



Description: This walk starts at Windsor Bridge, crosses the River Thames walking towards Eton and passes Eton College Boat House. This is a wide-open meadow where local farmers can still exercise their Lammas Rights by grazing their cattle here in August. On this walk there is the most splendid view of Windsor Castle, the largest inhabited castle in Europe.

Distance: 2.5 miles. **Duration:** 1 Hour. **Difficulty:** Easy.

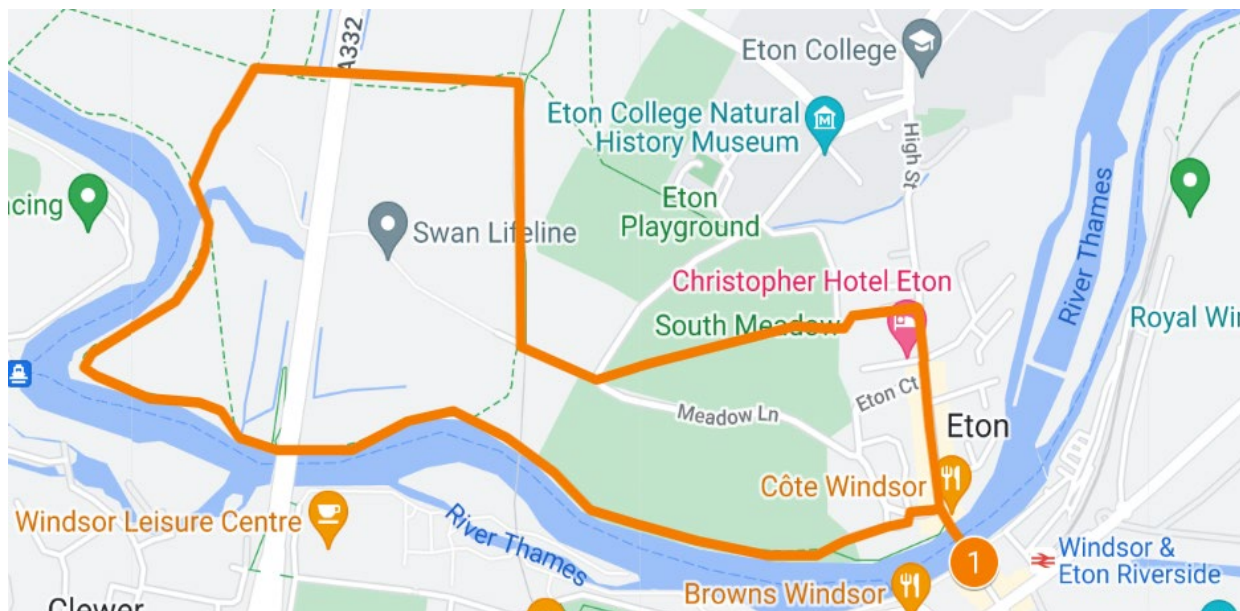
Refreshments / toilets: There are plenty of cafes and restaurants in Eton on the first and last stretches of this walk.

Start point: Windsor Bridge, 75 High Street, Eton, Windsor, SL4 6BT.

The what3words address for the bridge is ///scores.mental.lanes



Windsor Bridge



Route Description

The walk starts at Windsor Bridge. The Windsor Bridge (also called the Windsor Town Bridge) is an arch bridge constructed of iron and granite and is a Grade II listed structure. It crosses the River Thames and connects the towns of Windsor and Eton. The Thames Path National Trail crosses the river here, just above Romney Lock.

As you cross the bridge, look to the left and you will see the impressive riverside frontage of the Eton College Boat House. The Boat House, known as 'Rafts' is where boats were built and kept for many years. Rowing has been a feature of school life since the late 18th century. You will pass directly behind this boat house on the return journey.

Once across the river continue straight onto the High Street. Here you will find plenty of options for a mooch around the shops, a coffee break, or even a bite to eat. You will be on the High Street for 0.2 miles (approximately 5-minute walk), but on your way keep an eye out for the oldest building on the High Street - the 'Cockpit'. It can be found on the right pavement, near the bright red post box. The building likely dates from around 1440, most likely to have been built by the Dean and Canons of Windsor. At the time of writing (2024) it was undergoing a sympathetic restoration project to bring it back to its former glory. Full information can be found here:

[Restoration Project - The Cockpit, Eton](#)

Turn off the High Street onto a small lane called Church Close on the left. You'll be able to walk down this lane past the doctors surgery and through the Church yard to an alleyway that joins a large open space called South Meadow. Before you get to the Meadow, pause on the lane to enjoy the history of the Church of St John the Evangelist. This building was consecrated in 1854 but was built on the site of an earlier church dating from 1769. Due to the cost of upkeep the church was closed for public worship in 1981, but 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. (*Information on the church is from the Eton Walkway Official Guide).

Take the path straight across the Meadow and enjoy the open views. This wide meadow is where local farmers can still exercise their Lammas Rights by grazing their cattle here. Lammas rights come from a Saxon tradition where every parishioner could graze their cattle on the public land for a certain period of the year. In Eton, every freeholder, tenant, householder and cottager, living within the old parish boundaries possesses rights of grazing cattle on the "Lammas lands" between August 1st to October 31st.

The track across the meadow will eventually end, bringing you out onto a corner of Meadow Lane. Turn right here and continue up Meadow Lane. this is now paved as a road, so be cautious of traffic. Continue on this lane for 5 minutes (0.3 miles). Cut under the large A332 road and take a sharp left (still on Meadow Lane) until you reach the river Thames. Turn left onto the riverside path which is the Thames Path National Trail. Follow the Thames Path for 1 mile (approx. 20 minutes) until you reach the Eton Boat House on the river bank.

Across the river on the far bank you will have an exceptional view of Windsor Palace. Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world, dating back to the 11th century and William the Conqueror. It is home to royalty and 1,000 years of royal history, and is open to visitors, so why not finish your walk and then detour to the castle for an explore? More information can be found here: [Windsor Castle](#). Cut behind the boat house onto Brocas Street and follow until you meet the High Street again. Turn right here and you will be back at Windsor Bridge where we started from.