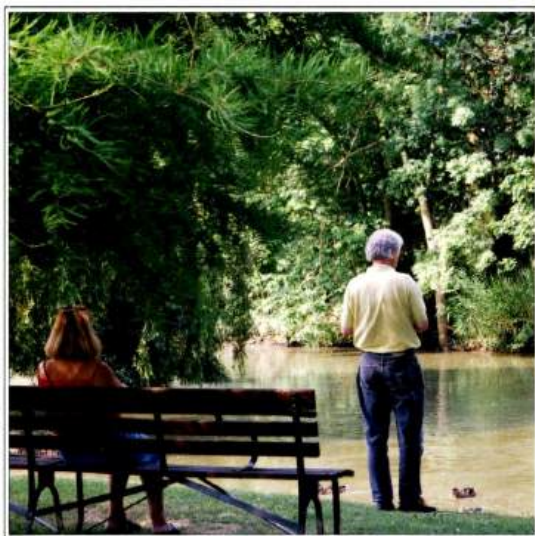


Almost every day he walked up to ten miles in various directions, and observed the wildlife – birds, trees, plants, animals and insects – with the approving eye of the expert.

The resulting essays, most of which are gathered in the book *Nature Near London*, 1883, are full of detail.

Though Jefferies is careful not to give precise names to places, others, in particular Charles G Freeman in 1896, have been able to supply the lack.

This leaflet is meant to help those who love Jefferies' books to find and examine what remains of the places near Surbiton that inspired him.



Fishponds: now a public park, this land was adjacent to a brickworks which supplied the area with bricks and tiles for the urban expansion which followed the coming of the railway to Surbiton, then called 'Kingston on Railway'. The ponds were claypits from an earlier period. Woodside was situated opposite.

Essays by Richard Jefferies mentioning Tolworth and its environs

- 1879 The fields in May
- 1879 Midsummer
- 1879 August Out-of-doors
- 1880 January Notes
- 1880 Summer Notes
- 1880 Woodlands
- 1880 Wheatfields
- 1880 The River
- 1880 A Barn
- 1880 A Brook
- 1880 Footpaths
- 1880 The Crows
- 1880 Flocks of Birds
- 1880 Nightingale Road
- 1880 Heathlands
- 1881 In the Fields: March
- 1881 In the Fields: April
- 1881 Trees about Town
- 1881 Nutty Autumn
- 1882 Round a London Copse
- 1883 Magpie Fields
- 1883 A London Trout
- 1891 The Coming of Summer
- 1894 The Spring of the Year
- 1948 The Last of a London Trout

The Richard Jefferies Society
richardjefferiessociety.co.uk

Kingston Museum & Heritage Service

Wheatfield Way
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2PS
Telephone (0208) 546 5386

Kingston Local History Room
North Kingston Centre
Richmond Road
Kingston upon Thames KT2 5PE
Telephone (0208) 547 6738

Designed by Tony Laitch for Kingston Museum and Heritage Service.



Richard Jefferies in Surbiton



“The first spring I resided in Surrey I was fairly astonished and delighted at the bird life which proclaimed itself everywhere”

‘Flocks of birds’ – Nature Near London

Richard Jefferies

1848 - 1887



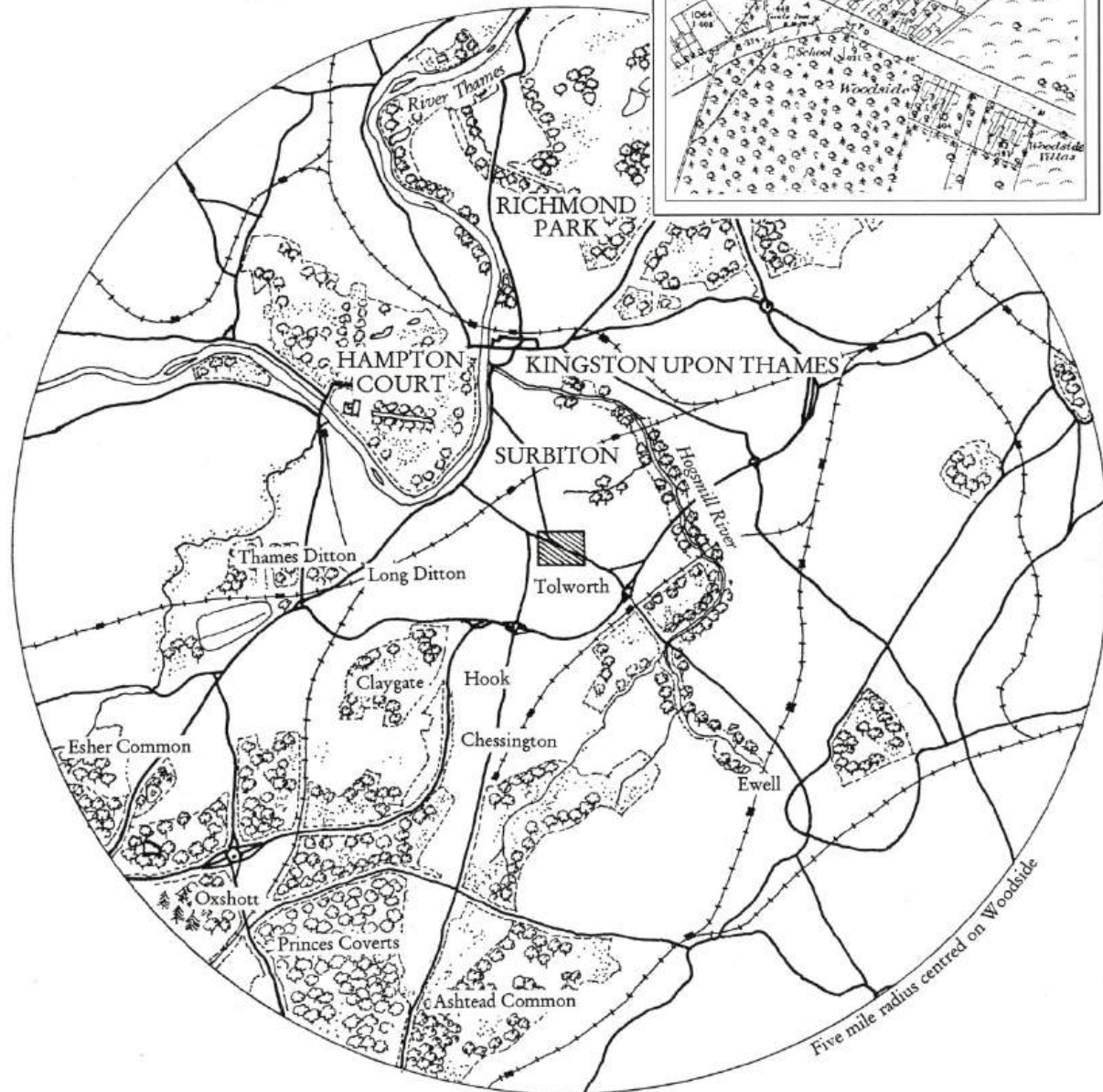
"It is not only what you see along the path, but what you remember to have seen, that gives it its beauty . . ."

'Footpaths' - Nature Near London

Richard Jefferies, the writer and naturalist, lived at Surbiton from 1877 to 1882. He rented No.2, Woodside, Tolworth (now 296 Ewell Road : see map) which in those days had a copse at the side and the back and a common opposite. It was this proximity to woods and fields that attracted Jefferies, venturing from his native Wiltshire with his wife Jesse and baby son Harold.

Here he came of age as a writer, arriving unknown, leaving as a successful author of five books: *The Gamekeeper at Home*, *Wild Life in a Southern County*, *The Amateur Poacher*, *Greene Ferne Farm*, and *Hodge and his Masters*.

Enlarged 1880 OS map of hatched area, showing Woodside, Jefferies' Surbiton Residence



The area as it is today, showing roads and greenspaces: Scale 1:100,000