

Osterley Park		
1 <sup>st</sup> walk check	2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check	3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check
03 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023		
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## Osterley Park (Osterley to Hanwell or Circular)

**Start:** Osterley Underground

**Finish:** Hanwell Crossrail or Osterley Underground

**Length:** 10.4 km/6.5 mi with negligible ascent.

**Time:** 2 hour 15 mins

**Transport:** Osterley Station is on the Heathrow Branch of the Piccadilly Line. Journey time is 17 minutes from Hammersmith and 32 minutes from Green Park. Hanwell is on the Reading arm of Crossrail and journey time to Paddington is 15 minutes. Both stations are in Zone 4.

### Walk Notes:

This varied route of many delights initially meanders through the publicly accessible parts of one of the last country estates in London, the landscaped Osterley Park. Some parts of the park show fine displays of bluebells in season. On an extension through the ticketed part of the park, more bluebell areas can be seen, and a flower garden and a walled garden can be explored.

From the café in the Stables Courtyard right by the grand Osterley House, you leave the park in a northerly direction to cross the M4 and a field into Norwood Green, where the fine bluebell wood of the Tentelow Woodland is passed through, before you cross the Grand Junction Canal and walk through the Glade Lane Canalside Park to join the towpath along the canal. Pass the famous Three Bridges site, an engineering feat of its time where railway, canal and road intersect, and walk along the former Hanwell Insane Asylum (now Ealing Hospital) and past the Hanwell Flight of Locks to the junction with the River Brent.

Turn left upstream along the river and through a large riverside hay meadow to the picturesque, grand Wharncliffe Viaduct, which carries the Great Western Main Line 20m above the Brent Valley. Another small park lies between the river and Hanwell Station with its vintage (and heated) waiting room.

### Walk Options:

**A Circular Walk** (returning to Osterley Station from Osterley House) is 5.9 kilometres long.

**An Extension through the (ticketed) garden of Osterley House** is well worth the effort and a suggested 2.2 km route is shown on the route map. Open 10.00-17.00 (-16.00 in winter) daily except Xmas Day/Boxing Day, last entry an hour before closing. **Note:** entrance is free to NT members only, tickets are £8 for garden-only access (only sold on Mon and Tue when the house is closed) and £14 (08/23 prices).

**Bus Line E5** starts at Toplocks Estate, Glade Lane (7.1 km into the walk) and connects to Southall Station.

## **Refreshments Hanwell Ending** (details last updated 03/08/2023)

**Stables Café** Jersey Road, *Isleworth, Hounslow TW7 4RB (020 8232 5050, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park-and-house>)*. Located 4.4 km into the walk, open 10.00-17.00 daily.

**The Plough** Tentelow Lane, *Norwood Green, London UB2 4LG (020 8574 7473, <https://ploughnorwoodgreen.com/>)*. Located 5.8 km into the walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-21.45 Mon-Fri, 12.00-21.45 Sat and 12.00-20.00 Sun.

**Osterley Cricket Club Bar & Restaurant** Tentelow Lane, *Norwood Green, London UB2 4LW (020 8571 2301)*. Located 6.6 km into the walk. Open all day every day.

**The Fox** Green Lane, *Hanwell, London W7 2PJ (020 8847 1548, <https://www.thefoxpub.co.uk/>)*. Located 100m off route and 1.7 km from the end of the walk. Open all day every day. Food served to 21.00 Mon-Sat and to 16.30 Sun.

**The Viaduct** 221 Uxbridge Road, *Hanwell, London W7 3TD (020 8810 0815, <https://www.viaduct-hanwell.co.uk/>)*. Located 100m off route and 1.0 km from the end of the walk. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-15.00 and 17.00-22.00 Mon-Wed and all day Thu-Sun.

## **Refreshments Osterley Ending** (details last updated 03/08/2023)

**Stables Café** (as above)

**Memories of India** 160-162 Thornbury Road, *Osterley, Isleworth, Hounslow TW7 4QE (020 8560 7464, <https://www.memoriesofindia.co.uk/>)*. Open 12.00-14.30 and 17.30-23.00 daily.

**Tiger Lily** 167-169 Thornbury Road, *Osterley, Isleworth, Hounslow TW7 4QG (020 8560 0455, <https://www.tigerlilyofosterley.co.uk/>)*. Open 12.00-14.30 Tue-Sun and 17.30-23.00 every day.

**The Park Café** 163 Thornbury Road, *Osterley, Isleworth, Hounslow TW7 4QG (020 8560 7464, <https://www.theparkcafeosterley.co.uk/>)*. Open to 16.00 daily.

## **Notes**

### **Osterley Park and House**

Osterley Park is a Georgian country estate in west London, straddling the boroughs of Ealing and Hounslow. Originally dating from the 1570s and built for the banker Sir Thomas Gresham, the estate contains a number of Grade I and II listed buildings, with the park itself listed as Grade II\*. The main house was remodelled by Robert Adam between 1761 and 1765 for then owner Sir Francis Child. Adam's neoclassical interiors are characterised by elaborate but restrained plasterwork, rich, highly varied colour schemes, and a degree of coordination between decor and furnishings unusual in English neoclassical interiors. George Child Villiers, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Jersey, opened the estate to the public in 1939, having received many requests to see its interior. After WW II, he approached Middlesex County Council who had shown interest in buying the estate, but eventually decided to give the house and park to the National Trust. The furniture was sold to the V&A, the house was restored to its late 18<sup>th</sup>-century state and the NT took charge in 1991. A 2018-2021 restoration repaired structural deterioration and discolouring of the external brickwork.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park-and-house>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osterley\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osterley_Park)

### **Grand Junction Canal**

The Grand Junction Canal connects Braunston in Northamptonshire to the Thames at Brentford, with a number of branches. The mainline was built between 1793 and 1805, to improve the route from the Midlands to London, by-passing the upper reaches of the Thames near Oxford, thus shortening the journey. In 1927 the canal was bought by the Regent's Canal Company and, since 1 January 1929, has formed the southern half of the Grand Union Main Line from London to Birmingham.

### **Three Bridges**

Properly known as Windmill Bridge, Three Bridges is a compact three-level crossing of bridges on the Grand Junction Canal, and Isambard Kingdom Brunel's last major undertaking (1856-1859). The three bridges are an overlapping arrangement allowing the routes of Windmill Lane (top), the Grand Junction Canal (middle) and the Brentford Dock Line railway (bottom) to cross. The structure is a scheduled monument.

### **River Brent**

The River Brent is a Thames tributary in west and northwest London. 29 km (18 mi) in length, it rises in the Borough of Barnet and flows in a generally south-west direction before joining the Thames at Brentford.

### **Wharncliffe Viaduct**

The Wharncliffe Viaduct, built in 1836-7, is a brick-built viaduct that carries the Great Western Main Line railway across the Brent Valley, at an elevation of 20 metres and 270-metre-long with eight semi-elliptical arches. It was the first major structural design by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the first building contract to be let on the GWR project, and the first major engineering work to be completed. It was also the first railway viaduct to be built with hollow and tapered piers (now hosting bat colonies). On the central pier on the south side is a carving of the coat of arms of James Stuart Wortley Mackenzie, Lord Wharncliffe, who was chairman of the parliamentary committee that steered the passage of the GWR Bill through Parliament. The viaduct was among the first structures to be listed (as s Grade I listed building) in November 1949.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

Leave **Osterley Underground** station onto the forecourt by the **A4 Great West Road**, and *turn right* along the pavement, ignoring a subway leading under the A road. In 30m *turn right* along a paved path, a signposted public footpath ('Basset Gardens Public Footpath FP59'). Cross the railway on a bridge and in 25m go down some steps and *bear right* with the path which in 70m emerges on **Bassett Gardens** (road). *Turn right* and in 70m *turn left* at a three-way junction (still called Bassett Gardens). In 200m you reach **Jersey Road** at a T-junction, and *turn right* along its pavement. In 330m, where **Thornbury Road** joins from the right, you *turn left* through a pedestrian gate to the left of the car gate into **Osterley Park** and follow a broad tree-lined path into the park.

In 200m, where a public footpath joins from the left through a metal kissing gate out of a fenced path, you *turn right* across the car drive and in 40m go through a matching metal kissing gate and continue along a fenced path. You have fine views on the left across a grazing meadow to the tree-lined (and therefore hidden from view) **Middle Lake**, with **Wembley Stadium's** arch part-visible above the treeline. In 300m go through a kissing gate and *turn right* with the path and in 70m *turn left* with it, now along a narrower path with some residential gardens on the right. In 270m continue through **Wyke Green** along its left-hand boundary and in 125m *turn left* at a T-junction with the car wide gravel **Osterley Lane**, in 20m passing between **South Lodge** and **Wyke Green Lodge**. This is **the historical drive** to Osterley Park House.

In 30m you pass a map of Osterley Park and House. You have grazing meadows on both sides now, behind hedges. In 250m ignore a left turning broad gravel path through wooden barriers and in another 40m you get fine first views of Osterley House on the left in the far distance. In 90m you reach a second left turning path through a wooden barrier on the left by a bridleway marker post on the right. The route **will turn left** here, but first continue in the same direction for 100m along Osterley Lane, for both a **stunning bluebell display** (in season) on the right behind the high wire fence in private grounds, and then some **serene views across Middle Lake** towards Osterley House. Return to the wooden barrier and *turn right* along the path (the '**Nine Acre-Trail**'), which for 430m meanders through another meadow, with Middle Lake away to the right and then you *turn right* at a T-junction with a broader gravel path.

Immediately *turn left* with the fenced path, with the large grazing meadow on the left. In 40m ignore a right turn into a wooded area (only cycle-tracks lie beyond there, although there are also some **fine bluebell displays** in season). In 75m you *bear right* with the path and in another 45m you reach a car park and *turn hard right briefly* to in 10m *turn right* again back on yourself along a metal fence and in 5m *turn left* between fences to skirt around the top of the car park. In 30m at the far end of the car park, continue in the same direction into the wood and in 15m you get to a map by a three-way path junction. *Turn right* into the wood and in 20m *bear left* along the left of three paths on the right, with a public footpath marker post (the other two paths are cycle-tracks only). The path curves to the left past some more bluebell patches and in 70m you go down some steps to pass **between Middle Lake** on the right **and Garden Lake** away on the left, in 15m going through a metal gate in a fence.

*Turn right* through some scattered trees to in 60m emerge in a large open area, and continue along the left-hand side of Middle Lake. Walk up along the lake for 250m where the lake widens and *turn left* along a clear sand path. In 150m the trees on the right discontinue and you have the water's edge on the right, with an island in the lake nearby. Curve gently to the left with the path, staying just to the left of another wooded area (more bluebell patches here in season), now with **the audible M4** away on the right. In 100m you reach a broad path at a T-junction by **Jubilee Lodge** opposite on the right by one of the gates out of the park.

In season, there is a very large patch of bluebells on the far side of the path. *Turn left* along the path past more, smaller bluebell patches and with another grazing meadow on the right behind a fence. In 370m another broad (tarmac) track joins from the right behind. You continue in the same direction along tarmac, past a toilet block in 20m (open 10.00-17.00) and in 30m reach the **Stables Courtyard** with the **Stables Café** and a **National Trust shop** (open 11.00-17.00 Mon-Sun) away on the right. **Osterley House** (ticketed) is just a little further ahead, the entrance to the (also ticketed) gardens is on the right (last entry at 16.00).

### Here you have a choice:

**For the shorter walk option, finishing back at Osterley Station**, continue in the same direction along the broad tarmac path with the House on the right and in 140m you have the **Garden Lake** on the right and curve right with the path. In 40m you can spot **Middle Lake** away on the left through the trees and continue along the drive. In 150m pass to the right of a metal car gate and cross a tarmac drive to a car park on the right, to continue along a wide gravel footpath parallel to the drive on the left. Continue along this tree-lined path for 500m to the main exit out of the park. Cross Jersey Road and continue along **Thornbury Road**. In 75m cross the railway line on the road and in 20m pass **Memories of India** on the right and **Tiger Lily** and **The Park Café** on the left. In 100m *turn right* along **Great West Road** to in 320m reach **Osterley Station**.

**For the Main Walk to Hanwell**, *turn back the way you came*, past the toilet block and in 20m *fork left* along the broad tarmac drive, soon with the ticketed gardens on your left behind a wall then a fence and a grazing meadow on the right behind a metal fence. In 400m you pass a metal car barrier by **Devon Lodge** to leave Osterley Park and in 40m *turn left* at a T-junction with **Osterley Lane**, parallel to the M4 (a signposted gravel bridleway on the right, a tarmac road on the left). Curve to the right with the lane and in 200m you **cross the M4 on a bridge**. From the far side of the bridge, you can (usually) see a clear path across a large arable field ahead and, where the lane turns to the left and by a double metal field gate on the right, you continue in the same direction through a wooden gate in a hedge gap and down an earth bank into the field and follow the path (285°) with a footpath signpost in the hedge.

Away on the right you can spot the arch of **Wembley Stadium** (foliage permitting) and in 320m on the far side of the field, you continue between garden fences. In 75m cross a tarmac cul-de-sac and continue in the same direction along another narrow path and in 15m continue along a residential road. In 40m you reach a T-junction with **Tentelow Lane**, by **The Plough** pub on the left. *Turn right* along the right-hand pavement. You cross a couple of residential roads in 100m and in another 110m and in a further 50m *turn right* with a footpath signpost through a wooden gate then a metal kissing gate into Tentelow Meadow, part of **Tentelow Wood & Meadow**. *Bear left* across the meadow along a straight path towards a wooded strip (55°; i.e.: ignore the path ahead and also the one on the left along the boundary hedge).

In 200m you enter the wood through a metal kissing gate (fine bluebell displays here in season) and in 40m at a fork, *fork left*. In 70m *turn right* within the wood (the left fork leads to the nearby visible road). You follow this path through the narrow wood for 250m, between the audible road on the left and some sports fields on the right. You leave **Tentelow Wood & Meadow** as you emerge past a car barrier into a gravel area by **Osterley Cricket Club's** premises on the right (and the **OCC Bar & Restaurant**). *Turn left* along the slip road and in 50m cross **Tentelow Road** and *turn left* along its opposite pavement along a small green. In 40m *turn right* along the green's far side along the pavement of **Poplar Avenue**.

In 60m *turn left* along a road at a T-junction (also Poplar Avenue) and in 110m, where the road turns left, you *turn right* past a car barrier along a car wide gravel lane, which in 50m gently rises to cross the **Grand Junction Canal** on a bridge, with **Norwood Top Lock (# 90)** and **Top Lock's Cottage** below on the left. Ignore a left turning path to the towpath along the canal and continue in the same direction along the lane and *veer right* at a road at a bend (**Glade Lane**). In 90m cross **Cookham Close** and in another 40m by a bus stop (services to Southall Station), you *turn right* through a fence gap into **Glade Lane Canal Side Park**. You follow a gravel path into the park and in 60m at a T-junction by a fenced playground ahead, *turn right*. In 90m *turn right* at a T-junction and in 50m *bear left* at a four-way junction. In 30m you pass a fenced pond away on the left and in 80m cross a gravel path at a T-junction and enter a meadow ahead to *veer left* along its left-hand edge.

In 110m *bear right* with a line of trees and a fence on the left and a railway line at much lower level. In 50m go through a hedge gap and follow the left-hand boundary of the following meadow towards the canal. In 115m leave the park and *bear left* along the tarmac towpath. In 20m you pass a **Grand Junction Canal Milestone** ('Braunston 90 Miles') on the left and in another 30m pass the famous **Three Bridges** site, where the canal is carried over the railway line (which is of course newer than the canal) while **Windmill Lane** runs left-to-right over both. There is an info panel about the pioneering engineering on the far side of the road bridge. Continue in the same direction along the canal for 900m to a footbridge over the River Brent, en route passing the six locks making up the **Hanwell Flight of Locks** (Locks 92-97) with its **side ponds** on the right (a Scheduled Ancient Monument), and some **quaint lock cottages** and a large meadow behind trees, with the high brick wall (another Scheduled Ancient Monument) of **Ealing Hospital** (formerly St Bernard's Hospital, aka **Hanwell Insane Asylum**), on the left.

You pass a couple of info panels, some as metal plaques set into the ground (including one about The Asylum Dock and Gate near the former on-site brewery) and at the far end of the wall, where it is lower in height, you can spot the security fence around some of the hospital buildings. At the far end of the wall ignore a left running path into trees, and in another 40m pass a metal three-way signpost, where the **Capital Ring** joins from ahead along the canal and continues to the left. You pass Hanwell Bottom Lock 97 and in 80m go up onto a bridge over the **River Brent**, which joins from the left and continues as the Grand Union Canal.

**Here you have a choice:**

**For the early tea stop **The Fox** pub**, *turn left* on the far side of the bridge and in 80m you find the pub on your right.

**For the continuation of the walk**, *turn back on yourself* and in 80m, *fork right* with the Capital Ring along FitzHerbert Walk, eventually past the hospital site and always with the river on your right. You now follow the Brent for 850m to **Wharncliffe Viaduct** where you *turn right* across it and proceed to **Hanwell Station**.

**In more detail:** in 500m, just before **Hanwell Bridge** (Uxbridge Road) over the Brent, you *fork down to the right* to in 30m go under the bridge. [**Note:** the subway can be flooded or extremely muddy following a flooding, in which case go back and cross over the bridge at road level.] On the far side, **you have a choice: for **The Viaduct pub****, *turn left* up some steps and *turn left* along the road to the pub 100m away on your left. **For the continuation of the walk**, continue in the same direction up along the path to in 50m join a path coming in from the left behind and follow it through **Brent Meadow** along the River Brent past an info panel in 250m to the imposing **Wharncliffe Viaduct**, carrying the **Great Western Main Line** across the Brent Valley.

By the viaduct, *turn right* with the path across a steel footbridge over the culverted river and on the far side by an info panel on the **Hobayne Half Acre Field woodland**, *bear right* away from the river, ignoring the left turn along it. [You could turn right along a woodland ride for a short loop through the small riverside reserve, which in less than 100m re-joins the path a little ahead.] In 40m you pass a **Sarsen Stone** (one of several in Hanwell, see the info panel for more background). You rise gently with the path with the viaduct on the left, and in 60m from the Sarsen Stone, you *turn right* at a T-junction with the tarmac **Church Path**.

In 80m at a bend of **Conolly Road**, *turn hard left* back on yourself into the **Conolly Dell** park (formerly part of the grounds of the home and private asylum of Dr John Conolly after his retirement as Superintendent of Hanwell Asylum), *forking right* immediately. In 20m *fork left* gently downhill, to the right of a pond. In 90m at the far end of the pond, bear up to the right along a tarmac path and in 50m leave the park, through a gate onto **Station Road**. *Turn left* along it and in 30m *turn right* across it to follow **Station Approach** to **Hanwell Station** in 160m. *Turn left* along a subway for London bound trains from Platform 3. For **some stores and a restaurant or two** within 300m, *turn right* on the far side of the station in 20m along **Campbell Road** to in 120m *turn left* along **Greenford Avenue**.