

WATFORD LOOP 2

VIA CARDIFF ROAD AND WATFORD GREEN

2 hours

There are another 30 walks in [Cassiobury Walks](#) by Raffi Katz

Key

	Your location in relation to roads, railways etc
ff	Fascinating Fact , tell your children, amaze your friends.
	Change route / alternative route
Dtr	Detour , usually just a few yards, then walk back to re-join the route
	Information

mns	DIRECTIONS	
0	Start at the picnic benches by the two bridges (over the river then over the canal); see the map on page 23 of <i>Cassiobury Walks</i> . Face the park (with your back to the bridge) and take the path ahead to your right, alongside the wooden fence, heading away from the river (see the photograph at the bottom of page 50 of <i>Cassiobury Walks</i>).	
	ff	Alternative route: take the path to the left, just to the other side of the first bridge, alongside the river; simply keep ahead for about 10mns, across two bridges. The second bridge is that at "12½", below. This route is 30 seconds faster than my main route, so if you want the timings to be the same, stand on the bridge for 30 seconds. On the other side of the bridge continue ahead, so that the river is to your right.
2½	The swings will be on your left, then the river will be to your right.	
6	The path forks, left towards car park or right alongside the river – stay to the right, alongside the river, and the same at the next junction, keep right, so that the river is to your right.	
9	At the bridge continue ahead towards the riverbank, it looks like a dead end but after 7 paces you can see the path ahead, curving left – follow the path.	
	After 100 paces the path turns away from the river, but you can see (ahead to your right) a tree growing out across the water. Walk round this tree (or under the branch if you're very short) and you will see that the path continues alongside the river.	
12½	Past the bridge, keep right, keep the river to your right.	

15½	At the end turn right onto Gade Avenue, under the railway bridge.	
17½	and turn right onto the path across the common (by the sign <i>Welcome to Cassio Common</i>).	
19	Cross the main road (A412 / Rickmansworth Road) at the traffic island before the roundabout and turn right onto the pavement, then follow the pavement to the left.	
20	Now you can see a second roundabout (marked 'Croxley') and if you look ahead you can see (from left to right) "Big Yellow Self Storage", a low railway bridge, a clock tower and a dual carriageway. Keep an eye on the low railway bridge, the photo below was taken from "X" on the map on page 51 of <i>Cassiobury Walks</i> .	
21	cross the road (Whippendell Road)	
22	and under the low railway bridge.	
	ff	By 2016 there will be a new station here, Ascot Road (London Transport Metropolitan Line), it will be behind the clock tower. This might not be the most beautiful road, but please enjoy the open space to your left (where the Royal Mail sorting office stood until the end of 2012), this will soon be built up. The new Morrisons supermarket stands in what the sorting office's car park.
	The road runs out, continue ahead, between Morrisons and the Toyota garage, continue through the concrete posts.	
26	then immediately fork right though the metal posts, signed <i>Ebury Way ½</i> .	
	The path curves left, trees on right, industrial buildings (Watford Business Park) behind a wall to your right. To your left is open space by a housing estate (with the public exercise machines).	
35	Cross the road (Tolpits Lane), continue along the path for 100 paces	
	and turn left onto Ebury Way signed, <i>Watford Town Centre 2¼</i>	
	46	Continue ahead at the crossroads. If you were to turn left, the path becomes Vicarage Road (this is the 2¼ mile route)...but I will take you on the picturesque route, so do not turn left.
50	Turn left though the wooden posts, towards the flats, onto the narrow footpath signed <i>Lairage Land</i>	
	ff	Lairage Land nature reserve. Lairage land is for resting sheep or cattle on their way to a market or abattoir, but this is now a nature reserve where you can see plants (e.g. stream water crowfoot, yellow water lily, musk thistle, black medick, red clover; and birds (e.g. whitethroat, green woodpecker, great-spotted woodpecker, grey wagtail, reed warbler, linnet, chiffchaff and blackcap, swifts, swallows, house-martins, and cuckoos in the spring); and butterflies (e.g. gatekeeper, smaller skipper, peacock, small tortershell, red admiral); and dragonflies (e.g. southern hawkler, banded demoiselle); insects (e.g. Roesels bush cricket); and bats.
51	Bear right, through the gate (actually, no need to bother with the gate, there's a big gap in the fence, a clue that there are no sheep or cattle to escape) and across the	

	wooden bridge.	
	↶	If you find yourself standing on the little wooden bridge looking out over a lake, it's because the field is flooded. Turn back – back through the gap by the stile, turn right onto the footpath, turn right onto the road. Continue ahead (signed, <i>Cardiff Road</i>), the little playground will be on your left, continue ahead, under the bridge to the gates. You are at “1:00”, below.
57	Fork left, around the pylon	
only three minutes!	continue ahead across the little concrete bridge	
	turn right onto the road	
	turn right again (opposite the playground)	
	continue ahead onto the footpath and under the bridge	
	ff	Admire the woodland to your left, enjoy being in the countryside, all this will be houses and shops in a few years, as part of the “Watford Hospital Campus” development.
1:00	There are big gates in front of you, just stay on the pavement (the pedestrian gate has long-since fallen down) and continue ahead onto the road.	
	ff	<p>You are now on the Cardiff Road Industrial Estate. You could be on the outskirts on any small town in Britain in the 1950s-1960s-1970s, small industrial units, little brick warehouses, scrapyards and patches of wasteland.</p> <p>If you look to your left and up, the large buildings are the back of Watford Hospital.</p> <p>Eventually you see a row of tiny terraced houses ahead, built in the 1900s. As you get to the houses, look back at the gates to the industrial estate, these will be closed and locked at the end of March 2014 as building work starts on the link road (including a new road bridge where the road will cross the new Croxley Rail Link railway line) - and this particular walk will come to an end. The road and railway are due to be finished by 2016, then, over the following few years, the entire area will become shops offices and cafes, a main square and a car park, cycle paths and footpaths down to the river, and (if ever they secure funding) extensions to the hospital.</p>
	keep ahead until you suddenly completely run out of road, you are at a main road, Wighenhall Road, (and back in the 2010s), with a pedestrian crossing just to your right.	
1.08	Turn right into the main road, cross at the crossing and continue downhill.	
1.11	Turn left (cut the corner) into Lammas Road (and under the bridge).	
1.12	Continue ahead along the footpath by the side of the church. At the end you are at Watford Fields.	
1.14	Turn left and cross Tucker Street and continue ahead, onto the footpath between the postbox and the <i>No Cycling</i> sign (alongside <i>Watford Fields Recreation Ground Playground</i>)	

	and continue ahead into the housing estate – keep ahead	
1:16	The path bends right, and at the end turn left signed, <i>Public Footpath 50 Town Centre</i>	
	and continue ahead over the railway bridge	
	ff	If you are tall and see over the parapet to your right, you will see a station platform. This is Watford High Street station.
	and under the underpass	
		If you are desperate to get to the High Street and do some shopping, the quickest way (less than 2mns) is: up the steps, turn right into the road (The Crescent), continue ahead, along the passage (Crown Passage), turn left into High Street, main entrance to the Harlequin Shopping Centre on your right.
1:19	As you leave the underpass, turn left up the slope and into Graville Road.	
1:20	Left at the end	
	and follow the road right into George Street	
1:22	Right into <i>St Mary's Open Space</i> and take the left footpath, towards the church.	
	As you get to the main entrance of the church, aim for <i>The One Bell</i> pub.	
1:24	The shops you see ahead (BHS in 2014) are in High Street.	
		From here (to your right) is the 'Metro' end of town, with many cafes and restaurants, all well away from the night clubs the other end of town.
1:24	Turn left into High Street	
	At the ponds, keep left	
	and continue down, under the underpass	
	and on the other side, turn sharp left, up the stairs (or continue along the slope if you have wheels).	
	and left towards the main road,	
	and continue along the pavement (the main road will be to your left)	
	Past the Coliseum then the Peace Hospice then past the end of Cassiobury Drive, and just past the big hedge	
	You're back on home territory, so it's up to you: left fork for Cha Cha or right fork back to the picnic benches.	
2:00	You are back at the picnic benches by the bridges over the river and canal.	

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www.cassiobury-walks.co.uk