

Focus on: Laleham

Population	1,511
Grid Ref	TQ052689
District	Spelthorne
Shire/County	Surrey
Town	Staines
Post code	TW18



Laleham is a village in the borough of Spelthorne, in the county of Surrey in South East England and is close to the River Thames and to Staines town centre. It has a wildlife park called Laleham Park by the River Thames and a famous camping site. Penton Hook Lock is nearby and the historic town of Chertsey is across the river on the other side of Chertsey Bridge.

The word Laleham probably comes from 'lael' meaning twig and 'ham' meaning water meadow or village. Laleham appears on the Middlesex Domesday Map within the Domesday Book of 1086 as Leleham. It was held partly by Fécamp Abbey from the Count of Mortain and partly by Estrild, the nun. Its domesday assets were: 10 hides. It had 6½ ploughs, meadow for 5 ploughs, cattle pasture. It rendered £5.[2] The foundations of the parish church of All Saints date back to the 12th century.[3] Records show that in the 13th century the monks of Westminster Abbey had their 'Grange' and watermill on the banks of the Thames very close to the site of Laleham Abbey.

It was in 1970 that the village of Laleham was designated as a Conservation Area. Laleham contains many fine and listed buildings notably Laleham Abbey. In the past this was owned by one of the Earls of Lucan. The hatchment in the north aisle of All Saints Church belonged to them. In the eastern part of the cemetery is the grave of Field Marshall Lord Lucan who gave the order for the Charge of the Light Brigade at the Battle of Balaclava.

Spelthorne Borough Council have recently announced that, following a planning stage and dependent on funding, Laleham Park is likely to be managed in the future as a Country Park with nature walks, fitness trails and (possibly) a cafe and visitors centre.

Sources:

http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/lej_laleham_village.htm
<http://www.gwp.enta.net/surnames.htm>
<http://www.laleham-parish-church.freemove.co.uk/history.html>
<http://thames.me.uk/s00460.htm>