

The Bailiwick and Windsor Great Park, Egham, Surrey



Easy Terrain

4.5 miles
Circular
2 to 2.5 hrs

071213



Access Notes



1. There are just a few gentle inclines, with just one gate and no stiles to negotiate.
2. The paths are all either tarmac or well made stone surfaces, so it would be suitable for pushchairs should you wish.
3. Dogs are welcome in Windsor Great Park but must be kept on the lead for a couple of the sections – see the signs along the way.

This lovely pub sits right alongside one of the entrances to Windsor Great Park, and makes an ideal place to get coffee and a danish or a pint and lunch before or after your walk.

A 4.5 mile circular pub walk from the Bailiwick pub in Englefield Green. The walk route follows the wide tarmac rides around the south east corner of Windsor Great Park. You'll have chance to see the Obelisk Pond, the polo lawns, Virginia Water lake and enjoy the vast expanses of landscaped parkland.

Getting there

Englefield Green can be found just off the A30 between Staines and Sunningdale. The walk starts and finishes from the Bailiwick pub on Wick Road. The pub does NOT have its own car park alongside. There are about 20 free car parking spaces in the long lay-by on Wick Road, but if these are full there is a large pay on entry car park alongside.

Approximate post code **TW20 0HN**.

Walk Sections



Start to Obelisk Pond



With the pub on your right, go ahead through the wooden gate to enter Windsor Great Park. Keep straight ahead on the wide tarmac drive heading downhill. Follow the track as it swings right over a bridge and then stay on the main tarmac lane as it swings left signed to Valley Gardens.

Windsor Great Park covers an area of more than 5,000 acres and straddles the border between Berkshire and Surrey. For many centuries it was the private hunting ground for Windsor Castle, but today it is used for public recreation and is managed by the Crown Estate.



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Continue until you reach a major crossroads marked with a four-way signpost. Turn right here onto the wide tarmac drive signed to the Deer Park and Savill Garden. A little further along you'll reach the Obelisk Pond on the left.

1 ➔ 2 Obelisk Pond to Cumberland Gate

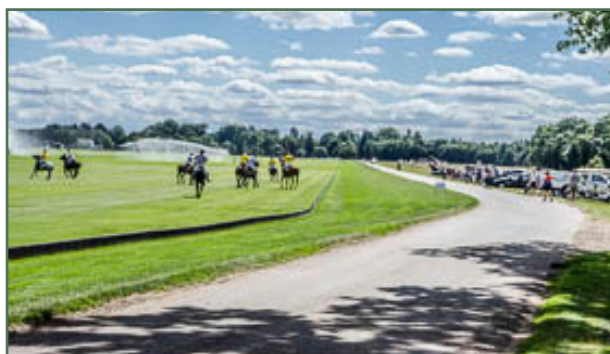


Keep ahead passing the Obelisk Pond on the left and you'll be able to see the obelisk capped with a copper sun above the trees on the far side. This is a memorial to the Duke of Cumberland, son of King George II. You'll see a couple of fences set into the far bank of the pond which are used as part of the cross country course for three day eventing.

Follow the main tarmac lane and soon you'll be passing through large lawns dotted with tall majestic coniferous trees, passing the obelisk across to the left and a small playground to the right. Follow the lane as it swings right, still signed to Savill Garden and the Deer Park. Pass the main entrance to Savill Garden on the left, taking a moment to appreciate the unusual architecture of the visitor centre built in 2006 with a beautiful waved roof.

Further along keep on the main tarmac lane as it swings left (ignoring the smaller rough track ahead), passing Savill Garden Propagation Unit on the left. Eventually you'll reach a T-junction with Cumberland Gate to the right and Cumberland Lodge, a red brick lodge, ahead.

2 ➔ 3 Cumberland Gate to Virginia Water



Turn left here, down the main tarmac lane passing Smith's Lawns, a number of polo pitches, to the left. If you're lucky, you may have chance to watch a polo match in action. The polo season runs from April to September and the president of this club, the most prestigious polo club in the world, is Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Some way down, in the trees to the right look out for a copper statue of a man astride a horse – this depicts Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert Consort. Continue beyond the Guard's Polo Club and keep straight ahead on the stone surfaced drive heading steadily downhill. Here you'll be passing between

landscaped grounds with elegant tall trees surrounded by herbaceous borders. In the summer months you'll have chance to enjoy displays of electric blue hydrangeas.

At the bottom of the slope you'll come to a bridge section which carries the road between two sections of Virginia Water lake. Just before you reach the bridge, swing left onto the sand and stone path signed as Lakeside Walk.

3 ➔ 4 Virginia Water to Totem Pole

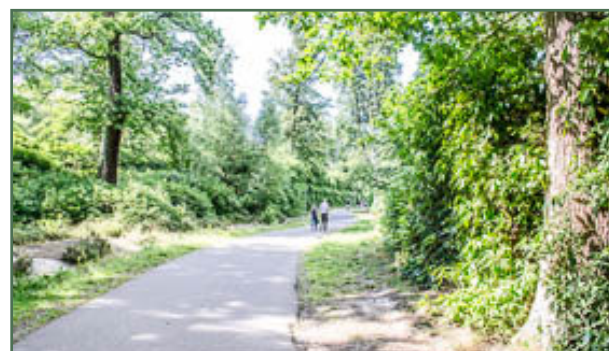


Pass the entrance to the Valley Gardens across to the left and on the right you'll see the main expanse of Virginia Water lake.

This body of water was once a simple stream and was named after Queen Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen. The first lake was created in 1746 by the Duke of Cumberland who was then Ranger of the Park. In 1780 the lake was expanded and extra features were added including an artificial waterfall. During the Second World War the lake was drained to prevent enemy aircraft using it as a landmark from which to locate Windsor Castle. The lake has been used to film scenes within the Harry Potter films.

Simply stay on the main lakeside path for some distance, ignoring any smaller paths off to the left. Take time to enjoy the views across the lake to the right and across the landscaped Valley Gardens to the left. Continue all the way to the end where you'll meet a T-junction with more water ahead and the Totem Pole across to your left.

4 ➔ 5 Totem Pole to End



Turn left and follow the tarmac track passing the Totem Pole across to the left. This Canadian Totem Pole is 30 metres high and was installed to mark the centenary of British Columbia.

Follow this tarmac lane over a small stream and continue as it meanders steadily uphill. You'll emerge to the crossroads of paths that you passed on your outward leg. Turn sharp right here signed to Wick Road.

From this point you will be retracing your steps back to the start. Towards the bottom of the slope swing right (signed Vehicle Exit) over a bridge and then swing left to follow the lane climbing once again. After just a few hundred yards fork left through the wooden gate to reach the Bailiwick for some well deserved hospitality.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

