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**Walking with Gaynor**  
**Thames Path Sponsored Walk**  
**Laleham Park to Windsor Castle**  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**Meet at 10am**

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/walking-with-gaynor>



# Useful Information.

## The Beginning.

We are hoping to have everyone gathered at the start of the walk by 10am so we can start the walk at 10.30 am prompt after handing out t-shirts and hearing from The Ruth Strauss Foundation.

You should have received a Google Form asking where you intend to park your car (Laleham Park or Windsor) and if you need a lift at the beginning or the end. We can then arrange lift shares so nobody gets stranded in the Windsor in the morning or can't get back to their car in the afternoon.

Details of car parks are below. Please note - the start car park has changed to Laleham Park. Details are on the next page.

Once everyone arrives, we will start the walk. If you are lost, stranded, or running late, please call Gaynor on **07976 714830**

There is no obligation to do the whole walk. Feel free to join us on part of the route.

This is the Google Route link. This allows you to download the route to your phone so you can track progress and see where the main group is along the route if you are joining us part of the way. [Google Route](#)

## The Walk.

From past experience of this type of walk, there are different speeds of walkers, and the group is going to get very spread out. As it's a group walk and not a race, we thought it would be useful to have points along the way where we stop and regroup. Obvious points include Staines and Datchet, where there are cafes and shops, and there's usually an ice cream van at Penton Hook Lock (never too early for an ice cream!)

You can catch your breath, visit the loos, have a snack, a drink, and a chat. It also means we get to the finish together and can have a photo and a bit of a celebration.

Pitstop 1	Start Laleham Park	Pitstop 2	Penton Hook Lock
Pitstop 3	Staines	Pitstop 4	Lunch - National Trust Tearooms
Pitstop 5	Datchet	Pitstop 6	Romney Lock
Pitstop 7	End - Windsor Castle		

## **Lunch.**

The National Trust Tearooms.

The tearooms serve hot and cold food, sandwiches, snacks, sausage and bacon baps, vegan sausage rolls, pasties etc.

They do have a vegetarian/vegan offering but it's not extensive. They cater for dogs with water bowls, biscuits and even doggy ice-cream.

As there are so many of us walking, if you're a slower walker you may want to bring a sandwich, so you can start eating straight away with those who have queued to order!

## **The End.**

We'll finish at the bottom of Windsor Castle.



## Parking - Beginning

Please note that there are roadworks on Bridge Road, just before Chertsey Bridge (near Chertsey Camping and Caravanning site). These were causing long delays on Bridge Road and Fordwater Road, so you may need to leave extra time for your journey.



### Parking

**Laleham Park Car Park**

**KT16 8RN**

**Parking Fee £7.00 per day**

There should be plenty of parking spaces at Laleham Park, but if not, the nearest car park is Thameside Pay and Display car park (215 Thames Side Parking, Laleham Park & Riverside Lands, TW18 1UQ), approximately a 10 minute walk. Fees apply.

Alternatively, you can park for free at Chertsey Bridge car park. This is a 20 minute walk to Laleham Park, but there are only a few parking spaces available.

## Parking - End



### Parking

**Windsor & Eton Riverside**

**Station Car Park**

**SL4 1NA**

**Parking Fee £9.80 per day**

If you need an alternative car park, the closest long stay car parks are Romney Lock car park (SL4 6HX) and King Edward V11 car park (SL4 6HX).

# The Route

**Pitstop 1. Meet at Laleham Park at 10.00am for 10.30am prompt start.**

There are no toilets at Laleham Park. The nearest are at Penton Hook lock, approximately 45 minutes into the walk.

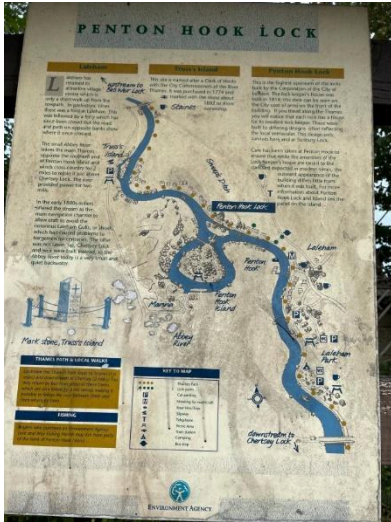
If you park at Windsor Station, you may want to use the loos there before travelling to the start. Alternatively, there are toilets at Nottcutts Garden Centre (Staines Road, Laleham, TW18 2SF)



# Laleham Park to Penton Hook Lock

With your back to Laleham Park, cross the road, turn right and start walking along the towpath until you reach Penton Hook Island.

Just after Laleham is Penton Hook Lock constructed in 1815. Here the natural Thames makes a very sharp meander which the lock cuts through. The result is Penton Hook Island. It's possible to cross the lock and access the island which has its own riverside trail. The island is home to heron and water voles.



## Penton Hook Island



Penton Hook Lock

## Pitstop 2. Penton Hook Lock

There is a tap where water bottles can be refilled.

# Penton Hook Lock to Staines upon Thames

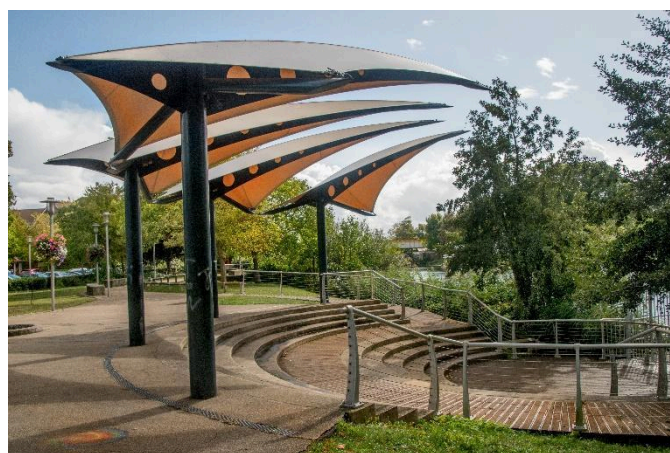


**St Peter's Church in Staines which opened in 1894**

Walk along the river with houses on each side. You will see Truss' Island on the other side, home to a lot of swans.

You will pass the edge of Staines town centre. Opposite Staines Library (just before Debenhams) look to your left and you'll see Staines Memorial Gardens.

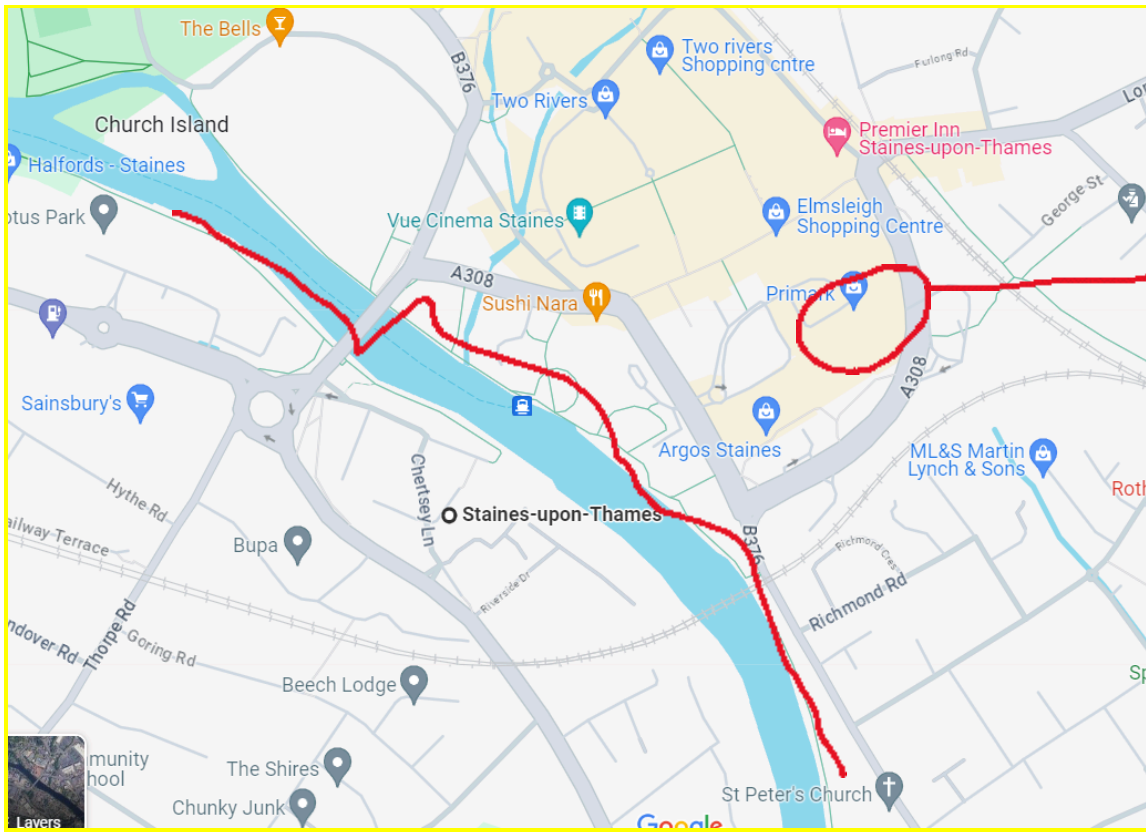
Look out for the Swan Master statue by Diana Thomson. We'll meet under the sail-like canopy for Pitstop 3. There are toilets in the shopping centre opposite - see the next page.



### Pitstop 3. Staines Upon Thames



Elmsleigh Shopping Centre- Toilets next to Primark.



WC

A diversion into Staines will give you access to toilets (Elmsleigh centre), cafes, shops (Tesco, COOP)

From the Memorial Park, stay next to the river and you will cross a small footbridge. You'll see Staines Bridge ahead of you, take the steps to the right to cross over Staines Bridge. Then pick up the towpath on the other side of the river.





## Staines Bridge

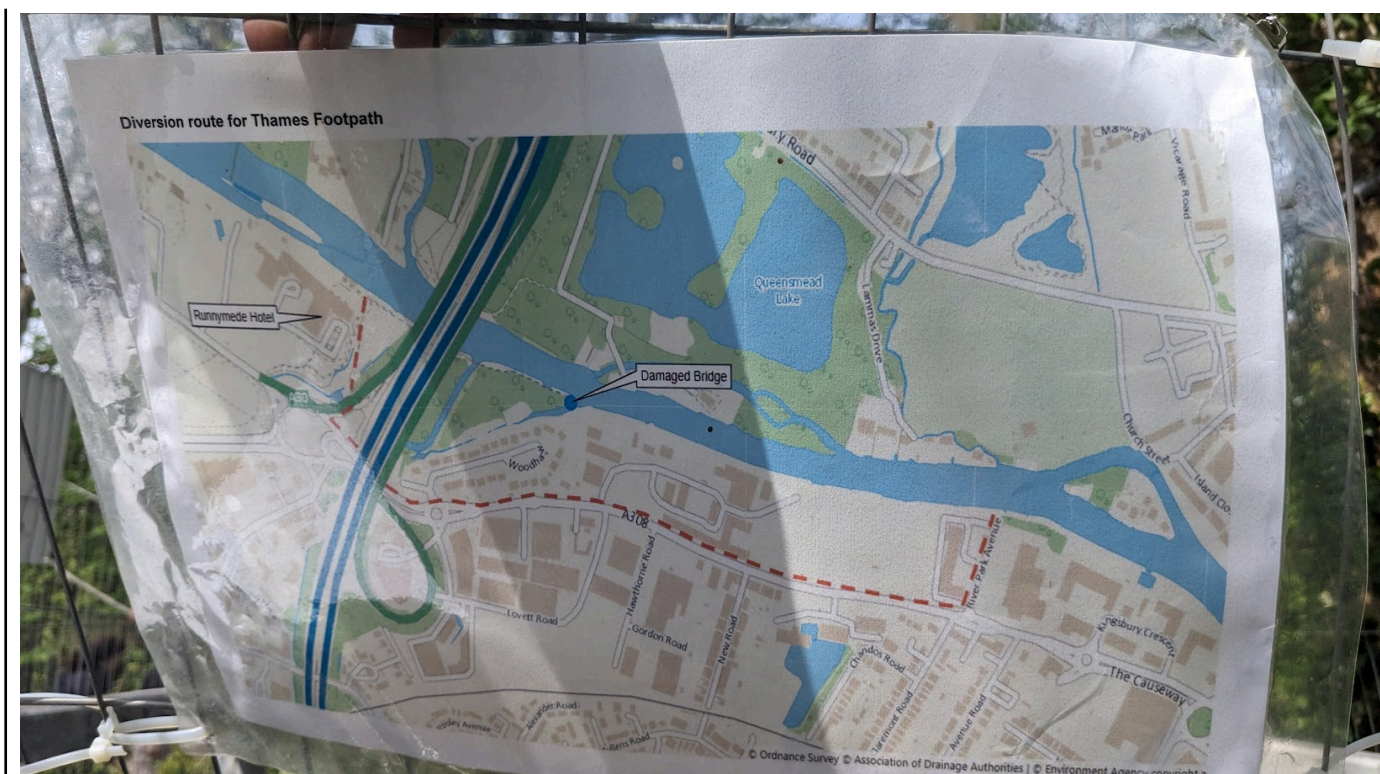
# Diversion from Thames Path due to shut bridge

From Staines Bridge, walk along the towpath. You will pass Church Island. At the start of Lammas Park on the other side of the river, you need to leave the Thames Path and turn into River Park Avenue.

At this point, we need to take a diversion to avoid a damaged bridge. **The towpath is still open, so keep your eyes peeled for the turn to avoid walking 2km out of your way!**

There is a small blue rowboat on the turning and a red sign on your right. It is next to Halfords and Homebase.





Walk to the end of River Park Avenue, then turn right along the busy A308. After about 10 minutes, there is a pedestrian crossing under the M25.

The Runnymede Hotel is in front of you as you pass underneath the motorway. Before you get to the turn into the hotel car park, you will see a small set of steps down into the grounds with a black handrail. Go down these steps and walk to the right of the hotel, past the construction work. This path will take you to the back of the hotel where we can rejoin the Thames Path.

## Staines upon Thames to Runnymede

Continue along the Thames Path to come to Bell Weir Lock. Built in 1817 and named after Charlie Bell who opened the Angler's Rest Hotel here in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.



Pass Wraysbury Skiff & Rowing Club and you come to **Runnymede Pleasure Grounds**.



Runnymede Pleasure Grounds. These are set back from the river, past the children's playground, next to the cafe.

There is a café at the Pleasure Grounds and sometimes an ice cream van. Our lunch stop isn't far from here

and we're not planning this as a pitstop, so perhaps a quick ice cream before we move on!



After you have passed through the pleasure grounds you enter a large water meadow, looked after by the National Trust. This is a popular spot for families especially in the summer. It is here that you'll be able to see the Magna Carta monument and John F Kennedy memorial.

As you walk along the path, look across at Magna Carta Island. This is where the Magna Carta was reportedly sealed in 1215 - the birthplace of modern democracy.



Ankerwyke Priory

Across the river in Wraysbury are the remains of the Ankerwyke Priory where Henry VIII is said to have wooed Ann Boleyn'

As you get to the end of the National Trust meadows, you will see The Jurors in the opposite field. This is an artwork by Hew Locke, installed in 2015 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta.

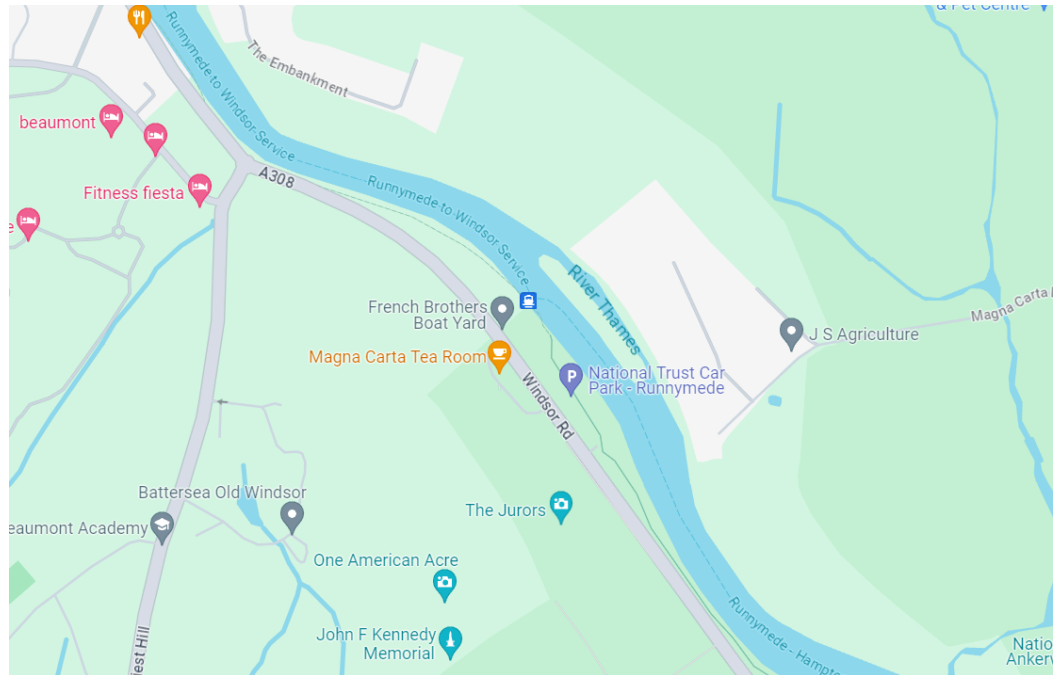


# Lunch approx 2.30pm

The Magna Carta National Trust Tearooms - Old Windsor

Windsor Road, Surrey, SL4 2JL (SatNav: TW20 0AE)

Approx 12.4km from Laleham.



You'll see the cafe on the road to your left. Continue along the towpath past the car park. There is a path that runs from the towpath straight to the cafe entrance.

Open daily serving sandwiches, pasties and sausage rolls, cakes and scones, and hot and cold drinks. Indoor and outdoor seating.



# Runnymede to Datchet



These coal posts erected under the London Coal and Wine Duties Continuance Act 1861 marked the point at which duty was payable on coal and wine transported into the City of London.



This was built in 1936 and refers, apparently, to the bells of Osney Abbey in Osney. These were removed by the monks in 1538 to keep them away from Henry VIII. The barges came unstuck here and the bells sank in the mud never to be found. It is now a Harvester pub.

## Bells of Ouseley



On the far side of the river is a fairy tale house called Honey Pot Cottage. This was built in 1933 with local thatch and for 44 years was the home of Beryl Reid, from 1952 until she died in 1996. Her ashes were scattered in the gardens.

## Honey Pot Cottage

### Old Windsor Lock



Pass Old Windsor Lock, but just before you do, look across to the other bank to see if you can spot Gaynor's boat "Free Man!".

### Old Windsor Lock



**Gaynor's boat-  
Free Man!**

### Ham Island

Continue along the towpath with Ham Island on your right. The island is referred to in *Three Men in a Boat* as, passing up through the lock at this point for the first time they note they can spy Windsor Castle in the distance.

# Datchet to Windsor.

Cross **Albert Bridge** to rejoin the towpath. Carry on along towpath, head off to right, then left to join Southlea Road. Carry on along the road into Datchet. It's not the prettiest part of the walk.



**Pitstop 5, Datchet.**

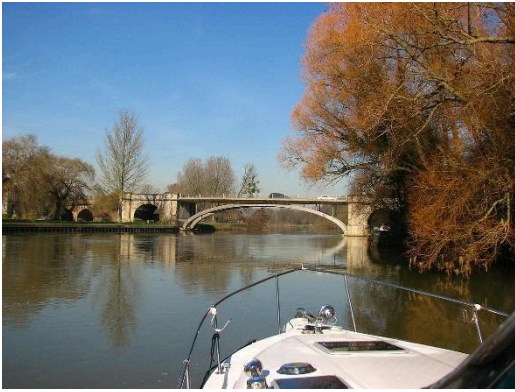


Pass Kris Cruises and have a pitstop at the seats by the river. There are cafes and shops in Datchet, plus toilets if needed. If you're seriously flagging, there is the possibility of catching a train from Datchet to Windsor and Eton Riverside and waiting for the rest of us with a cold drink! Trains go from platform 2 at 22 and 52 minutes past the hour.



Carry on along the road. As you meet Datchet golf club on the right, Thames Path heads left off Windsor Road towards the river again.





**Pitstop 6. Romney Lock.**

When you get to Victoria Bridge, cross over the river again and follow the path across the Home Park alongside the river until you get to Romney Lock.



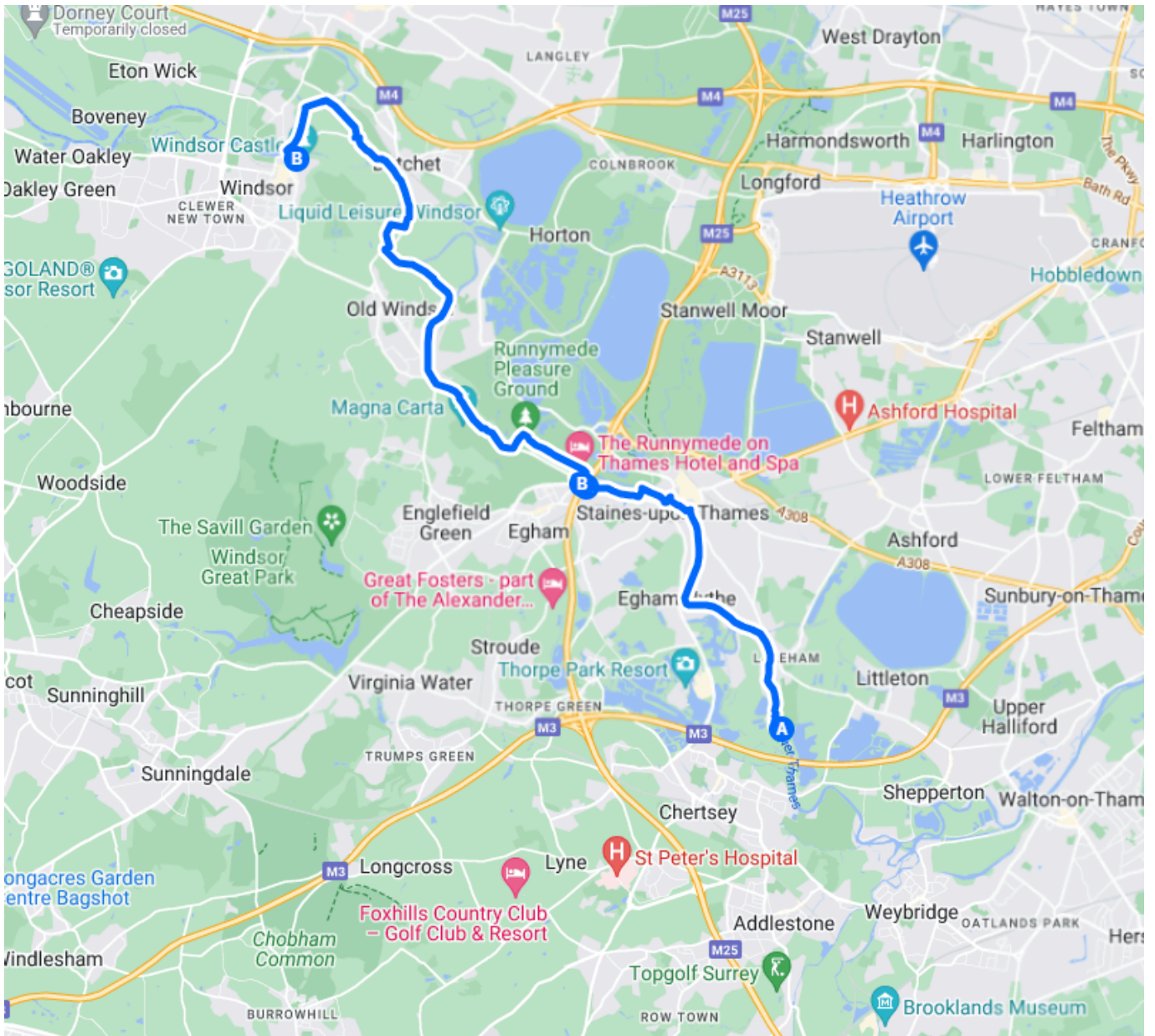


Carry on along the river until you get to Windsor & Eton Riverside Station car park, with a view of Windsor castle from the Home Park.



Pass Windsor & Eton Riverside Station and carry on up High Street towards the castle. We will meet on the benches at the foot of Windsor Castle at the end of the walk.





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