

# **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 15 September 2011

This route description is valid from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012  
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.

Leave the car park by the main entrance and turn right. Follow the road through the village to the railway bridge. Walk on the left hand side over the bridge, then turn left down the steps to the Oxford Canal. Turn right and follow the towpath with the canal on the left for approximately 2.5km.

**QUESTION 1. AFTER JUST OVER 1KM ALONG THE CANAL, THERE IS AN OPENING BRIDGE. WHAT NUMBER IS ON IT?**

At bridge number 242, 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, Waltonwell Road, to reach the crossroads at The Victoria pub.

**QUESTION 2. IN WALTONWELL ROAD, AT THE JUNCTION WITH LONGWORTH ROAD, THERE IS A DRINKING FOUNTAIN. WHO ERECTED IT?**

At the crossroads, turn right along Walton Street. 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 Oxford University Press on the right. Ignore the left turn to the city centre and keep ahead still on Walton Street. Turn left into Beaumont Street, crossing to the other side as soon as it is safe to do so. 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 Catte Street. Pass through the bollards and keep ahead, past Radcliffe Camera (large round building) on the right. 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.

**QUESTION 3. JUST BEFORE MAGPIE LANE, A PINK COLOURED BUILDING ADJOINS NO 4. THERE IS A PLAQUE ON THE SIDE OF THE PINK BUILDING. WHO WAS BORN IN THIS HOUSE?**

At the end, with a church in front of you, bear right into Oriel Square, then bear left to turn left into Bear Lane. Keep ahead into Blue Boar Street, passing the pub on the right. At the end of Blue Boar Street, turn right and at the traffic lights turn left into Queen Street. 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. 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. Turn right along the Oxford Canal. There is a pedestrian crossing at the far side of the bridge if you need help in crossing the road. On reaching Isis Lock, cross the iron bridge and continue in the same direction, now with the canal on the right. After approximately 500 meters, 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 and turn right.

**QUESTION 4. HALFWAY ACROSS THE BRIDGE, THERE ARE 2 PLAQUES. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE ENGINEER WHO RESTORED THE BRIDGE?**

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 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was also on this stretch of river that Lewis Carroll was inspired to write 'Alice in Wonderland'.* Go through the lock and pass the Nunnery ruins. *It was here that Henry II's mistress Fair Rosamund died after being poisoned by his wife.* 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 for a short distance to cross a third bridge. Immediately after, there is a plaque on the left.

**QUESTION 5. HOW MANY SYMPATHISERS ERECTED THE STONE?**

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), Chester, Daventry, Kempston, Kettering, Kings Lynn, London (2), Marston Moretaine (2), Rugby, Stamford, Stratford upon Avon, Warwick and Wellingborough. 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](http://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 2012(1)	
ROUTE UPDATED	15 September 2011	
DATE WALKED		
NAME		
ADDRESS		
ADDITIONAL WALKERS		
ENTRY FEE	Walkers @ £1.00 each	Total £
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED</b>		<b>£</b>
Please put my IVV stamps on a new set of Insert cards Yes/No		
<b>ANSWERS</b>		
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>		