



ISLEWORTH Rivers and Byways a circular walk through history

After the garage, turn left into Redlees Park, comprising some 6.34 hectares, created in 1936 prior to which natural occurring gravels were extracted. To the right is a vinery planted 1997 when this land, now incorporated into the park, was allotments. Note mistletoe in the Sycamore, Willow, and Poplars screening Mogden Sewage Works in the distance.

Follow the path right then take the first path forking left which crosses the grass diagonally, children's play area to right. At the end of the path to the left stables of the former Redlees House survive converted to studio workshops and gallery c1995 (open first Sunday in month). Just beyond, left of the gallery, and somewhat hidden is Isleworth Bowling Club established in 1934.

Exit the park* (right of stables) through the blue gates which incorporate the Sand and Gravel Association Restored Gravel Pit Award notice. Turn right into Worton Road – note Victorian post box embedded in the wall – and go down to the junction with Twickenham Road - Japanese Pagoda tree left in corner of Gumley School grounds.

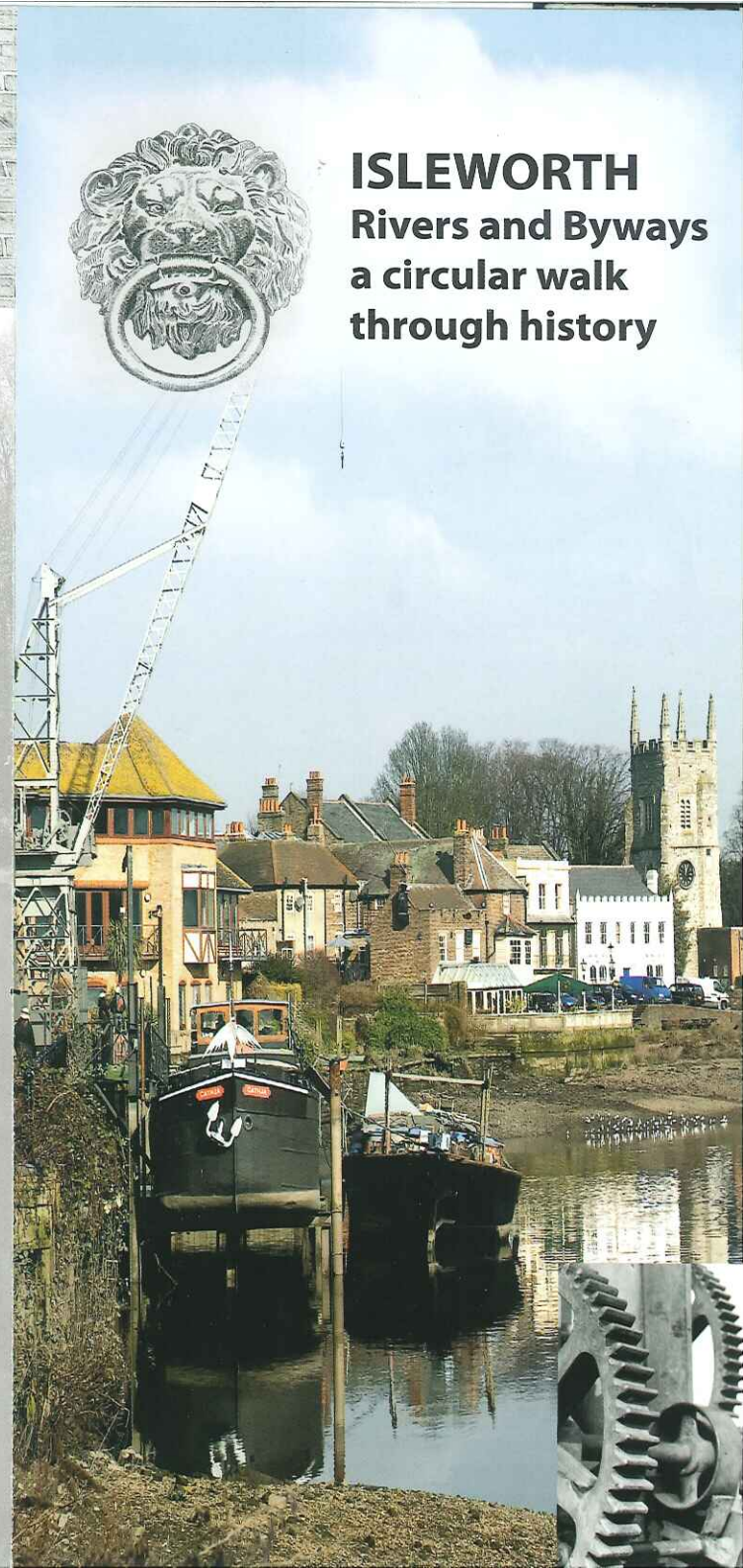
*Alternative route from end 2010 - at stables take path to right, tennis courts on right, to rear of Isleworth Recreation Centre ahead and exit the park using the foyer (includes café) of building, turning left past the library in Twickenham Road

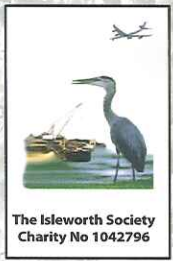
Opposite, surrounded by apartments completed 2003, is Holme Court an early 18thC house bearing a blue plaque indicating artist Vincent Van Gogh's residency 1876 when it was a school.

Cross Twickenham Road at the traffic lights. Immediately by the lights, at the junction by Van Gogh Close (HP), turn into the public footpath to Byfield Road ahead. Immediately left are Miss Elizabeth Butler's Almshouses, two dwellings for couples endowed 1885. May Villas, built 1867/8, to the right is decorated with reliefs by sculptor Henry George May.

Proceed ahead along Byfield Road, cross over Algar Road (prior to the Norman Conquest Earl Algar owned Isleworth Manor) keep straight ahead to the junction with Worple Road; left is the former Police Station building c1872, HP.

Cross Worple Road to King's Terrace opposite, turn left then right into Magdala Road, Monkey Puzzle tree right, then almost immediately left into Shrewsbury Walk - the name recalls that the Talbot family, Earls of Shrewsbury, lived nearby in the 17th-18thC. Straight ahead is South Street - HP on Castle Public House right - for bus routes/cafes, restaurants.





The Isleworth Society
Charity No 1042796



Continue ahead and immediately after crossing the Duke's River (green railings left) turn left into Shire Horse Way, part of the Maltings estate. Both names recall it was the site of the Isleworth Brewery. Purchased by William Farnell c1800, it closed 1992. Immediately turn right to the footpath with post box on left, Duke's River right. Do not go to the end of this path (cul-de-sac) but take the second opening right, indicated by the public footpath sign. Rejoin St John's Road and turn left alongside Atfield House. The first documentary evidence of a brew house here is 1726, the property of John Atfield, valued £140.

Opposite is St. John's Gardens which opened 1885. Among the array of trees are Plane, Ash Leaf Maple, and a 250 year old Beech. On the far side in Linkfield Road is Raybell Court a modern interpretation of former almshouses (HP).

Continue along St. John's Road, passing Isleworth Business Complex Industrial Estate, to St. John the Baptist Church (HP just before driveway). Take left path at driveway to view the church and follow it diagonally left, cross the car park and exit at the small gate.

Turn right to the pathway leading ahead to the former Woodland St. John's School (built 1859) now two dwellings. Set back right are Farnell's Almshouses (1857) now Farnell's Court. Benefactor John Farnell's bust stands on the well in the centre (please respect residents' privacy by not entering the grounds). Use the main path to return to St John's Road, glimpses of the former Vicarage, right. Turn right and take the sign posted public footpath immediately on the right, left is Isleworth Business Complex Industrial Estate.

The public footpath bears right affording eventual glimpses of the Duke's River left. Exit at Woodlands Road/Riverside Walk junction (do not cross bridge left) note the impressive Stone Pine in garden ahead. Keeping the Duke's River left, proceed left along Riverside Walk - information board 110 yards right. Riverside Walk was originally a cul-de-sac, extended at the end of the 1930s; the remains of the hedge of the former boundary still exist. Dragon flies, Damselflies and Mallards abound here; Kingfishers are less frequently sighted but Moorhens are not uncommon nesting on flotsam in the river.

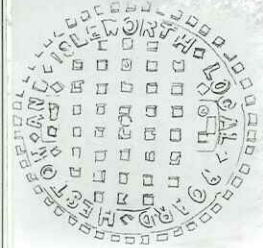
At the Royal Oak PH, far side of river, first licensed 1743, cross Riverside Walk roadway, then cross Worton Road at traffic island. Out of sight right 400 yds at Hall Road junction is Worton Hall. This housed Isleworth Studios 1913-1952 where the award winning African Queen and Ghost Goes West were filmed. Turn left to cross the river and immediately right into Oak Lane note 5 Victorian labourers' cottages left - with the Duke's River right.

Continue on the path between the river and Mogden Sewage Works commissioned in the 1930s to replace 28 smaller sewage works across London. Covering some 120 acres it deals with an average 550 million litres of waste an hour. Along here among the trees are Limes, a small out of place Pride of India, and Poplars recognisable by the distinctive rustle of their leaves.

The path bends left - note the art deco 1930s works buildings left - then right. In Spring daffodils abound on the riverbank - information board 100 yards right. At the end of the path cross the Duke's River and turn left across the Mogden Works entrance - possible diversion for refreshments Tesco café opposite. Proceed along Mogden Lane. To the right is an ambulance station and the 1970s Ivybridge Estate, built on the Mann family's orchards and the former site, from 1897, of an Infectious Diseases Hospital latterly known as South West Middlesex Hospital.

Continue along Mogden Lane past Beaumont Place - note Narrow Leaf Ash, Scots Pine and London Plane trees. After 400 yards turn left into Trevor Close, then just before the turning circle, turn right at the electricity sub-station. Cross Hillary Drive diagonally - trees include Oak, Balsam Poplars, Silver Birch, with the remains of the ancient hedgerow edging the footpath once called Sweet Briar Lane. After crossing the next road keep to the diagonal footpath (designated by lighter coloured surface) alongside No. 11. Continue along this path as it bears left with No. 10 on the left.

To the left at the path end is Mogden House, early 18thC with a double pitched tiled roof. Its remaining farmland was auctioned 1993 to accommodate these residential estates. Cross Bankside Close and turn right. At the main road junction turn left and continue along Twickenham Road - 75 yards along note the Isleworth Parish Milestone on grassed area left - past Lynton Close, built on former orchard land 1959. Note the Norway Maple opposite by Chestnut Grove.



London Borough
of Hounslow

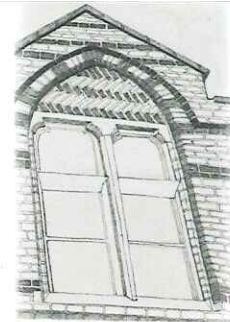
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Opposite is Isleworth Ait, *ait* being old English for small island. It covers 10 acres, is designated a Local Nature Reserve and home to more than 57 species of bird life including many heron, and various unusual invertebrates - see information board on perimeter railings of Town Wharf PH.

Follow the path across the wooden bridge (Isleworth Stairs are beneath) adjacent to the Town Wharf PH. Set back on the left, the tall building with 2 chimney stacks is Holland House, now offices. Rate Books indicate its oldest part dates from 1774. By early 19thC it was a Boarding School run by Mr. Holland, hence its name. To the right is the Cathja barge (HP affixed to mooring base). Just beyond this point the Duke of Northumberland's River flows into the Thames by the large crane, this a legacy of Isleworth's past as a port. Among numerous exports was gunpowder from the Hounslow Mills. Note the vista, All Saints' Church, 18thC London Apprentice PH, free draw dock and beyond Syon Pavilion Boathouse designed by Robert Mylne c1804; Kew Gardens is opposite on the Surrey bank.



Turn left by the crane then at the end right to pass over the stone bridge (re-built 1820) in Church Street. Cross the road to the mill basin (HP) opposite (safest point pedestrian refuge to right). Note the rings on the basin's wall where once barges tied up to unload wheat. On the tree lined open land behind stood Kidd's Flour Mill, demolished 1941. In the 19thC it was reputedly one of the largest in England.

From the mill basin proceed ahead into Mill Plat, one of Isleworth's oldest thoroughfares. HP (120 yards right) on wall below wording Warkworth House. Further on to the left are Sir Thomas Ingram's Almshouses built 1664 for "six poore ladies" and today under the guardianship of Isleworth & Hounslow Charities.

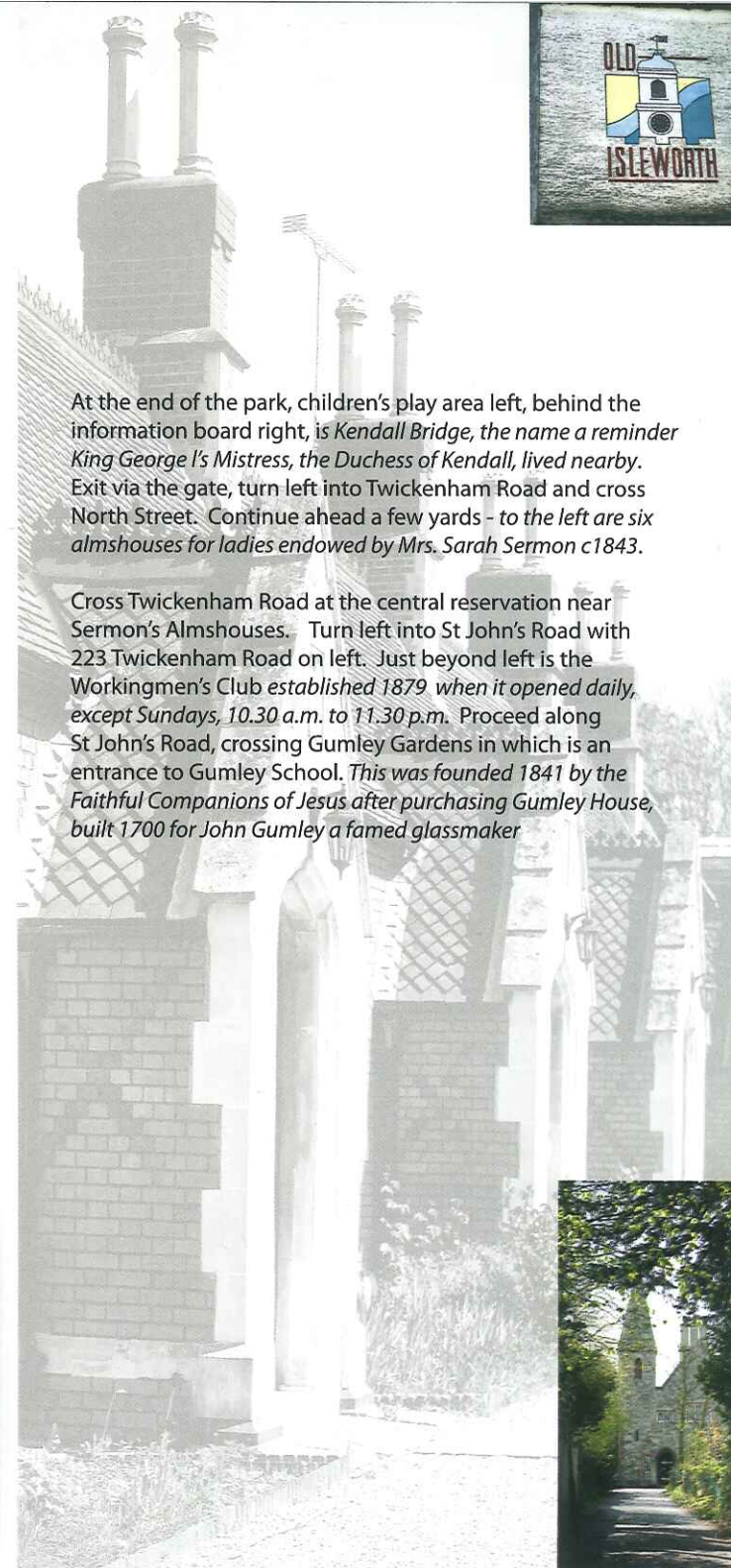
Follow the path, parts of wall left are 17thC, and 50 yards after it zigzags, turn left. Behind the wall here left are mainly ivy clad self-seeded Sycamore, alongside Alder and Beech; good habitat for insects and wildlife. Turn right through the gate into Silverhall Park by a cluster of yews, right, some estimated 250 years old.

Follow the right-hand path for the length of the park beside the Duke's River right where wild irises are found. Among the plethora of trees are Holm Oak, ancient Hawthorn, Sweet and Horse Chestnut, Plum, Cedar; Wild Cherry and a Mulberry.



At the end of the park, children's play area left, behind the information board right, is Kendall Bridge, the name a reminder King George I's Mistress, the Duchess of Kendall, lived nearby. Exit via the gate, turn left into Twickenham Road and cross North Street. Continue ahead a few yards - to the left are six almshouses for ladies endowed by Mrs. Sarah Sermon c1843.

Cross Twickenham Road at the central reservation near Sermon's Almshouses. Turn left into St John's Road with 223 Twickenham Road on left. Just beyond left is the Workingmen's Club established 1879 when it opened daily, except Sundays, 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. Proceed along St John's Road, crossing Gumley Gardens in which is an entrance to Gumley School. This was founded 1841 by the Faithful Companions of Jesus after purchasing Gumley House, built 1700 for John Gumley a famed glassmaker





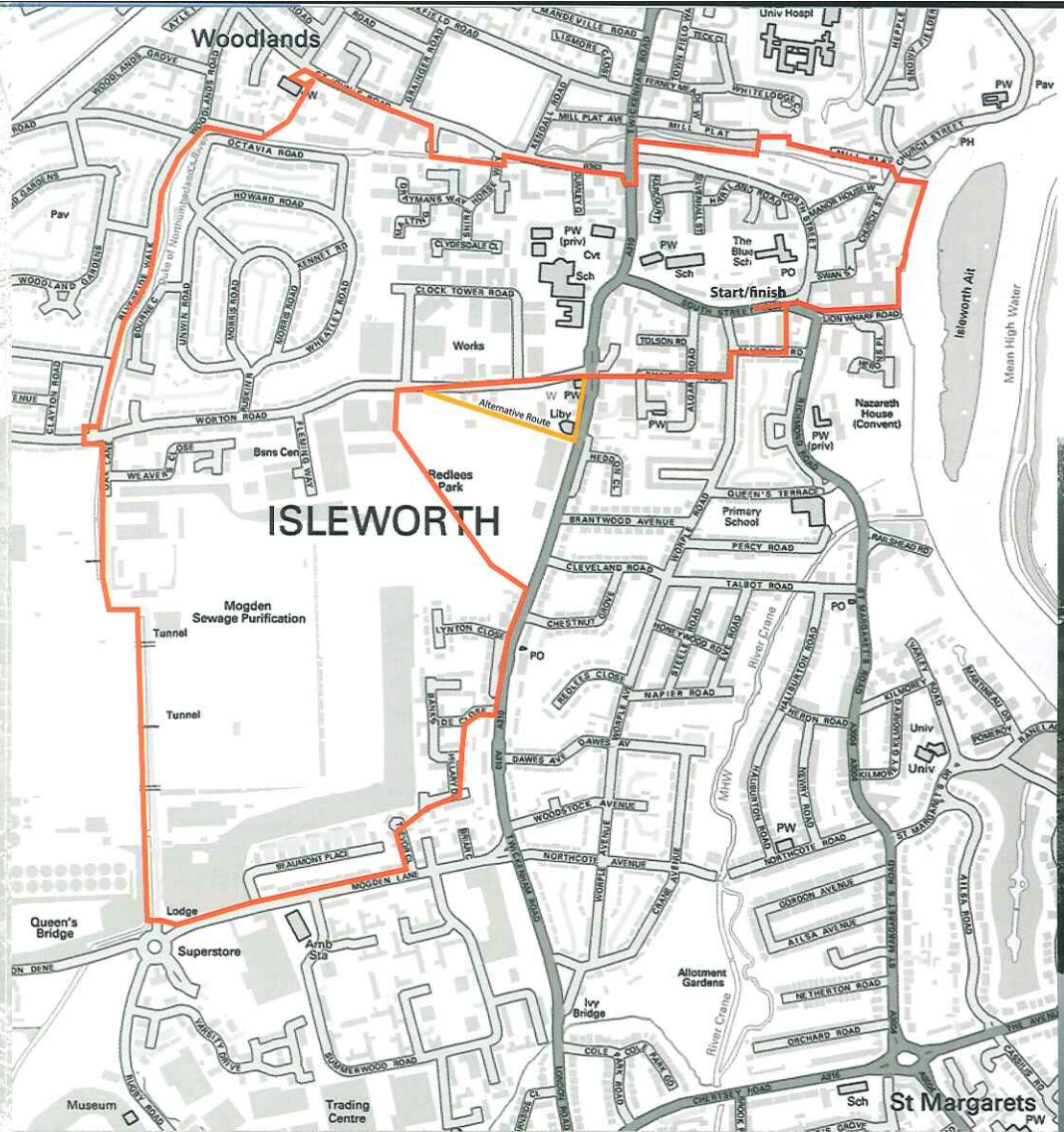
GETTING TO THE START POINT
 By Bus
 H37 alight at South Street
 267 to Isleworth Clock Tower
 War Memorial, Twickenham Rd
 at Memorial Square turn left
 into South Street
 By Car : Swan Street car park

Situated on the River Thames, Isleworth's wharves were in use by the Middle Ages. By the 18thc it was well known for its river-based industries, orchards and market gardens. A century later it had become more industrialised with other locally produced goods joining flour and beer on its wharves awaiting transportation.

The former Old River or Mill Stream, latterly known as the Duke of Northumberland's River, runs through Isleworth's centre, its source the River Colne at Harmondsworth. One branch of its waters feeds the fishing lakes of Syon House, the only Ducal Palace in London still privately owned, by the Percy family Dukes of Northumberland. The second arm of the river, before it enters the River Thames, once powered Isleworth's flour mill.

The numerous public footpaths are in part a legacy of former market garden orchards. Evidence of industrial past can still be found, along with houses whose newer frontages often conceal their true age.

By producing this leaflet the Isleworth Society's aim is to widen enjoyment and knowledge of the area's built environment and wildlife. Allow 2-2½ hours at a gentle pace for the walk which passes through parks, along the banks of the River Thames, Duke of Northumberland's River and built up byways of historic interest.



THE ROUTE

5.5 klm; 3½ miles – allow 2-2½ hours

From Isleworth Public Hall, South Street – H37 bus stop
 Note Isleworth Public Hall, built 1863 but with later additions. A stained glass window over the entrance depicts aspects of the locality as does the notice board outside. This was carved at the Cathja barge project, a charity devoted to assisting recovery from mental health problems. Within the board is a Heritage Plaque several of which (denoted HP) will be encountered during the walk.

With the Public Hall to the left, proceed along South Street. Cross Upper Square containing the Glossop water fountain (1870) commemorating Revd Henry Glossop, Vicar of All Saints' Church. It bears a plaque reminding users it is drinking water only, with £5 penalty if taken for domestic use. Go straight ahead into Lion Wharf Road - information board to right at Richmond Road junction. At the River Thames (HP by small crane) turn left. Follow the footpath across the riverside front of the Town Wharf PH, a 1990s newcomer to the former working wharves.

