

The Ewell Trail



**Bourne
Hall
Museum**

The Ewell Trail begins at the **Dorset House car park (A)** on Cheam Road, opposite Staneway, which was named after Stane Street – the Roman road that ran from London to Chichester and created the original settlement at Ewell.

Cross over Cheam Road and turn left until you come to a footpath on the right by **Pit House (1)**. This is Mongers Lane, an old bridleway which was once the main route from the village of Cuddington to Epsom. Cross Reigate Road and continue to where the bridleway joins the Epsom Road. You pass by a building on the left. This is the **Old House (2)** of 1810, which housed Monger's Academy, a private school for the children of Nonconformists.

Cross Epsom Road and turn right. As you come downhill you will pass a turning marked **Tayles Hill (3)**. It is worth stepping aside to see this fine early nineteenth-century building. Until 1960 this was the home of James Chuter Ede, born and bred in the Borough and the creator of Labour's post-war education policy.



James Chuter Ede

After some shops, you come to a green space lined with trees on your left – this is the **Grove (B)**. Turn down here into West Street, passing by the playground of Ewell Grove School on your right and on the left the Victorian lodge to Ewell House. The house itself is now gone, but the lodge and servants' buildings behind it are an attractive attempt at Tudor decoration. Ewell Grove School was originally built for the girls' section of the village school. If you turn right down West Street you will soon come to the **Village School (4)** itself, built in 1861 out of charitable funds, supplemented by Sir George Glyn the vicar. It is now converted into flats. A little further on to your left is an **archway (5)** which had metal tramlines running through it. This is where the heavy machinery for Jamesons Light Engineering Works was wheeled in and out. The beauty shop on the corner to your left looks as if it was brick-built at the front but is in fact clad with mathematical tiles.

Turn left onto the High Street and on your left is **Mary Wallis House (6)**, a seventeenth-century house improved with slight bay windows. It was occupied by members of the Stone family but is named after their servant girl. Mary Wallis was a remarkable woman who saved enough money from her wages to build a chapel in West Street.



Mary Wallis

Now the footpath runs past a long brick building, recently rebuilt. This was the granary where the Stones stored their grain supply. On your right is a run of fine seventeenth-century cottages, ending in number 9 which was formerly an inn called the **Red Lyon (7)**.

Carry on past the shops and turn down Spring Street, which has two elegant Georgian buildings – Spring House, now flats and **Chessington House (8)**, once the home of Albert Nicholls the conservationist. Spring House is another building faced with mathematical tiles to look like brick.



George Torr

Spring Street is a busy road and it is best to cross it at the top end, entering through the tall Dog Gate into the grounds of Bourne Hall. The Dog Gate was built in the 1820s by Hersey Barritt, whose coat of arms is displayed on it. He also built the artificial bridge which takes you over the lake. The **white lodge building (9)** to your left was built by the Torr family a little later in about 1860. The old Bourne Hall where they lived was demolished in the 1960s. The present community centre opened in 1970 and contains a museum of local history.

Carry on round the lake and you will come to an arch for an ornamental waterwheel. Just past this there is a paved area with an old stone seat where you can rest and contemplate the wildfowl on the Horse Pond.

At the road turn right, then cross and follow the river, which will take you to the **Upper Mill**, a reconstruction of the original building which was pulled down in 1984. The mill supplied stone-ground flour until the 1930s and claimed to have served Queen Victoria **(C)**.

If you want to take the **short walk**, cross over the road to Mill Lane. For the longer route, cross the river and follow the footpath on its left bank. A hump-backed bridge takes this over a sidestream of the Hogsmill. Then you pass by the ruins of the Lower Mill, run like its upper partner by Hall and Davidson. Previously it had made paper. The eighteenth-century miller's house can be seen on the far side of the river. Passing under the **railway bridge (10)** of the old London & South Western Railway, turn right along the public footpath and then turn left onto open land besides the Hogsmill.

Here, just below the houses to your right, was the field where William Holman Hunt painted *The Hireling Shepherd*,

Ophelia



while staying with his fellow Pre-Raphaelite, John Millais who found a site for *Ophelia* further downstream. In wet weather you can cross the river and find a hard-surfaced path on its left bank.



John Millais

Continuing beside the right bank of the river, you will pass over the site of Ewell's gunpowder mills, now only visible as cropmarks in dry weather. On the far side of the stream is Chamber Mead, the common meadow of the medieval village. Keeping right at the edge of the field your track leads to a tarmac path. Turn right on this and then left through the gate to enter the grounds of Ewell Court, including the **Packhorse Bridge (D)** over the stream from the lake. **Ewell Court (11)** was first a farmhouse, then the manager's house for the gunpowder mills, before being enlarged as a mansion in 1879.

Leaving Ewell Court behind, follow the stream out through the park, and outside the gate cross the river, passing a children's playground on your left. Continue up the recreation ground to Poole Road and turn left. At the end of Poole Road turn right and then left into Church Road. You will pass **All Saints Church (12)** which was built in 1893, funded by the Bridges family of Ewell Court to serve the new community of West Ewell.

Cross into Plough Road. The Black Cottages, now demolished, were to your left and housed the gunpowder workers. You come down past the Plough to the corner of Chessington Road, where there are some more **weatherboarded properties (13)**, built by the Baker family. Turn left along the Chessington Road and continue until you cross the railway bridge. From here you can look down to **Ewell West Station (14)**, built in 1859 when the Waterloo line came through to Epsom.

Carry on to the traffic lights and turn left, following the one way system, which will take you to one of Ewell's oldest buildings, a house called **Fitznells (15)**, which was a former medieval hall. It was once occupied by Vivienne Price, who founded the National Children's Orchestra from there in 1978.

Continue along Chessington Road to the next set of traffic lights, between the Horse Pond on the right and the Upper Mill Pond on the left. Here you can rejoin the **short walk**.

At the traffic lights before the Spring Hotel, turn left along Kingston Road and look for Mill Lane on the right. Mill Lane contains many weatherboarded cottages, most from the early nineteenth century, while one masks a medieval building behind the white boards. There are also workers' cottages built more substantially in flint and brick. Next you reach the busy London Road and on the other side of this is the Parish Church of **St Mary (E)**.

William Holman Hunt



Crossing the road and entering through the lychgate, you can see that St Mary's is a Victorian church. It was built in 1848 to replace the original medieval building. Continue through the churchyard until you see the houses of Church Street on your left and, set back

behind them, an old wooden barn. This is all that is left of **Rectory Farm (16)**, where William Holman Hunt stayed with his relatives.

Ahead of you is the earliest section of the churchyard, containing the fifteenth-century tower which is all that remains of **Ewell's original church (17)**. Leave the tower on your right and come out of the churchyard into Church Street, where you will be facing a long building with stucco battlements in early nineteenth-century style. This is **Ewell Castle School (18)**, an early work of Ewell's neglected architect Henry Kitchen.

As you turn right, going down the street, you pass a house with a bay window – originally a coaching inn, the Kings Head. On the other side of the road is **Well House (19)**, an early example of a semi-detached plan. After that comes another house with mathematical tiles, set back from the road, and then the Old Malthouse where barley was processed for local brewers, now **St Michael's the Sanctuary (20)**. After two more buildings with mathematical tiles is the village **Watch House (21)**. This has two doors, one on the left with bars for a temporary lock-up and one on the right for the Ewell fire engine, which can be seen today at the Bourne Hall Museum.

Charles Hall



Turning left at the corner, you pass the **Neapolitan Kitchen (22)**, formerly a pub, the King William IV. The King is said to have stayed at Ewell, admiring the white cattle kept by Charles Hall at the Upper Mill. A little further on is a solicitor's, where the village Coffee Tavern traded in competition with local pubs. The shop with a bay window opposite housed the first parish offices, while the village's Victorian fire engine was kept underneath them until local government amalgamated with Epsom.

Continue on the High Street, which widens into a small green space, the **Gertrude Longhurst Memorial Gardens (F)**. These were laid out on the site of the Congregational Church, which has now moved to London Road. Beyond this are a run of cottages called the Highway. Then comes the Green Man, a pub which was rebuilt in the 1930s to replace a smaller Victorian beer house. This stretch of the High Street used to be called Green Man Street.

Continue past another parade of shops to the Reigate Road corner, turn left, then left again down the residential street of Staneway. From this corner, Cheam Road continues out of the village to join the Bypass. Only one of its old houses remains – **Grove Cottage (23)** to the right. Cross the road to **The Star (24)**, a seventeenth-century building which has been a bank, post office, wine bar and clinic in turn. This leads you back to the Dorset Road car park.

Rotary
Club of Ewell



Website: <https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=876>