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|---|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| The Beverley Brook (Stoneleigh to Putney Bridge)  |  |                            | Pyl Brook and East Pyl Brook Starts from Sutton Common |                            |                            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> walk check  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check                                   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check | 1 <sup>st</sup> walk check                             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> walk check | 3 <sup>rd</sup> walk check |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2025   |  |                            |  |                            |                            |
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## The Beverley Brook (Stoneleigh to Fulham or Putney)

**Start:** Stoneleigh Station

**Finish:** Putney Bridge Underground or Putney Station

Stoneleigh Station, map reference TQ 220 641, is 18 km south west of Charing Cross, 37m above sea level and in the **Epsom and Ewell District** of Surrey, just outside the Greater London Boundary. Putney Bridge Station, map reference TQ 245 758, is 7 km southwest of Charing Cross, 4m above sea level and in the London Borough of **Hammersmith & Fulham**. Putney Station, map reference TQ 239 750, is 900m southwest of Putney Bridge Station, 8m above sea level and in the London Borough of **Wandsworth**.

**Length:** 21.7 km (13.5 mi) with 65/96m ascent/descent. For alternative starts or finishes or a shorter walk, see below **Walk Options**.

**Toughness:** 2 out of 10.

**Time:** 4 ½ hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 6 ½ hours.

**Transport:** Stoneleigh Station is a stop on the Mole Valley Line from Waterloo to Guildford or Dorking and in Zone 5 with a half-hourly service and a journey time of 28 minutes. Putney Bridge is a stop on the Wimbledon branch of the District Line and in Zone 2. Putney Station is a stop in Zones 2/3 on the Hounslow and Kingston Loop lines via Barnes and the Windsor line via Richmond, all from Waterloo, with up to 6 trains per hour.

**Saturday Walkers' Club:** Take the train closest to 10.00 hours.

**OS Landranger Map:** 176 (West London)

**OS Explorer Map:** 161 (London South).

### Walk Notes:

This walk has a part urban and suburban, part semi-natural feel to it as it follows one of South West London's Thames tributaries, the Beverley Brook, from its source at the southern edge of the London Clay basin just within Greater London to the Thames at Barn Elms, west of Putney.

The Brook initially flows through largely built-up suburbia in Worcester Park and Motspur Park, then into the slightly greener New Malden, before following the fringes of Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park and flowing through Barnes Common and Lower Putney Common, i.e. some of South London's most varied and beautiful countryside.

While large parts of the brook are now culverted or built over, a substantial part of it flows in the open in parks and through commons, often in natural or re-naturalised meanders, providing for more diverse flora and fauna and natural flows.

Train stations and bus stops on or just off route enable many shorter versions.

Optional starts broadly follow the course of the Brook's main tributaries, the Pyl Brook and East Pyl Brook.

## Walk Options:

**Shorter Walks** are possible by using other train stations for alternative finishes or starts:

- **Worcester Park** Station is passed after 2.6 km, **Motspur Park** Station after 4.7 km.
- **New Malden or Barnes** Stations are just off route
  - o Stoneleigh to New Malden: 8.5 km;
  - o New Malden to Barnes: 9.7 km;
  - o New Malden to Putney Bridge: 13.8 km;
  - o Barnes to Putney Bridge: 4.6 km.

**On the stretch passing Wimbledon Common**, the very mud-prone brookside path is described as a shorter dry-season alternative to the route through the Fishpond Wood and Beverley Meads LNR.

**An Alternative Finish at Putney Station** (for trains to Waterloo) is described.

**Alternative Starts from Sutton Common Station** are shown on the route map. They follow the **Pyl Brook and East Pyl Brook** tributaries as close to and as sensible as possible to the Main Walk route.

- One leads to Sutton Green/Victoria Gardens, where a pond used to be fed by the waters of the **Pyl Brook**. You then go to where the brook emerges from a culvert and trace it to New Malden;
- The other leads up to the Rosehill/St. Helier watershed where often-dry shallow ditches form the **East Pyl Brook**, then follows it to its meeting with the Pyl Brook in West Barnes/Lower Morden.

**Elevenes/Lunch** (details last updated 21/03/2025)

**The Brook Pub & Dining** 181 Central Road, Worcester Park, KT4 8DR (020 8337 6891, <https://thebrookworcesterpark.co.uk/>). The Brook is located 2.6 km into the walk. Open from 12 noon every day.

**Blossom & Brew** 328 West Barnes Lane, Motspur Park, New Malden, KT3 6NB. Blossom & Brew is located 4.7 km into the walk.

**Café Rich Point** 363 West Barnes Lane, Motspur Park, New Malden, KT3 6JF (020 8949 3377). Rich Point is located 4.7 km into the walk.

**The Earl Beatty** 365 West Barnes Lane, Motspur Park, New Malden, KT3 6JF (020 8942 0263, <https://www.greeneking.co.uk/pubs/surrey/earl-beatty/>). The Earl Beatty is located 4.7 km into the walk. Open from 11.00 weekdays and from 09.00 weekends. Food served all day.

**Plenty of options near New Malden Station**, 700m off route at the New Malden Finish, after 8.5 km of walking, including **The Glasshouse** (020 8942 4650, <https://www.glasshouse.pub/>) and **OHAIO** takeout.

**Da Mimmo** 255 Coombe Lane, West Wimbledon, London SW20 0R (020 3556 8793, <https://www.damimmowimbledon.com/>). Da Mimmo is located 9.4 km into the walk. Open from 09.00-16.00 Tue-Fri and 09.00-15.00 Sat.

**Roehampton Gate Café** 138 Priory Lane, London SW15 5JP (020 8876 7933, <https://www.colicci.co.uk/roehampton-gate-cafe/>). The Gate Café is located a little off route, after 15.0 km of walking. Open to 16.00 in winter and to 17.30 in summer.

**Palewell Café on the Common** Palewell Common Drive, East Sheen SW14 8RF (020 8878 6271, <https://www.colicci.co.uk/roehampton-gate-cafe/>). Palewell Café is located a little off route, after 15.5 km of walking. Open all day every day.

**Café Loris** 159a White Hart Lane, Barnes SW13 0JP (07922 278 844). Café Loris is located 16.5 km into the walk. Open to 15.00 Mon-Sat.

**The Stag's Head** 24 Priests Bridge, Barnes SW14 8TA (020 8876 9685, <https://www.stagsheadbarnes.co.uk/>). The Stag's Head is located 16.6 km into the walk. Open from 17.00 Wed-Thu, from 16.00 Fri, all day Sat and from 13.30 Sun. Food served.

**Tea** (details last updated 21/03/2025)

**Café in the Old Sorting Office Arts Centre** OSO Arts Centre, Old Sorting Office, 49 Station Road., Barnes SW13 0LF (<https://www.osoarts.org.uk/cafe-bar/>). The OSO Café is located a little off route, after 17.9 km of walking. Open to 18.00 weekdays and to 16.00 weekends.

**Loo Loo's Café** Leaders Gardens, Putney Riverfront, Ashlone Road, Putney SW15 1LS (020 8246 6847). Loo Loo's is located 1.9 km from the end of the walk. Open to 16.45 daily (weather permitting).

**The Duke's Head** 8 Lower Richmond Road, Putney SW15 1JN (020 8788 2552, <https://www.dukesheadputney.com/>). The Duke's Head is located 1.3 km from the end of the walk. Open all day every day. Food served all day every day. A Young's pub.

**The Star & Garter Hotel** 4 Lower Richmond Road, Putney SW15 1JN (020 8788 0345). The Star & Garter is located 1.2 km from the end of the walk. This pub/hotel is **currently closed!**

**The Rocket** Putney Wharf Tower, Brewhouse Lane, Putney SW15 2JQ (020 8780 8970, <https://www.idwetherspoon.com/pubs/the-rocket-putney/>). The Rocket is located 900m from the end of the walk. Open all day every day. A Wetherspoon's pub.

**The Boathouse** 32 Brewhouse Lane, Putney SW15 2JX (020 8789 0476, <https://www.boathouseputney.co.uk/>). The Boathouse is located 800m from the end of the walk. Open all day every day. A Young's pub.

**Doctor Espresso Caffetteria** 3 Station Approach, Fulham SW6 3UR.

**The Eight Bells** 89 Fulham High Street, Fulham SW6 3JS (020 7736 6307). Open all day every day.

## Notes:

### **Beverley Brook**

The Beverley Brook is a 14.3 km (8.9 mi) long tributary of the River Thames in Southwest London with a catchment of 64 km<sup>2</sup> (25 sq mi), draining the area between the Wandle and Hogsmill Rivers' catchments. Its main tributaries are the Pyl Brook (5.3 km long) and East Pyl Brook (3.9 km long), both draining parts of Sutton and Merton, and the very short Coombe Brook in New Malden.

The name is thought to derive from the former presence in the river of the European beaver (*Castor fiber*).

The river rises from the Southern edge of the London Clay basin just within the Greater London Boundary at Cuddington Recreation Ground, Worcester Park and initially flows through largely built-up suburbia on to Motspur Park and into the slightly greener New Malden, then along the fringes of Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park and through Barnes Common and Lower Putney Common before joining the Thames at Barn Elms, west of Putney. From Motspur Park to Richmond Park, the river is shadowed by the A3, which along this stretch is called Beverley Way.

While large parts of the brook are now culverted or built over, a substantial part of it flows in the open in parks and through commons, and often in natural or re-naturalised meanders, providing for more diverse flora and fauna and natural flows. Despite this, two relief culverts carry storm flows into the Thames upstream of Barnes Bridge, to protect Barnes village from flooding. One of them is passed on the route.

For long stretches the river forms a London Borough Boundary: between Kingston-upon-Thames and its easterly neighbours Sutton, Merton and Wandsworth, and then between Richmond and Wandsworth.

### **Beverley Brook Walk**

The Beverley Brook Walk is a waymarked walking route in the south-western suburbs of London which closely follows the Beverley Brook. It is 11.5 km (7.1 mi) long and starts at New Malden railway station to link up with the Beverley Brook after about 1 kilometre and ends at Barn Elms, upstream of Putney. En route it passes through the green spaces of Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park, Barnes Common and Putney Lower Common, i.e. some of South London's most varied and beautiful countryside. The walk was created by a partnership of four of the London Boroughs lining the river, together with the Royal Parks as the conservators of Wimbledon and Putney Commons, the Richmond branch of the Ramblers' Association and Berkeley Homes.

### **Fishpond Wood and Beverley Meads Nature Reserve**

Fishpond Wood and Beverley Meads is a 5.8 hectare local nature reserve adjacent to Wimbledon Common and owned and managed by Merton Council. In the Middle Ages, Beverley Meads was owned by Merton Abbey, from which period the two ponds in Fishpond Wood are believed to date. They are thought to have been storage ponds for the former fulling mill on the Beverley Brook at Mill Corner, dated from the medieval period but burnt down in the Tudor period.

Fishpond Wood lies adjacent to Warren Farm, and its wetlands are surrounded by old oak-dominated secondary woodland with hazel understory, which is partly coppiced.

Beverley Meads was used as grazing land before the War, but the four meadows of rare acid grassland now need intensive management to stop them from becoming overgrown and encroached by scrub.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

**New Malden Start:** leave platform 4 at **New Malden Station** down some steps and *turn right* in a subway, ignoring the exit to the left. Go through the gates and *turn left* down to **Coombe Road**, by the **OHAIO** Far-Asian takeout on the left-hand corner and with several bars and restaurants away to the left under the railway (on High Street and Duke's Square) and *turn right* along it, passing **The Glasshouse** pub opposite. In 270m, *turn right* along the second road along, **Cambridge Avenue**, signposted for the **Beverley Brook Walk**. In 270m **Rosebery Avenue** joins from the right, and with it The Main Walk. Continue ahead and pick up the directions below at the asterisk \*).

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Arriving on platform 2 of **Stoneleigh Station** in the Epsom & Ewell Borough in **Surrey**, go up some steps onto an overbridge and *turn left* ('Kenilworth Road') and walk down some steps leading to the right into a cul-de-sac, with **The Station** pub (Greene King) visible on the right. *Turn hard left* within the cul-de-sac and in 20m *turn right* along a row of shops. In 70m *turn left* along **Rosedale Road**, gently ascending to the watershed between Hogsmill River and **Beverley Brook**. In 60m you pass **The Original Cockney Museum** (<https://www.originalcockneymuseum.co.uk/>) down a back lane on the right. Just beyond the brow of the rise, ignore Richlands Avenue to the right, now entering the **London Borough of Sutton**. In 90m, with vistas opening up into the **Thames Valley** ahead, you *turn right* along **Sparrow Farm Road**.

In 90m ignore Bridgewood Road on the left and in 150m *turn left* through an always unlocked metal gate into the **Cuddington Recreation Ground**. Follow a tarmac path and in 50m *bear right* to then *veer left* along the left of two gravel paths. In 30m you have the **source of the Beverley Brook** on your left in a cut lined by trees, with some water trickling out of a pipe, collected from the area higher up under the houses or gardens lining the park and beyond. Follow the gravel path gently downhill through the park towards **Worcester Park** (a part of town), with the brook about 20m to the left, in 60m passing a marker post and in 110m another one. In 20m the path continues on tarmac and in 140m you pass the fenced-off start of **a long culverted section**, where the brook is led not only under the houses ahead but – for reasons unknown – also under the rest of the park. In 100m the tarmac discontinues briefly and you continue between a car park and a playground, then a children's nursery and some tennis courts.

At **Sandringham Road**, cross the road and *turn left* along it, and at the end of the road *turn right* along **Lynwood Drive**, which after a short while visibly descends. Ignore all roads off and at the T-junction with **Central Road** (the A2043), leading on the right uphill into **Cheam**, you cross the road (there is a set of lights on the right by a **Costa Coffee** and a **Caffe Nero**) and *turn left*. In 70m, by **The Brook Pub & Dining** on the left and **Pavilion Fish & Chips** on the right and with **Worcester Park Station** ahead, you *turn right* along **Green Lane**. In 25m the brook emerges from the culvert on the far side of the road. There is a pavement on the left initially, but in 300m at **Pembury Avenue**, you have to switch to the right-hand side of the road. Ignore several roads to the right (the last one leading into the 'Hamptons' development with its striking **Maple Lodge** and to the Worcester Park), until you get to a T-junction with **Green Lane School** opposite. *Turn right* along the far side of the road (still Green Lane).

In 150m, beyond the last house on the left and with the far end of the **Worcester Park** away to the right, you *turn left* along an earthen path, with some horse paddocks to the right (**Lower Morden Equestrian Centre**). Some gasholders dominate the view to the left (in Motspur Park) and towards the end of the paddocks, the path veers left to

continue in their direction. In 50m go through a metal gate (closes at dusk) into the **Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field** and, at a three-way tarmac path junction...

- **For a slightly longer Alternative:** continue ahead and in 15m *turn left* along a grassy path. This grass path splits a little further along and both paths then loop through the woods on the left (the furthest left path even leads along the brook and past the gasholders through some **old oak woodland**) to then loop back to the tarmac path 220m ahead, which you follow around past a fenced playground and to the right past a crazy golf course and a children's nursery and toilet block with the **Cheeky Chimps Stay & Play Café** to in 130m *turn left* along a path out of the park, to the left of a car park.
- **For the Main Walk:** *turn right* to follow a tarmac path along the tree-lined edge of the playing field. In 200m *turn left* with the path (with **Morden Cemetery** now beyond) and in 125m ignore a gate on the right (with a crematorium visible in the distance). In 190m by a car park, you *turn left* with the path and in 30m *turn right* along a path out of the park.

**Both routes continue:** in 40m you pass a map and leave the park to continue along a residential road (**Marina Avenue**). At a T-junction with **West Barnes Lane** by the **Ecklee Grill** opposite and with **Motspur Park Station** part-visible down Station Road opposite, you *turn left* but use a pedestrian crossing to switch over to the right-hand pavement. You pass **Blossom & Brew Café** on the left and **Café Rich Point** on the right, followed by **The Earl Beatty** (Greene King). Cross the railway line at a level crossing and in 40m **[!]** *bear right* with West Barnes Lane across **Claremont Avenue**, with the main road continuing ahead as Motspur Park road. The brook runs along the far side of the road, with the Motspur Park beyond it, since 1999 the home of **Fulham FC's Training Centre**. Cross Barnes End and in another 170m *turn left* with the road (now called Blakes Lane) across the brook.

In 230m, by the back entrance drive into Motspur Park, *turn right* with the road, and in 110m *turn right* along **College Gardens**. In 30m *turn left* with the main part of the road and in 90m, where the road turns left as **Oakfield Close**, you continue ahead along a wide tarmac path (still College Gardens). At the **A3 Kingston By-Pass**, you *turn right* and in 30m go up a ramp leading to the right back on yourself and to the high bridge across the A3 (eight lanes of traffic), and go down a similar ramp on the far side, but to the left and then turning right. Continue along **Malden Way**, with the A3 on your right. In 120m *turn second left* along **Albert Road**, with a very large shed on the right, part of a retail park. The brook flows along the far side of it in a culvert.

In 210m at **Burlington Road**, with a **handful of Asian restaurants** away to the left, you cross the road and *turn right* and in 60m *turn left* along **Beverley Road**. In 150m cross Blagdon Road (the right arm of it leads to a brook crossing) and *bear right* with **Onslow Road**. In 130m *turn left* uphill with the road (now Egmont Road), and in 110m *turn right* along **Park View**. In 65m *turn right* through a metal gate into **Beverley Park**. A tarmac path to the left along the top of the park is the shortest route to the exit, but for the brook head down along a gravel path, staying to the left of some allotments and at the valley bottom *turn left* with the path, then stay either side of a fenced playground for 80m. At a junction with a tree-lined path, continue along the brook, in 10m passing the point where the **Pyl Brook**, the brook's main tributary, joins.

In the far corner of the park, *turn up to the left* across the grass and at the top pass some tennis courts on their left and leave the park through a metal gate back onto **Park View**. Continue in the same direction uphill along **Dukes Avenue** and in 170m pass a **Victorian Stinkpipe** on the right. In 75m *turn right* along a signposted public footpath between a house on the right and a substation on the left. In 50m you cross the

**Southwest Mainline** on a bridge and 15m beyond its far end reach a tarmac path on the right, descending over 125m to a disused service road owned by Thames Water, now the **Beeline Way** (<https://beelineway.org/>).

**Here you have a choice:**

**For a Finish at New Malden Station or a lunch stop there**, *turn right* down the path and in 125m *turn left and left again* to go along the Beeline Way under the raised path and eventually on to **Coombe Road** with the station on your left, and **The Glasshouse** pub opposite a little to the right. Away to the left are **several restaurants, bars and takeouts** (often Korean or otherwise Far Asian), and in the station itself is the **OHAIO** Far-Asian takeout. London bound trains depart from the near platform 1.

**For the Main Walk**, continue ahead and in 90m *turn left* along **Alric Avenue** at a T-junction and in 80m *turn right* along **Rosebery Avenue**, gently downhill. In 260m *turn right* along **Cambridge Avenue** at a T-junction.

**\*)** In 230m, at the end of the road, continue through a gap to the left of a metal field gate and along a tarmac path to the left of a row of trees and a car wide gravel track, passing through **Malden Golf Course** while ignoring all ways off onto the fairways. In 250m you continue along a residential road towards the noisy A3 dual-carriageway. In 60m, at a slip road this side of the A road, go down a subway which bears right from the previous direction once under the car lanes. You emerge up a ramp back to street level by a bus stop, with the culverted **Beverley Brook** on your left and a slip road (**Beverley Way**) on your right. *Turn left* along the slip road across the brook (in its culvert) and *turn hard left* on the far side with a two-way **Beverley Brook Walk** (BBW) signpost along a tarmac path between fences.

In 75m you continue in the same direction along a road's pavement. In 35m ignore a left turning footpath and *bear right* along the tree-lined **Westcombe Avenue**. In 180m *turn left* with a BBW sign along the left-hand pavement of the busy **Coombe Lane** (the A238) and in 90m pass a row of shops (including **Da Mimmo** cafe & cucina). In another 20m *turn right* across the road at a pedestrian crossing and *turn left* on the far side. In 40m, with the elaborate junction of Coombe Lane and A3 and a flyover ahead, you *turn right* along **Beverley Avenue**. The Beverley Brook runs under that junction and is there joined in a culvert box by the **Coombe Brook** out of the northerly part of the golf course crossed a few minutes ago.

In 200m, at the end of the road, *turn left* with a signpost ('Public Footpath Robin Hood Gate'). In 65m *turn right* along a narrow mud-prone path this side of the brook, with some fenced sports fields on the right. In 280m the fenced pitches are followed by open ground with rugby and football pitches and in 270m you enter a wood about 10m to the right, by a BBW sign and map. Cross a tributary stream over a plank bridge, a little to the right and *turn left* inside the wood, part of **Wimbledon Common**. In 40m you reach a forest track crossing, by a bridge over the brook on the left and with **a map and info panel** on Wimbledon and Putney Commons just beyond the crossing.

**Here you have a choice:**

**For a slightly shorter but very mud-prone** route along the brook, continue ahead and *curve to the right* with the path, now with the brook in a natural-looking deep riverbed on the left, the wood on the right and the audible A3 away to the left. In 150m *curve to the left* with the brook and the path (ignore a right fork) and in 70m *turn right* (this is **Mill Corner**, the former site of a fulling mill). In 200m a path joins from the

right behind and in 60m a path and a stream join from the right (this is the outflow of the fishponds passed on the main walk). In 90m broad path joins from the right behind.

**For the Main Walk through the Fishpond Wood and Beverley Meads Local Nature Reserve**, *turn right* along the wide earthen path and in 65m, at a five-way path junction (bluebells in season), *veer to the right*. In 40m ignore a left turn into a meadow, but in 20m, at a prominent crossing, *turn left* into it. In 100m, in the narrow far end of the meadow, ignore a right turn and head into some trees, and in 20m – with a metal gate in a fence ahead – *turn left*. In 40m go through a line of concrete fence posts and *turn left* along the fence line. In 50m, at a T-junction with an extremely mud-prone path (on the left and for the first 10m or so to the right), you *turn right* a little to the right of the muddiest bits and in 10m continue along a usually dry path. Swathes of bluebells cover this area (in season), with coppiced hazel in evidence as well.

The near end of one of the 'fishponds' (in reality they were used as holding ponds for a former fulling mill on the brook) is away to the left. In 150m you skirt another mud-prone area on its right, along the fence, and in 40m cross a streamlet on an earth bridge. In 10m and in another 20m, paths join from the right out of another meadow and in 40m you reach the far end of the pond. The main path curves to the left along the pond, [!] but you continue ahead through some trees down to a broad crossing earth path. Cross the path a little to the right and in 10m *bear left*, ignoring a right fork. In 80m you re-join the brookside path and *turn right* along it.

**Both routes continue:** in 150m a tributary stream joins the brook on the left from the Coombe Hill area of Kingston, and also a lesser stream from the right out of a **wet woodland** (draining parts of Wimbledon Common); in 230m you reach a car wide brick bridge over the brook, which carries the **Robin Hood Ride** out of the Common across towards Kingston Hill, at its junction with the **Lower Gravelly Ride**. Continue along the wide path along the brook, which is now a shared cycle-way and therefore better maintained and far less mud-prone. In 250m you pass a small brick building on the far side of the brook, followed by a stretch of narrower concrete riverbed: this is an Environment Agency **Gauging Station**. In 200m there is another **wet woodland** area on the right. In 50m another stream joins from the right, just before the broad **Gravelly Ride** joins from that side, and with it the **Capital Ring (CR)**, at **the end of Wimbledon Common** and by a wide footbridge on the left (the **Brasher-Brewster-Banister Bridge**, named after three very famous local runners).

There are sports fields on both sides of the brook now as you follow a broad hardcore track. In 300m, just before a sports pavilion and toilet block, you *turn left* with a CR marker post across a wide brick footbridge over the brook. On the far side, *fork right* with a CR marker post, ignoring a right turn into a meadow. In 115m, by the A3 at a set of lights, *fork left* with a sign for pedestrians and cyclists, ignoring the right fork for horse riders. [The forks lead to separate sets of lights, with the crossing paths separated by hoardings, presumably **to stop the horses from bolting!**] Cross the two lanes of the road (Kingston Vale) and continue to the right of Beverley Cottages along 50m of tarmac with the signposted CR towards the **Robin Hood Gate** into **Richmond Park**, passing **Stag Lodge Stables** on the right. Inside the park, there is a map in 20m, but even before that, [!] you *fork to the right* along a gravel path, passing to the right of a car park and to the left of **Robin Hood Gate Lodge**. You *curve further to the right* with the path, keeping the fenced lodge grounds on the right.

In 70m pass a **Richmond Park National Nature Reserve** info panel and in 15m ignore a left fork and continue in the same direction, signed 'Richmond Park Golf Course, Chohole Gate Path'. In 150m you pass a yellow marker post and in 30m, by a footbridge over the brook, signed 'Chohole Gate', you *turn left* this side of the bridge.

Continue through the grassy meadow along the brook for 1.9 km to a road turning up towards the Roehampton Gate, [!] and *turn right* along a tarmac path across the brook, mostly mud-free, with scattered old trees on the left and some higher ground beyond (Spankers Hill Wood). The road through the park is away to the left, i.e. not a nuisance and most walkers and all cyclists are using one of the gravel paths in that direction.

**In more detail:** in 550m pass a concrete bridge on the right (leading to a usually locked double metal gate into a golf course); a wooden fence starts on the right, keeping humans and deer away from the brook; the next stretch is somewhat mud-prone and an alternative gravel path can be seen a little to the left; in 330m the wooden fence discontinues, and in 210m it starts up again; stub-like high rise buildings are visible away to the right (in **Roehampton**); in 30m a gravel path is just a few metres away on the left (and is easier to walk along); in 210m the deer fence discontinues again and in 30m you pass a milestone on the left; in 20m you ignore **Beckwith Bridge** on the right; in 25m cross the tarmac road from the Robin Hood Gate. In 270m *curve to the left* with the path for 30m to a bridge over a tributary stream (from the Pen Ponds deep inside the park) and *turn right* over the bridge, then *right again* back to the brook and follow it further. In 200m, cross another tarmac car road (from the Richmond Hill Gate), [!] and *turn right* along a tarmac path across the brook.

Continue uphill to the **Roehampton Gate** out of Richmond Park. There is a tussock-fringed pond on the right-hand side beyond the road and in 130m you pass an info panel (seen before) and ignore a couple of gravel paths on the left to pass a mini-roundabout and a multi-directional signpost. Pass to the right of Roehampton Gate Lodge and go through the gate out of the park. [The **Roehampton Gate Café** lies away to the right though.] [!] Immediately *turn left* with a BBW sign on an electricity post along a footpath between a wall and a fence. In 165m cross the brook which emerges from under the park wall on the left, to go through a metal kissing gate and *turn right* along the fenced-off brook with a '**Palewell Common & Fields**' sign. The path is a little mud-prone but there is the grassy Palewell Fields recreation ground on the left.

In 400m, at the far end of the sports fields, you pass an info panel (seen before) and ignore a footbridge to the right across the brook and through a metal field gate. You *veer to the left* with the brook and in 75m ignore a left turn, leading to the **Palewell Café on the Common**. In 125m ignore a footbridge on the right, leading to the back entrance of the **Bank of England Sports Ground**. The path bears to the left away from the brook, with allotments on either side, and in 100m you cross **Hertford Avenue** and *turn right* with a BBW sign along it, ignoring a public footpath ahead between fences. You are in **East Sheen** and in 400m cross the busy **Upper Richmond Road West** at a set of lights 10m to the right and *turn right* along it.

In 150m *turn third left* with a BBW sign on a lamp post along **Priest's Bridge** ('Leading to White Hart Lane') and in 120m ignore White Hart Lane turning left. The road curves to the right past **Café Loris** and in 60m you pass **The Stag's Head** pub. Immediately beyond the pub, on the left, you can see the brook again, interestingly with **a weir separating a lot of the flow** into a culvert and thence straight to the Thames, while the brook continues with a much-reduced flow. There is a **Surrey County Council Notice** on the bridge and in 80m you re-join Upper Richmond Road. In 165m, at a four-way junction with the busy Priory Lane from the right and the quieter **Vine Road** to the left, you *turn left* along Vine Road's pavement (although the path immediately bearing right through the wood is **the shortest route to Barnes Station**).

Ignore all residential roads off to the left and paths off to the right into the wood (bluebells in season) and in 300m you cross the first of two railway lines in quick succession (the **Richmond Line**), both via level crossings (the barriers typically do not

stay open for long, so do not dawdle!), and in 50m the second one (the **Hounslow Line**). *Bear right* away from the road along a gravel path into **Barnes Common**, to the right of a flood retention pond. At the far end of the pond, cross a gravel path and continue along the left-hand side of a cricket pitch, with a wood on the left. In 140m, at the far end of the pitch, *bear left* along the left of two paths into the wood and in 70m cross Station Road and continue along a tarmac path through another wood. In 90m you cross **Mill Hill Road** and continue with a BBW sign along a tarmac path to the right of some houses, signed as a public footpath to Barnes Green.

In 120m you reach the brook, with **Barnes Green** on the far side by a redundant pumping station to the left. There is a **Café in the Old Sorting Office Arts Centre** by the lake at the far end (as well as **The Nest** on the High Street beyond). *Turn right* along the brook along an earthen path, ignoring the right forking tarmac path (but DO take it if the brookside area is flooded or too muddy). You cross a few plank bridges over water channels leading into reed-filled flood retention and biodiversity enhancing ponds and in 150m, by some houses occupying the riverside, you *turn right*. In 40m a path turns left and you can take this or another one a little further along or indeed stay ahead, **but in any case**, do link up with the tarmac path visible about 40m ahead and *turn left* along it through this part of **Barnes Common**.

The path leads at a slightly elevated level through the common, and has some '**Barnes Trail**' disks set into the tarmac at intervals. You are walking west to east, with the wooded part of the common on the left and some houses beyond it, and **Mill Hill Road** away to the right, all the while getting closer to the busy **Rocks Lane** ahead, while crossing quite a few paths along the way. At Rocks Lane, with the **Rocks Lane Multi-Sports Centre** opposite the road, cross the road (there is a set of lights away to the left if you need it) and continue either on an earthen path or a tarmac lane, just to the right of the sports centre. In 60m *turn left* to stay to the left of a car park and in 40m at the end of the car park, you pass a BBW info panel and map and continue to the left of the **Barnes Common Old Cemetery**. [Alternatively, you can walk along the parallel path through the cemetery just 10m to the right, and in 110m at the far end of the small cemetery *turn left* out of it back onto this path. ]

In 110m you pass the far end of the cemetery and continue through shrubland. In 30m a path joins from the right and in 25m you cross a broad path from the right (with **Putney Lower Common** marker posts along it, leading onto some large sports field on the left) and follow the narrow path ahead. In 120m *turn left* at a four-way path junction, still with the sports field on the left. In 120m you cross the steel **Bill's Bridge** (re-erected 2022) across the brook and *turn right* on the far side with a BBW two-way signpost. **Barn Elms Playing Fields** are on the left and you get occasional glances of a large futuristic building ahead to the left, this is Fulham FC's **Riverside Stand at the Craven Cottage Stadium**, across the Thames. In 200m pass a pumping station on the left by an outfall on the right and in 20m ignore a wide bridge on the right. In 80m you pass the first houses on the right on the fringes of **Putney**.

In 250m pass the southerly end of the **Ashlone Wharf Screen** flood management structure (this keeps out the tidal surge to protect the estate on the right, while enabling the brook's waters to flow out into the Thames at low tide). The path turns left then right with the brook's meander, and in 60m you pass the far end of the wharf. In another 30m pass an info panel on the **Wimbledon and Putney Commons** (seen before) and in 20m meet the **Thames Path**, opposite **Bishop's Park in Fulham** (SWC Short Walk 67 Fulham to Chiswick) and with Craven Cottage on the left. *Turn right*, immediately **crossing the Beverley Brook one last time**, and follow the Thames for 800m to the already visible **Putney Bridge**, sticking to the riverside pedestrian path where possible, while passing numerous rowing clubs, some with **cafés** open to walk-

ins. First though, you pass the **Leaders Garden** on the right, with **Loo Loo's Café** and also **with a short Beverley Brook-side path!**

At the far end of the park, you are level with the **Bishop's Steps** on the northerly bank, then, some distance still from the bridge, you pass the **Duke's Head** (Young's) on the right, 80m before **The Star & Garter Hotel** (currently closed), just before the **Putney Pier** (Thames Clippers). Pass a **Thai Square** restaurant and *bear right* past the **Tideway Putney Embankment** reclaimed public realm up to street level, ignoring a slipway ahead as well as the **Waterman's Green** (a dead end) and follow the road pavement to the junction with Putney Bridge Approach/Putney High Street 80m away (there are several blue plaques on the building on the right-hand side of the road).

You cross the road at a set of lights and *turn right* on the far side, with **St. Mary's, Putney Church** on the left, away from the river. There are a couple of bars and a (currently closed) pub on the right-hand side of the road. *Turn left* with a Thames Path signpost around the church back to the river by **The Rocket** (Wetherspoon's) ahead. *Turn right* along the river, in 40m skirt to the right around a slipway and then pass **The Boathouse** (Young's) and a **Coppa Club** branch. In 60m *turn right* with the path and in 40m emerge in a residential road. In 15m *turn left* along **Deodar Road** at a bend. In 100m, just before a railway crosses the road on a bridge, **Merivale Road** turns right.

**For Putney Station**, *turn right* along the road and in 100m *turn left* along **Putney Bridge Road**. In 30m *turn right* across it to continue along **Oxford Road**. In 280m *turn third right* along **Disraeli Road**. In 300m you reach **Putney High Street**, with **Putney Station** 50m to the left. Waterloo bound trains depart from the near platforms 1 and 2.

**For Putney Bridge Underground Station**, go under the railway bridge carrying the **District Line** and [!] *turn hard left back on yourself* up some steps to the bridge level. Cross the river on the bridge along a path to the right of the railway lines, in 60m above the water and with some grand views down the Thames towards **Wandsworth and Battersea**. In 240m is the width of the Thames here and in another 40m you walk down some steps back to street level and follow the path to the left under the railway line. On the far side of the subway, *turn right* with a sign for **Putney Bridge Station** and in 40m at **Ranelagh Gardens** road, you have the station entrance a little ahead. **Café Lya** is on the left, the **Doctor Espresso Caffetteria** lies across the junction and **The Eight Bells** pub (the oldest surviving tavern in Fulham) can be found some 60m down the left, then 20m to the right. **Mowgli Coffee** is located in the ticket hall.