



Windmill Road

Beddington Lane

Mill House
Ecology
Centre

Croydon Road

One Island
Pond

Watneys Road

Arthur's
Pond



walk 4

Bidder's
Pond

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Beddington
Lane Tramlink



Over the Hills

Time

30 minutes

Distance

0.8 miles
1.3 km

Condition

This is a short walk, but much of the route is over unsurfaced paths and fairly steep hills

Start point

Arthur's pond

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 In the nineteenth century, there were a series of ponds next to Watneys Road, but only **Arthur's Pond** is left today. This pond was named after James Arthur, a herb grower who owned a farmhouse on the edge of the Common. Although it only holds water for part of the year, it is home to dozens of spawning frogs and toads in the spring.

2 One of Mitcham Common's rarest plants, parsley water-dropwort, flourishes in a damp hollow next to the highway. Up until a few years ago it was threatened by the spread of bramble and scrub, but appropriate management now offers it better protection.

3 During the late 1970s and early 1980s the Conservators permitted the tipping of sub-soil over much of this part of the Common to raise money. The resultant mounds were landscaped and seeded with a **wildflower mix**.

4 **Bidder's Pond** was created in 1990 and named after George Parker Bidder QC (see Walk 1). The pond supports large breeding populations of frogs, toads and dragonflies, but these animals are preyed upon by illegally dumped fish. To tackle this problem, the pond is frequently netted and the fish removed.

5 A line of elm trees once grew to the right of this footpath, but they were lost to **Dutch Elm Disease** in the 1970s. The white-letter hairstreak butterfly, which relies on these trees for food also declined. Fortunately, elm stumps regrow and remain disease-free for a few years. Although the new elms never reach a height of more than a few metres, the butterfly is able to lay its eggs and its numbers are picking up on the Common.