

# The sights

**THE MOST** significant attractions to walkers exploring the parish of Dorney are the three water features: the River Thames, the Jubilee River, and the Eton College Rowing Centre at Dorney Lake.

The Thames path follows the river bank along a 5km stretch of largely unspoilt and peaceful scenery, still much as it was described in Jerome K Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat*.

The Jubilee River – a tributary of the Thames – was created to provide a flood alleviation channel to safeguard Maidenhead, Eton and Windsor. Between those two watercourses is Dorney Lake, now a venue for major national and international rowing events.



## Planting

Both the Jubilee River and the Lake are recent developments, and were designed to attract both wildlife and visitors, with extensive planting of shrubs and trees and sympathetic landscaping. The Lake also has a designated Park and Arboretum, and a Nature Conservation Area.

The wetlands area of the Jubilee River is rich in water birds, both resident and transitory, especially in the winter months – over 130 bird species have been recorded in the parish. Among the thriving animal population, you may well see foxes, badgers and even muntjac deer going stealthily about their business.



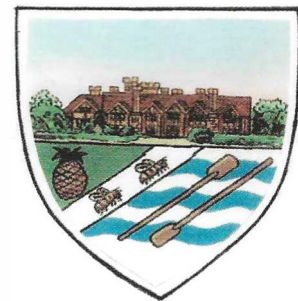
## Prolific

In early spring, the hedgerow blossom is prolific, to be followed by the Horse Chestnut 'candles' which illuminate Court Lane and 'Conker Alley'. Although Dutch Elm disease took its toll on the once predominant elms in the 1970s, re-growth has occurred; and

the dead trees provide a habitat for the Stag Beetles which can be seen on warm summer evenings.

In late summer, observant walkers will be rewarded with wild hedgerow fruits, such as plums, blackberries and nuts. Some 400 species of trees, shrubs and plants have already been recorded – will you manage to spot some new ones?

*If you're anywhere within reach of*  
**DORNEY**  
*and you'd like to try some wonderful*  
**WALKS**  
*then you'll need this natty little*  
**MAP**



### DIRECTIONS TO DORNEY

Dorney is some 20 miles west of London, a delightful oasis of green between Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead (OS Grid Ref.: SU93 79)

### FOR MOTORISTS

From the M4, leave at Junction 7 (Slough West), turn left onto A4, and follow directions below from Slough.

Coming from Slough (heading west along A4), turn left at the Sainsbury's roundabout into Lake End Road, over the M4 bridge into Dorney.

Coming from Maidenhead (heading east along A4), turn right from the A4 at traffic lights, down Marsh Lane into Dorney.

THIS MAP WAS PRODUCED USING FUNDS PROVIDED BY ETON ENVIRONMENTAL FUND, WITH TECHNICAL INPUTS FROM PETER TYLER AND RUSSELL SPENCER. DESIGN BY HUW ROWLEY @ DOTDOTCOMMA.COM PRINTED BY SIENNA SOLUTIONS, PIGEON HOUSE FARM, DORNEY

# The parish

**DORNEY IS** the most southerly parish in the county of Buckinghamshire. It lies in the flood plain of the river Thames, which forms the natural boundary to the west and south.

The parish is made up of disparate elements: the houses of Dorney Village which line Village Road; a small community at Lake End; Dorney Reach to the west, where the houses extend down to the banks of the Thames; the houses and farms of Dorney Common; and the small historic hamlet of Boveney to the south.

Both the centre of Dorney Village and Boveney are recognised as conservation areas on account of the many listed buildings, the most important of which is Dorney Court. Listed in the Domesday Book, and in its present form dating back to the early Tudor period, the house is open to visitors in August. Next door stands another Grade 1 listed



property, the Church of St James, which dates back to the thirteenth century.



the nearby small chapel of St Mary Magdalene – just upstream from Boveney Lock – dates from 1266.

Dorney Common extends over 75 hectares of unfenced grass meadow, punctuated by marshy hollows and two streams. The ancient grazing rights of the commoners are still exercised, and cattle roam freely between April and October, often to the frustration of hurrying motorists.

Strategically, the parish is important as part of a north-south wildlife corridor which allows birds and animals to pass safely between the adjacent built-up areas. Dorney provides a bridge between Burnham Beeches and the Chilterns to the north, and the rich Windsor parkland to the south.



**Please note that Dorney Lake is closed to visitors during the summer months - usually April to September, but this does depend on the calendar of events**  
**Be sure to check on their website beforehand**

[www.dorneylake.co.uk](http://www.dorneylake.co.uk)

# The walks

**ALTHOUGH THE** creation of the Jubilee River and Dorney Lake was not without its 'birth pangs' for local residents, one aspect that has almost certainly been improved is the network of footpaths that now spreads throughout the parish.

From the map overleaf, you can create your own ideal walk, according to your energy level, the weather or the time available.

If your need is for a good medium-distance hike, then the route along the Jubilee River, south through Eton Wick to the Thames, past Boveney Lock and



back across Dorney Common will justify a good lunch at one of Dorney's two fine pubs.

Or, if you're in the mood to tackle the whole circuit, follow the Thames path from the lock all the way up to

the quaintly-named 'Snicket' in Dorney Reach, up Harcourt Road and re-join the Jubilee River path.

## Less strenuous

For days when your time is limited, or your companions (or footwear!) demand something less strenuous, a stroll along the Jubilee River pathways, with time off to study the birds, or a picnic at one of the tables provided, might be just the thing. Or why not 'blow away the cobwebs' by wandering on the common and enjoying the fine views of Windsor Castle to the east.

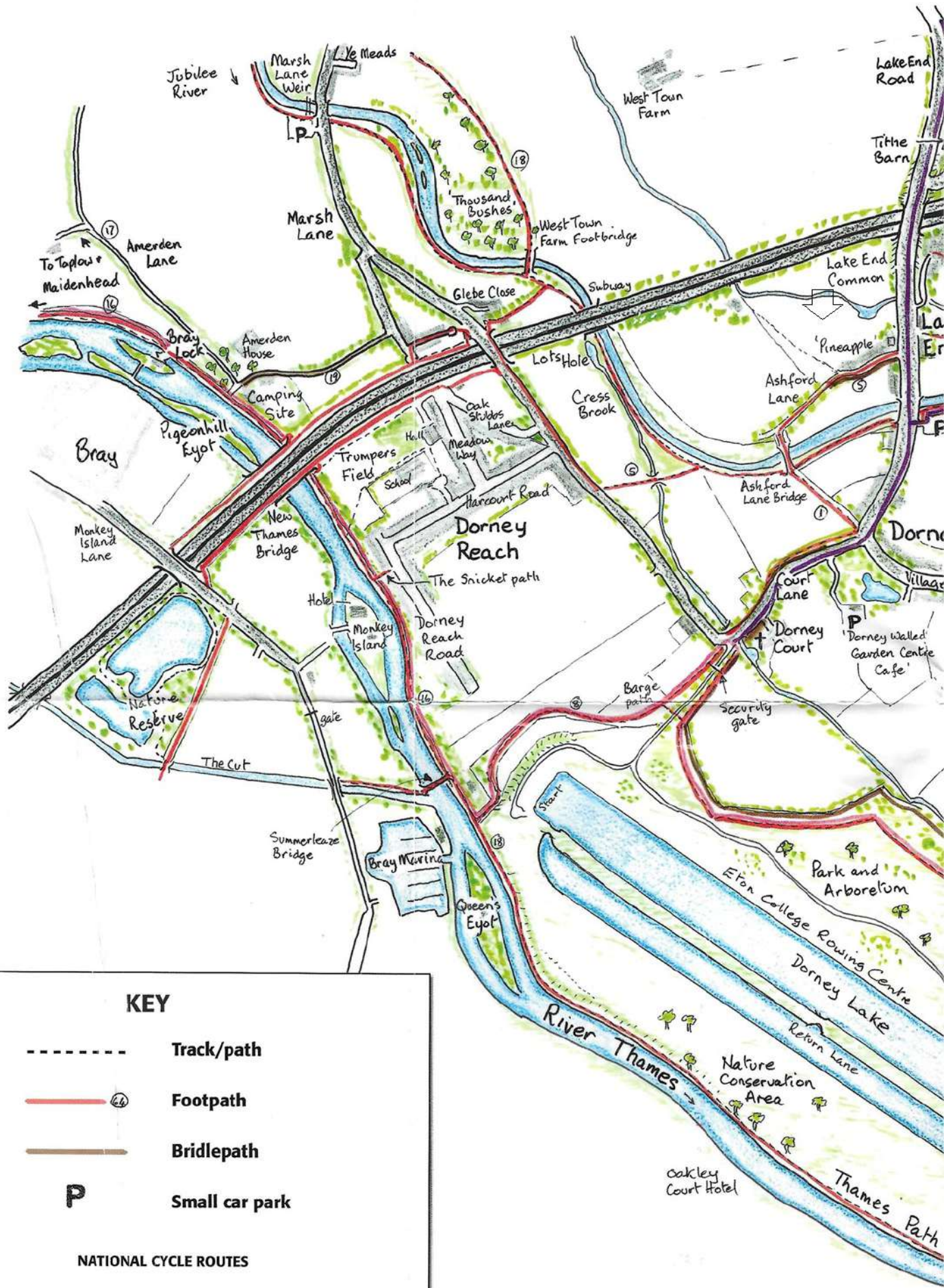
For wheelchair users, access from the three car parks is possible, but stretches of the Thames path are unsuitable for wheelchairs. The Jubilee River paths have a reasonable granite chip surface, and long stretches of tarmac path are available around Dorney Lake. (Note that some footpaths around Dorney Lake are 'permissive', and access may be restricted during regattas.)






## Refreshment

If your exertions lead you to look for refreshment, there are two pubs in the village, both dating back to the fifteenth century. The Palmer Arms in Village Road offers a bar, a restaurant with fine food, and a garden. The Pineapple in Lake End Road is a more traditional pub with bar, snacks and sandwiches, and a garden. There is also a café within the Walled Garden Centre in Court Lane.

And please respect the countryside – keeping dogs under control, taking your litter home and protecting plants and animals – and respect local residents by parking with consideration in the car parks provided.



**KEY**

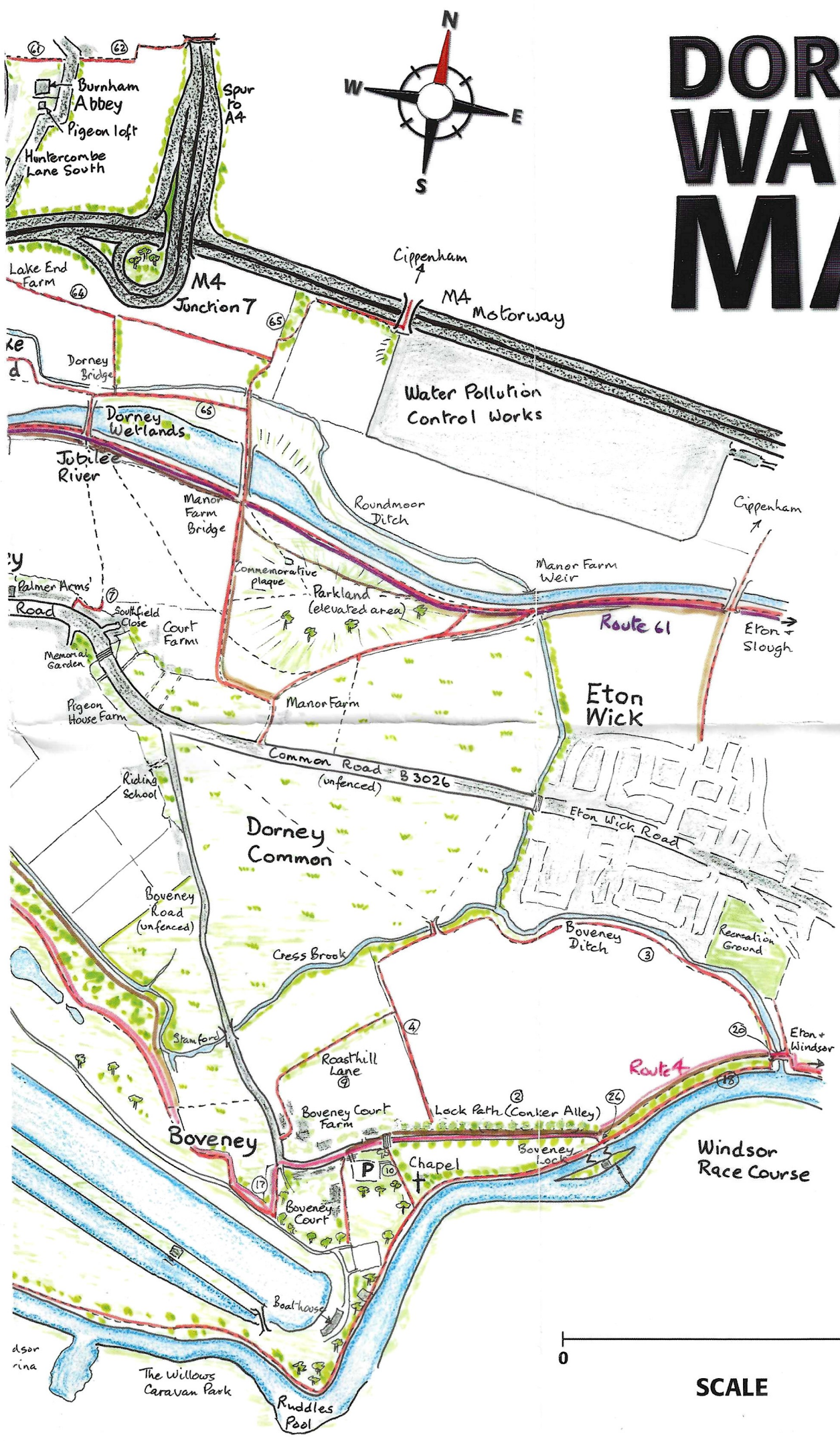
-  Track/path
-  Footpath
-  Bridlepath
- P** Small car park

**NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTES**

-  61 - Dorney to St Albans
-  4 - South Wales to London

Paths within Eton College Rowing Centre are permissive

# DORNEY WALKS MAP



0 0.5 km  
**SCALE**