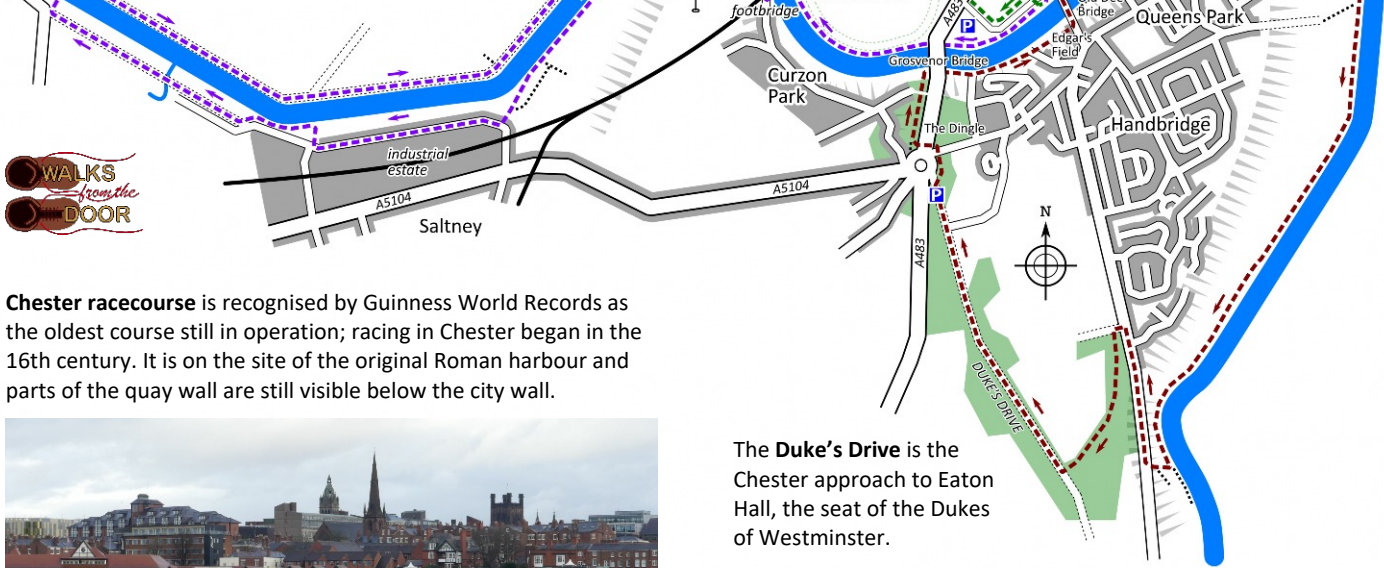
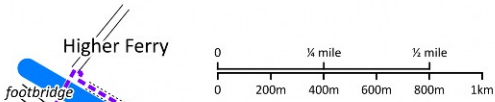




Though not as famous as the Severn Bore, the River Dee below Chester also experiences a fast-moving tidal bore, which is especially impressive during very high tides. The footbridge at **Higher Ferry** is a popular place to watch this phenomenon.



Chester racecourse is recognised by Guinness World Records as the oldest course still in operation; racing in Chester began in the 16th century. It is on the site of the original Roman harbour and parts of the quay wall are still visible below the city wall.



The **Duke's Drive** is the Chester approach to Eaton Hall, the seat of the Dukes of Westminster.



Earl's Eye Meadows lie within a bend of the River Dee and were donated to the city in 1929. The low-lying meadows support a variety of wildlife and offer distant views of the cathedral and town hall, and closer views of the grand houses of Boughton.

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THREE CIRCULAR WALKS FROM

J.W. LEES

BOATHOUSE



PUB, DINING AND ROOMS

Merchants of

DUTTONS

Fine Times

MORNING NOON and NIGHT

Chester City Walls (2 miles: fairly easy)

A fascinating circuit of the Roman and medieval fortifications guarding our historic city.

The Earl's Eye (5½ miles: fairly easy)

A surprisingly rural walk around a historic meadow beside the River Dee.

The Roodee and Higher Ferry (7¼ miles: fairly easy)

Stroll past the racecourse and along the River Dee downstream from Chester.

Chester City Walls (2 miles: fairly easy)

Allow 1 hour. Numerous steps, and uneven paving on occasion.

From Duttons: Turn left from the front door and walk out to St Werburgh Street in front of the Cathedral. Turn right past Addleshaw Tower onto the city wall and turn right.

From The Boathouse: Walk downstream alongside the Dee to Bridgegate and join the walk just beyond it at step 5.

1 Follow the wall over the Eastgate. As of early 2024, a short section of the wall beyond is closed for restoration but a temporary walkway is in place to the left. **2** Continue over the Newgate and above the Roman Gardens. **3** As you approach the River Dee, follow the walls round to the right. **4** Cross Bridgegate and descend to Castle Drive. **5** Cross the road to the left-hand side and walk in front of the former County Hall. **6** Cross back to the right-hand side of the road and rejoin the wall below Chester Castle. **7** Cross Grosvenor Road and continue above Chester Racecourse. Notice the shaft of the Roodey Cross in the middle of the racecourse, and also some old masonry below the wall that formed part of the quay in the days when Chester was an important Roman port. **8** Continue along Nun's Road then cross the Watergate. **9** Pass The Queen's School and the former Chester Infirmary, then follow the wall on the left over the railway to Bonewald-esthorne's Tower. **10** Turn right and follow the wall past Pemberton's Parlour to St Martin's Gate. **11** Continue along the wall past Morgan's Mount to the Northgate, parallel to the canal. **12** Beyond the Northgate, continue to King Charles' Tower, where the walls bend south. **13** Follow the walls past the east end of the Cathedral.

For Duttons: leave the wall by the Addleshaw Tower and return via St Werburgh Street.

For The Boathouse: follow steps 1–4 to Bridgegate, then retrace your steps along the Dee upstream past Queen's Park Bridge to the pub.

The Earl's Eye (5½ miles: fairly easy)

Allow 2–3 hours. May be muddy in places, especially in winter. Occasional steps.

From Duttons: Follow steps 1–4 of the **Chester City Walls** walk, then turn left and follow the Dee upstream to Queen's Park Bridge.

From The Boathouse: follow the Dee down to Queen's Park Bridge.

1 Cross Queen's Park Bridge over the River Dee. **2** Turn left and left again, down steps to the riverside. **3** Turn right and follow the river upstream, passing The Boathouse on the opposite bank. **4** Continue past a boathouse to a gate onto Earl's Eye Meadows. **5** Ignoring paths to the right, stay on the riverside around a long bend below Boughton until you reach the passenger ferry (summer only). **6** Continue beyond the ferry and at a junction keep left, along the river. Beyond a kissing gate continue through fields (beyond this point, the riverside path is unsurfaced and may be muddy). **7** After a series of fields, pass

a pumping station on your right. **8** Beyond a low cliff, pass below a house on a terrace to your right to reach a kissing gate into fields. **9** The direct footpath to Eaton Road turns right here, but to avoid a low-lying section of meadow (sometimes flooded) and a steep bank, you may need to continue along the riverbank then double back when possible, passing behind a fenced-off section of the bank on your right. **10** Having picked up the footpath above the steep bank, skirt round the right-hand field edge to a kissing gate onto the road. **11** Turn right and follow the pavement for quarter of a mile. **12** Just beyond the entrance to Green Bank (right), cross the road and go through a white-painted kissing gate on your left. **13** Follow the wooded path beyond, until the path curves right with open fields on your right and meets a metalled drive (Duke's Drive, which connects Chester to the Duke of Westminster's seat of Eaton Hall). **14** Turn right and follow the Duke's Drive for ¼ mile to Overleigh Lodge (ignoring paths to left and right). **15** Walk out to the roundabout and turn right, crossing Overleigh Road at the lights. **16** Immediately, cross the A483 Grosvenor Road (on your left) at the next set of lights. **17** Go through a gap in the spiked railing opposite and descend steps into the wooded valley known as the Dingle. **18** Keep right, then turn right along a path down the valley. **19** Pass under a high metal footbridge then follow a fence to emerge by Grosvenor Bridge. **20** Turn right under the bridge and continue to the bottom of River Lane. **21** Follow the road past a couple of houses, then continue to the cobbled Greenway Street. **22** Go between the ball-headed gate piers opposite into Edgar's Field. **23** Keep right at a fork in the path; in a sandstone outcrop on the right is the remarkable Roman shrine to Minerva, with a carved effigy of the god that is unique in Europe in being still present in its original outdoor setting. **24** Continue along the tarmac path past the children's playground to the road at the end of the Old Dee Bridge. **25** Cross the road and turn left over the bridge.

For Duttons: continue under Bridgegate and up Lower Bridge Street. Cross Pepper Street/Grosvenor Street and continue up Bridge Street (either at street level or via the Rows) to The Cross. Turn right along Eastgate Street then left into Godstall Lane.

For The Boathouse: turn right upstream along the Dee past the weir to Queen's Park Bridge and back to the pub.

The Roodee and Higher Ferry

7¼ miles: fairly easy

Allow 3–4 hours. Mostly surfaced, except for one section. There are several flights of steps en route. The section between Grosvenor Bridge and the Roodee Viaduct (by Chester Racecourse) is closed on race days.

From Duttons: Follow steps 1–5 of the **Chester City Walls** walk to the former County Hall.

From The Boathouse: Walk downstream alongside the Dee past Queen's Park Bridge and the Old Dee Bridge to the former County Hall.

6 Beyond the old County Hall, stay on the riverside path to the left of the road. **7** Continue past the car park and under the Grosvenor Bridge. **8** Follow the path between the river and racecourse to the railway viaduct. **9** Turn left up the steps and cross the Dee via the footbridge attached to the viaduct. **10** At the far side, climb steps to the road to Chester Golf Course. **11** Turn right over the railway, then cross the car park to a gate in the far right-hand corner. **12** Follow the track beyond as it curves right to pass some metal barns. **13** Take the middle track at a junction, which descends towards the Dee then curves left. **14** At a gate, keep right along the riverside path. **15** After ¾ mile, keep to the riverside at a junction of paths, passing a WW2 pillbox. **16** Follow the path away from the river and keep right along the fence then through an A-frame barrier. **17** Walk out to the road and turn right. **18** Follow the main spine road (River Lane) through the industrial estate. **19** Having crossed the Balderton Brook, turn right through another A-frame barrier and follow the riverside path left. **20** Beyond a roundabout (to your left), carry on along the riverside path. **21** The path eventually curves left to meet an asphalt cycle track, where you turn right. **22** Follow the track to the Higher Ferry footbridge, where you cross the river. **23** Beyond the bridge, turn right and return to the river, following the path left. **24** Follow the cycle path upstream for two miles, passing Bumpers Lane (left) after ½ mile opposite the industrial estate on the far bank. **25** When the river bends right by the Wales Coast Path information panel, follow the cycle track alongside a small park then left to the road. Turn right for a short distance, then cross just before the canal. **26** Walk down between a building (left) and the lock (right), then cross the lifting bridge. **27** Bear left past a building then swing right to Tower Road. **28** Take a few steps left, then turn right down steps into the Water Tower Gardens. **29** Beyond the tower, at the corner of a bowling green, turn left. **30** Pass an arch under the spur of the city wall and climb the steps ahead to reach the main city wall circuit.

For Duttons: turn left and follow the **Chester City Walls** walk from step 10 onwards.

For The Boathouse: turn right and follow the city walls over the railway, past the Queen's School and over the Watergate. Continue above the racecourse to Grosvenor Road. Cross and follow the walls below the castle back to the River Dee. Head upstream past the Old Dee Bridge and Queen's Park Bridge back to the pub.

We hope these carefully chosen circular walks will help you appreciate our beautiful surroundings and we look forward to quenching your thirst and satisfying your appetite on your return.

