

Out and about

This walk takes in one of the Borough's 11 golf courses, at Pyrford, and another just across the water at Wisley. Both take in picturesque stretches of the River Wey Navigations, providing plenty of opportunities for spotting wildlife.

Key facts

Start/finish: The Anchor public house, Lock Lane, Pyrford GU23 6QW.

Distance: 5.5km (4 miles).

Time: 1½ to 2 hours.

Type of walk: Suitable for walkers of all abilities.

The ground is flat, mainly following public footpaths, but can be muddy after rain. Bear in mind that some paths may also be rather overgrown following the summer.

The route



1. Look for the footpath sign near the yellow grit bin, and go along the footpath for 400m. To the right, there are views of Wisley Golf Course and, to the left, Wisley Church is in the near distance.

Wisley Church was built in 1150AD. The village of Wisley appears in Domesday Book of 1086 as Wiselei. It was held by Osuuold (Oswold) and its domesday assets were 1½ hides; 1 church, 1 mill worth 10s, 3 ploughs, 1 fishery worth 5d, 6 acres (24,000 m²) of meadow, woodland worth 6 hogs.

2. At the track junction, turn right along the tarmac track, leading to the Wisley Club House, 800m away.
3. At the end of a small wood, bear right along a path, with the clubhouse on your left, and follow it for 600m, enjoying views of the RHS Wisley Glasshouse.

The gardens at Wisley were gifted to the Royal Horticultural Society in 1903, when only a small part of the original estate was cultivated as a garden, the remainder being wooded farmland. Over time, the face of Wisley has changed, so it is now a world-class garden in its own right. Considered the flagship garden of the RHS, Wisley captures the imagination with richly planted borders, luscious rose gardens and, of course, the state-of-the-art Glasshouse.

4. Continue between some planted beds and keep left of the wooden pump-house.

When you reach the golf-course perimeter, you can make a short diversion here to the wooden footbridge crossing the River Wey (go along the towpath for 100m, then follow the pathway into the woods. You may be treated to a view of some water birds, dragonflies or even a kingfisher).



5. Back on the main route, cross the Wey Navigations towpath, and proceed over the bridge and along the pathway for 800m, passing leylandii hedging to your left, and paddocks to your right.

6. Near Home Farm, follow the path through the paddocks until it reaches a tarmac road, which is the shared drive to Pyrford Place, Home Farm and other properties.

7. Turn right along the drive, with Pyrford Golf Course to the right, as far as the large stone pillars at the end of the drive.

8. Cross the road (Warren Lane) at the red pillar box, and go through Elveden Close.

9. Continue along the hedge line into the right of way which runs between two fields.

10. In the large open field, turn right at the stile to join another footpath for 100m, before turning right again.

11. After 300m on this footpath, there is a gravel drive which leads to Pyrford Road.

12. Cross the road at King Henry VII cottage, and proceed along the right-hand side hedge.

13. After 300m, you come to Pyrford Golf Course. There is no boundary, so beware of golfers and golf balls.

Some paths cross fairways, so always look left, right and left again before crossing.



Key

- Roads
- Route
- Waterway

This walk was kindly supplied by the Three Villages Footpath Group. The group is part of the Three Villages Residents' Association, which has existed for over 70 years and covers the villages of Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford. With a membership of over 3,000 households, which receive three issues of The Resident magazine every year, the association serves the community by raising issues of local concern, and working in close liaison with Woking Borough and Surrey County Councils. To find out more, contact the association's secretary, Eileen Perryer, on 01932 401659 or email: bwbp_resass@yahoo.com



Always stick to the designated footpaths and keep dogs and youngsters under control. Whatever you do, don't pick up golf balls – they are not necessarily lost!

14. Pay particular attention to the public footpath signs here. The path follows a pretty straight line but after 300m it takes a 90 degree left turn.

15. The path continues straight for 400m until just short of the boundary fence, where you turn right.

16. Follow the gravel path to the 4th tee, then go straight across to where the footpath begins again. Keep left to return to Pyrford Lock after about 200m.

The Anchor is a popular pub, built in the 1920s, which offers meals daily from 12 noon. Children are welcome in the family area, and dogs are allowed in a designated area of the bar and in the garden on a lead.