crossing the fourth stile turn left and walk along Carshalton Road for 100 yards, facing the oncoming traffic. Then take the footpath off to the right across **Carshalton Road Pastures**, a field protected by Sutton Council for its chalk grassland.

Once through the pastures, turn right along Grove Lane, an ancient track which once led over the Downs to Coulsdon. On a good day there are clear views across parts of London and Canary Wharf can be spotted by the keen-eyed. Closer by there are views across the Surrey County Council Woodcote Estate, parts of which are now privately owned. Market gardeners manage this area intensively to produce crops such as lettuce, onions and flowers. Please respect the farmers' privacy and follow the Countryside Code.

On Grove Lane you can see the old estate gates which were once a main way into the Woodcote Estate. Further along on the right, look out for a council boundary plaque dated 1898. Grove Lane leads to the Clockhouse Estate where the Jack and Jill Pub and local shops provide refreshments.


To continue, turn left opposite the Mount and follow the track to a road, past Woodcote Park Golf Club. Just past the Clubhouse, turn left along a path to the left of horse grazed fields beside the New Lodge Stud Farm. A public footpath from Woodcote Park Avenue joins the route midway through these fields.

From the grazing fields, follow the route along Woodcote Grove, a lovely example of a tree-lined avenue. It includes ash, oak, beech, yew and pine. Turn left at Little Woodcote Lane and follow the wooded roadside path for 200 yards.

 If it is raining or you are short of time, take the escape route along the pavement to The Oaks Park.

To continue cross Little Woodcote Lane with care (the traffic can be dangerous) and enter **Little Woodcote Wood**, managed as a nature reserve. Follow the footpath, then cross Woodmansterne Lane with care and walk along Telegraph Track, a concrete road through the smallholding area. Note **Old Lodge Farm** on the left, now managed by the Downlands Countryside Management Project for the benefit of wildlife.

The farm and smallholdings do not have public access, so please keep to the public rights of way. At the first crossroads turn left along Oaks Track. After 400 yards, cross Woodmansterne Road to The Oaks Park (again crossing with care).

 If you feel tired, follow Oaks Park Track back to the car park and tea rooms.

The walk now continues for a further mile through the beautiful **Woodland Walk**. Simply follow the footpath along the edge of Woodmansterne Road and turn left at the aptly named **Fox Hole Corner**.

Start 2 (If joining the walk from Carshalton Beeches Station).

The woodland walk is a great refuge for wildlife. At Woodpecker Triangle you might catch a glimpse of any of the three native woodpeckers, the greater spotted, lesser spotted and the green. Many other birds and animals such as weasels and stoats can be seen here too.

At the end of the woodland walk follow the path through the formal gardens back to the Tea Rooms and car park.