

Higginson Park to Temple Lock circular walk

Temple Lock is about 1½ miles from Higginson Park, at the river end of the High St.

This circular route is about 3 miles in total.

This is a level walk (incline on the bridge beyond Temple Lock). The surface can be muddy in places after rain.

- A. Start at Higginson Park. Follow the river away from the bridge.
- B. Continue alongside the river to Temple Lock and then on to the footbridge.
- C. Return past the lock.
- D. At the end of the tall greenery, turn left up the narrow road.
- E. After a straight section follow the road round the sharp right bend, then take the footpath, leaving the road as it bends left.



Follow the path and, after about ½ mile, the small road it leads into. Continue past the first footpath on the right.

- F. Turn right into the park at a row of large logs. Pass the skate park, follow the path past the statue of Steve Redgrave and return to the starting point.

A bit of history:

On the opposite bank of the river is Bisham village, the settlement and church were recorded in Domesday.

Bisham church tower dates from the 12th century, with the parapet added in the 15th century. The church was further extended during the Elizabethan period and the 19th century.

(source www.allsaintsmarlow.org where you will find much more information)

Just along from the church is **Bisham Abbey**. Founded in the 12th century, it was once the home of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I and was part of the divorce settlement with Anne of Cleves. It is now a National Sports Centre as well as a Conferencing and Event (eg. corporate, weddings) Centre.

(source www.bishamabbeynsc.co.uk and www.visitthames.co.uk)

Temple Lock: There was a weir and flash lock here from the mid 16th century. The first pound lock was built in 1773 and rebuilt in 1782. A new lock was built in 1890; as this was built alongside the old one, both can be seen today.

(source www.visitthames.co.uk)

Temple Footbridge: This was completed in 1989 as part of the Thames Path project. It enables a continuous riverside walk from Marlow to Henley. It crosses at the same point as the Temple Ferry, which ceased in 1953.

(source information sign by bridge).

As an alternative walk to the above, you could continue over the bridge and follow the river for 3 miles to Hambledon Lock (actually at Mill End), where you can cross the river to the A4155 and catch the Henley to Marlow bus. Alternatively, rather than cross the river, continue the further 3 ½ miles to Henley.