

There are 30 walks in **Cassiobury Walks**, from 10mns to 3 hours, plus dozens of maps and photographs, £6.50 from [www.cassiobury-walks.co.uk](http://www.cassiobury-walks.co.uk). Also stocked by Rhubarb Café on the Cassiobury Estate, the post office by the ponds at the top (North) of Watford High St, and Watford Museum at the other end of the High St.

## NINE BRIDGES, about 45mns

See the map of the nature reserve on page 14

mns	DIRECTIONS (for key see page 9)
0	Start at the picnic benches by the bridges over the river and canal (see page 23*). 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.
2	Over the level crossing. Then the playground will be to your left.
4	Turn right across the bridge over the river and follow the path ahead.
<b>ff</b>	If, at this point, all you can see is water, you will have to turn back. Look at the map on page 14. Pretend to join up points 3-B-6-4. Within this area are 'flood meadows', they flood, they soak up water, they stop the river swelling and flooding Rickmansworth downstream. In the summer it will, hopefully, be dry.
8	Cross the small bridge and turn left onto the path.
10	Cross the bridge with the wooden railings
11	and across the narrow bridge with the green metal railings
	and turn right, alongside the river. It looks like a dead end but after 10 paces you can see the path to your left. After another 100 paces the path turns away from the river, but you can see (ahead / to your right) a tree growing out across the water (see the picture on page 57). Walk round this tree (or under the branch if you're very short) and you will see that the path continues alongside the river.

14	Turn right across the bridge
15	and continue ahead over the small bridge
17	At the end turn right onto the single-track road
18	and across bridge over the canal
	and on the other side of the bridge turn sharp right, down the steps onto the canal path.
	Blue sign reads <i>Cassiobury Park ¼</i> . You should be walking along the canal path so that the canal is to your right.
31	Cross the bridge at the lock (you can fork left up the gentle slope, 100 yards before the bridge or walk under the bridge to the lock and up the steep slope)
32	and continue ahead to the second bridge, cross the river to finish the walk at the picnic benches where you started.
↪	<b>Or</b> just <i>before</i> the second bridge turn right (the river will be on your left), you can probably still see the canal through the trees to your right, and after 150 paces you will be walking by the side of the canal again.
33	Now keep looking to your left, and turn left exactly by the wooden post that reads <i>Look out for Kingfishers</i> (if you get to a bench on your left, you've gone too far). A little river will still be on your left and you will be walking away from the canal.
36	Cross the wooden bridge.
39	Cross the bridge into the park.
	- turn left to return to the picnic benches where you started (keep left at the playground, keep by the river, then over the level crossing, under the big trees, and at the junction of paths you will see the picnic benches) - or turn right if you parked in the car park.
44	Arrive at picnic benches.

\* The *Rustic Bridge* over the river has wooden railings carved with animals and plants; the *Iron Bridge* over the canal is made of brick.