

The Ride Explained

Croydon Cycle Quest is a challenging 50 mile circular route, designed to give a purpose to your leisure cycling. Croydon is one of London's most diverse boroughs, suburban to the north and delightfully rural to the south.

The Quest challenges you to visit 10 places of interest and answer a question to prove you were there. It is neither a treasure hunt nor a race. The ride can be done in a day by very fit cyclists or over a series of days for the casual rider or families. There are plenty of stations along the way to help break your journey. The ride is designed to be ridden clockwise from East Croydon station but feel free to start wherever you like. The map isn't to scale so it is strongly recommended you obtain the free London Cycle Guide maps (15 & 18) from the web address given overleaf.

Once you have visited all 10 Quest Points, write your answers on this leaflet or on a plain piece of paper and post together with your name and address to Croydon Cycle Quest, Commonside, South Lodge Avenue, Mitcham CR4 1LT. Entries received before 31st December 2006 will be entered into a prize draw.

The 10 Quest Points

- 1 **Norwood Grove** - According to the copper plaque, in which year was the land acquired by the Croydon Corporation?
- 2 **Crystal Palace Park** - Visit the Dinosaurs and find the Megaloceros information board. What was originally attached to the heads of the models?
- 3 **South Norwood Country Park** - According to the wooden sign near the visitor centre, how far away is the Pitch n Putt?
- 4 **Shirley Windmill** - How many doors are there on the ground floor (Within the area painted white)?
- 5 **Farleigh Church** - Which year was the church built?
- 6 **Kenley Aerodrome** - Who unveiled the RAF Kenley tribute?
- 7 **Chaldon Church** - Whose name is carved into the wooden gates at the entrance to the churchyard?
- 8 **Woodcote "Model Village"** - According to the blue plaque on the Post office, what was the building originally used as?
- 9 **Croydon Airport** - A plane stands outside the airport buildings. What is the registration mark on the tailfin?
- 10 **Carew Manor** - What is written on the plaque above the iron gates?

What To Expect

The Cycle Quest route explores the London Borough of Croydon using the quietest roads available, although the diversity of the area means it's not always possible to avoid busy roads. There is a mixture of surfaced roads and unmade tracks. Where possible, alternative routes are shown for those who wish to avoid potentially bumpy surfaces.

Many of the sections include hill climbs but don't let that put you off, it's fine to walk. The views at the top are worth the effort, from the fantastic vistas of central London glimpsed between the buildings at Crystal Palace to the rural splendour of Farthing Downs and Riddlesdown.

Take the time to enjoy your ride. Explore the Quest Points at your leisure or lunch at one of the rural pubs. On the way, you encounter life-sized Victorian dinosaur models at Crystal Palace, a fully restored windmill at Shirley, churches from the Middle Ages including Chaldon Church with its famous medieval wall painting and a 500 year old manor house now used as a school at Beddington Park. You also visit the former Croydon Airport, arguably the birthplace of modern civil aviation and William Webb's 'model village' at Woodcote, built utilising his theory of "gardens first" whereby landscaping and planting were carried out several years before the houses were built. Look out for cattle roaming on Farthing Downs, boats sailing on South Norwood lake and gliders flying at Kenley.

To the north, much of the ride follows the quiet London Cycle Network routes that avoid busier roads while there are many country lanes to the south. For families with very small children, traffic-free cycling can be found in South Norwood Country Park or Kenley Aerodrome amongst other places. Whether you choose to ride all or part of the route, have fun and enjoy your surroundings.

Getting There



Croydon is fortunate to have excellent road & rail links from London and all over the south east of England.

Useful Contacts

- Croydon Cycling Campaign www.croydon-lcc.org.uk
- Pollards Hill Cyclists www.pollardshillcyclists.org.uk
- Sustrans (National Cycle Network) www.sustrans.org
- Cyclists Touring Club www.ctc.org.uk
- Anerley Bicycle Club www.anerleybc.org
- London Cycle Maps www.tfl.gov.uk/cycles/routes
- Addiscombe Cycling Club www.addiscombe.org



www.croydoncyclequest.co.uk

