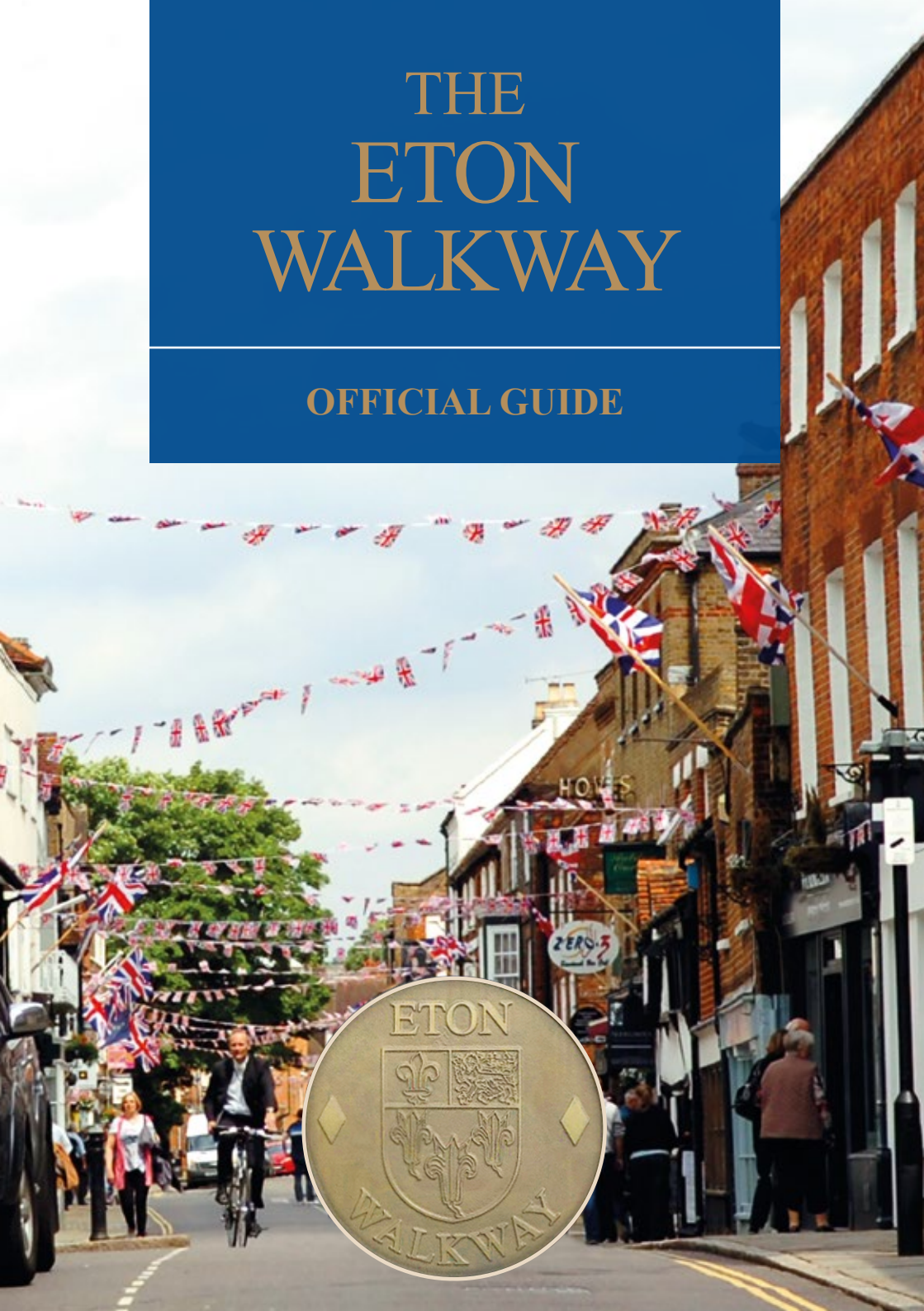


THE ETON WALKWAY

OFFICIAL GUIDE





WELCOME TO ETON

Welcome to the Eton Walkway, a 2 mile / one hour circular walk connecting 18 points of interest in the town starting at Windsor Bridge and celebrating Eton's diverse community and rich heritage.

Permanent bronze markers are set in the ground to identify the route of the Walkway and use Eton's coat of arms, originally given to the town by King Henry VI in 1449. The 18 shields mark: The King's Stables, the Cockpit, Porny School, Baldwin's Bridge, Eton College, the Burning Bush, Eton Wall Game at the Timbralls, Skinners' Bridge, Herschel Observatory, the Gormley Statue, Keate House, the Natural History Museum, Museum of Antiquities, St John's Church, Jubilee Square, the Brocas and Eton Boat House.

Information on each point of significance is included in this guide and can also be accessed on the Outdoor Trust's Commonwealth Walkways mobile app here:

www.outdoortrust.com/commonwealthwalkways

The Walkway is coordinated by local volunteers through the Eton Community Association, and delivered by the charity, the Outdoor Trust. It has been made possible by the generous support of local residents, businesses, The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Eton College, Eton Town Council, The Prince Philip Trust Fund, The Baldwin Bridge Trust, Royal Albert Institute Trust, Pavenet, the Grundon, the Rivaz/Beaumont and Fussey families.

We all very much hope that you enjoy the walk.





AN INTRODUCTION TO ETON

Eton has been a settlement since at least Saxon times, though Roman and Celtic remains suggest an even earlier origin. It derives its name from Eyot-tun, meaning 'settlement on an island'. It was originally bounded by the Thames and several streams, and thus relatively safe from attack. Traces of the Saxon settlement survive. There are large commons and areas of Lammas lands where householders were allowed to graze two beasts between August and October.

At the time of Domesday (1086), 'Ettone' was listed as having two mills, a meadow, woodland and fisheries. The settlement first concentrated on the higher land and quickly spread along the present High Street during the Middle Ages in response to the growth of Windsor.

In 1826 the decision was taken to reject a plan to enclose the parish land. This parish is one of the few still containing Lammas land, one reason why a rail connection to the town was delayed. However the Windsor Branch rail viaduct was completed in 1849, running through College land. These Lammas lands also served to protect the town from encroaching Slough industrialism.

The Thames has always been more of a link than a barrier. Initially, Eton flourished due to fish farming. The stones used to build Eton College Chapel were conveyed here by barge. The first bridge was built in about 1170, while the present bridge opened in 1822. It was freed from tolls in 1898, and closed to traffic in 1970.

Eton High Street leads from the bridge through the town to the College. Many royal processions have made their way along the High Street, most notably the funeral procession of Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife, in 1537.

Henry VI founded Eton College by charter in 1440. He was a shy and peace-loving man, then aged 18. He loved Windsor and so converted the parish church on the other side of the Thames into a Collegiate Church, a corporate body with the right to hold land and collect revenues. He endowed the Provost and Fellows with considerable estates spread across England. The King founded not only the school but also created a centre of pilgrimage, modelling the new college on Winchester, founded by William of Wykeham.

Under a decree of the Founder, there were to be 70 King's Scholars, who were educated for free and housed in College. Outside College itself, so-called Oppidans were lodged in houses in the town and received the same education.

Originally these houses were run by Dames, but more recently by House Masters. Today there are 24 boarding houses for Oppidans and over 1,300 boys in all.

THE ETON WALKWAY

Having crossed the Bridge over the Thames, find the illustrative starting panel erected in the footway outside number 59. To start the walk, keep right and walk about 50m along the High Street and cross King Stable Street.

- 1 The King's Stables** were first mentioned in 1480 in the short street leading east near Windsor Bridge. However, the stables may have existed even earlier and been associated with the 13th century Royal Park. This also served as a riverside wharf. Eton was an important route to Windsor from London and it is thought that the stables alleviated the need for heavy vehicles and horses crossing Windsor's wooden Bridge. The first bridge was built in about 1170 and sometimes the horses either stayed on the Eton side with the heavier coaches which were used to go to London or possibly even swam across the river while passengers were ferried over.

There are fourth generation residents in King Stable Street who still have copies of the land sale certificate from the Crown in 1818. The present stone bridge, built by Charles Hollis, was opened in 1822. It was eventually freed from tolls in 1898 and the toll house, on the Windsor side, was demolished in 1938. In 1970 the bridge was closed to traffic. Her Majesty The Queen unveiled a plaque to mark the restoration of the bridge in 2002.

Continue along the High Street for about 75m to the distinctive red post box.

- 2 The Cockpit** stands at 47-49 High Street, on the edge of the old medieval market square, with a front dating from about 1440. It was almost certainly built by the Dean and Canons of Windsor as a speculative development, and was owned by the College of St George from the late Middle Ages until about 1800. By the mid 16th century, there was a terrace adjoined by two cottages and for a time, part of it was an inn called the Adam and Eve. It underwent various changes, and sometime between 1929 and 1942, the medieval front was restored. It once served as an abattoir. In the 1930s it became a tea room, and took the name 'The Cock Pitt' from an antique shop, that had previously occupied the site. The Cockpit was popular for teas, providing generous sustenance for Eton boys and their parents, especially on Sundays. Cecil Beaton once brought Greta Garbo here, when taking his nephew out from school.

It was suggested that this was the site of a medieval cock pit, though this does not correspond with other venues known for cock fighting. Today it is a listed building.



Nearby is a rare pillar-box dating from 1856, only 15 years after the first postage stamps and still operational today. It was made by Smith and Hawkes Eagle Foundry at Birmingham and is one of only ten surviving. It is Grade II listed with an unusual vertical slot for posting letters and illustrates where the name 'pillar' came from with its fluted Doric decoration. Earlier post boxes had been painted green, to blend in, but people kept walking into them. Eton was the first village in England to have a post office.

Further along the High Street is Tangier Lane. One story connecting Eton to Tangier is that this exotic city was part of Catherine of Braganza's dowry when she married Charles II. There was once a flour mill here but the last miller left in around 1860 after the stream had been dammed. The mill was pulled down in 1891.

Continue another 200m along the High Street to the infant School.

- 3 **Eton Porny School** is named after Mark Antony Porny, a French Master at Eton College, who died in 1802. Under the terms of his will, a school for boys and girls of the Parish was established. In the early days, girls were taught upstairs and boys downstairs. They stayed until they were 14 and did not go on to further education. The prime subjects were Mathematics, English and nature studies. The boys undertook woodwork and the girls, needlework. There is a memorial inscription to Mark Antony Porny, erected in 1812 between 29 and 29A High Street. The School is now a one form entry school catering for children aged 4 to 9.

Continue another 125m along the High Street to the bridge

- 4 **Baldwin's Bridge** is maintained by The Baldwin Bridge Trust whose patent was warranted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592. It is one of the oldest charities in England. The bridge's upkeep is financed by the rents of neighbouring buildings owned by the Trust, given to them specifically for maintenance and repairs. In those days Eton was the direct route from London to Windsor and the bridge was an important crossing of a tributary of the Thames. It is thought that the Queen was worried about London being seized in a Catholic revolt, while she was cut off in Windsor.

Looking out from the Bridge to the west, there is a flood marker for the Great Flood of November 1894. In 1947 there was a similar level of flooding. Halfway up the wall of old Rowlands at the start of Slough Road, there is an original marker from the first ever modern marathon. The 'about 25 miles' route, from Windsor to London, was agreed in 1907 by the British Olympic Association and was an event in the 1908 London Olympics finishing at the White City Stadium in Shepherd's Bush. The Windsor to London distance has been adopted as the Olympic standard ever since.



Walk another 140m to find the Eton College marker by the statue of William Waynflete on the wall of College Chapel.

5 **Eton College** occupies most of the town north of Barnes Pool Bridge. Founded by Henry VI in 1440 and dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

There is a memorial on the external wall of College Chapel to William de Waynflete (1398-1446), Bishop of Winchester, and the second Provost of Eton, who paid for the completion of the chapel. Lord Waldegrave of North Hill, Provost of Eton, unveiled the Walkway marker in front of the statue on 13 September 2016 to celebrate the Eton Walkway initiative.

The main College buildings were built round two quadrangles. The larger of these is School Yard. Surrounding this are the original school buildings, including: Upper School (1689-1694); the Gothic-style College Chapel (1448-1482); and the dormitory accommodation of College where the King's Scholars work and sleep. Upper School was bombed in 1940 and the windows of the chapel destroyed. School Yard also contains the bronze statue of Henry VI designed by Francis Bird in 1719. Here, also, King George VI knighted the then Provost, Sir Henry Marten, on 4 March 1945, watched by the present Queen, Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother) and Princess Margaret. Sir Henry had privately tutored the princesses during the war. The College buildings are not generally open to the public but the statue of Henry VI and Lupton's Tower are visible through the main gates.

Beyond Lupton's Tower (1517-1520) with its clock lies the inner quadrangle surrounded by cloisters which contain the College Library, College Hall (1450), and the dwellings of the Provost, Vice-Provost and Head Master.

Carefully cross the main road opposite the College main gates and turn right to find the next marker by the ornate lamp post outside School Hall and before Common Lane.

6 **The Burning Bush** is a listed Victorian lamp post outside the Memorial Buildings (School Hall and School Library). It was designed by Henry Woodyer, an Old Etonian and specialist church architect, with elaborate wrought iron flower heads, depicting fleurs-de-llys and lilies, which are integral parts of Eton's coat of arms.

Originally it was designed to stand in New Schools Yard on the opposite side of Common Lane. It was displaced by the Russian cannon (captured at Sebastopol in 1855, given to the college in 1867). New Schools were also designed by Woodyer. Instead the Burning Bush stood in the Slough Road from 1864 for nearly a hundred years. In 1963, an island was created to help boys cross in safety and the lamp was moved to its present position. It is a significant Eton landmark and meeting place.



Until quite recently Masters used to gather in School Hall every mid-morning school day for 'Chambers' and boys who wish to see a Master would wait by the Burning Bush to have a word with him. Chambers now takes place in Upper School.

School Hall and School Library were built in English Renaissance style as a memorial to Etonians killed in the Boer War and were opened by King Edward VII on 18 November 1908.

School Hall replaced two small boys' houses and is used to host concerts, plays, films, examinations and other large gatherings. School Library was built with a dome and cupola, affording maximum floor space and minimum shelf space, and serves as a first-rate reading and reference library, available to all members of the Eton community.

Cross Common Lane and follow the footway on the main road for 220m to lamp post number 007.

7

The Wall Game is a unique game, involving many scrums against the Wall, in College Field. A soiled and soggy ball is placed along the eponymous Wall, a 278-year-old structure 11 feet high and roughly 355 feet long. A small boy sits, hen like, on top of the soccer style ball. About 15 of the game's other 19 players called seconds, walls and longs pile on top of the small boy, forming a rugby-like scrum known with killing aptness as the bully. Then, after a signal from the umpire (usually a teacher in mufti), the boys push, shove and tackle one another, while the bully shakes around in a many legged frenzy that, as one appreciative former house master put it, resembles the "death throes of some monstrous crab." After 30 minutes of this fun the players change ends and blearily set about knocking heads for another 30 minutes.

There are metal steps on the road-side of the 1717 wall enabling boys to climb onto the wall to witness the melee beneath. The game has been played in the Michaelmas (autumn) term since the 1830s. The first written rules date from 1841, but there is evidence of playing from the 1750s.

On St Andrew's Day each year there is a special match between the Kings Scholars (those students provided for by the original foundation of Henry VI and who live in College) and Oppidans (students who pay and stay in boarding houses in the town), watched by parents and boys alike.

M.R. James, one-time Provost of Eton, enjoyed playing the Wall Game as a boy, though damaged his knee and suffered a crumpled ear from friction against the Wall. Years later he wrote: 'I sigh to think how little I remember of the inwardness of the Rules: they cannot, indeed, be kept in the mind unless you are constantly playing or umpiring in the game.' It attracts casualties; Ian Fleming broke his nose and Lord Hailsham was bitten on the leg.



Nearby is the boy's house, Timbralls, so called because it was built in Eton's timber yard ('timber halls'). Among its famous one-time residents was Ian Fleming, creator of the secret service character James Bond. Coincidentally the lamp post outside is numbered 007.

Continue to follow the main road (B3022) for about another 150m taking the gate to the left after the bridge and onto the public footpath which navigates around the school playing fields along side Colenorton Brook. Skinner's Bridge over the Brook can be found close to the College buildings 150m into the college grounds.

- 8** **Skinner's Bridge** is named after two Eton boys, John Skinner and Edward Steuart Skinner who both lost their lives in the Second World War. The bridge was given in their memory by their parents and leads from the College Field to the sports pitch known as Mesopotamia. 1,157 boys died in World War I and 748 in World War II and there were many local residents who also lost their lives. There are monuments inside the College Yard and in the Parish Church yard listing them all. Eton College has produced 36 holders of the Victoria Cross – more than any other institution.

Not far away are the sixteen Eton Fives Courts. This is a game played with no referees, encouraging honesty between the four competitors. The game has been described as 'a game like no other in the world.' It originated when boys played against a buttress on the side of College Chapel, while waiting for morning service. There are now Eton Fives Courts in India, Australia, Switzerland and Malaysia as the popularity of the sport continues to grow.

Continue along the public right of way heading East along side the Brook for another 300m through the gate and to the left of the two cottages. The observatory can be seen on the right at the edge of the College golf course. Turn right at the fork onto Common Lane.

- 9** **The Herschel Observatory** is named after Sir William Herschel (1738-1822), King George III's Astronomer (the first such appointment) and probably the most famous astronomer of the 18th century. He fled to Britain with nothing but his life having survived the defeat of the Hanoverians by the French in 1757 where he had been a drummer in the Hanoverian army. He quickly developed his musical ability and won an organ competition using a novel technique of placing weights on the keyboard to make it seem like he had more fingers and then through his fame won a job as organist at the Octagon Chapel in Bath. Whilst living in Bath he met Sir William Watson observing the sky through his seven foot telescope in the street. He started manufacturing his own telescopes by hand, adapting Sir Isaac Newton's reflecting mirror telescope to improve the amount of light that could reach the telescope's mirror and observer's eye.



This endeavour took William Herschel from a musician earning £200 a year to selling telescopes for £5,000 in 1791 to the King of Spain.

On March 13 1781 Herschel discovered Uranus. The remarkable feat was achieved through mapping the sky at night with his sister, Caroline, whilst he was sitting in the garden of his house in Bath, now the William Herschel Museum. He would call out his observations to his sister who would sit nearby with a torch and make notes of the observations so that he could see the stars without his vision being impaired by the torchlight. He was given a royal appointment as astronomer with an income of £200 for his discovery and so moved to Herschel House in Slough to be closer to court in London. He was to make Slough a place of scientific pilgrimage.

In addition to discovering the planet Uranus, he also observed and catalogued over 800 double stars and 2,500 nebulae. He was the first astronomer to correctly describe the spiral structure of our Milky Way Galaxy.

He once stated: 'A knowledge of the construction of the heavens has always been the ultimate object of my observations.' He continued his work of mapping the sky with his sister Caroline and discovered Infrared in 1800 and was acknowledged for the discovery, by actually being able to reproduce his discovery experimentally for the Royal Society of London. His son, John Herschel, attended Eton College briefly. The Herschel Astronomical Society still meets in the observatory.

Continue about 300m back towards the College along Common Lane. Keep right and look up on the right hand side to see the Gormley Statue presiding over Common Lane.

10

Sir Antony Gormley's Edge II Statue has been attached high up on Common Lane House since 2002. It was commissioned by the College in 2001 in a quest to purchase modern art from the best living contemporary artists. Gormley (b.1950) decided where it should be installed on College grounds. Hence the statue faces looking down onto the path, and now onto an Eton Walkway marker. Former Provost of Eton Eric Anderson pointed out: 'For a school keenly interested in rank, relative position and the long strive upwards, his presence above the street is a reminder of another way of looking at the world.'

Opposite is the Tony Little Centre, dedicated to 'innovation and research in learning', where boys with additional needs study and new methods of teaching are discussed. Nearby is another boys' house, Hopgarden, a reminder that at one time the College had its own brew house and the boys routinely drank beer, not water, as was the custom.



Walk on to the end of Common Lane and turn right at the Burning Bush (7) back along the main road. After 60m take Keate's Lane to the right and follow it on the right for another 60m until Keate House can be seen on the right.

11

Keate House was mainly built in 1788. It is named after Dr John Keate (1773-1852) who was Headmaster of Eton from 1809 to 1834. He followed two weak headmasters, and being a man of unflinching character, was at first unpopular due to employing stern methods. He was a small, thickset man, with a short neck and short legs, active and powerful. It was said of him that 'within his small frame was concentrated the pluck of ten battalions.' He looked like an angry bulldog 'ever ready to explode into rage.' He dressed in an obsolete style, wearing a huge cocked hat long after this had gone out of fashion, causing some to say he resembled Napoleon or a widow woman.

Keate sought to keep the old educational system going, with only five masters to help him. He employed the birch to restore discipline, once flogging 80 boys in a morning, and he quelled numerous classroom rebellions. Despite this, he earned the affection of his boys and was considered a good teacher. W.E. Gladstone and Percy Bysshe Shelley were amongst his most famous pupils. During his time, the Eton Society, known as 'Pop', was established in 1811 as a debating society. In later life Keate was appointed a Canon of Windsor.

In Keate's Lane there are several boys' houses, notably Hawtrey, Durnford and Evans's (named after several generations of the Evans family, the last being the famous Eton Dame, Miss Jane Evans). On the left hand side, a few yards down on the side of Carter House, is a marker indicating where College Chapel would have reached had Henry VI had his way.

Take extra care crossing Keate's Lane and turn into South Meadow Lane. The Museum can soon be found on the left hand side.

12

The Natural History Museum was originally financed by subscription from Eton's Science Masters in 1875. It then became part of the science department, opened by Queen Victoria in 1891 and commemorated by the magnificent archway which forms the entrance to what is known as Queen's Schools. This still contains the Curator's Office. However, most of the museum you can see today is an Edwardian annexe added in memory of a boy, Lionel Lawson, who died in a boarding house fire in 1903. He was an avid bird watcher, and his parents gave the College £5,000 in order to house the magnificent collection of British birds bequeathed to the College by George Thackeray (1777-1850). He was an Etonian, then became an assistant master at Eton, and finally was Provost of King's College, Cambridge.

The Museum currently contains over 16,000 specimens including several curiosities such as a two-faced cat, a four-footed duck and a Kakapo,



a flightless parrot from New Zealand. It is open to the general public on Sunday afternoons. Many local schools visit the Museum as part of its active outreach programme.

Opposite the Museum are the Montague James Schools, built in 1938 and named after M.R. James (1862-1936), Provost of Eton, and celebrated writer of ghost stories.

Adjacent to the Museum is Lower Chapel, consecrated in 1891, where junior boys worship. Opposite the Chapel are the Music Schools (opened in 1886 and extensively enlarged in the 1990s). Look for the holes in the bricks where students have twisted coins and sharpened their pencils in advance of writing their scores.

Further down the lane on the right hand side are the Lyttelton & Elliott schoolrooms named after two previous headmasters (Edward Lyttelton, headmaster between 1905-1916 and Claude Elliott, headmaster between 1933-1949).

Continue along South Meadow Lane for a further 130m where the Jafar Gallery can be found as the last building on the right hand side.

13

Eton Museum of Antiquities is housed in the Jafar Gallery and is part of the Bekynton Field Development (named after Thomas Bekynton (1390-1465), Bishop of Bath and Wells and secretary to Henry VI). It was designed by John Simpson, who also designed the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace in 2002. It contains Egyptian artefacts and other items given to the school over many centuries. Amongst the collection is the bequest of William Joseph Myers (1858-99), an Old Etonian, who saw service in the Zulu War and was later stationed in Cairo. He became interested in ancient Egypt in 1885, collecting until 1897. On returning to Eton, as Adjutant of the Cadet Corps, he housed his collection in his house and following his death, everything was bequeathed to the College. These included a Sistrum fragment of Senwosret I, a cosmetic tube of Amemhotep II, a pectoral ornament, a wire ring with Scarab, and a collar terminal of Tutankhamun. It was opened by HRH The Prince of Wales in June 2015.

Nearby there is a new garden, with a dedication to Mrs Winifred Hay commemorating her long service to the people of Eton.

After the Gallery a short distance further along South Meadow Lane there is a public footpath marked on the left at a gap in the hedge. Turn left and follow the worn track across South Meadow to the back of St John's Church about 170m away. There is an alleyway connecting the Meadow past the doctors' surgery and Church entrance which cuts through the churchyard before joining Eton High Street once more.



14

The Church of St John the Evangelist was consecrated in 1854.

It was built on the site of an earlier church dating from 1769. The foundation stone of the present building was laid on 21 October 1852 by Prince Albert. It originally had a spire, until 1954. It is suggested that the spire was too heavy for the Church, which was built essentially on marsh with insufficient foundations for the additional weight.

Due to the cost of upkeep and falling church attendance, the church was closed for public worship in 1981 and the building was offered for alternative use. Eton College came forward with a proposal that resulted in the building we see today: the nave completely modified to provide a sanatorium for the school, along with flats for masters and other College employees. The tower was also converted to create accommodation. The original Sanctuary and Chancel have been divided horizontally. On the ground floor is the Medical Centre for the town and the first floor is the present church. This was re-dedicated for worship in 1991 by the Bishop of Buckingham, the Rt Revd Simon Burrows. Today there are mid-week communions and services on Sundays.

In the Eton War Memorial Garden those men of Eton who died in the Second World War are commemorated.

Once out of the churchyard turn right along the High Street and The Christopher Inn will be found after about 70m on the left hand side.

15

The Christopher Inn is a former 18th century coaching inn. It was originally situated next to the College on Baldwin's Bridge and was first mentioned between 1546 and 1548. Horace Walpole wrote in August 1746 'Lord how great I used to think anybody just landed at the Christopher'.

However, the first inn was acquired from the Crown in 1842 by Eton College in exchange for some of their lands in London. The then headmaster, Dr. Hawtrey, strongly urged that no lease of it should be made because since the opening of the railway the Christopher had become "riotous and demoralizing" for the college boys, mainly by the behaviour of visitors. It was opened again as the "Christopher Tap" for senior boys who were allowed to drink beer, cider and have food there.

The new Christopher Inn moved down the High Street to its present site and flourished as a Hotel with a coach house and stabling for 17 horses in the same year. The hotel hosted regular meetings of the Masonic Lodge of Instruction of Windsor Castle until 1902 when it became a public house and then was sold to Courage Brewery in 1962. The current owner, who still lives in Eton, bought it in 1973 and converted the derelict stables into rooms and opened the Peacock Restaurant as well as a popular jazz bar. There are now 34 rooms.



Jubilee Square can be found on the right 30m further down the High Street after the Inn.

16

Jubilee Square was a joint venture by The Baldwin Bridge Trust and Eton Town Council in 2012 to mark the centenary of the Baldwin's Bridge Trust, to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, and also to mark the 2012 Olympics rowing events at Dorney Lock. The names of donors are inscribed on the surrounding bricks. Lord Waldegrave of North Hill, Provost of Eton, opened Jubilee Square in 2012

Next to it is Baldwin's Institute, completed in 1911 and opened in 1912. It was originally Eton Court and was bought by E.C. Austen-Leigh in 1909, who donated it as a site for a parish hall.

Turn right at the Square on Eton Court and cross the road carefully here to the southern side before Baldwins Institute. Continue along Eton Court crossing into Meadow Lane Car Park opposite the Catholic Church. Cut through the car park to find the footpath fingerpost at the edge of the Brocas Fields and a walkway marker the other side of Meadow Lane.

17

The Brocas is a large meadow adjacent to the River Thames and part of the floodplain. It belongs to Eton College. It affords magnificent views of Windsor Castle, the slender buttresses of St George's Chapel giving delicate relief from the rugged, bare walls of the Lower Bailey and the Curfew Tower. The name comes from the Brocas family. They were originally from Gascony where they fought for several generations in the English cause against the French, the family finally settling in England and acquiring a considerable amount of land in Eton and Windsor.

Sir Bernard Brocas (ca 1330-95), was Master of the Horse to King Edward III and a good friend of the Black Prince. He was a friend of William of Wykeham, (who was first connected with Sir Bernard's father, Sir John de Brocas, over the building of Windsor Castle). Sir Bernard died in 1395 and was buried in St Edmund's Chapel in Westminster Abbey. It is a popular area for dog walking, picnics and flying kites.

There is still an annual fair on the meadows in July and August, though this is not connected directly to the fairs that were provided by Henry VI 'for the temporal wants of the pilgrims to Eton' on the Feast of the Assumption, at which indulgences were sold to sinners for the remission of their sins.



18

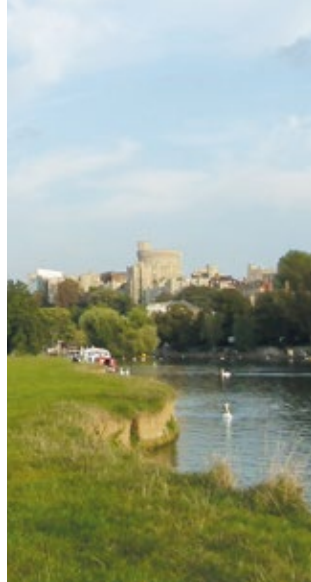
Walk across the Brocas fields towards the River Thames keeping the backs of the houses to the left for about 170m. At the River turn left towards Eton Boat House along the public path through the riverside development.

Eton Boat House, known as 'Rafts' is where the whiffs and elite boats were built and kept for many years. Rowing has been a feature of school life since the late 18th century, though initially it was discouraged due to the dangers of commercial traffic on the Thames and the perils of the local sewer. There was a Procession of Boats on the Fourth of June and Election Saturday as early as the 1790s. The first race between Eton and Westminster took place in 1829. Rowing was formally recognised by the College in 1840 and since 1860 has been actively encouraged.

There were various boathouses by the mid 1800s and by 1895 the Eton College Boating Company had established its own boat house, renamed the Eton College Boating House in 1910. Boating became particularly popular after 1910 with a record number of 'wet bobs' (boys who rowed, as opposed to 'dry bobs' – cricketers). The College purchased the freehold as late as 1978. Here all the boats were built until the College sold the freehold in 2012, retaining some existing bays for boat storage. Today it still houses 38 House Bumping fours, 30 coxed doubles, 50 tracers, 70 whiffs, four gigs and two dragon boats. The Junior Fours (House Bumping Races) are still raced from Lower Hope to Rafts over four nights in the summer, and boys still row upriver to Queen's Eyot.

Eton has produced Olympic Gold medallists in rowing including Sir Matthew Pinsent (1992, 1996, 2000 and 2006), Ed Coode (2004), Andrew Lindsay (2000) and Constantine Louloudis. (2016). Recently the Eton Rowing Lake was constructed at Dorney and since that, rowing activities have been largely based at the Dorney Boathouse and Andrews.

At the Boat House turn left through a covered passageway which soon joins Brocas Street. Turn right and complete the Eton Walkway by walking about 80m back to the Windsor Bridge.



ETON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Eton Community is a thriving association of residents, retailers and business working together to improve Eton as a place to live in, work in, and visit.

The association meets at least quarterly and is committed to:

- Providing news and information about Eton
- Organising events for the community
- Coordinating projects to maintain and improve Eton's environment
- Representing the needs of people in Eton to other organisations
- Raising funds to help make Eton an even better place.

More information, including an opportunity to register for free updates on news and events in Eton, please visit: www.etoncommunity.org.uk



COMMONWEALTH WALKWAYS

The Outdoor Trust, a charity committed to getting people more active outdoors by creating Walkways which connect people together, improve their everyday health and celebrate important people, places and events.

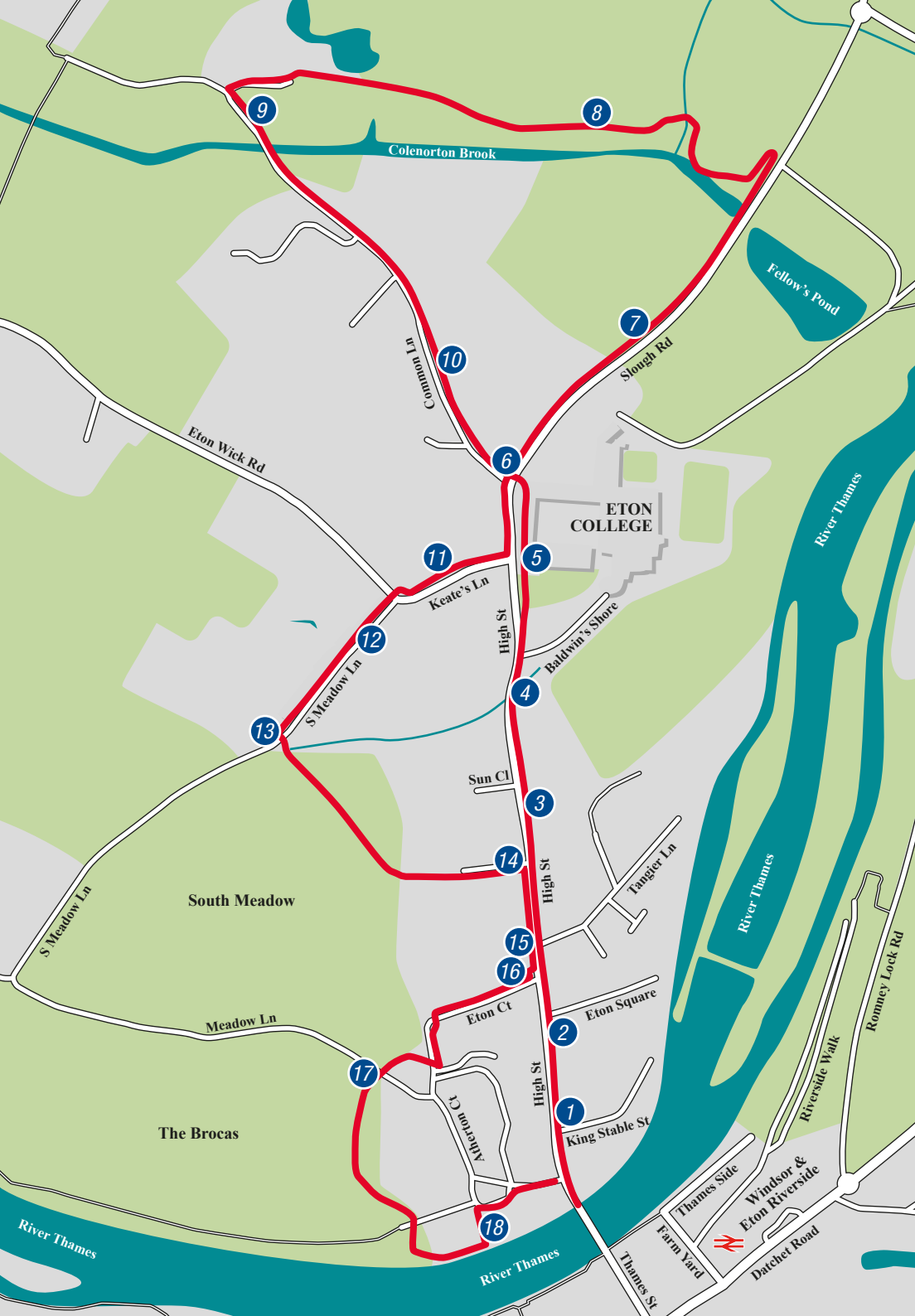
The Eton Walkway draws on the success of the Jubilee Walkway and the Jubilee Greenway in London, The Queen's Walkway in Windsor and is the inspiration for a parallel network of walkways in all the 71 nations and territories of the Commonwealth recognising The Queen's service as Head of the Commonwealth for over 65 years.

By 2018 it is hoped that there will be 100 official Walkways, connecting as many as 5,000 rich and diverse points of significance, further uniting the Commonwealth with an appropriate legacy that is accessible for everyone to share and enjoy.

For more information, including maps and guides to all the other official Walkways in the Commonwealth, please visit:
www.outdoortrust.com



Her Majesty The Queen opening the Commonwealth Walkway in Malta on 26 November 2015



- 1 The King's Stables
- 2 The Cockpit
- 3 Eton Porny School
- 4 Baldwin's Bridge
- 5 Eton College
- 6 The Burning Bush
- 7 Eton Wall Game
- 8 Skinner's Bridge
- 9 The Herschel Observatory
- 10 Sir Antony Gormley's Edge II Statue
- 11 Keate House
- 12 Eton Natural History Museum
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- 14 The Church of St John the Evangelist
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