

River Wandle

River Wandle at [Carshalton](#)

Bennett's Hole and River Wandle

The **River Wandle** is a river in south-east England. The river runs through southwest [London](#).

Rain falls on the [North Downs](#), filters through the [chalk](#) and emerges on the [spring](#) line. The river is first visible at Wandle Park in Croydon. It passes through the [London Boroughs](#) of Croydon, Sutton, Merton, and [Wandsworth](#) to join the [River Thames](#) at Wandsworth. The River Wandle is between 9 and 11 miles long.

History of the River Wandle

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The river has been used since [Roman](#) times. It was heavily industrialised in the 17th and 18th centuries and was one of the most [polluted](#) rivers in England.

In Victorian times the Wandle was one of hardest working rivers in the world. The river was used to power 68 [water wheels](#), of which only a few survive, such as at Merton Abbey Mills. ^[1]

On 17 September 2007, a chemical was accidentally flushed into the Wandle from Thames Water's Beddington sewage works. The chemical was being used to clean, but instead of being put back through the treatment works, it was accidentally put into the river. This resulted in over 2,000 fish of various species being killed. The company failed to tell the Environment Agency of the incident, as the site manager thought it wasn't important.

Dry [fly fishing](#) was first started for catching trout from the river. Cleanups of the Wandle have improved the water quality, leading to a return of the river's once famous [brown trout](#). This improvement in water quality has also seen other fish thrive. There are stocks of [chub](#), [roach](#) and [perch](#) all flourishing once again with the most popular [angling](#) spots situated on the river at [Colliers Wood](#).

Also found in the River Wandle are [water voles](#), [otters](#), the [common toad](#), and [grey heron](#). Water voles usually live along rivers. Otters are one of the top river predators, feeding mainly on fish.

The river is managed with artificial channels, runoff ditches and a few underground stretches.

References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

1. [↑] Ben Weinreb and Christopher Hibbert, ed. (1993). *The London Encyclopaedia* (1991 ed.). Macmillan. p. [947](#). ISBN [0-333-57688-8](#). Retrieved 29 August 2013.

Retrieved from "https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=River_Wandle&oldid=9566713"