

ISE VALLEY VAGABONDS

Oxford Permanent Trail BWF App No PT46

START & FINISH: Bathing Place Car Park, Wolvercote, Oxford OX2 8PJ
OS map 164 Grid Ref SP 487095 Distance 13km
Fee £1.00

Route last updated on 3 March 2016

This route description is valid from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

This walk has been established by members of the Ise Valley Vagabonds Walking Club (BWF Club No 70) and is a qualifying event in the IVV award scheme. It can be walked at any time. A good tourist map of the city centre will help identify the numerous colleges and other places of interest. You will also pass many locations that have been used in the TV series 'Morse', 'Lewis' and 'Endeavour' – see if you can spot them.

Leave the car park by the main entrance and turn right. Follow the road through the village. Continue ahead to the railway bridge. Walk on the left hand side over the bridge, then turn left down the steps to the Oxford Canal (Wolvercote Lock). Turn right, under the bridge and follow the towpath with the canal on the left (*for approximately 2.5km*). After just over 1km, you reach an opening bridge, number 238. Continue to approach bridge 240. Just before the bridge, there is a black post to the right.

QUESTION 1. WHAT BRIDGE IS AT HERITAGE TRAIL PONT 5?

At bridge number 242 (number is on the reverse side), go under and immediately leave the canal by turning right up the path to a road. Turn right over the canal keeping to the right hand side of the road, Walton Well Road. Ahead to reach the crossroads at the Victoria pub. At the crossroads, turn right along Walton Street, crossing over when safe to do so. As you cross the end of Observatory Street, look along the street to see the brightly painted houses. You are now in the Jericho district of Oxford. Keep ahead along Walton Street, soon passing the Jericho Health Centre to reach Oxford University Press on the right. On the left is a futuristic looking building.

QUESTION 2. WHAT IS HOUSED IN THIS BUILDING?

Ignore the left turn to the city centre (Little Clarendon Street) and keep ahead still on Walton Street. Turn left into Beaumont Street. Cross to the other side as soon as it is safe to do so and continue along Beaumont Street. Turn right along Magdalen Street. After St Mary Magdalen Church, turn left into Broad Street. (*The Oxford Information Centre is situated on Broad Street opposite Balliol College*). At the far end of Broad Street on the right, is the Sheldonian Theatre. Turn right into Cattle Street.

(The first road on the left is New College Lane. The covered arch/walkway is known as the Bridge of Sighs and has featured heavily in the TV series of 'Morse', 'Lewis' and 'Endeavour'. The first house on the left, after the arch, has been used as the location of a few murders in those series).

Pass through the bollards and keep ahead, into Radcliffe Square. On the left is an information board.

QUESTION 3. WHEN WAS THE RADCLIFFE CAMERA FINISHED?

Continue ahead, past the Radcliffe Camera (*large round building – Camera is Italian for ‘room’*) on the right. (*You pass St Mary the Virgin Church. It is possible to pay and go up the tower and walk around 3 sides of it. This gives excellent views over Oxford and the colleges*). Keep straight ahead along the alleyway between the buildings to emerge onto High Street. Turn left. Just before the traffic lights, turn right into Merton Street. (*Building #10, on the right, was used as the site of a bank raid in an episode of Endeavour, broadcast in 2016*). Ahead to reach Logic Lane, on the right. At the end, with a church (Christ Church) in front of you, bear right into Oriel Square, then bear left to turn left between black bollards into a narrow street (Bear Lane). Keep ahead, passing to the left of the pub (this is Blue Boar Street). At the end of Blue Boar Street, turn right and at the traffic lights turn left into Queen Street, staying on the left hand side. (*The tower on the right is Carfax Tower, which is the only remaining part of St Martin’s Church*). Follow Queen Street as it bears round to the right and go ahead into New Road. You will pass the former Oxford County Jail and come to an information board about Oxford Castle.

QUESTION 4. WHO WAS KING STEPHEN’S RIVAL IN 1142?

Cross the road and continue in the same direction. At the traffic lights, turn right into Worcester Street and at the next traffic lights, turn left along Hythe Bridge Street. After 100 meters you get to the bridge over the canal. (*There is a pedestrian crossing at the far side of the bridge if you need help in crossing the road*). Turn right along the Oxford Canal.

On reaching Isis Lock, cross the iron bridge and continue in the same direction, now with the canal on the right. (*On the right is Jericho Wharf, aka Jericho Boatyard. This has been the site of an ongoing dispute for many years, between the boat owners and the property owners and has meant the boat owners have been unable to use the moorings and boathouses that are behind the hoardings you can see*).

After approximately 500 metres, you reach bridge number 242. Leave the canal at bridge number 242 by bearing left up the path to the road. Turn left, cross William Lucy Way and then go over the railway bridge and follow the road to double green gates. Follow the bridleway sign straight across Port Meadow towards the river. Cross the wooden bridge and turn right heading towards a red iron bridge. Cross this bridge. Turn right. Go past Bossom’s Boatyard and continue to follow the river along the Thames Path (*for nearly 2.5km*) to Godstow Lock.

(Port Meadow on the opposite side of the river has been used as a common for grazing livestock since Medieval times. Horse racing also took place in the 17th century. It was also on this stretch of river that Lewis Carroll was inspired to write ‘Alice in Wonderland’).

Go past the lock and ahead to pass the Nunnery ruins. (*It was here that Henry II’s mistress Fair Rosamund died after being poisoned by his wife. We have another trail at Woodstock that passes Fair Rosamund’s Well*). Continue straight ahead over the grass to the gate and road. Turn right. Go over 2 narrow bridges and pass the

picturesque Trout Inn (*a favourite haunt of Inspector Morse*). Cross the road and continue ahead to cross a third bridge. Immediately after, there is a plaque on the left.

QUESTION 5. WHEN DID THE MONOPLANE CRASH?

Ahead for a further 20 metres to return to the car park.

We hope you have enjoyed the walk!

The Ise Valley Vagabonds have established other Permanent Trails at Bedford (2), Daventry, Kempston, Kettering, Kings Lynn, Leicester, London (2), Marston Moretaine (3), Rugby, Rushden, Stamford, Stratford upon Avon, Warwick, Wellingborough and Woodstock.

They are all qualifying events towards the IVV award scheme. Further information about these walks, the IVV, the club and all its activities can be found by visiting our Web Site www.vagabonds.org.uk

THE ORGANISERS ARE NOT LIABLE FOR ACCIDENTS, THEFT, AND/OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE BY THE ORGANISERS TO MAKE THIS A SAFE, ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE EVENT.

**ISE VALLEY VAGABONDS
PERMANENT TRAIL REGISTRATION FORM**

TRAIL	Oxford Permanent Trail	2017/1
ROUTE UPDATED	03 March 2016	
DATE WALKED		
NAME		
ADDRESS		
TEL		
EMAIL		
ADDITIONAL WALKERS		
ENTRY FEE	___ Walkers @ £1.00 (€2,00) each	Total £
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED		£
Please put my IVV stamps on a new set of Insert cards Yes/No		
ANSWERS		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Comments		
<p>If you have a problem with this trail, please try and resolve it with the organiser. If you are unable to resolve the problem, then please contact the BWF Trail Officer.</p>		
<p>Please enclose a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE (at least C6 (114 x 162mm) or DL (110 x 220mm)) with this form and send it to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carol Jones 138 Rushden Road Wymington Rushden Northants NN10 9LE</p>		