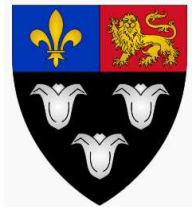
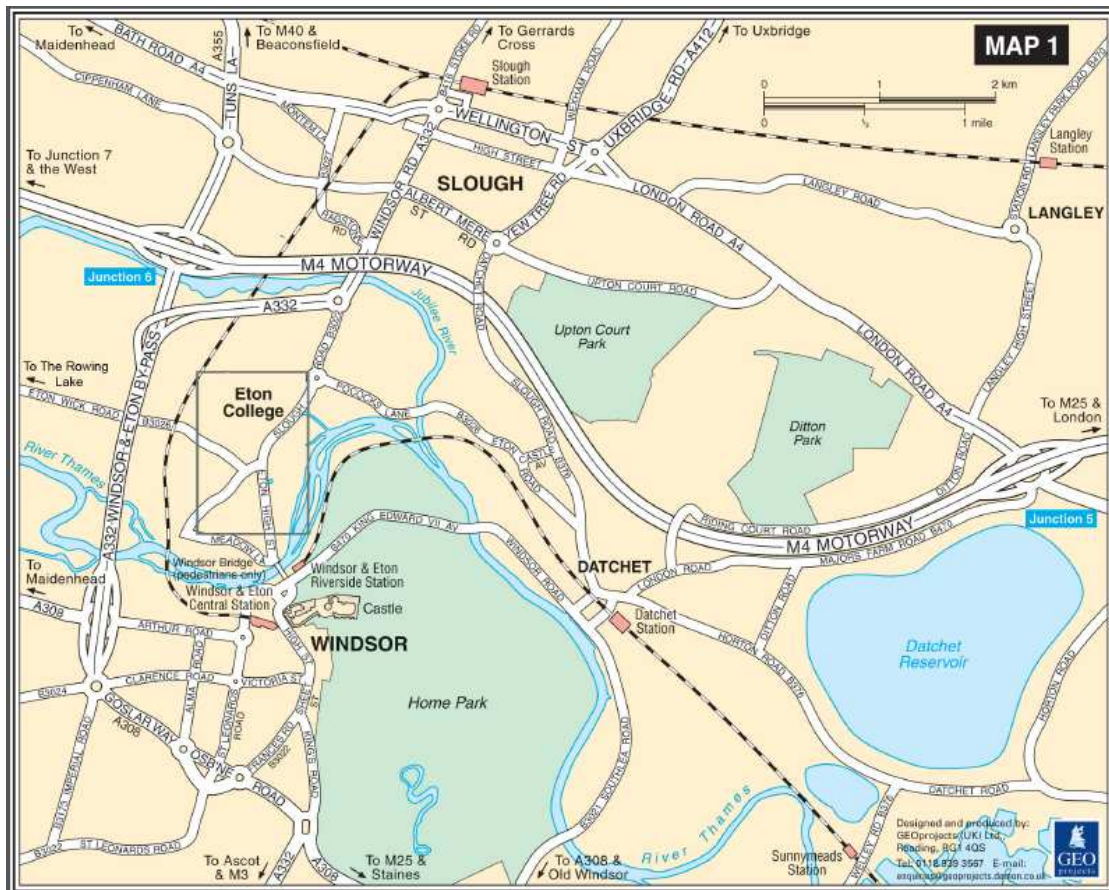




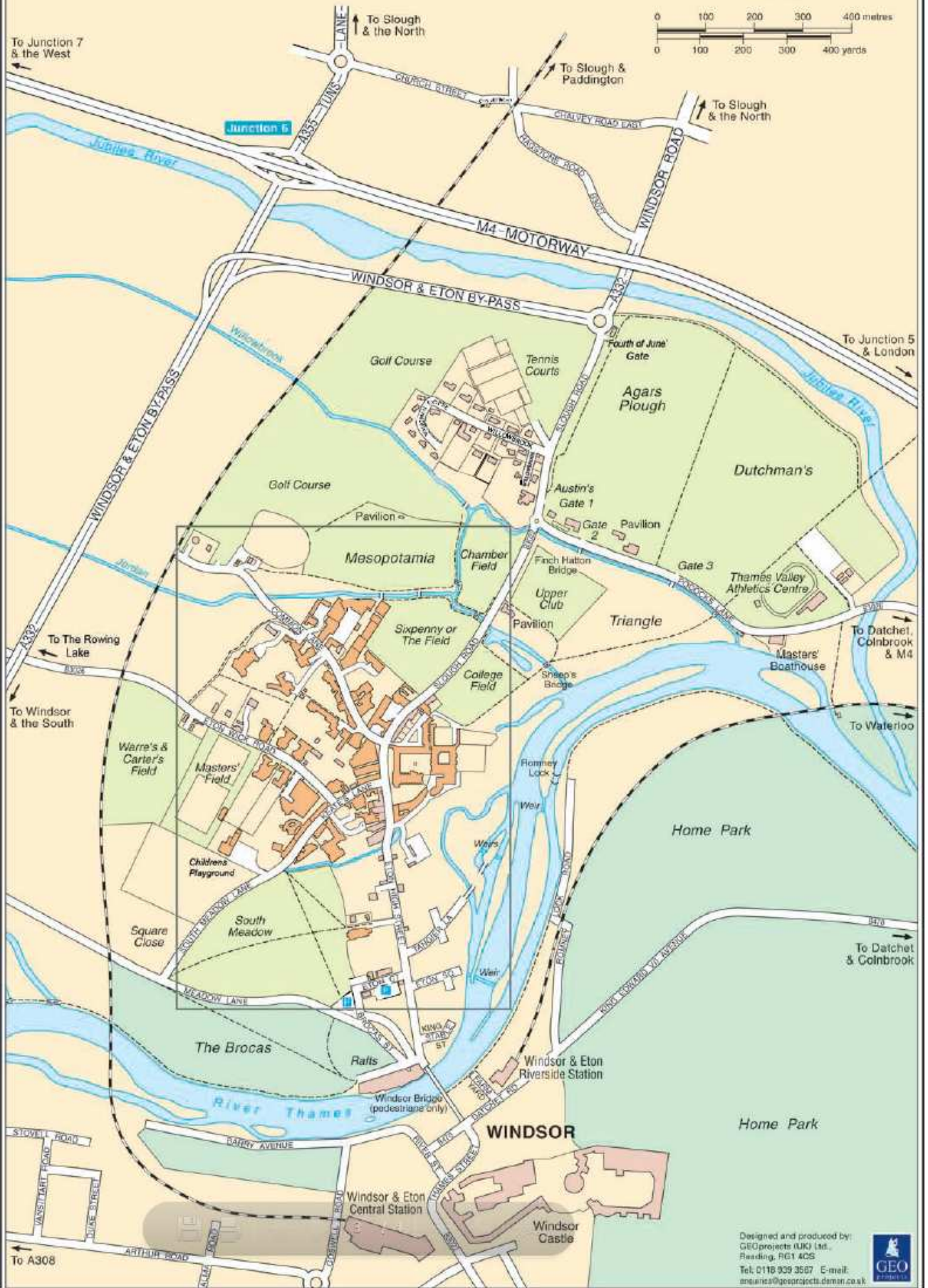
# Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead



## Eton College



# Eton





The historic buildings are an integral part of the heritage of the British Isles. Visitors are invited to share the unique experience and beauty of Eton College, which was founded in 1440 by Henry VI.

## *Coming to Eton by Rail*

The two closest railway stations to Eton are Windsor & Eton Riverside and Windsor & Eton Central. Both of these stations are on the Windsor (south) side of the Thames, and it takes between 10 and 20 minutes to walk from them to Eton (across the bridge and up the High Street).

The Windsor & Eton Riverside station is served by [South West Trains](#). Trains run between London Waterloo and Windsor every 20 to 30 minutes during the week and every hour on Sundays, calling at all stations on the way (travel time approximately 50 minutes).

[First Great Western](#) trains runs a very frequent service between London Paddington and Slough (travel time approximately 20 minutes), and this line also serves many other stations further west along the M4 corridor, including Maidenhead and Reading. A branch line connects Slough and Windsor & Eton Central: trains run between the two stations every 20 to 30 minutes during the week and every 30 minutes on Sundays (travel time just six minutes).

If a taxi is required, it is best to take the train to Slough (there is a taxi rank just outside the station), as the distance by road from the two Windsor railway stations to Eton is much further. Taxis include Viking (01753-511511), Slough Radio Taxis (01753-535000/526000), and Interpoint (01753-775888).

For information on arrival and departure times, phone National Rail Enquiries (08457-484950) or click [here](#) to visit their website.

## *Public Visits to Eton*



**School Yard** lies at the heart of the ancient buildings of the School. On the north side we have **Lower School** (the first classroom to be built and still in use) and **College** (where the Foundation Scholars were originally housed and still are), while on the west side we have **Upper School**, built in the seventeenth century when Lower School became too small.

The south side is occupied by **College Chapel**. Building began in 1441, but the Founder's original grandiose design could not be completed when Edward IV usurped the throne and cut off most of Eton's revenues (the present building was to be just the choir of a much larger church). The Antechapel was completed in 1479, at Bishop Waynflete's expense, to finish off the west end of the building. The Chapel is a fine example of fifteenth century Perpendicular Gothic architecture and is basically very simple — a single unit of strikingly satisfactory proportions. The wall paintings are among the most remarkable mediaeval wall paintings in Northern Europe, and the stained glass windows in the East end are equally remarkable.

To the east lie the **Cloisters**, with **College Hall** (the original dining hall) and College Library.

## *Museum of Eton Life*



It is situated in the vaulted undercroft of College Hall and was formerly the cellar for the Hall and the Brewhouse nearby. It is approached via Brewhouse Yard. The Museum contains over 400 exhibits illustrating the life and history of Eton since its foundation in 1440. There are many unusual and interesting exhibits: memorabilia of the reign of Dr Keate (including his tricorne hat, birches, and 'swishing block'); the Pilgrim Badge

recalling the days of the Eton Pilgrimage for the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary; a mock-up of a Fourth of June procession boat; the re-creation of a boy's room as it might have been in 1900; and a video of contemporary life in the School.

## *Souvenirs and Gifts*

A wide range of souvenirs is available from the Gift Shop in the High Street.

***Eton College is a working school community and there are some days on which school events make it necessary for it to be closed to the public. Contact the Visits Manager for details, by [email](#), or by telephone (01753 671177).***

Elsewhere in Eton, the College Natural History Museum is open on Sundays in term-time from 2.30pm until 5pm, admission is free. Eton's extensive natural history collections date back to 1875. Set in an historic building a short walk from College Chapel, modern displays illustrate items ranging from ecology of the Thames Valley to mimicry in South American butterflies. [Click here to send the Curator an email.](#)



## Eton College Tour Options 2012

Thank you for your interest in Eton College. Founded in 1440 by King Henry VI, Eton is one of the oldest schools in the country and its historic buildings are an integral part of the national heritage. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we invite visitors to experience and share the beauty and traditions of the College. All visits are escorted by one of our knowledgeable guides.

Public guided tours of around an hour in duration for interested individuals, start on 23rd March 2012 and continue until 7th October 2012. There are two tours only for the general public: 14.00 & 15.15 (last entry 15.15). The tour covers School Yard, Cloisters Court, Lower School, College Chapel and the Museum of Eton Life. During June 2012, College Chapel may close for restoration work but an alternative place to visit will be offered. The College will be closed to visitors on 6th April / 2nd June / 9<sup>th</sup> August / 5th & 6th September and on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during term time. Entry fees £7.00 adults / £6.00 children & seniors / accompanied children under 8 years are free.

### Opening Times 2012

23 March - 15 April	10.30 - 16.30	Daily (Holidays)
6 April (Good Friday)	-	CLOSED
16 April - 1 June	13.30 - 16.30	Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
2 June	-	CLOSED
3 June - 10 June	10.30 - 16.30	Daily (Holidays)
11 June - 29 June	13.30 - 16.30	Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
30 June - 4 September	10.30 - 16.30	Daily (Holidays)
9 August and 5 & 6 September	-	CLOSED
7 September - 7 October	13.30 - 16.30	Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
8 October - 16 November	-	Pre-booked adult groups only
17 November - 16 January	-	CLOSED

#### Short tour: £7.00pp (A pre-booked group tour available most of the year round)

The 'short tour' is a pre-booked private tour of an hour's duration for a minimum of 14 people following the same lines as the general public tour. The guide's commentary covers the foundation of the School to the modern day. After an initial 15 minutes in School Yard there will be places to sit for questions and answers. This tour is also suitable for school parties. £7.00 / £6.00 with 1 in 15 free

#### The Extended Tour: £10.50pp (A pre-booked group tour available most of the year round)

A longer tour of 1.5 hours, the 'extended tour' suits adults and those wishing to acquire more knowledge about Eton College. The scene is set in School Yard, before moving to Cloisters Court, Lower School (Eton's oldest classroom), Upper School (17<sup>th</sup> century classroom) and College Chapel, a fine example of fifteenth century Perpendicular Gothic architecture. The Chapel wall paintings are among the most remarkable mediaeval wall paintings in Northern Europe, and the stained glass windows in the East end are equally remarkable. The tour continues to College Hall (the original 15<sup>th</sup> century dining room) before ending in the Museum of Eton Life which holds over 400 exhibits illustrating the life and history of Eton since its foundation in 1440. Arranged for a minimum of 14 people in the party there is no maximum as the group will be divided into smaller groups, all seeing the same places but at different times.

#### The Extended Tour + coloured booklet: £12.00pp (A pre-booked group tour available most of the year round)

As the tour above with a reduced-price Pitkin pictorial guide of Eton College.

#### **Eton College Collections Tour: £25.00pp (Available 3rd June – end of September)**

Arranged for a minimum of 12 people in the party (no maximum) this tour would appeal to the arts and heritage type of group who may be inspired to delve further and would like to see some of Eton's 'treasures'. The two hour tour takes the visitor into the Museum of Eton Life situated in the vaulted undercroft of College Hall and formerly the cellar for the Hall and the Brewhouse nearby. The Museum contains over 400 exhibits illustrating the life and history of Eton since its foundation in 1440; many are unusual and interesting: memorabilia of the reign of Dr Keate (including his tricorne hat, birches, and 'swishing block'); the Pilgrim Badge recalling the days of the Eton Pilgrimage for the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary; a mock-up of a Fourth of June procession boat; the re-creation of a boy's room as it might have been in 1900; and a video of contemporary life in the School. Escorted upstairs to College Library the visitor sees the special exhibition celebrating the acquisition of thousands of rare books and manuscripts over the past four decades since College Library was formally reopened in 1969. Accompanying the publication of a book documenting 100 of the most important items to join the library's collection during that time, this display features a selection of recent acquisitions ranging in date from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Highlights include a commonplace book compiled at Eton by an early head master, a signed first edition of Joyce's *Ulysses* and one of the few surviving leaves of the manuscript of Darwin's *Origin of Species*. Returning to Cloisters Court the visitor is guided to the Verey Gallery, the new and very beautiful exhibition space for the College Collections, with its changing programme of exhibitions. Visitors can see Antony Gormley's sculpture *Edge II* in Common Lane, and this year's Verey Gallery exhibition will be a celebration of Gormley's work with a special exhibition on loan to the Collections. This is followed by visiting the Head Master's Chamber to view a fifteenth century wall painting, quite recently uncovered and a couple of College Chapel copes (for those interested in Church vestments) before moving on to the splendid College Chapel. Built in the fifteenth century in the gothic perpendicular style, with its grisaille wall paintings, an Evie Hone window at the east end, the four windows either side, designed by John Piper and executed by Patrick Reyntiens and a Hills romantic organ. There is a degree of flexibility with regards to this tour so that if you have visited the College recently you may appreciate the option to visit Lower Chapel and the Natural History Museum, instead of a couple of other venues mentioned. Eton's extensive natural history collections date back to 1875. Set in an historic building a short walk from College Chapel, modern displays illustrate items ranging from ecology of the Thames Valley to mimicry in South American butterflies. Lower Chapel, built in 1889-91, is located opposite.

#### **Diamond Jubilee Tour: £10.50 / Children & Seniors £7.00 (Available 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012)**

A walking tour of 1.5 hour's duration with the guides commentary covering the history of Eton College, its links to royalty over the years and covering School Yard, Cloisters Court, Lower School, College Chapel, Long Walk, Cannon Yard, Lower Chapel and the Natural History Museum. There is a considerable amount of walking on this tour although there will be relaxing points along the route. Arranged for a minimum of 14 people.

#### **Teas & Tours: (Available during July 2012)**

The Etonians' tuck shop '*Rowlands Tap*' will be open Tuesday – Sundays (inclusive) during the month of July between the hours of 14.00 – 18.00. A saving can be made by pre-booking tea & a slice of cake or a cream tea and a tour. Visitors off the street are also welcomed during opening hours in July.

### **College Chapel 2012**

**Essential work on the east window in College Chapel will commence in early June 2012. There may be days when scaffolding necessitates the closure of all or of part of the Chapel. If this happens your party**

**will be taken to another part of the College and this should not detract from your tour enjoyment. If you would like further details please do not hesitate to contact the Visits Office.**

All descriptions and prices are correct at the time of printing. However, as a working institution it is sometimes necessary to close part or all of the College at short notice. Yet disruptions are rare and are kept to a minimum. For further information regarding scheduled tours or building your own unique visit please call the Visits Office on (01753) 671177 / 671157 or e-mail [visits.assistant@etoncollege.org.uk](mailto:visits.assistant@etoncollege.org.uk) or [r.hunkin@etoncollege.org.uk](mailto:r.hunkin@etoncollege.org.uk)