Contact Details

If you have any problems using the Public Rights of Way shown in this leaflet, please contact the Rights of Way Team at the address below:

Public Rights of Way
Engineering and Transport Unit
Town Hall
St Ives Road
Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 1RF

Tel: 01628 683800
Email: prow@rbwm.gov.uk

For more information on Datchet Parish, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01753 773499 or visit http://www.datchet.com

This leaflet was produced by the Parish Paths Initiative in partnership with Datchet Parish Council.

Photographs courtesy of Rob Gordon
Historical information provided by Janet Kennish
A Brief History

Historically Datchet has been a place of more significance than its size would suggest, partly due to the Thames crossing point opposite Windsor Castle which existed at least from the 1200s. A ferry (and later a bridge) was provided by the Crown as a route between the castle and the road to London through Datchet, primarily for those on royal business. In Tudor and Stuart times this made the village attractive to courtiers, officials and City merchants as it still is to commuters today.

The oldest houses are in the High Street and around the Greens, although most now have Georgian or mock-Tudor facades. The Royal Stag pub is the earliest building in the village and is reputed to be haunted; the Manor Hotel was owned by the Montagu and Buccleuch families as Lords of the Manor, while the Morning Star was a private house until it became a beerhouse in 1850. The original medieval church was entirely rebuilt between 1857 and 1864 and contains fine Victorian stained glass.

While there were never many footpaths in Datchet, over time several have been lost, reduced in length or follow a different route due to land use and transport developments in the 19th and 20th centuries. The railway arrived in 1848, slicing through a field access road, now represented by footpath 5 over the railway line; the M4 in the 1960s changed the course of roads around the route of footpaths 1 and 7; the reservoir caused a great loss of land and of a path to Horton, while the railway, gravel-digging and the Thames Water pumping works have all altered the route of footpath 6 which leads to Wraysbury. Most recently, the Jubilee River has greatly improved the access to and route of footpath 4, whilst footpath 2 has been replaced by a cycle track connecting to the Myrke.

The Thames tow path was always on the Windsor side of the river which explains why there is now so little public access to the river in Datchet. The bank on this side was privately owned for most of its length through the parish except for the very short stretch of riverfront opposite the end of the High Street. This was where the ferry service once carried horse and foot traffic across to Windsor Castle and the town until it was replaced in 1706 by a bridge. A plaque at the riverfront garden commemorates this ancient river crossing. The bridge was removed in 1850 when the Victoria and Albert bridges were built above and below the village. Two footpaths, 8 and 9, now provide river access where there was previously no right of way.

Path Information

- Take care when crossing Eton Road between the cycle path and footpath 3
- Footpath 3 is within Datchet Golf Course - please keep to the path, keep dogs on the lead and watch out for flying balls!
- Please take care when using the footbridge on footpath 5 as it can be slippery when wet
- Footpath 9 towards Windsor ends with steep steps which take you to the busy Windsor Road. Take care when crossing here if you want to access footpath 10, as a bend in the road means that visibility is poor.

Follow the Country Code

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

[Bibliography]

The paths shown in this leaflet can be followed on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Series map Number 160. For additional cycle routes within the surrounding area, please see the Sustrans web site at http://www.sustrans.co.uk.

Parking

Datchet has two public car parks - one is next to the library on Horton Road and the other is next to the railway station accessed from The Avenue. There are also two lay-bys along Southlea Road, prior to the start of footpath 8.

Links to other routes

From footpath 8, continue along Southlea Road to rejoin the Thames Path, which will take you towards Old Windsor and Runnymede.

Walking away from Datchet, from the end of footpath 9 continue along Windsor Road to rejoin the Thames Path within the Home Park in Windsor.

The cycle path linking Eton Road to The Myrke leads to routes along the Jubilee River and within Eton College playing fields.

[Countryside Agency 2004]