## History

Much of the land at the edge of Hounslow Heath was once farmland, cut off by the London and South Western Railway in 1850. In the 18th century a Mill Stream was dug to provide extra power to the Hounslow Gunpowder Mills. Between 1922 and 1969 there was 32 miles of track and sidings at Feltham Marshalling Yards.

The circular walls of the sewage works, disused from the 1930's and known as Feltham Circles, form an outdoor gallery for graffiti artists.

#### Links Upstream & Downstream

The network of linked open riverside spaces continues upstream through Donkey Wood and Cranford Park, linking to the Grand Union Canal, and beyond to Ickenham Marshes at Northolt. Downstream the river flows through Crane Park and Kneller Gardens, where it divides into the River Crane and the Duke of Northumberland's River. Both flow into the Thames at Isleworth. If you want to learn more about green spaces on the River Crane please visit:

## FORCE

Email info@force.org.uk or visit www.force.org.uk



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Hounslow Council Telephone 0845 456 2796 Visit www.hounslow.gov.uk

Richmond Council Telephone 08456 122 660 Email parks@richmond.gov.uk or visit www.richmond.gov.uk/ parks









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# Crane Park to Hounslow Heath

Green Spaces on the River Crane





approximate distance in miles 0.5

Friends of the River Crane Environment

### The River & Wetland Areas

Man has altered the course of the River Crane, creating a millstream for Hounslow Gunpowder Mills and tunnels under Feltham Marshalling Yards. Large ponds, planted with marginal wetland species, were excavated recently in Pevensey Road Nature Reserve. Water voles are resident in the open river channels.



#### Woodlands

Pevensey Road Nature Reserve has areas of mature woodland which include a number of splendid mature and veteran oak and black poplars, as well as several old fruit trees, a reminder of the farms that could once be found along the river corridor. Between Crane Park and Hounslow Heath, the River Crane passes through a patchwork of open space, each with its distinct ecology. Many of these spaces have a high environmental value and include mixed grassland, heathland, wet meadow, wetland, scrub and woodland. Together these green spaces provide an important wildlife corridor for West London.

## Grassland

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De Brome Fields, once a school field, is now a large open area of acid and neutral grassland which has recently been planted to improve the ecology of the open space.

#### 'Wasteland'

Feltham Marshalling Yards supports some of the best wasteland flora in London due to the wide variety of imported surface soils. A rich variety of both lime and acid loving plants create a herb rich grassland and scrub. It is a home for birds (eg linnet and sparrowhawk), invertebrates (small copper and small heath butterflies), and reptiles (common lizard and slow worm).

#### Heathland

The surviving area of the once extensive Hounslow Heath was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 1991. There are visitor facilities including an information centre, nature trail, dipping pond, bird watching hide and bridle path.