

Winter Walkies:

A historic walk from Kingston to Ham House and Garden

Arriving at Kingston Station, please head for the River.

Walk through Canbury Gardens



Canbury Gardens is a Victorian pleasure park opened on 8 November 1890, complete with regularly-used bandstand. was created from an area of drained land, once a tract of marshes and osier beds (where willow was grown for basket making) with a towpath and barge cottage.

Continuing along the River out of the park, you will walk on a raised pavement on the opposite side of the road.

After 400 yards, you will see the Half Mile Tree.



Here an elm tree has indicated the approximate distance to Kingston for well over 500 years. The tree you see today was planted in 1952.

Join the River path again – you have a choice of two, one a shared cycle path and the other, lower path is for pedestrians only.

From here you can see the river homes opposite on Trowlock Island, accessed only via a tiny pedestrian chain-link ferry.

You will soon see Teddington Weir and its three locks.



The depth to the maintained level at Richmond is 2.68 metres. The lock is operated 24 hours a day all year round.

Keep walking along the River path. You will notice common land next to you. It's Ham Lands.

Ham Lands is a large area of grassland and scrub with diverse wildlife. The site was once extensively excavated for gravel, then back-filled over time with a variety of soil types from all over London. This has created a unique mix of different vegetation types attracting many butterfly and bird species. In spring, the site is full of hawthorn blossom and in the summer, the meadows support many different wild flowers.

Keep walking past a car parking area to a formal break in the trees to your right. This is your first glimpse of Ham House and Garden.

Walk through the wide grass avenue of lime trees, through Ham's wildflower meadow to the imposing front gates. By walking this route, from the River, you are treading in the footsteps of your ancestors over 300 years ago.

Welcome to Ham House and Garden.