

# Freedom Pass circuit

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## *Section 13: Chessington South to Hampton Court*

Distance: 7.59 mi, 12.14 km (eastern route); 9.63 mi, 15.41 km (western route)

### **Introduction**

This section proceeds northwards. There is an alternative for the second part, between Esher and East Molesey, that avoids going along a stretch of busy road. It achieves this by passing Island Barn Reservoir to the west instead of to the east, but it adds considerably to the distance. A much more satisfactory route would be possible if there were a footbridge over the River Mole between the railway and the Thames; clearly such a bridge once existed, because its piers are still visible from Hampton Court Station.

There is an awkward road crossing on the outskirts of Esher.

There is a pub in East Molesey on the eastern route, but on the western route there is little in the way of refreshments until the end.

### **Directions**

Turn right out of Chessington South station and go over the railway line.

Cross to the opposite pavement and go down the hill. When the road bends right, keep straight on.

At the main road, carry on across to Barwell Lane opposite, slightly offset to the right.

Take the bridleway on the right, after the last house (visible through the hedge on the right).

At the T junction turn left.

At the next junction keep straight on, towards the main road.

Go under the main road, and carry straight on.

The path becomes a track. Before it becomes a residential road, take the footpath on the left.

Turn right into the driveway, and then left into the road.

Follow the road round to the right. At the end turn left.

Turn right into Trystings Close, then left into Oakhill.

At the end, bear right onto the footpath.

At the end, turn right.

Follow the road round to the left. At the end turn right into Red Lane.

Carry on straight ahead along Telegraph Lane.

This degenerates into a track. Just after the allotments on the left, take the path on the right.

Go up the hill and down the other side.

On reaching the road, go straight ahead down Claygate Lane, bearing left at the grass triangle into Southwood Gardens.

Take the footpath left, between numbers 22 and 20.

Cross the minor and major roads (the latter with difficulty -- aim slightly to the left so that you can go straight over the crash barrier on the far side, without having to walk along the road), and turn left into the service road beyond.

At the end, take the footpath on the right.

Carry on straight ahead along the next road.

At the end, turn right then left into Priors Wood.

Go over the railway line, then take the left fork.

Go over another railway line (actually another track of the previous line).

At the end of the path, carry on into Couchmore Avenue.

At the end, go over the footbridge, and then keep straight on.

Keep straight ahead to the main road. Cross it, and carry on straight ahead across the grass.

Join the next main road. Cross it and go under the railway bridge.

Then take the footpath on the left, between the railway line and the golf course.

*Eastern route:*

When you reach the next road, take the path sharp right (not the one alongside the road).

Keep to the main path as it diagonally skirts the edge of the golf course.

Cross the next road, and keep on the main path towards the church. After crossing the fairway, pass to the left of the pond.

Go through the first staggered barriers, turn right through the second staggered barriers, then keep left.

At the end, turn left along Imber Park Road, then right along Imber Grove.

At the end, turn left then right into Imber Court Sports Club.

Go straight ahead until you reach Honey Way, then turn right and pass a hedge on the left.

Turn left and pass tennis courts on the right.

*Western route:*

At the road, turn left under the railway line, then left into the station.

Turn left along platform 4, then carry on down the slope at the end.

At the end of the path, then right under the road, then left along Wood End.

Turn left at the crossroads.

Keep going along Douglas Road, past several bends.

At the end turn left onto Mill Road.

Just before the road enters a business park, take the footpath on the left.

Go over two footbridges, then turn right alongside the River Mole.

At the gate, take the footpath on the left.

Turn left onto the road from the caravan park. Then take the footpath on the right on the left bend.

Go straight ahead at the next

Turn right past an enclosed swimming pool, then skirt round the clubhouse anticlockwise.

Leave through the carpark and turn left along the main road.

Take the next left, which is Orchard Lane.

At the end, carry on straight ahead along the path over two streams and the River Imber.

Then turn right.

Follow the main path along the riverbank, first with the Ember on your right, then with the Mole on your left. Then cross over the River Mole.

Keep on the path to the end, then turn right along Bell Road.

Follow the road round to the left past The Bell, and to the right past the church, then turn left into Matham Road.

Turn right, then left into Hansler Grove.

At the end turn left. At the end, turn right into Manor Road.

Turn left into Vine Road.

Turn right into Church Road.

Follow Church Road to the end (passing the church on whichever side you prefer). Then carry on along Graburn Way.

When you reach the River Thames, turn right.

Follow the riverbank as far as the bridge.

You will then see Hampton Court station ahead on the right.

intersection.

After entering the nature reserve, fork left.

Keep straight ahead on the main path to the end.

Then pass between the houses into a housing estate.

Take the footpath on the right. Turn left, then right, then left, then right onto a road that bends round to the left.

At the T junction, turn left then right into Down Street.

Take the second left, which is Belvedere Gardens.

Turn right into First Avenue. Follow it round to the left.

Turn right into Molesey Avenue.

On a right bend, turn left onto a sandy path.

Keep straight ahead to a main road, then turn right along it.

On the right bend, take the footpath on the left.

At the next main road, turn right then take the footpath on the left between nos. 429 and 427.

Keep straight ahead along a residential road.

Turn right at the first T junction and left at the second.

Turn right along the Thames.