

# NEWARK & PAPERCOURT

A SELF-GUIDED HERITAGE WALK



WITH NOTES & ILLUSTRATIONS ON  
THE HISTORY OF THE AREA

Based on the Heritage Walk on Sunday 17th June, 2012

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## A HERITAGE WALK AROUND NEWARK & PAPERCOURT

**This walk starts in the car park by the bridge over the Wey Navigation on Newark Lane (near to Newark House), and links there with the Heritage Walk Guide No. 5 on Pyrford.**

**But whereas the Pyrford walk heads in a north-east direction from the bridge, this walk goes roughly south-west, towards Papercourt Lock.**

**For more details on Newark Priory, Newark Mill and Newark House, please see the Pyrford booklet.**

### Newark Mill House

The listing states that the house dates from the 'early 19th century', but it is possible that it is slightly earlier as the sales brochure of 1795 noted a 'neat and commodious dwelling house' next to the mill and an estate map dated 1777 shows an enclosure roughly similar to the Mill House garden.

The sales brochure of 1891 gives further details of the accommodation at that time, which included on the first floor 'seven capital bedrooms', a dressing room, bathroom, two servants bedrooms and two 'backstairs' as well as the main staircase.

Newark Mill  
House



On the ground floor was an 'entrance hall with skylight', a dining room, drawing room, morning room and office, together with a kitchen fitted with three cupboards, a dresser and a 'flavel's kitcheners'.

The Flavel Patent Kitchener was one of the first 'Aga' style ranges and was exhibited by the Worcestershire company at the Crystal Palace Great Exhibition in 1851, where it was just one of seventeen products to win a prestigious 'prize medal' (out of 19,000 exhibitors).



1868 Advertisement for the Flavel Kitchener.

The sales document of 1891 also notes that there were cellars, a dairy and several outbuildings including

Newark Mill House in the 1930's





stabling for six horses (with lofts), two harness rooms, a lock-up coach house, and ‘piggeries, a fowl house etc. with ‘tastefully arranged grounds’ featuring a walled garden and a further pair of cottages.

#### Newark Mill

The history of the mill is recorded in Bob Gale’s wonderful publication ‘Newark Mill’, published in 1991 by the Send & Ripley History Society - (and in my guide 5), but a few details

should be noted here.

It is not known whether the site of the mill that is pictured here (and destroyed in 1966) is on the same site as the one recorded in the Send Domesday entry of 1086, but

Newark Mill from an old postcard (above) , and after the fire (below)





it seems likely that there was a mill on or near the site since at least medieval times.

Indeed it has been suggested that the 'New Work' of the priory was specifically located to be close to the mill which was granted to the monks in the 13th century.

There is no evidence that the building of the Wey Navigation affected the siting of the mill, although Viscount Montague, the owner of the mill, did claim £1,000 in 1671 for (amongst other things) 'taking away water from his mill'.

When the mill was sold in 1795 to John & James Sharp it was noted as having two

waterwheels powering four sets of stones (capable of producing about 30 loads of flour a week), but it appears that the mill was soon substantially added to (possibly in 1802 when £5,000 was spent on repairs) as in the sale documents of 1891 eight pairs of stones are recorded - 'producing upwards of 500 loads a week'.

#### Newark Lane Bridge

The bridges of Newark Lane over the River Wey, the Bourne and their various offshoots and tributaries were the responsibility of the landowners bordering the road - Newark Priory and later Lords of the Manor - but

The site of the mill today



Newark Lane  
bridge over the  
Wey  
Navigation

when the Navigation was built the bridge over that waterway was the responsibility of the owners of the Navigation to maintain.

In May 1914, however, Guildford Rural District Council took over the responsibility of all the bridges on Newark Lane from both the Navigation and Lord Onslow, and in March 1915 L.G. Mouchel and Partners designed four new ferro-concrete bridges for the council (as well as other bridges on Broadmead Road between Old Woking and Send).

It is probable that the Navigation bridge was one of these, constructed during the early years of the First World War as part of a Government scheme to relieve unemployment in the building industry at that time.

**From the bridge over the Wey Navigation, take the towpath (upstream) opposite the entrance to Newark House and cross the fields to Papercourt Lock.**

#### Ockham Mill Stream

The stream that leaves the navigation just upstream of the road bridge is the mill



The Ockham  
Mill Stream

stream - NOT for Newark, but for Ockham Mill (beyond Ripley). The original Ockham Mill Stream is thought to be the small brook that separates Ockham from Ripley, but by at least 1683 the new stream had been dug (possibly after the construction of the Wey Navigation) as in that year the Manor Court Rolls record a John Glasyer as owning land between 'Le Mill River' and Ripley Green.

It is certainly shown on old maps dating from the early 18th century.

#### River Wey

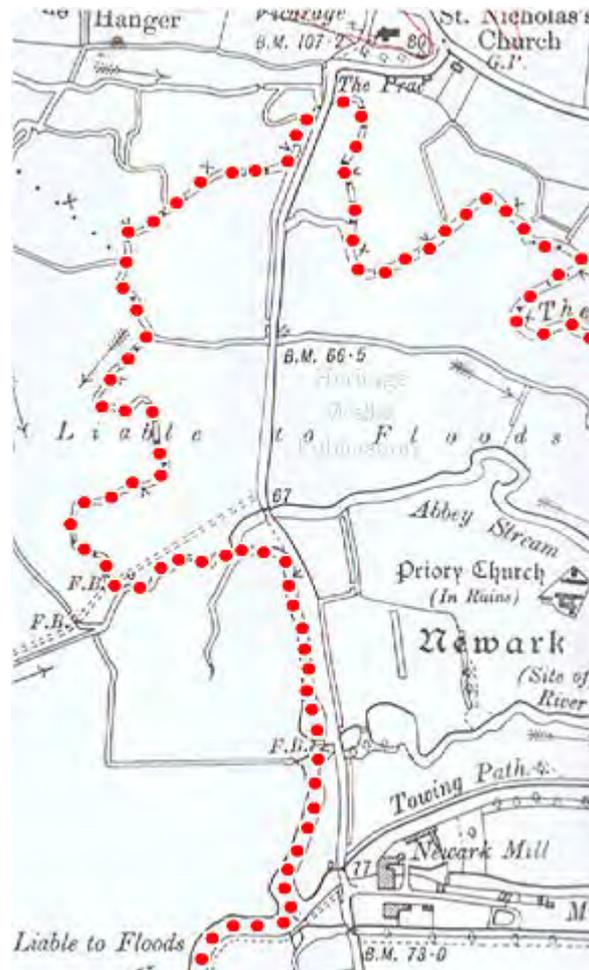
The history of the Wey Navigation is mentioned in the booklets on West Byfleet, Pyrford and Old Woking - so there is no need to repeat the story here, but there are a few items that are specific to this section of the waterway that should be recorded.

The first is to try to work out

exactly which part of the present waterway is natural 'river' and which is the man-made navigation (or other man-made stream).

Ockham Mill Stream has already been noted, and the Newark Mill Stream (which leaves the Navigation on the other side of the road bridge), may well have left the old river where the Navigation does now (being widened for the purpose), but the original River Wey heading north to wind its way (along with the parish and borough boundaries) across the wide floodplain towards the foot of the hill surmounted by St. Nicholas' church at Pyrford. Having said that the boundary does deviate from what is now marked on the map as the 'River Wey' to the south of the Priory ruins.

Even on the section of river westward towards Papercourt Lock, parts have been 'straightened' - probably part of the various flood prevention schemes of the 1920's and 30's..



Going upstream then from Newark Lane the first waterway that comes in on the right hand side is the original River Wey that just upstream goes past the ruins of Woking Palace and before that St Peter's Church at Old Woking. From here (until just above

The boundary between the Borough of Woking and Guildford is marked in red - presumably following the line of the original course of the River Wey.



Worsfold Gates at Send) the Navigation is entirely man-made.

The second stream to enter on the right is the 'New Cut' constructed in the 1930's as part of the Wey Valley Flood Relief Scheme (which also, apparently, served as an unemployment relief scheme). Beyond that we reach Papercourt Lock, which itself is not as it originally was when the Wey Navigation was first constructed.

Papercourt Lock  
 The original lock was apparently where the 'tumbling bay' is today, but



exactly why it was moved seems to be unknown. The lock keepers cottage was also rebuilt in 1922, with the journal of Harry Stevens (owner of the Navigation) recording that between the old

Parts of the old river were straightened in the 1930's



The Lock keepers cottage at Papercourt

house being pulled down in August that year, and the new cottage being finished in October, the lock keeper and his family lived in a barge just

below the lock. One story is that the lock keeper, Alfred Wye, didn't like the original positioning of the new cottage so he moved



Papercourt Lock

the 'pegs' after the builders had marked out the foundations. His new site meant that when complete he could see barges coming along the navigation without having to go outside.



**From the lock follow the footpath, down the track to Papercourt Farm and Lane.**

### The Manor of Papworth

The Domesday Book entry for the Manor of Send records two areas of land - one covering 9 hides the other 1½ hides - held by Herbert and Walter respectively. It is thought that one of these was the later Manor of Papworth, or Papercourt (the other being the Manor of Dedsworth).

In 1271 Rauld de Calna granted the 'Hamene of Papworth' to Newark Priory, who in the 14th century appear to have granted it to the Weston family of West Clandon.

The Weston's held it until 1711 when John Weston sold



Papercourt Farm



it to Sir Peter King, whose descendants in the early 19th century exchanged it for the Manor of Wisley with Lord Onslow.

Papercourt Farm dates from the mid 17th century although there is thought there may be older features buried with the core of the property.

**Carefully cross Papercourt Lane, taking the footpath across the fields to Polesden Lane**

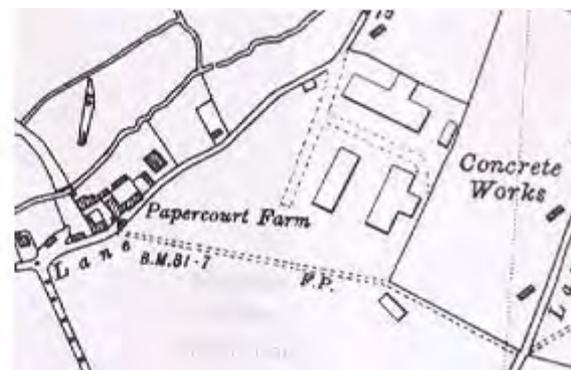


Norcon Pipe Works

In the late 1920's or early 30's the Norcon Concrete works was set up in Papercourt Lane, producing reinforced sewage pipes. During the Second World War, when it is thought orders were at a low, the company began producing 'air raid shelters' and 'pillboxes' by adapting the pipes and

A Norcon Pipe Air Raid Shelter in the grounds of the Send & Ripley History Society's Museum

The Concrete Works in Papercourt Lane



adding other fixtures. Only a few of the air raid shelters are known to survive (one of which is at the Send & Ripley History Society's museum), but twenty-seven of the pillboxes have been recorded - apparently being installed all over the country from the Orkney Isles to the West Country

The cement they used meant that about 20 units could be made each day, as opposed to Portland Cement that would have taken up to twenty-eight days to properly 'set'.

**Carefully cross over Polesden Lane, and take the footpath, turning left to skirt around the edge of the lake to Newark Lane.**

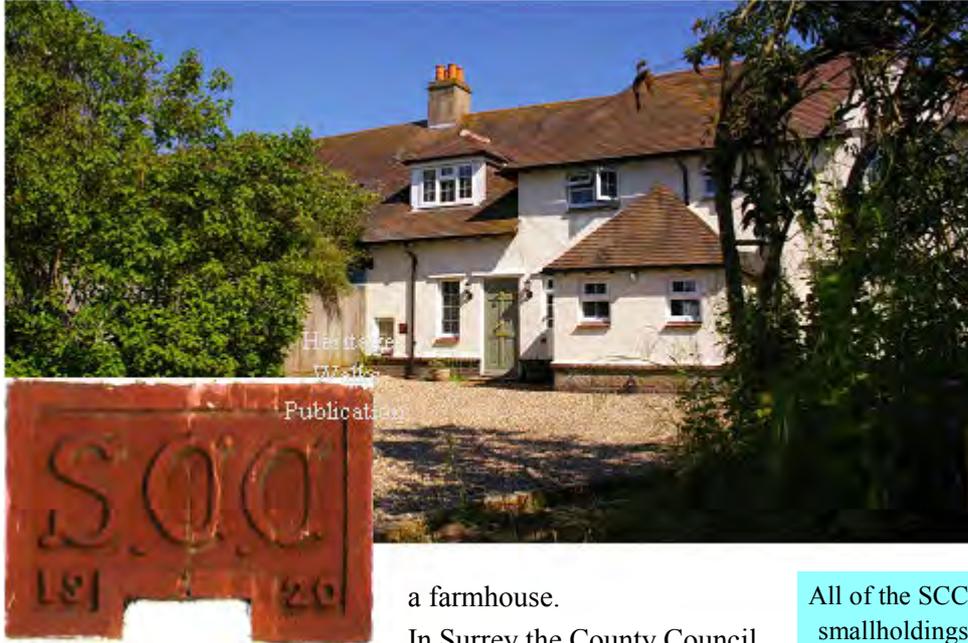


#### Polesden Lane Pit

Sand and gravel has been dug all over Send since ancient times (the name 'Send' being a corruption of the Old English word for 'Sand').

The Polesden Lane pits were dug by Hall & Co of Croydon, who in the late 1960's became part of Ready Mixed Concretes (RMC Group) and later still Cemex - whose fishing club still own the rights to fish, but in 1961 the 'Papercourt Sailing Club' was formed and negotiated the use of the pits with the gravel company, remodelling some of the ground to provide 44 acres of water on the 50 acre site.

Papercourt  
Lake



Surrey County Council  
Smallholdings

In the early part of the 20th century farming was at a low, suffering from new competition from cheap imports from across the British Empire. As part of the response the Government introduced the Small Holdings Act of 1908 to require councils to buy or lease land for smallholdings and allotments, allowing the 'labouring classes' the opportunity to rent small plots of land (from just a few acres to up to 120 acres) along with

a farmhouse.

In Surrey the County Council almost immediately set up a committee to implement the Act, and quickly identified suitable sites across the County.

After the First World War there was further impetus to provide 'homes fit for heroes' and in Ripley part of Homewood Farm (now a grade II listed building on Newark Lane) was acquired for the purpose. According to some reports, in March 1920, W.G. Tarrant of Byfleet was awarded the contract to build the twenty new homes (for £18,750).

All of the SCC smallholdings in Polesden Lane have been extended over the years

As the path starts to skirt around the eastern end of the lake, take the path on the left that brings you out into Newark Lane. Carefully cross the lane and turn left, to go past Homewood Cottages, towards the Seven Stars public house.



Homewood Cottages & Lord King of Ockham

Dated 1868, Homewood Cottages were built by William, 8th Lord King of Ockham, who was created the

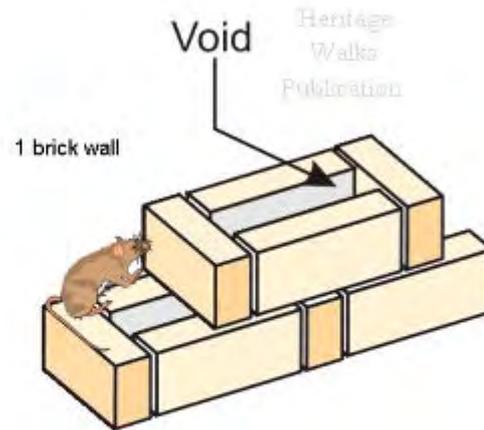
Homewood Cottages in Newark Lane





1st Earl of Lovelace in 1838. His distinctive style of architecture can be found on all his estates (not just in Surrey), where the 'rat trap' bond walls and terracotta tile emblems (made at his own brick works in Long Reach, Ockham) are a common feature. The coat of arms on the right hand gable wall probably show the armorial bearings of the Lovelace's - with the King family crest above.

## Rat trap bond



### Seven Stars

The first reference to a building on this site comes from the Manor Court books of 1536 when there were two crofts, a cottage and an orchard covering about half an acres of land.

By 1694 the cottage was owned by Richard Punter, but he appears to have defaulted on his mortgage and the property then came into the hands of Jeremiah Leggat, who was the miller at Newark..

In 1763 the site was still recorded as 'Punters' when it was recorded as being the property of Sarah Blake, widow.

The first reference to the public house comes in 1801 when Sarah Rogers inherited the property which appears to have been rebuilt in the 1830's as in 1838, when Charles Churton and W.E. Holland, brewers of Godalming, bought the copyhold it was described as being 'lately erected'.

By 1851 the pub was owned by H.W. Charrington of the Woking Brewery and it remained with that brewery until 1889 when Joseph Oldfield sold it to Lascelles Tickner's of Guildford (who



had evidently been tenants for a while), and through them it passed eventually to the Friary. Holroyd & Healy Brewery Company in 1926. It was they who built the present public house in 1927.

The Seven Stars now (above) and before 1927 (below)



### Barataria Health & Holiday Camp

The land upon which the Barataria Park is now situated is marked on the Send Tithe Map as 'cottages and gardens' owned by William Smith and occupied by Edward Eager.

Eager was a joint owner, with his brother, of Newark Mill, who also owned the land behind the Seven Stars.

It was later known as 'Star Farm' and in 1933 was bought by Mr C Hardy a 'master printer' who had originally bought the plot of land now occupied by 'Sunnymede' in Papercourt Lane where he and his family lived in a converted caravan and converted truck. He developed the site of Star Farm in 1934 as the 'Barataria Health & Holiday Camp' with a mixture of chalets and caravans mainly let out at weekends.

They kept a punt on the Navigation near Newark Mill for use of their guests and table-tennis was played in the 'oak room' of the old cottage (which had the date 1610

carved into one of the fireplaces).

During the Second World War he moved his printing presses down from Fulham (where he had employed ten men) keeping them in a shelter outside the house.

After the war, when there was a shortage of housing, there was pressure to allow people to stay permanently on the site although proper planning permission was not sought until the late 1950's.

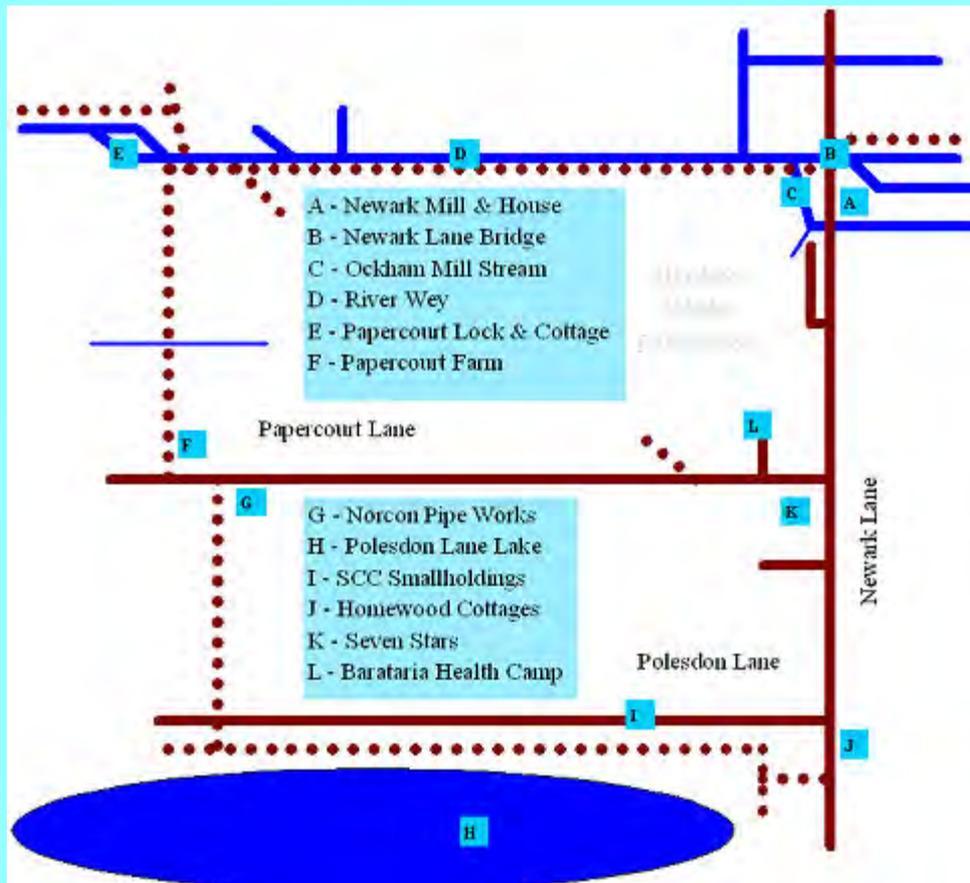
The old house was demolished in 1961 and replaced at a cost of £4,000.



**Return along Newark Lane, taking care when crossing over the road to the footpath that takes you back to the car park.**

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## WITH NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE AREA



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**GUIDE**

**No 12**

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