

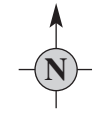
Crane Park



KNELLER
GARDENS
(Cycle parking & Toilets)



- Entrance
- Dragonfly Trail (cycle & walking)
- Footpath
- Footpath (disabled access)
- B** Bus stop
- P** Parking on adjacent roads



THE SHOT TOWER
(cycle parking)

CRANE PARK ISLAND
NATURE RESERVE

PLAY AREA

TO WHITTON
STATION



Crane Park

Crane Park is a linear park, stretching either side of the River Crane. The Park is approx 1 mile (1.5km) in length and its current boundaries are the Hanworth Road (A 314) and Kneller Gardens, adjacent to The Meadway in Twickenham.

The northern side of the park is in London Borough of Hounslow and the southern side in London Borough of Richmond. The boroughs work together to manage the Park as an important area for nature and wildlife as well as people's enjoyment.

The Dragonfly Trail marked on your map is a cycle and walking path that links both sides of the park from the Hanworth Road (A 314) to the Great Chertsey Road (A 316) The rest of Crane Park has a series of easily accessible paths suitable for cycling and walking. Wheelchair accessible paths are shown on your map.

The Park has a very natural feel in spite of the housing that borders it on all sides. The river supports over 15 species of fish and contains a wide variety of plants and trees as well as nesting and visiting birds.

Crane Park Island Nature Reserve within the Park is managed by London Wildlife Trust for wildlife and as a visitor and educational amenity.

The reserve is home to the shy and nationally rare water vole as well as kingfishers and a host of other species, many of which can be seen throughout the rest of the park as well. The nature reserve is always open for public access.

As well a site of importance for wildlife, the Park has a dark and grim history. It once contained the Hounslow Gunpowder Mills, a large factory that produced gunpowder between 1766 and 1926.

The old millstreams used to power mill machinery are still evident, as are the remains of a number of buildings and machinery.

The Shot Tower, a Grade II listed building standing close to the entrance to the nature reserve, is the only remaining intact building from the mill's history.

Built in 1828 the 83ft (25.3m) tall tower was used, for at least part of its history, for the manufacture of lead shot. Molten lead was poured, through a sieve and formed shot as it fell to the bottom of the tower, where it was cooled in a tank of water.

Managed by London Wildlife Trust, the tower has been restored for use as a visitor and education centre and is open every Sunday afternoon. (For further opening times and events please contact London Wildlife Trust)



What to look out for at Crane Park:

- Crack willow
- Water vole
- Ring-necked parakeet
- Kingfisher
- Purple loosestrife
- Yellow iris
- River water-crowfoot
- Marsh frog
- Dead wood left to rot as habitat for stag beetles and other invertebrates
- Remains of buildings and structures from the gunpowder industry



The Shot Tower

How to get involved:

London Wildlife Trust and Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) all run regular conservation workdays.

To use the site for educational visits and for details of events and other activities please contact London Wildlife Trust.

Contact details:

London Wildlife Trust 0208 755 2339 or
e-mail: wildcrane@wildlondon.org.uk
web: www.wildlondon.org.uk

Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) 020 8893 3503 (membership only),
020 8892 9518 (general enquiries)
e-mail: info@force.org.uk
web: www.force.org.uk

How to get there:

Rail: Whitton then 20 minute walk
Underground: Richmond (District Line), then H22 or 110 bus
Bus: H22, 111, 110
Partially wheelchair accessible
Parking on adjacent roads

Access – open at all times

Shot Tower – open on Sunday afternoons and for events and booked sessions