

# walking & cycling The Ebury Way



**Shopping**  
Since the first shop opened in 1270, shopping has become one of Watford's main attractions.

**Watford Museum**  
The Museum displays artifacts from prehistory to the modern day.

**Vicarage Road**  
The stadium is home to the famous Watford Football Club.

**Lairage Land**  
This group of meadows and reedbeds provide a wonderful haven for wildlife. 'Lairage' means 'grazing land' cattle used to be herded here prior to being taken to the local abattoir.

**Riverside Park**  
A community park that provides excellent facilities for all ages, including a skateboarding park, ball games area, seating and gardens in an informal park.

**Way to go**  
The best route to Watford centre is via this cycle path that passes under Watford Arches Viaduct.

Watford has been an ideal crossing point of the River Colne from ancient times, and was already a thriving town when described in the Doomsday Book. In the middle ages it was an agricultural market town, and in the 20th century became a centre of the printing industry.

**The Ebury Way**  
Take care along the trail. Walkers remember cycles are very quiet and you may not hear them coming. Cyclists please be considerate to other users and allow plenty of room when passing.

Developed by Groundwork Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire County Council, Three Rivers District Council, Watford Borough Council and the Countryside Management Service.

Ebury Way forms part of the Sustrans National Cycle Network: [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

**Walking and Cycling**  
Watford Cycle Hub is a non-profit community bike centre situated in the Pavilion at the Holywell Community Centre. It offers bike repair services, maintenance courses and cycle training, and accepts your old rusty old bikes for recycling, and sells affordable reconditioned bikes and bike parts. [watfordcyclehub.org.uk](http://watfordcyclehub.org.uk)

Spokes campaign for better conditions for local cyclists and organise regular rides. [www.spokesgroup.org.uk](http://www.spokesgroup.org.uk)

**Travel Information**  
Buses: Traveline 0870 608 2608 / [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)  
Trains: National Rail Enq. 08457 484950 / [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

**Rickmansworth**  
[www.threerivers.gov.uk](http://www.threerivers.gov.uk) Email: [enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk)  
Rickmansworth Information Point: Tel. 01923 776611

**Watford**  
[www.watfordforyou.org](http://www.watfordforyou.org) Watford Information: Tel. 01923 226400  
Cycling matters in Watford: [cycling@watford.gov.uk](mailto:cycling@watford.gov.uk)  
Watford Museum: Tel. 01923 232297

**Grand Union Canal**  
Batchworth Lock Canal Centre: Tel. 01923 778382 [www.rwt.org.uk](http://www.rwt.org.uk)

The Grand Union Canal - The canal and towpath is looked after by the Canal & River Trust: [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk).

**Fishing**  
Watford Piscators: [www.watfordpiscators.co.uk](http://www.watfordpiscators.co.uk)



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**3.5 mile traffic free route between Rickmansworth & Watford**

# The Ebury Way

The Ebury Way is a 3.5 mile traffic-free path for walkers and cyclists along the route of a former railway line linking Watford and Rickmansworth.

By bike it is a 30 minute easy ride, for the more adventurous it forms part of route 61 of the National Cycle Network which runs west to Uxbridge, Windsor and beyond. From Watford Route 6 goes from London to the Lake District!

The surface has been designed to be easy going for all users including wheelchairs, with many accessible entry points along the way.

Acting as a 'green corridor' for wildlife and well away from the bustle of nearby towns and traffic the route passes through a variety of habitats, including open moor, scrubby wood, wetlands and across waterways.

Crossing the 3 rivers - Colne, Chess & Gade and the Grand Union Canal, there is plenty to see along the way.



## Aquadrome

The Aquadrome south west of Rickmansworth is an extensive area of lakes formed by gravel extraction, most notably used in the construction of Wembley Stadium in the early 1920's and is a popular open space for walking, fishing, watersports and observing wildlife.

## Rickmansworth



## Rickmansworth

Rickmansworth dates back to Saxon times and with its prominent position at the confluence of the 3 rivers Chess, Gade & Colne grew to sizeable town gaining its royal charter in 1542.

The canal was built in 1797, and many businesses sprang up in the vicinity including 5 paper mills & a brewery. Later came the railway to Watford built by Lord Ebury in 1862 becoming the Ebury Way after the line finally closed in 1981.

The state of Pennsylvania USA is named after a famous former resident William Penn who lived in Basing House - now Three Rivers Museum (see right).

Today Rickmansworth is an attractive thriving place to live work and shop, surrounded by delightful countryside that provides a host of leisure activities.



## Fishing Lakes

Angling is a popular sport on many of the lakes on either side of the Ebury Way. Club membership is required - see back cover for information.



## Living Afloat

Narrow boats line the canal here and provide floating homes in the most tranquil of settings



## The Canal Centre

The Canal Centre at Batchworth Lock provides a unique insight into the past when the lock was an important stopping point on the Grand Union Canal between London and the Midlands, providing overnight stabling and several pubs. Canal barges were made at nearby Walker's boatyard.



## From the Air

You can see the Metropolitan Line crossing the River Gade & Canal in the centre. The Ebury Way is visible as a line of trees running from bottom left, alongside the fishing lake, under the railway, and beside the industrial area at top right.



## Canal Bridge

The railway across Croxley Moor was made particularly expensive by the number of bridges that had to be built across water, for instance here where it crosses the canal, photograph looking towards Lot Mead Lock.



## The Withey Beds

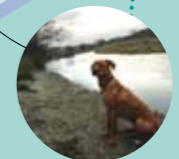
This area of wetlands is almost unique in west Hertfordshire because of improved drainage & flood relief schemes elsewhere, supporting a wide range of habitats and wildlife.



## Croxley Common Moor

This 100 acre nature reserve and SSSI provides a wonderful habitat for wildflowers and many bird species including the Green Woodpecker.

A stroll across the moor, which commonly provides grazing for cattle, brings you to the banks of the tranquil River Gade where kingfishers are a common sight. Look out for ant hills in the grass - a sign that most of the moor has never been ploughed or fertilized.



## Hampermill Lake

Excellent view across the wide valley, with the lakes and Moor Park beyond.

