St. Ann’s Hill

St. Ann’s Hill is an open space located in Chertsey with a total size of 21 hectares. The site is steeped in history, with an area of approximately 5 hectares on top of St. Ann’s Hill scheduled as an Ancient Monument. This site is ideal for dog walkers, picnickers and those with an interest in both local and ancient history. This is an area of mainly dense woodland that contains a wide variety of trees, fungi and wild flowers, when in season. This site offers impressive views of Surrey with London visible on the horizon, these can be observed at the various viewpoints (marked on map).

St. Ann’s is a location full of intrigue with an interesting historic past. Eldebury Hill (as it was originally known) made an attractive proposition for any Bronze age man to call home, due to its position on a hill. Covered in dense woodland, bonfires, homes and weaponry could easily be built and defended. Any attackers would have to cross ditches and scramble up loose slipping scree to reach the top, only to be confronted by a Hill Fort. The Hill Fort contained settlements made up of round dwellings with stake walls and porches. These would have provided shelter and warmth for the occupants.

Archaeological evidence from this site is scarce and controversial, with the exact dates in dispute. However among the few items found from this site is a late Bronze Age (1650 - 1000 BC) Pegged Spear Head (on display in the Runnymede Room at Chertsey Museum), proving human activity on the hill at this time.

The Nature Trail

Approximately 3/4 mile in length on good paths passing round the crest of St. Ann’s Hill area. The area is well wooded and contains a wild variety of trees, plants with wild flowers and fungi when in season.

Many different birds can be seen together with squirrels (and if you’re very lucky the occasional fox) There are also picnic areas and viewpoints to enjoy.

Key
- 3/4 mile nature trail approx 45mins
- Available
- Not Suitable
- Entrance Points
- Picnic Points
- Look out Points

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 litter home
- Keep dogs under control
- Consider other people

If you have difficulty in reading this, we can offer an alternative format available from 01932 425504 quote SANG Leaflet No. and P & I

# Runnymede Borough Council

Always let somebody know your whereabouts

Not suitable for general pushchair use.
Other local findings include a Bronze Shield, dug up by a workman with a mechanical digger in 1985 whilst excavating gravel from an old silted part of the Thames nearby, known as Abbey Meads. This Shield is believed to be ceremonial and originating from France, Germany or Northern Italy, and would have been created by skilled craftsmen. It is now restored and on show at the British Museum.

St. Ann's Hill took its name from a chapel dedicated to St. Ann built around 1334 which stood at the northern end of the site. Many occupants through the Centuries from Monks to Politicians have made their residence here, each leaving a little piece of history behind them, waiting to be unearthed. The most notable resident was radical politician Charles James Fox, whose former home, St. Ann's Hill House fell into disrepair in 1930’s, and St. Ann’s Court now stands in its place. St. Ann's Hill was presented to the Local Authority by Baron Camrose of Longcross and officially opened to the public by Neville Chamberlain in June 1928, and has remained a popular place for recreation ever since.

The Pegged Spear Head and a replica of the Chertsey Shield can be found on display at the Chertsey Room at Chertsey Museum, as well as a wealth of information on St. Ann’s Hill, Charles James Fox and the surrounding area. The Museum has an interactive website and runs a Young Friend Club for 6-12 year olds with lots of fun activities.

www.chertseymuseum.org.uk

The Pegged Spear Head
Picture © Chertsey Museum

The Chertsey Shield
Picture © Chertsey Museum

St. Ann’s Trail
1
A small car parking area is situated in the lane off St. Ann’s Road opposite St. Ann’s Court. Start the walk by passing through the gap beside the park gates. After a few metres bear left up the steps into a grove of mature trees which include Chestnut, Oak and Cedar. This was the site of the Iron Age Fort. Keep left to follow the trail around the escarpment overlooking the Dingle.

2
Follow the trail through Laurel and Rhododendrons beneath the Holly Trees, descend into the Dingle by the steps on your right.

3
The Dingle is a sheltered level grass area enclosed by trees with two seasonal ponds and mature trees.

4
Leave the Dingle by the steps to the right of the cottage, bearing right up the slope, beneath Holly and trees. Follow the main trail left through a level glade, look for the group of Larches on your right with their branches trailing down.

5
Turn left down wide steps to a viewpoint. The view is over Lyne towards Chobham with the radio mast (visible on clear days) at Bagshot on the horizon some 15 miles away. Return up the steps to the main trail.

6
In front of you another viewpoint where a beacon has been sited. First lit as part of the fire over England event in 1988. The view from here is over Thorpe Park, Staines and Heathrow Airport with Harrow and Watford on the horizon.

7
Continue along the trail through a group of old Sequoias. The mound on the right near the cottage is the site of St. Ann’s Chapel (1334), follow the cross trails, turn left on to the trail descending to the car park.

New to the area? Local Societies & Clubs
Chertsey Website  www.chertsey.org.uk
Chertsey FC  www.chertseytown-fc.co.uk
St. Peter’s Church  www.stpeterschertsey.org.uk
SAT-NAV KT16 9NN

The area is suitable for walkers, nature lovers and an ideal space to picnic and enjoy the open space.

Leaflet 3
Runnymede
Borough Council

St. Ann’s Hill

The Pegged Spear Head - St. Ann’s Hill
© Chertsey Museum

Door Step Walks

Thank you to the Chertsey Museum for their assistance with this brochure and the use of their photographs.

Routes are walking based and are not suitable for wheelchair access.