

Zone 6 outer

Section 14: Chessington South to Hampton Court

Distance: 7.59 mi, 12.14 km (eastern route); 9.55 mi, 15.28 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.

This section is identical to Section 13 of the Freedom Pass Circuit.

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

There are pubs in Esher and East Molesey and more places to eat at 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 straight on along Barwell Lane opposite, slightly offset to the right.

Take the bridleway on the right, after the last house (just 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 past a couple of junctions. At the end turn right into Red Lane.

Carry on straight ahead along Telegraph Lane.

This eventually degenerates into a track. Just after the allotments on the left, take the path on the right. If there is a construction site in the way, skirt round it to the left.

Go up the hill and down the other side.

On reaching the road, go straight ahead along 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, then take the left fork.

Go over the railway again (actually another track of the same line as before).

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

At the end, go over the footbridge on the left, and then take the middle track.

Keep straight ahead to the main road. Cross it.

Eastern route:

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. 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.

Western route:

Turn left and cross another road.

Go through the carpark of the Marquis of Granby and the golf club's carpark.

Bear left and cross the golf course diagonally.

Turn right into Esher station.

Turn left along platform 4, then bear left down the slope towards the end.

At the end of the path, bear left along the road.

After the last house, bear right and cross a patch of grass diagonally.

Go under the railway and turn left.

Keep going along Douglas Road, past a couple of bends.

At the end turn left then right onto Mill Road.

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.

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

Leave through the carpark and turn left.

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 Mathom Road.

Turn right, then left into Hansler Grove.

At the end turn left. Then 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 wish). Then carry on along Graburn Way.

When you reach the River Thames, turn right.

Follow the riverbank as far as the bridge.

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

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

At the gate, take the footpath on the left.

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

Go straight ahead at the 5-way intersection.

After entering the nature reserve, fork left.

Keep straight ahead on the main path.

After a footbridge, go straight on 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.

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