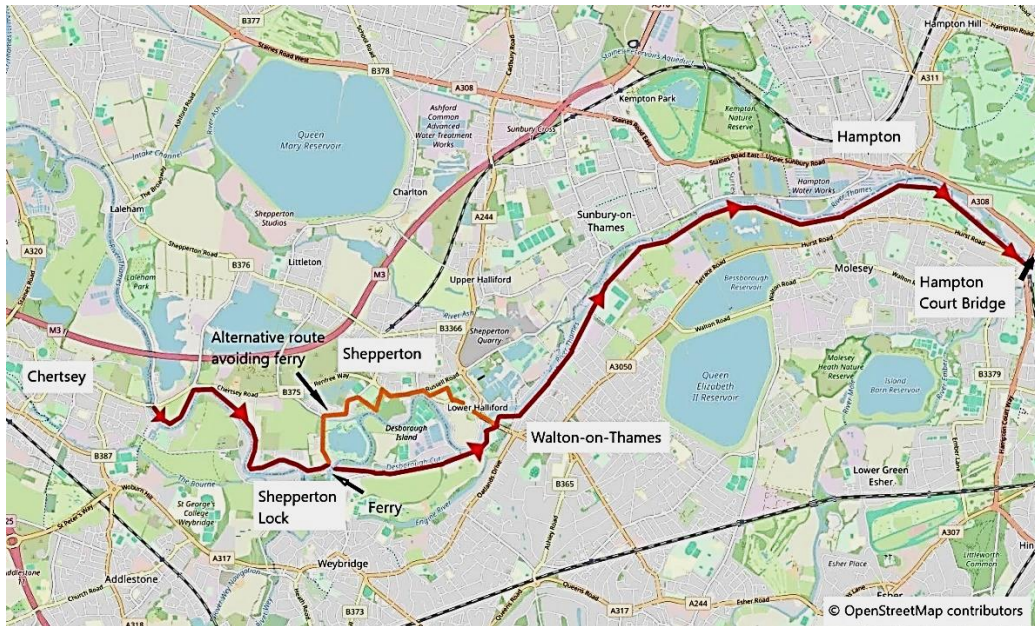


Day 10: Chertsey to Hampton Court



Day 10 offers a pleasant riverside walk with the option of a ferry crossing or a slightly longer detour (an extra $\frac{3}{4}$ mile) via Shepperton. As we enter London the character of the river becomes increasingly busy.

Distance: 8¾ miles

Duration: 3½ hours, not including breaks

Maps: Ordnance Survey Explorer 160, 161

Car parking: At Chertsey Bridge, there are two pub car parks (but you may need to get permission) as well as a small free one, and a paying one (Dumsey Meadow, £2 for the day). Hampton Court is more expensive, at £1.80 per hour!

Public transport: Chertsey Station is about a half-hour walk (1¼ miles) from the bridge; there's an hourly bus, 557. Hampton Court station has trains to Waterloo.

Refreshments: A pub with car park at the beginning; a good café at the Shepperton-Weybridge ferry; a café at Walton Bridge and various places in Walton-on-Thames and Hampton Court.

Toilets: Shepperton Lock, and the various cafés.

Chertsey

Abbey founded in 666 by St Erkenwald, Bishop of London from 675 to 693. Funded by Frithwald, Bishop of Whithorn in Northumbria from 735 to 766. The Abbey was sacked by the Danes in the 9th century and re-founded by King Edgar in 964.

Day 10: Chertsey to Hampton Court

Directions:

1. From Chertsey Bridge the Thames Path passes thorough Dumsey Meadow, a *Site of Special Scientific interest, home to a variety of rare plants and insects. The grass is cut for hay in August and then grazed using a herd of Belted Galloway supplied by Surrey Wildlife Trust.*
2. At Shepperton Lock there's a ferry to take us to the right bank, then following the Desborough Cut towards Walton Bridge. *The Cut was dug between 1930 and 1935, taking the river on a straight course between Weybridge and Walton, avoiding a meandering stretch past Shepperton and Lower Halliford, and reducing flooding. The ferry features in H.G. Wells's War of the Worlds.* It operates every 15 minutes between 9am and 5.30pm, taking 10 passengers; the fare is £3.50 (dogs and cycles count as people).
3. If the ferry is not available for any reason, you can follow the alternative Thames Path which winds round Shepperton – follow the acorn signs carefully – to rejoin the main path at Walton Bridge. This is only about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile further.

Shepperton

An early timber church was established (probably by the monks of the nearby Chertsey Abbey) on the site of the present parish church in the 7th century. The Domesday Book entry does not mention the church having a priest. A stone church was built in the 12th century.

4. After Walton Bridge we stay on the south bank until we reach *The Anglers* pub, where we will leave the river to walk up Manor Road, turning left; then following Manor Road until it meets the main road opposite **St Mary's Church**.

Walton-on-Thames

The name 'Walton' is Anglo-Saxon in origin, derived from a phonetic combination meaning 'Welsh Town': 'weal'(as) and 'tun'. There was a Celtic settlement before the arrival of the Romans and Anglo-Saxons, and the Old English word for the Celtic inhabitants was the 'Wealas', originally meaning either 'foreigners or 'strangers'. Walton is reputed to be the place where Julius Caesar forded the Thames during his second invasion of Britain (54BC). Walton was in the Anglo--Saxon hundred of Elmbridge, and appears in the Domesday Book as 'Waletona'. St Mary's Church is mentioned in the Domesday Book entry, and the 12th century building incorporates some Saxon material.

5. Returning to the river, the path passes Sunbury Lock, West and East Molesey, and Molesey Lock before bringing us to Hampton Court Bridge.

Hampton Court

The Manor of Hampton, dating from Saxon times, incorporated the areas now known as Hampton Hill and Hampton Wick. The name 'Hampton' is probably derived from the Anglo-Saxon words 'ham' (an enclosure in the bend of a river) and 'ton' (a farmstead or settlement). The Domesday Book records 'Hamptone' as having belonged to Aelfgar, Earl of Mercia but having passed into the ownership of King Harold in 1062. William the Conqueror gave the Hundred to Walter de St Valrey, one of his leading supporters. His descendants leased the manor of Hampton Court to the Knights Hospitallers of St John in 1237, whose English headquarters were at the Priory of St John in Clerkenwell. Cardinal Wolsey leased the estate in 1515 from the hospitallers, and embarked on the construction of a grandiose brick-built palace, which in turn attracted the envious attention of King Henry VIII.

Day 10: Chertsey to Hampton Court

Timings for Wednesday 3rd September (approximate):

10:00-10.15	Registration and briefing – Chertsey Bridge
10:15	Set off from Chertsey Bridge
11:00 -12:00	Shepperton Lock: coffee and ferry (2 miles)
13:00-14:00	St Mary's Church, Walton: (4 miles)
15:45	Arrive at Hampton Court Bridge (8¾ miles)
Contact: William Allberry 07818 641576	

With thanks to John Dewhurst, Churchwarden of All Saints, Kingston, for the information in the panels