

Reigate and Banstead Countryside

The Borough of Reigate and Banstead, though only around 20 miles from the centre of London, has some of the most beautiful countryside in the South East of England.

Contact the Parks and Countryside team on 01737 276000 for further details, including volunteer activities or visit our website:

www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk

OS Maps: This leaflet is in the area covered by **Landranger 187 (1:50,000)** and **Explorer 146 (1:25,000)**

Follow the Countryside Code



Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs



Leave gates and property as you find them



Protect plants and animals and take your litter home



Keep dogs under close control



Consider other people



Users of the Common are asked to respect the bye-laws.

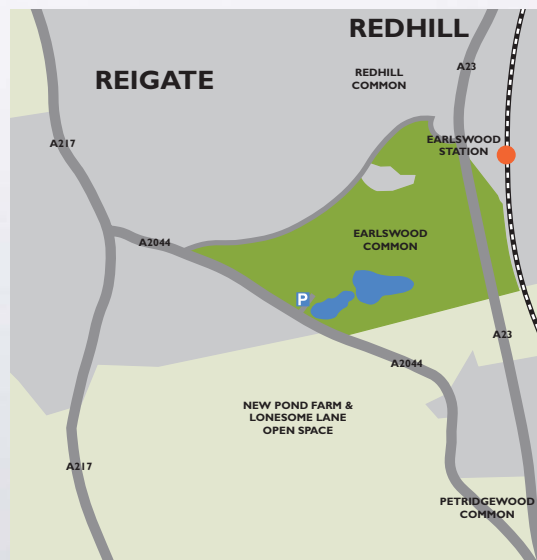
Please take your litter home with you.

How to get there

Public Transport

By rail: Earlswood Station, on the Redhill to Gatwick line, is just to the east of the Common. From the station walk down the Earlswood Road to reach the edge of the Common.

By bus: There are bus routes on all main roads surrounding the Common. Please phone the Surrey Traveline enquiries: 0870 608 2608 between 8am and 8pm every day (except 25 and 26 December and 1 January).



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This initiative has been funded by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and Thames Water
- working in partnership to enhance your visit to Earlswood Common.
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Earlswood Common is located to the south of Redhill. The common is approximately 100ha (247 acres) in extent, with the main body of the site bounded by three main roads - Pendleton Road, Woodhatch Road (A2044) and Horley Road (A23). The site is designated as a **Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)**, a **Local Nature Reserve (LNR)** and **Common Land**.

Natural History

Earlswood Common contains a variety of habitats including two large lakes, a number of smaller ponds, wetland corridors, scattered trees and woodland and semi-improved grassland which includes the nationally rare plant Chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*). The presence of Chamomile is one of the main reasons for the SNCI designation. Other species of interest include Dwarf Gorse (*Ulex minor*), acid grassland and Sedges.

Animal species seen on the Common include Roe deer, rabbits and foxes. The site is also important for bats, birds and many species of insects. In addition the wetland habitats make the site ideal for toads and frogs.

History and Archaeology

Evidence exists of human activity on Earlswood Common dating back thousands of years. This includes the remnants of three bowl barrows on this site and Bronze Age artefacts found in the area. Records show the site was used for tile making in the Middle Ages, using the Wealden Clay that forms the main underlying geology of the site.



The tile making, with later brick making continued through to the twentieth century.

The Lower Lake is the older of the two lakes. It is mentioned as early as 1363 and was probably constructed as a fishpond. The Upper Lake was constructed some time after 1884. The Lower Lake was used for swimming and skating at the end of the 19th Century, with maps of 1896 showing bathing boxes present on both lakes.



Great Crested Grebe

Earlswood Common was the site of the Reigate Workhouse in the 19th Century, and this later became Redhill Hospital. The hospital closed in the early 1990s and has been replaced by the square residential area at the north of the site, accessed from Abinger Drive.

Earlswood Common today

Earlswood Common was given to Reigate Borough Council by Lord Somerset in 1922, along with other local commons including Redhill Common, Reigate Heath, Wray Common and Petridgewood Common.

The Common is used for a range of both formal and informal recreation. Sports use comprises the 18 hole golf course, two football pitches, a cricket pitch with a pavilion and angling on the Lower Lake. There are two children's play areas on the edge of the Common, close to neighbouring houses. The Common is widely used by walkers, both with and without dogs, and the Greensand Way long distance footpath runs across the Common.

The Common is managed by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, with Redhill and Reigate Golf Club tending the golf course areas. Management of the site is co-ordinated by the Earlswood Common Management Steering Group, with the aim of maintaining and enhancing the diversity of habitats on the site, whilst also ensuring the site is safe for use by all visitors.

EARLSWOOD COMMON

LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Meadow Brown



KEY

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | Greensand Way Long Distance Footpath | | Grassland / Golf Course |
| | Public Footpath | | Woodland |
| | Bus Stop | | Water |
| | Parking & Toilets | | Ancient Burial Mound |



Mute Swan



Kingfisher