

# Out and about

This peaceful walk gives you the chance to enjoy spring scenes along the Wey Navigation, passing the historic Coxes Lock and Wey Bridge. The walk is suitable during any season even when the ground is waterlogged as the towpath is only muddy in places and some of the walk follows a tarred lane alongside the River Wey. During the summer months, the overhanging trees provide a canopy of welcome shade for much of the way.

## Key facts

**Start/finish:** car park at New Haw Lock on the A318 (Byfleet – Chertsey Road)

**Distance:** three and a half miles

**Time:** allow two hours

**Type of walk:** flat, easy walking for most of the route but includes two stiles, a railway line to cross and some muddy uneven patches along the towpath.

**Please remember:** the walk follows public footpaths and bridleways that cross private land. When walking through residential areas, please respect people's privacy by ensuring you keep all dogs on a lead and under control at all times, and take your litter home with you. It is also important to remember that you may encounter livestock along the route, please do not feed or approach. Use of the River Wey towpath is by courtesy of the National Trust.

## The route

1. Start from the car park at New Haw Lock, cross the road at the bridge and walk down to the towpath along the Wey Navigation. The towpath curves right and then left before passing the millpond on the left. Ahead, the tall brick structures of Coxes Lock and Mill come into view after 1,300 metres.

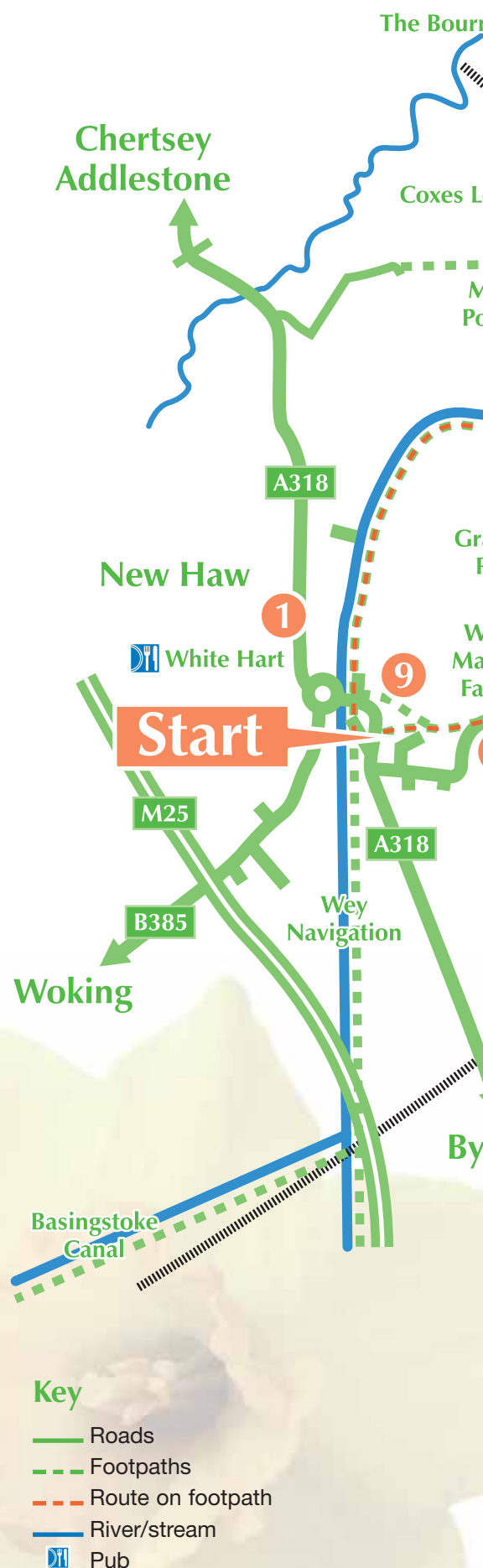


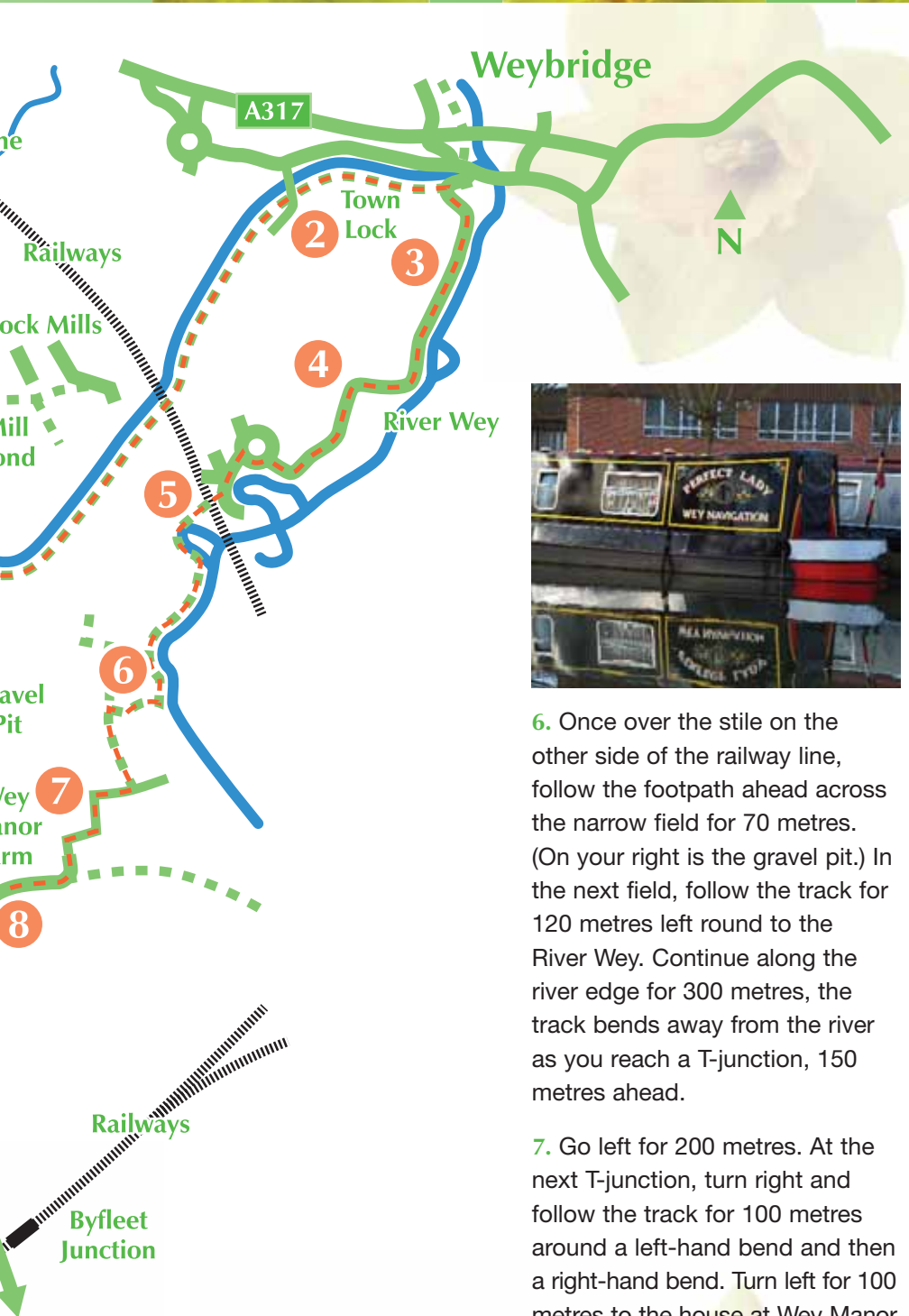
2. Continue on the towpath ahead, under the low railway bridge 100 metres ahead and continue to the next bridge about 600 metres further along.

3. Cross and continue along the opposite bank for 400 metres to Town Lock and the bridge at Weybridge. Cross the road and walk down to the Navigation on the other side to see the bridge. Then return to Town Lock.

4. Follow the small road for 250 metres down round the end of the lock and continue beside the river round the series of oxbow bends.

On your right hidden in the undergrowth of the lightly wooded area are a variety of wild flowers.





## Wey Navigation facts

The Wey Navigation was the first artificial waterway of any length in Britain and was begun by Sir Richard Sutton in 1620. The last private owner, Harry Stevens, donated the canal to the National Trust in 1964.

Originally, the Wey Navigations were used for transporting heavy goods to and from Tilbury Docks. Traffic on the Wey continued until well after the Second World War.

There are a total of twelve locks along the 15 and a half mile navigation.

Coxes Mill and the large mill pond were built around 1780 by the ironmaster Mr Alexander Raby to take advantage of the water supply of the Navigation. The iron mill operated until 1832 and was rebuilt in 1835 as corn and silk mills.

Advances in mill technology enabled Coxes Flour Mill to continue commercial operations until 1983 when the buildings were converted to residential flats. The tall building here dates from 1900.

The Old Wey Bridge, a three-span cast iron bridge built in 1865, is now a Grade II listed structure. It replaced a 13 span wooden bridge built in 1808.

The first reference to a bridge at this site was in the Saxon Charter of 675AD when Waigerbrugg was endowed to Chertsey Abbey. The name Waigerbrugg is thought to have derived from a predecessor of the present iron bridge.

In the Domesday Book, current Weybridge was recorded as Webruge in the Elmbridge Hundred. The town is now part of Elmbridge Borough.

**6.** Once over the stile on the other side of the railway line, follow the footpath ahead across the narrow field for 70 metres. (On your right is the gravel pit.) In the next field, follow the track for 120 metres left round to the River Wey. Continue along the river edge for 300 metres, the track bends away from the river as you reach a T-junction, 150 metres ahead.

**7.** Go left for 200 metres. At the next T-junction, turn right and follow the track for 100 metres around a left-hand bend and then a right-hand bend. Turn left for 100 metres to the house at Wey Manor Farm and join the tarmac drive.

**8.** Follow the drive for 50 metres around the right bend and on towards some houses (200 metres along on the right-hand side).

**9.** Just before arriving at the houses take the small footpath veering off to the right and follow this for 250 metres, round the end of the field and join the road near the bridge over the Navigation at New Haw Lock. The White Hart pub is just over the bridge.

Follow the road as it winds round several bends to reach the mobile home estate approximately 850 metres away. Take the road along the left boundary for 80 metres to the four-way junction.

**5.** Walk along the curving road on the left-hand side for 50 metres, before you reach the big double gates, turn right and climb over the stile to reach the railway line. **Carefully cross the railway line, beware of oncoming trains and the live rail.**