

## A KEW BRIDGE

The bones of woolly mammoth, rhinoceros and hippopotamus have been found in the river here – some as old as half a million years. There have been three bridges at Kew, the first in 1759 replacing an earlier ferry. The path along the Hollows contains many steep steps and is regularly inundated by the tide so the walker may want to start at Watermans Park.

## B WATERMANS PARK BRENTFORD

This lovely waterside park was once a gas works! Look out for the Kew Bridge Steam Museum tower and the changes in the tide when the river can empty completely. Where children now play, Julius Caesar is rumoured to have crossed the river here during the Roman invasion of England.

## C THAMES ISLANDS

Many of the Thames islands are now designated as nature reserves where herons can be seen nesting in the willow trees and feeding along the river's edge. Some of the boat scenes from the film 'The African Queen' were filmed on Lots Ait (immediately opposite the Watermans Arts Centre).

## D THE GRAND UNION CANAL

Ferry Quays is at the entrance of the Grand Union Canal. Once a bustling inland port the area is now mainly housing. Look out for the remaining boat builders as they are quickly disappearing. The canal links the Thames with Birmingham, Bristol and Liverpool, a journey of four weeks by narrow boat!

## E SYON PARK

The London home of the Dukes of Northumberland, Syon Park was designed by Capability Brown in the 1760s and is currently being restored back to its former glory.

## F ISLEWORTH

Leaving Syon Park, the walk rejoins the riverside at Isleworth. One of England's finest artists J.M.W Turner lived near the church. The walk turns from the riverside at Isleworth and follows the road to Railshead Road where the river should be re-joined (to the left just after the 'welcome to the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames' sign).

## G ST MARGARETS

St Margarets was historically an important centre for the making of gunpowder. Today the river is far quieter and is an important nursery ground for fish. Just 50 years ago the River Thames was so polluted that it was biologically dead. From the 1960s onwards the Thames has been cleaned and today over 120 different types of fish are found including flounder, pike and eel.

## H RICHMOND

Historic Richmond, the home of Kings and Queens was chosen due to its pleasant position under Richmond Hill, good hunting and easy access by rowing boat to central London. Richmond Palace was the main home of the Tudor monarchs who referred to it as their 'winterbox'. Queen Elizabeth I died at the Palace in 1603 and was rowed by state barge to Westminster to be buried. From Richmond the H37 or 65 bus can be taken back to Brentford.

## I THE OLD DEER PARK

Originally laid out as a Royal Hunting Park, the line of the Kew Meridian can be seen (marked by a series of obelisks) from which the 'King's Time' was measured. Continue along the towpath through the wet woodland – a very special habitat for birds and insects. Kingfishers can be seen in this area.

## J KEW TOWPATH & KEW GARDENS

As you walk along the towpath cast an eye across the river to Isleworth. It is hard to believe that you are only eight miles from central London. The waterside flood meadows of Syon House, grazed by a herd of cows, is now the most important nature reserve along London's river being the only natural riverbank left in the capital. The tidally flooded willows by the river provide shade for the Two-lipped Door Snail and the German Hairy Snail – that is one of the rarest species in Britain. It is about 4-6 mm across, milk chocolate coloured with tiny bristles that might help it to float. The towpath continues alongside the world famous Kew Gardens where you can explore the world's largest collection of rare and exotic plants, as well as the historic glasshouses.

Printed on 80% recycled paper 

THAMES  
LANDSCAPE  
STRATEGY  
HAMPTON to KEW

# The Arcadian Thames Walks

A series of healthy walks for all the family to enjoy

No1. BRENTFORD - RICHMOND

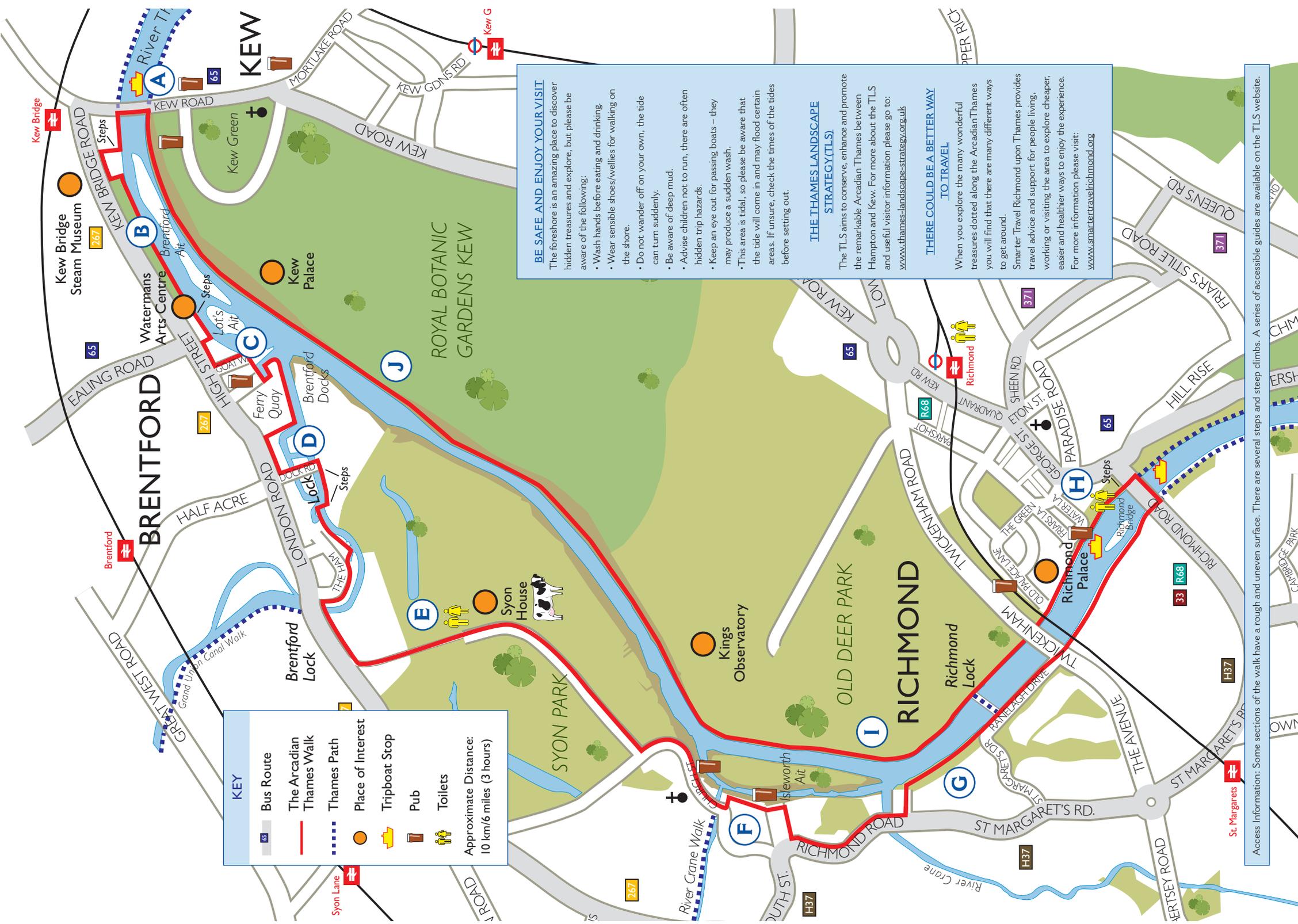
via ISLEWORTH & KEW



### DISCOVER THE ARCADIAN THAMES

Explore the fascinating and historic River Thames on your doorstep. Places to see, wonderful river facts, access information, public transport, picnic spots and lots more.





**KEY**

- Bus Route
- The Arcadian Thames Walk
- Thames Path
- Place of Interest
- Tripboat Stop
- Pub
- Toilets

Approximate Distance:  
10 km/6 miles (3 hours)

**BE SAFE AND ENJOY YOUR VISIT**  
 The foreshore is an amazing place to discover hidden treasures and explore, but please be aware of the following:

- Wash hands before eating and drinking.
- Wear sensible shoes/wellies for walking on the shore.
- Do not wander off on your own, the tide can turn suddenly.
- Be aware of deep mud.
- Advise children not to run, there are often hidden trip hazards.
- Keep an eye out for passing boats – they may produce a sudden wash.
- This area is tidal, so please be aware that the tide will come in and may flood certain areas. If unsure, check the times of the tides before setting out.

**THE THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY (TLS)**  
 The TLS aims to conserve, enhance and promote the remarkable Arcadian Thames between Hampton and Kew. For more about the TLS and useful visitor information please go to: [www.thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk](http://www.thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk)

**THERE COULD BE A BETTER WAY TO TRAVEL**  
 When you explore the many wonderful treasures dotted along the Arcadian Thames you will find that there are many different ways to get around.  
 Smarter Travel Richmond upon Thames provides travel advice and support for people living, working or visiting the area to explore cheaper, easier and healthier ways to enjoy the experience. For more information please visit: [www.smartertravelrichmond.org](http://www.smartertravelrichmond.org)

Access Information: Some sections of the walk have a rough and uneven surface. There are several steps and steep climbs. A series of accessible guides are available on the TLS website.