



Commonside West

Carshalton Road
Cranmer Road
Willow Lane

Mitcham Junction
British Rail
Tramlink

Cedars Avenue

Seven
Islands
Pond

Croydon Road

walk 1

Commonside East
Manor Road

Beddington Lane

Windmill Road

Mill House
Ecology
Centre

Croydon Road

One Island Pond

Watneys Road



Seven Islands Pond

Time

23 minutes

Distance

1.1 miles

1.8 km

Condition

Flat unsurfaced paths. May be muddy in winter

Start point

Ecology Centre car park

Walk heart beat



Merton, Sutton 
and Wandsworth
Health Authority

MITCHAM COMMON
CONSERVATORS



POLLARDS HILL
REGENERATION SCHEME
Funded by the Single Regeneration
Budget Programme through the London
Development Agency. Supported by
Pollards Hill Regeneration Partnership.

1 Originally a domestic rubbish dump, **Mill Hill** was sealed with clay in the 1960s. Its banks have been planted with a variety of trees to enhance the landscape. The skylark, whose numbers are in national decline, can be heard singing in the spring and summer.

2 **Acid grassland** is the rarest habitat type on Mitcham Common. Gravel underneath the thin surface soil makes water and nutrients scarce, in such conditions low growing grasses and plants such as Sheep's sorrel, harebells and heath bedstraw thrive. Once grazing by animals on the Common stopped, trees and shrubs invaded to the detriment of the valuable grassland. The start of a winter programme of scrub management has helped restore much of the grassland to its former condition.

3 Once a Victorian gravel pit, **Seven Islands Pond** was allowed to gradually fill with water. It is now one of the most visited places on the Common, home to a variety of plants and animals including swans, coots, Canada geese and a large population of frogs and toads. The rare bog bean plant thrives in the middle of the pond.

4 Tucked away behind the scrub is a memorial dedicated to **George Parker Bidder, QC**. In the early 1900s uncontrolled grazing and gravel digging incensed local people who felt that the Common was being destroyed. Bidder organised a sustained protest which led to parliamentary legislation to protect the Common, under the administration of the Mitcham Common Conservators.

5 This sheltered path is a good place to find butterflies in the summer, such as speckled wood, small white, comma, peacock and small tortoiseshell.