

HEATHCOTE RIVER WALKS

walks that explore your city

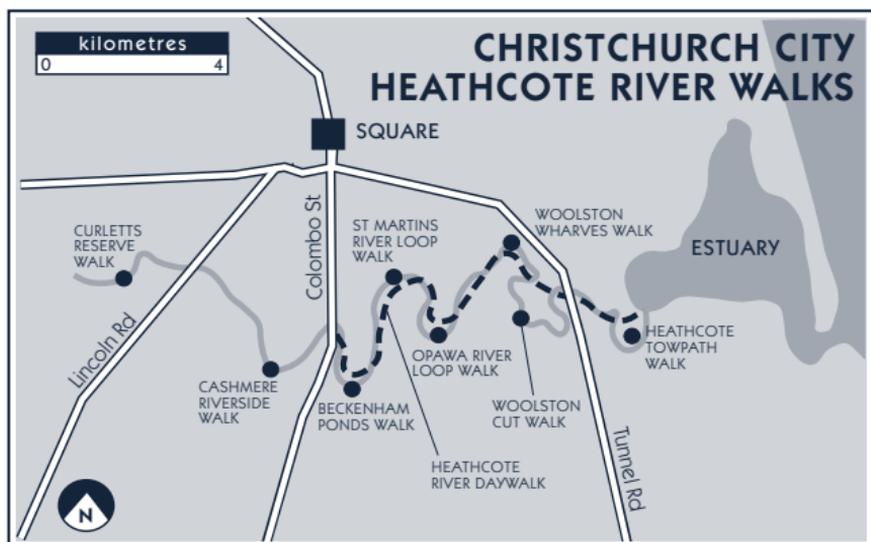


CHRISTCHURCH

CITY COUNCIL · YOUR PEOPLE · YOUR CITY

HEATHCOTE RIVER WALKS

walks that explore your city



Introduction

The Heathcote River takes a serpentine course through the southern suburbs of Christchurch, and its many river loops provide ideal walking opportunities for short one hour walks.

Graceful riverbanks, elegant footbridges, secluded parks with children's playgrounds, are all features of these walks, which have all been designed to suit all ages. Children will find plenty of features to interest them, including river jetties for feeding ducks, footbridges and of course the many park playgrounds.

All of these walks originally appeared in the popular book *Walk Christchurch* published by the Christchurch City Council. These new brochures combine the existing information in that book with added features.

A special focus of these walks was to minimise busy road crossings, and to provide an attractive walking route that was mostly either traffic free or on quiet roads. Wherever possible, busy roads are crossed utilising either zebra crossings or pedestrian safety islands.

Every walk has been 'walk tested' for time and route directions. Some of these walks were tested on a five year old and came up to scratch!

For walkers who want a bigger challenge than the **Heathcote River Daywalk** will suit them. This starts from Colombo Street, at the Beckenham Service Centre, and follows the river for its entire course to the estuary at Ferrymead. See the detailed description for this walk at the end of the brochure.

Bus Information

All these walks can be reached by buses from the bus exchange. Ring the local bus and timetable information line on 366 8855 for further details.

Walk Times

The walking times suggested in this booklet allow for rest stops and sightseeing, and most averagely fit people will reduce these times.

Short Walk Options

These have been suggested for the benefit of families with strollers and toddlers, who want a traffic free area with interesting features.

Accessibility

Specific mention of accessibility for wheelchair users and baby buggies has not been made because of the varying ability of wheelchair users and different types of buggies.

Dogs

General information on where dogs are allowed, and where they are not allowed, in and around Christchurch city, are listed in a series of brochures available from your local City Council Service Centre or Civic Offices.

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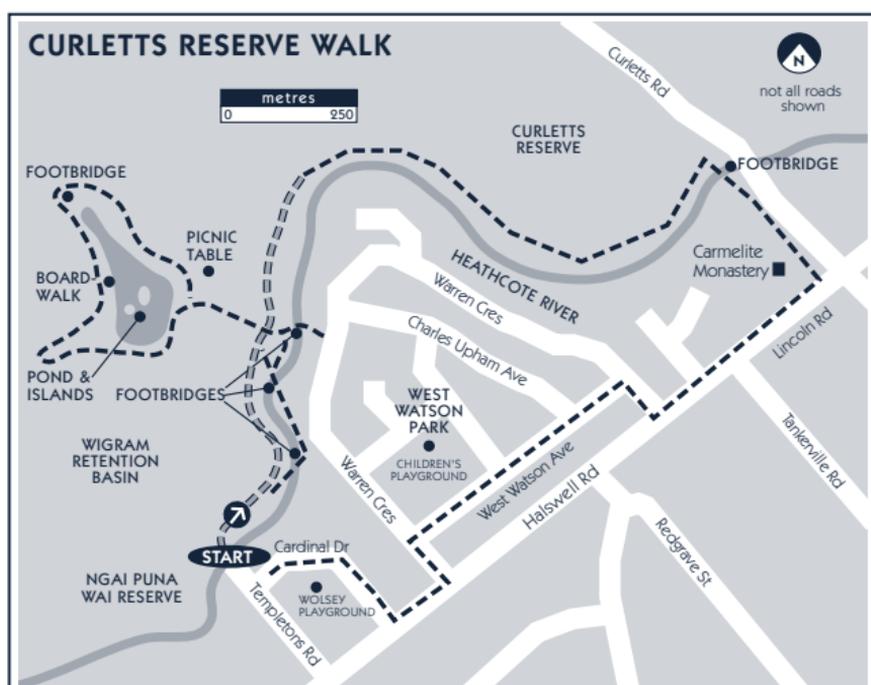
NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER: This publication is intended to provide accurate information. However, the constantly changing nature of many walks means that facts can quickly become outdated. This publication is made available to all persons and entities strictly on the basis that the Christchurch City Council fully excludes all liability to any person or entity for damages in respect of or arising out of any reliance in part or full, by such person or entity, upon any of the contents of this publication for any purpose.

CURLETT'S RESERVE WALK

Start:	carparking on Templetons Road.
Time:	1 hour return around pond and back, 1 hour 10 minutes return for full circuit.
Distance:	3 km around pond and back, 5 km for full circuit.
Dogs:	must be kept on a leash in the reserve.
Short walk option:	from the Templetons Road carpark walk along the bush riverside over the two footbridges to the third footbridge, 20 minutes return.

This walk explores a large and secluded reserve alongside the young Heathcote River, with a mix of bush and farm paddock landscapes. The Wigram Retention Basin is a superb pond and wildlife area. If you stay inside the reserve there are no roads to cross at all, so it's particularly suitable for children.

From beside the river at the end of Templetons Road, cross the **bridge** and follow the wide vehicle track on the grass terrace. Well-spaced poles indicate the riverside track as it weaves along the river through the **bush plantings**. The track crosses a **footbridge** and follows alongside private gardens, before re-crossing over another **footbridge**.



At the third **footbridge**, where a side-track leads to Warren Crescent, turn inland over the broad grass hump of the stopbank and suddenly there is the **Wigram Retention pond**, with its banks of waving toe toe and islands busy with birdlife. A walking track circumnavigates the pond via a **boardwalk** and **footbridge** and you arrive back at the same point.

You have a choice here, either to return along the riverside track back to Templetons Road, or if you do not mind some road walking, follow the Heathcote River downstream. Initially, it follows a **broad track** and swings around to the **footbridge** beside the busy Curletts Road.

Cross the footbridge and walk on a **sealed path** on wide grass banks beside the high walls of the Carmelite Monastery to the Curletts and Halswell Road junction. Turn right along Halswell Road, right again into Warren Crescent, then left into West Watson Avenue.

A walk along this quiet street reaches West Watson Park and **children's playground**. Continue to turn left onto Warren Crescent, then right onto Halswell Road and right again into Cardinal Drive, which can be followed past the **Wolsey playground** back to Templetons Road.



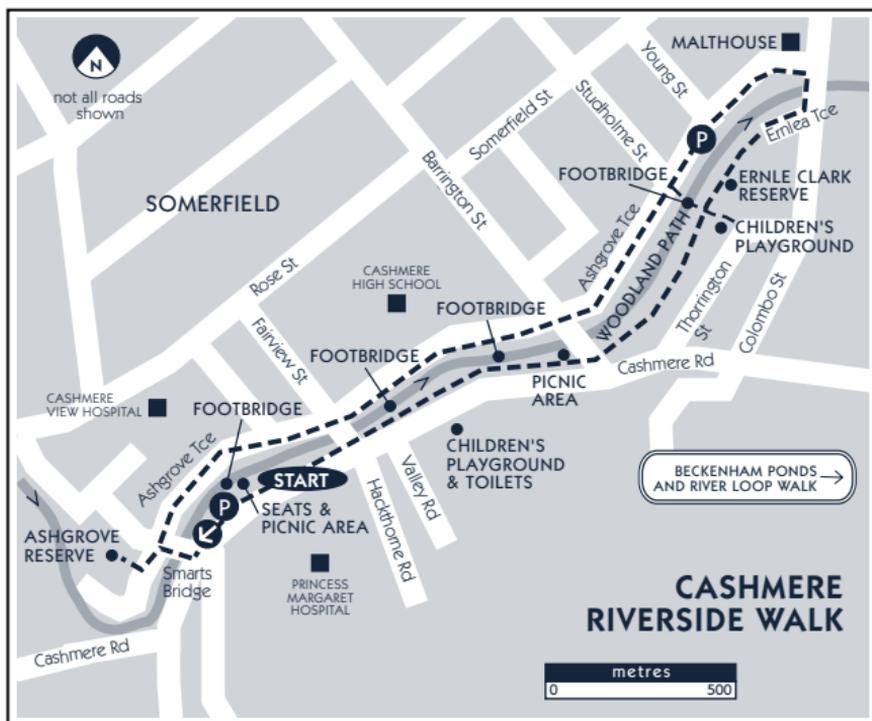
CASHMERE RIVERSIDE WALK

Start:	carparks opposite Princess Margaret Hospital.
Time:	1 hour 10 minutes return.
Distance:	4 km.
Dogs:	should be kept under control along the riverside.
Short walk option:	a sealed path goes from Smarts Bridge to Barrington Street alongside the river, 20 minutes return.

An attractive riverside walk along the Heathcote River as it meanders through the suburb of Cashmere. Several footbridges and woodland paths, and the Ashgrove Reserve is a rare stand of native bush in the city. The only busy road to cross is Barrington Street and that has a pedestrian island.

Starting at the carparks opposite Princess Margaret Hospital, either cross the **footbridge** to Ashgrove Terrace, or walk up to Smarts Bridge (1933), and cross to Ashgrove Terrace.

From here you can explore **Ashgrove Reserve**, a lovely



park containing a tall remnant of native bush complete with natural springs, as well as an open lawn area with seats. A tranquil spot for a rest.

Follow Ashgrove Terrace downstream, a quiet, tree-lined street, either on the **grassy riverbank** or the footpath on the other side of the road. Passing the back entrances to Cashmere View Hospital and Cashmere High School, there are several **footbridges** if you wish to cross the river, otherwise follow Ashgrove Terrace as far as Colombo Street. On the corner here is the Malthouse, now a children's theatre.

Cross the bridge at Colombo Street and turn right onto Erilea Terrace, at the end of which is **Ernie Clark Reserve**. A wide gravel path goes underneath tall native bush forest to the **footbridge**, and a side-track leads to Thorrington Road and a **children's playground**. The main path continues through **woodland** to the pedestrian island across Barrington Street.

The rest of the route follows good paths through the wide grassy reserve area beside the river. There are lovely old trees along this section of the river as well as the occasional **picnic table** and seat. Note the zebra crossing and pedestrian island leading to the **children's playground** and **toilets** on the other side of Cashmere Road.

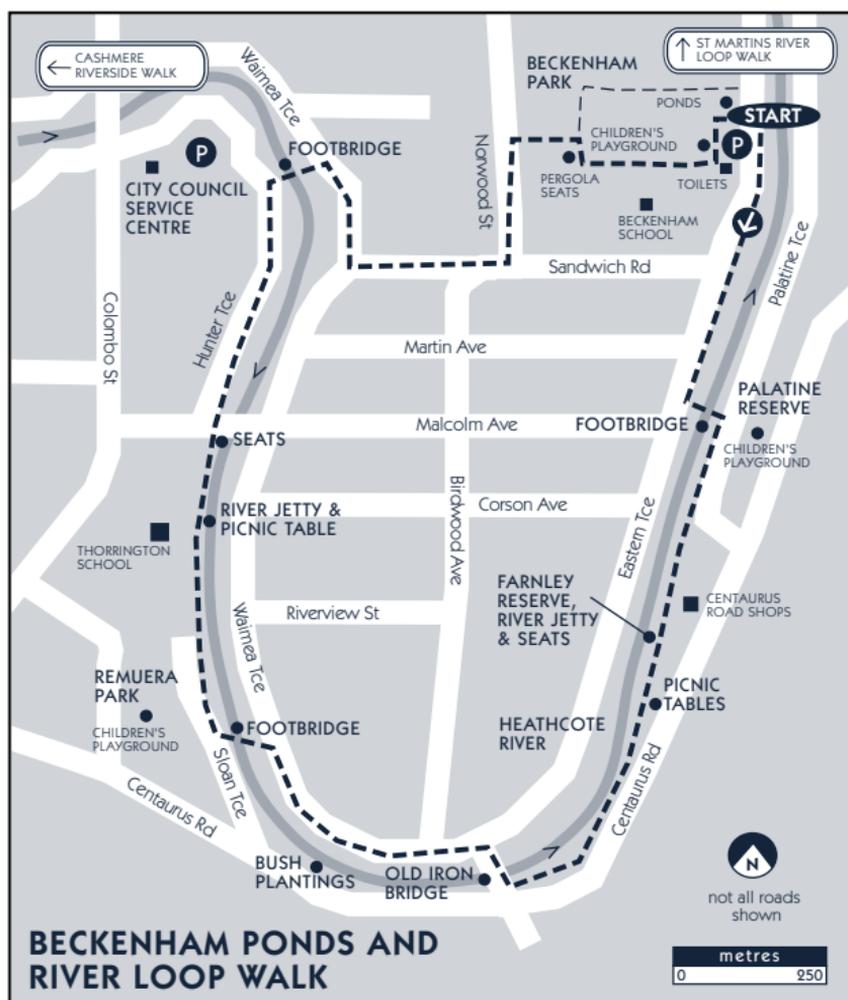
Ashgrove Reserve

This reserve is not a remnant of original native bush but was planted by Alfred Smart. Smart began planting native seedlings, which he had collected from the West Coast and Mt Grey, in 1906. He also constructed several ponds on the property, containing up to 5000 goldfish. When the property came up for sale in 1963 the Christchurch City Council, with the help of several other organisations, bought it for the city. The reserve contains good specimens of native trees including kahikatea, rimu, cabbage trees (ti kouka), a single kauri, tree ferns (punga), five finger (puahou), totara, New Zealand flax (harakeke) and ferns.

BECKENHAM PONDS AND RIVER LOOP WALK

Start:	carparking on Eastern Terrace, alongside Beckenham Park.
Time:	1 hour return.
Distance:	3 km.
Dogs:	can be exercised off the leash in Beckenham Park, except near playgrounds.
Short walk option:	there is a good path along the river in front of Thorrington School, from Malcolm Avenue to Sloan Terrace, 20 minutes return.

This walk follows a loop of the Heathcote River along banks of willows on a journey through the suburb of Beckenham. The walk begins and ends at Beckenham Park, which features the attractive ponds and rockery. Road crossings are few and none of them are busy, and several track sections are completely car free.



From Beckenham Park the walk follows the river upstream to the **footbridge** across to Palatine Terrace. Passing the tiny Palatine Reserve (**children's playground** here), continue along the pleasant track leading to Famley Reserve. This secluded rest area behind the Centaurus Road shops features a **river jetty**, sheltered **seats** and an unusual **eel sculpture**.

Continue along the grassy area by the river until you reach an **old iron bridge** on your right, which crosses to Waimea/Eastern Terrace. Follow the river upstream on Waimea Terrace for 500 metres and cross a ramp **footbridge**. Just on the left is the secluded **Remuera Park** (with **children's playground**).

Continue up the river along the attractive path in front of Thorrington School. Bush plantings have enhanced this area and there is another **river jetty** with posts decorated by the school children. Just before you cross Malcolm Avenue there is an attractive **seating area** beside the river. Continue along Hunter Terrace behind the Cashmere Club and cross the river again at the next **footbridge**. Turn right, then left into Sandwich Road. Follow this road, then turn left into Norwood Street to the main gates of Beckenham Park.

A walk through the park passes the seats under the **pergola** onto the **Beckenham Ponds** and rockery, which finishes the circuit. A large children's playground here as well, and the ponds make a perfect spot for a picnic. Beckenham rockery was planted in 1932 and has an excellent variety of native New Zealand shrubs, including hebe, olearia, senecio and fuchsia.

History

The Beckenham circuit area was used by Maori for gathering food. The land was marshy and consisted mainly of raupo swamp, but the only remaining area of the marsh today is the Beckenham Ponds, formed from natural springs. English settlers the Fisher brothers were the first people to farm the Beckenham district. In 1849 James Temple Fisher was given a 100-acre (40 hectare) block of land by his father-in-law, John Sockett Hooper, as a wedding present. Captain Stephen Fisher (James's older brother) bought a block of land the same size next to the Fisher Estate and named it Beckenham Farm, after his home town of Beckenham in Kent.

ST MARTINS RIVER LOOP WALK

Start:	carpark beside Waltham swimming pool.
Time:	1 hour return.
Distance:	3 km.
Dogs:	can be exercised off the leash in Waltham Park, except near playgrounds.
Short walk option:	following the riverside path along Fifield Terrace from Waltham Park to St Martins Road, 20 minutes return.

A riverside walk that follows the Heathcote River as it loops through the suburb of St Martins, and returns back through St Martins Park. There are two crossing points over the busy Wilsons Road, but one has a pedestrian island and the other a zebra crossing.



This walk starts at **Waltham Park** which has a **swimming pool, children's playground** and **toilets**. From the carpark, cross Fifield Terrace and pick up the **informal pathway** that goes down to a **river jetty** and seat.

This charming riverside pathway wanders along the riverbank all the way to the St Martins/Ensors Road bridge. Cross here, and a **pathway** continues a short distance along the river and then you continue along Fifield Terrace to the **footbridge**.

Cross to Derret Place, and at the end of this short road take the **alleyway** through to Prossers Road, and past **seats** where the road joins Wades Avenue. Walk down Wades Avenue past the St Martins shopping area and turn left up Wilsons Road to the zebra crossing.

Cross here, and turn into Gamblins Road, and after a short distance, turn right into **St Martins Park**. Follow the sealed path past the **children's playground** to Clouston Street and St Martins Road.

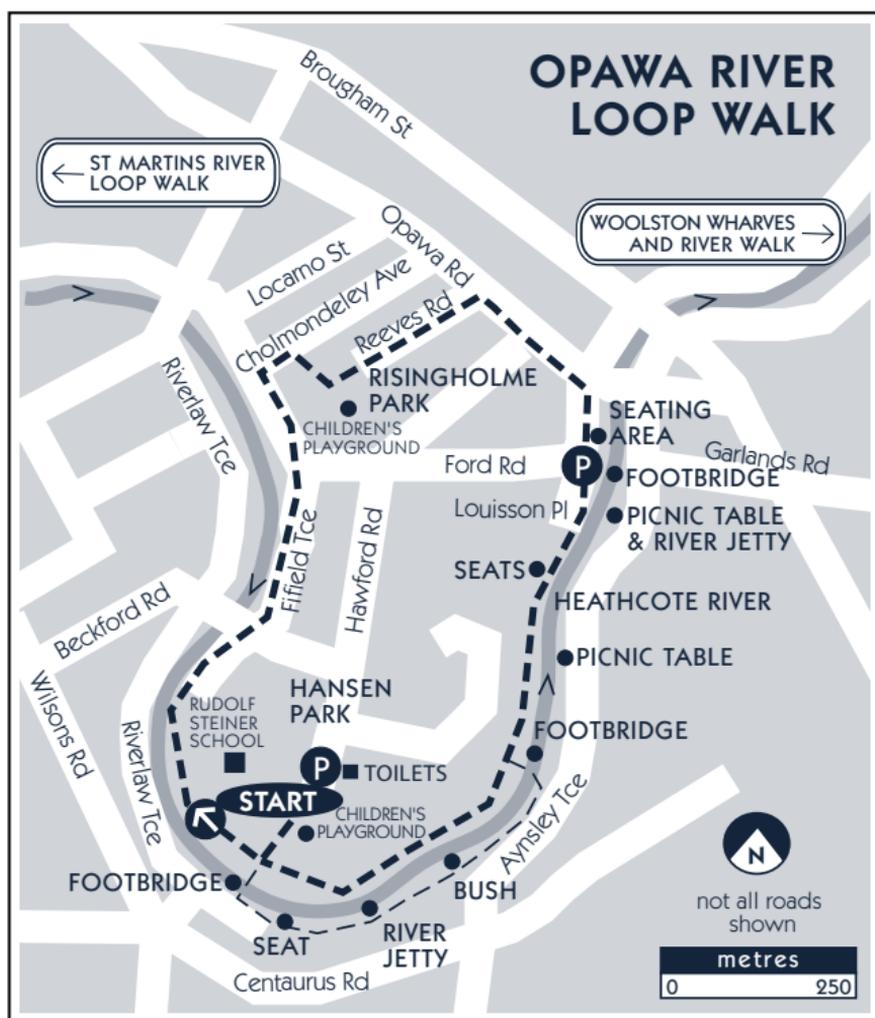
Turn left down the busy St Martins Road, cross, and turn right at Tennyson Street and right again into the quiet Riverlaw Terrace. Follow this pleasant section of river past the **seat** to Wilsons Road again, and cross at the pedestrian island to the Waltham swimming pool and carpark.



OPAWA RIVER LOOP WALK

Start:	carpark in Hansen Park.
Time:	1 hour return.
Distance:	4 km.
Dogs:	may be exercised off the leash in Hansen Park, except near playgrounds.
Short walk option:	a good sealed path runs through Hansen Park along the river, 30 minutes return.

This is a gentle river walk past many of the older character homes in Opawa, such as Risingholme, which is now a community centre. The walk also passes through the splendid Hansen Park. There are no busy roads to cross and half of the walk is traffic free.



From the carpark and **children's playground** in Hansen Park, a good sealed path goes down to the Heathcote River. Turn right, and wander upstream around the back of the Rudolf Steiner School to Fifield Terrace. Continue along this street to Cholmondeley Avenue and turn right into **Risingholme Park**.

The old stately home dominates this pleasant park and has been a community centre for over 50 years after J. R. McKenzie gave Risingholme to the city in 1943. Follow the path in front of the home, past the **children's playground** and over the **bush stream** to Reeves Road and onto Opawa Road.

Turn right along Opawa Road shops till you reach the river again, and cross to the **seat** and **footbridge** beside the Opawa Children's Library. Follow the riverside through Louisson Place to where a **sealed path** leads you into Hansen Park, with wonderful river outlooks and **seats**. This is a rare section of the Heathcote River where there are no roads on either side.

You can follow the sealed path through Hansen Park back to the carpark, or alternatively cross the **footbridge** and walk upstream along Aynsley Terrace to the **bush reserve**. This has been planted extensively with indigenous plants. Wander upstream past the **river jetty** and the backyards of several houses before reaching the **footbridge** that leads back to the carpark in Hansen Park.

History

A pa site in Opawa, at the junction of the present-day Judges Street and Vincent Place, was a resting place for Ngai Tahu travelling between Kaiapoi and Banks Peninsula. The pa was known as Opawaho, which refers to its function as an outpost (waho).

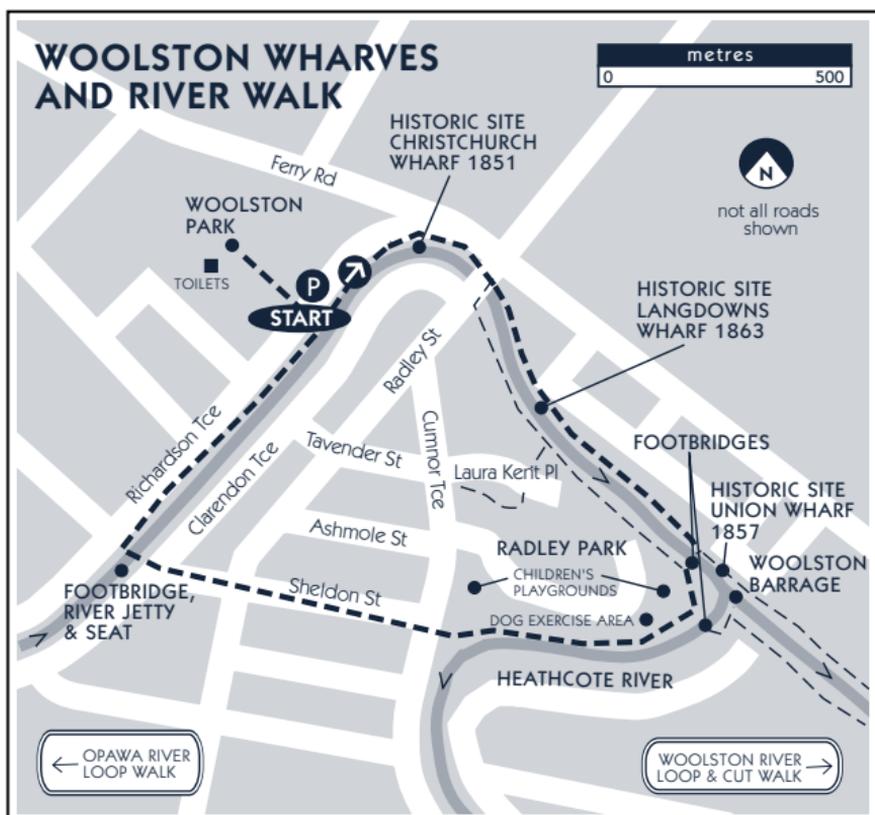
Originally the land now known as Hansen Park was flax wetland. In the early 1900's it was used as a gravel pit and rubbish dump and was known as Butler's Pit (after its owner). The park was later named after Dr D. Hansen in recognition of his contribution to the local community.

WOOLSTON WHARVES AND RIVER WALK

Start:	carparking on Richardson Terrace, opposite Woolston Park.
Time:	1 hour return.
Distance:	4 km.
Dogs:	may be exercised off the leash in Radley and Woolston Parks, except near playgrounds.
Short walk option:	a sealed path beside the river in Radley Park, linking with the three footbridges, 15 minutes return.

An interesting walk circuit, embracing several significant historic sites and many quiet and scenic river views. The only moderately busy road to cross is Radley Street (twice) otherwise this walk is relatively traffic free. The 'Little Venice' at Radley Park is appealing to children with its three footbridges.

From the stone entrance way of **Woolston Park** (toilets and **children's playground**) follow the riverside a short



distance to the **historic panel** marking the original site of the Christchurch Quay. Follow the path briefly beside busy Ferry Road, then cross over the Radley Street bridge.

Take the track on the northern side of the Heathcote River as it wanders along a pleasant **informal pathway** between the houses and the river. This is a lovely stretch of quiet waterway with a bollard marking the **historic site** of Langdowns Wharf built in 1863.

(Alternatively, take the south bank, where an informal track follows the bushy riverbank).

Walk past the first **footbridge** and another **bollard** and **river jetty** mark the site of the Union Wharf built in 1857. In a few steps you reach the **Woolston Barrage footbridge**, cross this, and then the third **footbridge** into **Radley Park** where there is a **children's playground**.

Follow the sealed pathway down the Heathcote River past the **dog exercise area** to Cumnor Terrace. Cross directly here into Sheldon Street and follow all the way back to Clarendon Terrace. Cross the **footbridge** here (with another **river jetty** and **seat**) and turn right and follow Richardson Terrace back to Woolston Park.



a Sunday, when the factories are silent and the famous Woolston industrial 'smell' is diminished.

From Long Street there is a pleasant carpark area at the junction of the Heathcote River and the Woolston Cut. Take the **sealed path** alongside the 'cut', which was built to ease flooding pressure on the lower Heathcote.

Cross the busy Rutherford Street to where the 'cut' again meets the Heathcote River at the **Woolston Barrage**. Cross the **footbridge** into **Radley Park** and turn left along the sealed path past the **children's playground** and downstream along the river, exiting onto Cumnor Terrace.

Follow this road around to the Garlands Road bridge and from here you can visit the historic **Woolston Cemetery** on the other side of Connal Street. For the main walk, cross Garlands Road and walk along King Edward Terrace. After a while you leave the road and follow the **grassy banks** around the curve of the river through extensive native plantings.

Pass the end of Staunton Street and the trail wanders through dense patches of toetoe and native shrubs, where you have a good chance of seeing a shag or kingfisher. Eventually the trail winds right around the inner curve of the Heathcote to meet Long Street, which you can follow back to the carpark.



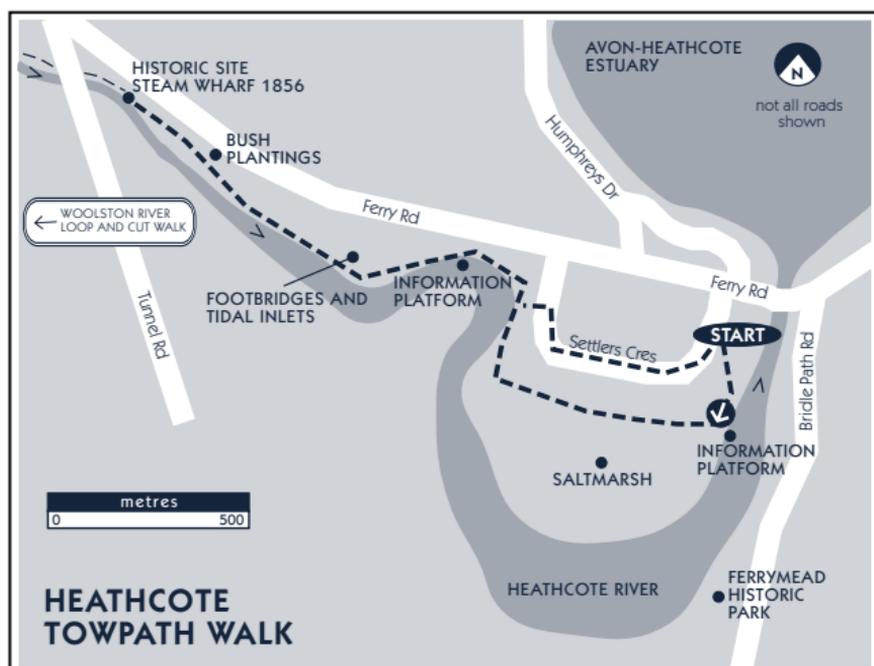
HEATHCOTE TOWPATH WALK

Start:	carpark at Settlers Crescent, off Ferry Road.
Time:	1 hour 15 minutes return.
Distance:	4 km.
Dogs:	must be kept on a leash around the estuary.
Short walk option:	the good path around the 'Devil's Elbow' section of the river, access from Settlers Crescent, 20 minutes return.

This is a wonderful walk along the estuarine saltmarsh of the lower Heathcote River, with extensive views of the Port Hills. Information panels highlight the historic and wildlife heritage of this area. No roads to cross at all. This walk is a 'there and back' walk, with a short-cut return option along Settlers Crescent. The walk is best at mid to low tide as some of the paths can get flooded at high tide.

From the Settlers Crescent carpark walk through the **grass passageway** to the **information platform** beside the Heathcote River. This is approximately the position of the **historic ferry** that was established by the early European settlers in 1851.

Follow the line of cabbage trees and macrocarpa beside the row of factories with wonderful views of the Port Hills



across the estuary. The track swings around the Devil's Elbow part of the river, so-named because it was a difficult feature to navigate through and reaches a **viewing platform**. Note the side-track access to Settlers Crescent.

Indigenous plants shield the busy Ferry Road and factories, and the track crosses several **footbridges** over small **tidal inlets** as it continues along the riverside. Most walkers will return once the track reaches the main road, but a short distance along Ferry Road is the **bollard monument** indicating the site of Steam Wharf, where the early coastal trading vessels used to moor from 1856 onwards.

History

After European settlement, the Heathcote River became a significant transport lane, connecting the city with the Port of Lyttelton. The Heathcote was a deeper tidal river than the Avon and it could accommodate more water traffic. Prior to the opening of the Lyttelton rail tunnel in December 1867, freight was ferried from Lyttelton to a location near the Ferrymead bridge. Ferry Road was the link between the town and the ferry wharf.

Cargo ships usually travelled up on the rising tide, but the river's meandering path made their journey slow. The Devil's Elbow is a noticeable kink in the river near the bird hide, where a strong tide and fickle winds made progress difficult for boats, so they were usually towed by horses. Christchurch Quay was near the present-day Radley Street bridge, and was also known as Radley Wharf. From here horses and drays carried goods to Christchurch. Freight charges were high and it cost almost as much to take goods between Lyttelton and Christchurch Quay as it did to bring the goods from London to Lyttelton.

There were several wharves along the Heathcote in the heyday of the 1860s, with industries established in Woolston to take advantage of the transportation service. Tanneries, wool scourers, brickworks and lime kilns were some of these industries, and some still remain. Small steam vessels used to be able to get to the present-day Ferry Road roundabout, and this area has been known as Steam Wharf ever since.

HEATHCOTE RIVER DAYWALK

quiet waterways and historic sites

There is a complete walking route of footpaths, footbridges and reserves along the Heathcote River, from the suburb of Beckenham all the way to the estuary. The walker can enjoy the city as a scenic pathway of changing river landscapes through public reserves that are traffic free and alongside roads that are quiet.

On this long distance walk the walker will pass seven parks and reserves, twelve footbridges, visit three historic Woolston wharf sites and see the charming 'little Venice' at the Woolston Cut. There is bush scenery on some river sections and several river jetties, picnic tables and seating areas. The walk ends by following the historic towpath around the saltmarsh to the last road bridge to cross the Heathcote River at Ferry Road.

Route

Following the bends of the Heathcote River from the Beckenham Service Centre on Colombo Street, through to the estuary on the Heathcote Towpath track to the Ferry Road bridge. The route takes the more direct line of the Woolston Cut.

Distance

10 km (via Woolston Cut).

Time

About 2 hours 30 minutes or 3 hours one way. This time is at a steady pace, with 10 minute breaks every hour. It also assumes that you will follow the Woolston Cut, however if you take the full Woolston River loop, then add another 30 minutes to the total time.

Estimated times: 1 hour to Hansen Park; 2 hours to Woolston Barrage; 3 hours to Ferrymead.

Roads and Traffic

Wherever possible the route has been directed along quiet riverside roads, and there are several long walking sections that are completely traffic free. There are few busy roads to cross and nearly all of them have either pedestrian islands or pedestrian lights. The only exception is St Martins Road.

Short-Cuts

It is obvious from the individual maps in the booklet that several river loops can be 'cut off' and significant time saved if you want to ensure a shorter journey.

Access

Bus routes service Colombo Street at Beckenham (by the Christchurch City Council service centre) and along Ferry Road at the end of the Heathcote Towpath track. Contact BusInfo for further information on ☎ 366 8855.

Be Prepared

Longer walks require a little more planning, including arranging transport, taking water bottle or thermos, food nibbles, warm clothing, camera and a rain jacket. Proper walking boots and two pairs of socks really help to cushion the sections of hard paving.

Toilets

Beckenham Service Centre, Beckenham Park, Hansen Park, Woolston Park.

Cafes

There are cafes at the Beckenham Service Centre, and several on Ferry Road near the end of the Heathcote Towpath.



Walk Description

From the service centre carpark (off Colombo Street) follow alongside the footpath on Hunter Terrace as it starts around the Beckenham Loop (see map on page 8). An attractive gravel path winds in front of Thorrington School past seats and a river jetty and reaches Sloan Terrace. After a short distance, cross the footbridge to Waimea Terrace.

Shortly along Waimea Terrace cross the iron bridge (once used as the Ferrymead bridge) and follow the sealed path along the riverside, then a grass path to Farnley Reserve and an interesting eel sculpture. Sheltered seating area here.

The gravel path continues behind the shops onto Palatine Terrace, then crosses the footbridge (opposite Palatine Reserve) to Eastern Terrace, and follows the river downstream past the serene Beckenham Ponds.

At Tennyson Street, cross to Riverlaw Terrace as you start around the St Martins river loop (see map on page 10). Cross the busy Waltham Road via the pedestrian island to the swimming pool and continue into the quiet Fifield Terrace. A grass pathway leads down to a river jetty, and you can walk along this pleasant section all the way to St Martins Road. The water levels at this river jetty can rise and fall by 20-30 centimetres in spring tides.

Cross the busy St Martins Road and continue along Fifield Terrace as it follows the inward curve of the river on a sealed path around the Opawa loop. This is a long and attractive traffic free section, and goes past the Rudolf Steiner School and into Hansen Park (see map on page 12). In autumn, bellbirds are often heard along this scenic river section.

The Hansen Park path crosses a footbridge over Jackson Stream and exits at Louisson Place. Cross Opawa Road and continue into Richardson Terrace, a lovely stretch of waterway.

Cross Radley Street at the bridge, with traffic lights and pedestrian signals, and continue along the north bank of the Heathcote on grass paths that lead past another historic wharf site (see map on page 14). You may see shags drying their wings along this section of waterway.

You can continue straight ahead or cross the first footbridge into Radley Park, then the second footbridge, then finally the Woolston Barrage footbridge. Good sealed footpaths (with seats) on either side of the alongside Woolston Cut, to where it meets the return of the Heathcote River again (see map on page 16). There are pedestrian islands across the busy Rutherford Street.

(If you are interested in walking the complete Woolston Loop see that walk in this booklet. Allow an extra 30 minutes to the total walk time).

The main riverside track skirts alongside the broad and estuarine Heathcote River, and at low tide a route goes underneath the Tunnel Road on a concrete platform. This can be slippery with river silt and driftwood. At high tide you will have to cross the Tunnel Road by the roundabout, utilising the pedestrian crossing island.

Both tracks meet at the footbridge across Steam Wharf Stream.

A grass pathway leads along the busy Ferry Road and this becomes the Towpath track (see map on page 18). This is traffic free for an enjoyable distance.

Footbridges cross small tidal inlets and the gravel path reaches a viewing platform and information panel beside the 'Devil's Elbow' kink in the river. Bird species likely to be spotted here include the white-faced herons, oystercatchers and gulls along the tidal shore.

The gravel path passes one end of Settlers Crescent and reaches the saltmarsh, with excellent views of the Port Hills and Castle Rock. The path continues along a line of macrocarpa trees to an information platform opposite Ferrymead Historic Park.

This was the site of the first European ferry across the river in 1851. The Towpath track finishes either on Settlers Crescent or just before the Ferrymead bridge on Ferry Road. Good bus services along Ferry Road to the city and several cafes here.

Further Information

We hope this booklet has inspired you to get out and explore your city. Walking can also help you keep active, meet new people and, improve your health.

There are over 70 walking groups in Christchurch. These groups welcome new members and between them, cater for all ages and fitness levels.

For further information on walking groups, or other recreation programmes, contact:

Christchurch City Council

Phone 941 6840

Fax 941 8267

e-mail Leisure&ParksCustomerCentre@ccc.govt.nz or visit www.active.christchurch.org.nz

Walks and Walkways

For information on walks and walkways in and around Christchurch, contact any of the following:

Christchurch City Council

☎941 6840

Or visit www.ccc.govt.nz/parks

This website also contains Area Fact Sheets which detail natural and human history, flora and fauna and management issues.

Department of Conservation

☎379 9758

Information Centre Christchurch

☎379 9629

Banks Peninsula District Council

☎328 8065

Waimakariri District Council

☎(03) 313 6136

Acknowledgements

Sketches by Ross Allan.

Most text has been taken from the popular *Walk Christchurch* book (now out of print).