

Richmond Cycle Route 1

17-18th Century Style

Starting from Richmond station we head south and round the one-way system to turn up Halford Rd and then right along Friars Stile Road to be rewarded by the famous view from Richmond Hill. Turn

Turn left to entering Richmond Park, enclosed by Charles I in 1635, where we veer to the left to get a view over London and then turn right at the bottom of the hill to pass the White Lodge built as a hunting lodge for George I by Roger Morris and now the centre of the Royal Ballet School.

At the refreshment van turn right with a view of pen ponds and passing the Isabella Plantation with spectacular displays of rhododendrons etc.

Cross over the road to descend past Ham gate and on to Ham Common. Turn right along a track between two lodges to reach the garden side of Ham House (added 1675). A right, left, right takes you to the front of 1610. The house is open (NT) and has spectacular Stuart interiors and furnishings.

Continue south along riverside drive and take the NCR4 path to Teddington Lock . Cross the bridge and follow the local cycle route as far as Waldegrave Rd. This takes you to Strawberry Hill (1750) the “plaything house” of Horace Walpole , novelist, politician, aesthete and gossip. It has recently been restored and is worth a visit although the contents are scant.

Turn left along Cross Deep into Twickenham. Cross by the Toucan and down Wharf Lane to the Riverside. Pass the church with a 14th century tower but body rebuilt in 1714 by John James with superb brickwork.

Continuing alongside the Thames we pass The Orleans House gallery with the delightful Octagon (1720) by James Gibbs a garden pavillion remaining from a larger house. There is a free art gallery here.

Following that we come to Marble Hill House , a perfect Palladian villa built in 1724 by Roger Morris for the Countess of Suffolk currently run by English Heritage.

Continuing along the riverside path take us to Richmond Bridge (1774) which takes us back into Richmond

