

THORPE PARK WALK

THIS WALK STARTS IN GOGMORE FARM PARK, CHERTSEY. THE PAY & DISPLAY CAR PARK IS LOCATED AT THE END OF CURFEW BELL ROAD, OFF ABBOTS WAY, NEAR THE TOWN CENTRE. MAP REF. 039667.

Walk towards the bank of the River Bourne and turn right. Follow the river to Herring's Bridge. The Victorian footbridge is one of the few remaining structures still in existence that has railings cast at Chertsey's Herring Foundry. The bridge was extensively refurbished in 2001. Cross over the river at this point, turn right and at the junction with Guildford Street, turn left. Walk along Guildford Street, the main shopping area of the town. At the end of the road, cross Windsor Street and take the footpath behind the War Memorial (Church Walk). After 165 metres the path comes out into a road. Turn left and after 45 metres go straight across a crossroads. On the left are the remains of the seventh century Benedictine Abbey, which was dedicated to St Peter. After a further 90 metres, go through a gate. On the right is the Herring's Dovecote. Follow the track over the Abbey River and the M3. Continue along the path with Laleham golf course on the left for 900 metres.

The footpath joins a gravel lane, keep straight. After a further 130 metres the path leads into the forecourt area of Laleham Golf Club. Walk straight across the access road and follow the direction of the signpost across the grass keeping the bushes and a pond on the right. After 90 metres there is another footpath signpost showing the route straight across the fairways. Take care across the fairways (200 metres). At the far side there is a wooden bridge through the hedgerow and into the Penton Hook caravan park. Walk straight down Albert Avenue to a roundabout by the reception complex. Walk straight across and down the entrance road past the Marina to the main A320.

At the Thorpe Park roundabout, turn right for 420 metres then left into Norlands Lane. After half a mile there is a mini roundabout at the main entrance to RMC headquarters. Take the Coldharbour Lane exit to the right. At the next mini roundabout, carry straight on to Church Approach. The Red Lion Public House may be an ideal refreshment stop. Its location is marked on the map.

Church Approach retains the tranquil feeling of a former era. There is more information on the plaque to the right of the footpath. Take a sharp left, over a stile, into a narrow public footpath, signposted to Chertsey. This path leads through the centre of the Thorpe Park Complex. There are many vantage points – even at the peak of the season when the hedgerows are thickest. The best views are after 640 metres, when the path crosses a connecting waterway, and again after a further 820 metres, alongside the Loggers Leap.

As the path leaves the park it follows the side of the M3. It immediately passes under a main road and then turns left to zigzag up to the road. At the top, turn left along the footpath to cross the M3, and then left again off the footpath to zigzag down the other side. After 200 metres, the tarmac path joins a road at the turning circle of a cul-de-sac. Keep straight to the end of the road where it joins a main road at a park.

Turn left and continue along Windsor Street, perhaps stopping to visit Chertsey Museum (free admission). Inside there are many interesting displays including information on Herring's Foundry and Chertsey Abbey. For more details contact the Museum on 01932 565764 or visit www.chertseymuseum.org.uk. Continue past The Olde Swan, a 17th Century royal posting house and birthplace of William Daniell R.A., the landscape artist. Turn right down Gogmore Lane, and where the road swings to the left, turn right down an alley. Turn left to walk down Riversdell Close. Gogmore Farm Park, the end of your walk, is on the right.

