
Elmbridge self-guided walks

Broadwater Lake and Desborough Island

Short circular route – 4 km (approx. 55 mins)

Longer circular route – 5.3 km (approx. 1 hour and 10 mins)

Walk information

An ideal family walk. This is a relaxing and scenic route along the wooded banks of a lake and the Thames tow path, with an optional loop around the tranquil meadows of Desborough Island.

Both routes are suitable for most reasonably fit occasional walkers. The shorter route is all flat on well-maintained countryside footpaths and suitable for normal walking footwear and all terrain buggies. There is one small 'kissing gate' to get through.

The longer route includes steep steps up to, and back down from the river crossing bridges, and a road with a gradual uphill incline as you exit the island. The island meadow footpaths have grass under foot so can be muddy, so strong waterproof footwear is advised in wetter months.

There are toilets and a café in Cowey Sale car park.

Car parking

Cowey Sale Car park, Walton Lane, Walton on Thames, KT12 1QW (free parking)



Public transport

Bus: 663 Esher (Princess Alice Hospice to Walton-on-Thames) to Broadwater, Weybridge.

The walk start point

Cowey Sale Car park



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The walk route

Head to the end of the car park, furthest from Walton Bridge. Roughly where the second (locked) metal access gate is, turn your back to the river and take the footpath in front of you that leads between the trees over a

wooden footbridge.

NB: Toilets and cafe are located at the opposite / Walton Bridge end of the car park.

Shortly after the bridge, turn right and cross another wooden footbridge. Follow the path into, and then down the left side of, a grass meadow.

At the end of the meadow, follow the path over the wooden footbridge into the woods. Stay on the same path and walk alongside Broad Water lake and beyond, past some horse fields, until the end of the path where you'll see a red brick school building ahead.

At the school, turn right onto the tarmac road and continue until you come to a metal gate across the road. Turn left through the smaller pedestrian 'kissing' gate.

Follow this path alongside the sports pitches until you reach a road. Cross the road and take the footpath opposite to the river. Turn right onto the towpath and then:

Shorter route

Follow the towpath, passing under two bridges, back to where you can cross the road to the car park.

Longer route adding Desborough Island (includes steep steps with handrail and slopes)

Follow the tow path to the first bridge, go up the steps and turn left across the bridge.

Immediately after the bridge go through the

kissing gate on the left and along the path and into the meadow area.

Follow the path around the edge of the island, keeping to the left near the river. Where the river sharply bends (large white house ahead) you can view across to Shepperton.

Continue around the bend, down the left side of the meadow until you get to the far-left corner and meet a line of hedgerow ahead. At this point turn left towards the river and join the riverside path heading right (river on your left).

Follow the riverside path, passing a large rugby field on your right and until you see a small white cottage on your right and the path ends.

Go straight ahead on the tarmac road, over the speed hump and through the white metal barrier, with the river still on your left. Walk past the water works and continue ahead, up and on to the bridge.

Once over the bridge, take the steps down to the left. Turn right, away from the bridge, to walk along the towpath back to where you can cross the road to the car park.

Footnote

We hope you enjoyed your walk. If so tell your friends, if not, or you have encountered any problems please tell us at: Health@elmbridge.gov.uk or call 01372 474574

Healthy Walks program

If you would like to explore more of Elmbridge borough, why not come on one of our led healthy walks or cycle rides? The full program can be found online at;

elmbridge.gov.uk/sports-and-health/healthy-walks-and-cycle-rides/

Walk map

