

	ABINGDON TRAIL PT 264 - 10km			
START VENUE	Rye Farm Car Park, Bridge Street, Abingdon OX14 3HT (A415). **The Permanent Trail is open but please adhere to current restrictions and guidance **			
CAR & COACH PARKING	This car park has a height barrier (the coach park situated next to it has now closed). Drivers of high vehicles may want to try the Hales Meadow Car Park opposite (but this does get full at busy times). Parking for cars is free for the first 2 hours (with a ticket). The route passes several other car parks in Abingdon but these are mostly smaller and often busy at peak times and during the summer. The additional car parks are highlighted in the route description should you wish to start your walk from there.			
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Abingdon is served by several Stagecoach bus routes from Oxford & the surrounding areas. See their website for further details.			
GEOCACHING	The route has eleven geocaches on or near the route.			
DISTANCE/GRADE	10km - Grade 1			
TERRAIN	The route is on grassy tracks walking alongside the river and round fields, through parks and the town centre. It may be muddy after heavy rain.			
GENERAL INFORMATION	This walk takes you along the Rivers Thames and Ock. It explores the rich historical heritage of Abingdon which is England's oldest continuously occupied town. The Michaelmas Fair held early October is the longest street fair in Europe.			
REFRESHMENTS:	There are several places to purchase refreshments in Abingdon Town Centre.			
TOILETS	There is a toilet in the Hayes Meadow Car Park opposite.			
BWF / IVV	This trail is registered until 31 December 2021			
ROUTE DESCRIPTION CHECK/UPDATED	14 th September 2021 (Please check you are using the latest version if you printed this off a while ago).			
DATA PROTECTION	The data provided on this form will be retained until 1 st February 2022 for statistical analysis and will then be securely destroyed.			
ENTRY FORM	Please complete the section below and send your IVV log books, Payment and an SAE to the Contact Address. Please check the postage rate for weight/ thickness of the envelope. Overseas postage is more expensive.			
ENTRY FEE	£1.00 per walker (Cheques payable to: Lincolnshire Vikings Walking Club)			
AWARD	Sew-on cloth badge price £2.00. The cloth badge is shown at the top of this page. Quantity Required: _____			
SOUVENIER LOG BOOK	Free stickers for your souvenir logbook are available on request – YES/NO			
CONTACT/ ADDRESS FOR STAMPING OF BOOKS	Pat Charlton, 262 Wolsey Way, Lincoln, LN2 4ST Email: vov.lvwc@gmail.com <i>Please use this form (page 1) to submit your entry and claim IVV stamps</i>			
NAMES OF THOSE COMPLETING THE WALK				
DATE WALK COMPLETED		PAYMENT ENCLOSED	£	
EMAIL	(in case we need to contact you about your entry)			
PT POSTAL CARDS	Will be stamped if you do not wish to send your IVV books - YES/NO			
QUESTION 1		QUESTION 4		
QUESTION 2		QUESTION 5		
QUESTION 3		QUESTION 6		
If you are walking any of the following Permanent Trails and sending your IVV books in, you only need send to one organiser, they will arrange to pass your books to the other organiser who will then post back to you using your SAE. Hadrian's Wall Trail PT45, Lincoln Tourist Walk PT92, Nottingham City Trail PT100, Lincoln Town & Country Walk PT166, Victorian Legacies PT212, Temple Newsam House & Gardens PT216, Newark on Trent Jubilee Walk PT241, Sandringham House Royal Residence Trail PT242, Banks of the River Ouse in Selby PT248, Ermine St Trail PT273, Harrogate Spa Old & New PT276, Grantham Machine Gun Corp Armistice PT287, Lincoln Armistice Trail PT305.				

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

BWF DECLARATION	The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.
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SO = straight on; TR = turn right; TL = turn left; PC = pedestrian crossing

Exit car park to main road and TR. At the start of the bridge over river go down steps (next to the pink house). At bottom of steps TR and walk SO with river on your left to Abingdon Lock.

TL and cross the lock and then the weir.

Question 1: Who was in command of the Abingdon HQ? (See board part way along the weir)

SO. Follow path with river on your right to next bridge. TR to cross bridge (sign post Thames Path.) Follow path round the bend to Barton Fields Information Board.

Take the path that bears left towards a car park. Pass the Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre on your left. At road TL (Audlett Drive). TL into Thames View. TR into **Audlett Drive Car Park**. Follow path on right towards Waitrose and continue SO as path goes between buildings.

Cross Abbey Close and SO through the gates of Old Station House. Use PC to cross the next road then SO into Broad St. TR just before Library (by Mother & Child statue)

Question 2: There are 2 stones on the wall to the right of the arch. Look at the one furthest away from the arch – **What date is mentioned on the stone?**

Go up steps and through the archway then TL. TR to go down the subway. TL up ramp and at the top SO. TR at first road (Bath St). Cross the road when it is safe to do so and continue in same direction. After 200m approx. TL onto path through metal barrier with stone walls on both sides. At the road cross into The Albert Park and where the path splits TR. Continue SO.

Question 3: How many heads can you find on the monument to Albert? (human and animal)

TL downhill and SO over the grass towards the gate opposite the church. Just before the gate TL on path and at T-Junction TR. By the stone building TR to exit the park. TR. Cross Park Road and SO down Conduit Road passing Trinity Church. At the bottom of the road TL.

Continue SO to next PC, cross the road and continue in the same direction. Pass War Memorial (on the opposite side of the road). Keep SO into High Street. TR into West St Helens Street.

Approx. 50m before the church TR onto Ock Valley Walk. SO over bridge onto Ock Island (*Ock means Salmon*). Stay on this path until you reach a concrete path with a bridge on your right. TL to cross a small bridge.

SO to Drayton Road. Use PC to cross then TL. Enter park through barrier (just before Jewson's). SO with hedge on your left. TR by play area.

TL onto tarmac path. Cross next bridge (Tesco SO in the distance) TL by the Abingdon Gauging Station Site.

Question 4: Complete the map reference number of this station SU481409 _ _ _ _

After 200m approx. look for Anti-tank Dragon's teeth hidden in the grass on your left between left and right bend. (*The old canal bed of the Wilts & Berkshire Canal formed part of the 1940 GHQ Red Line stop line anti-invasion defence*)

Cross next bridge and at road TL into Mill Lane. Continue SO as Mill Lane becomes Mill Road.

At t-junction TL. Cross the road at next PC and continue in same direction. At roundabout TR (Caldecott Road).

The long avenue of trees at the side of this road were alongside the towpath of the Wilts & Berkshire Canal and the wide green road margin was the canal (now filled in).

At the next roundabout SO. When you reach the St. John's Ambulance building cross the road and continue in the same direction. Follow the path along St. Helen's Wharf with river on your right and passing the Old Anchor Inn. Just after the road signs for bend and road narrows, TL on path

As you go through the stone gate posts look at the base of the left hand one

Question 5: A flood level marker is shown – for what date?

SO in front of Long Alley Almshouses. Pass Brick Alley Almshouses on your right and TR in front of Twitty's Almshouses.

(Charles Twitty, who was born in Abingdon and became deputy auditor of the exchequer, governor and benefactor of the St. Margaret's Hospital, Westminster, left £1700 in 1709 as an endowment to provide the necessities of life for three poor men and women.

The Long Alley (1446), Twitty's (1707) and Brick alley (1718) Almshouses are still in use today, administered by Christ's Hospital, a charitable trust dating from 1553 (the most ancient of Oxfordshire's charities.)

Pass St Helen's Church (*C1110 the second widest church in England. The church is actually wider than it is long.*)

Go through the arch TL then immediately TR to cross the road **CAREFULLY** and go SO into East St. Helen's Street.

Number 30 – St Ethelwold's house in the heart of Medieval Abingdon, in what is now recognized as also having been the centre of a medium-sized Roman town, whose origins date back to the Early Iron Age. St Ethelwold was Abbot of Abingdon Abbey in 955. He restored the abbey after earlier disastrous Danish raids.

Number 28 – William of Orange (William III) stayed here on his way to London at the house of Thomas Medlycott Recorder of Abingdon 1675-88 M.P. for Abingdon 1688-89. Governor of Christ's Hospital Abingdon 1675-1716.

Follow the road round the bend to pass the Kings Head and Bell Public House. (*Charles I is reputed to have held a war council here in the upper rooms.*) TL to cross the road here and go through arch of County Hall & Museum

County Hall – The roof of this building is the scene for the unusual custom of bun throwing which started at the coronation of George III in 1760 and involves the Mayor and Councillors throwing buns to the people in the Market Square below, usually to commemorate Royal occasions. This tradition continues to the day and in 2012 bun throwing took place to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

The Museum also has a room dedicated to the MG car which has strong connections to this town. (The factory closed in 1980). The Museum is open 10am – 4pm Tuesday to Saturday and Bank Holidays.

Cross the road (**WITH CARE**) and go diagonally across the Market Square to an archway passage at the side of the Jewellers. Cross the road using the PC then TR.

TL to go through arch of the Abbey Gateway. TL then cross the road. TR on path just before first red brick building (Abbey House). Follow the path at the side of the building to emerge in Abbey Garden. TL and SO passing the gate to **Cattle Market Car Park** .

(Abingdon Abbey was founded in 675. As the 6th richest Abbey in Britain it was one of the first to be dissolved by Henry VIII in 1538.)

Follow the path round to pass the statue of Queen Victoria near a 5-way junction. (*Victoria was expelled from the Market Square, because she was in the way of the market traders!!*)

Question 6: Who presented the statue of Queen Victoria?

With your back to the statue continue SO (*you can see what remains of ruins to your right, these are not the Abbey buildings but a Victorian folly. The outlines of where Abbey buildings would have been are marked in the grass either side of the path ahead of you.*) Go through the gateway and TR **Abbey Close Car Park**.

Proceed **WITH CARE** on this narrow road and immediately after Dolphin House TL into Checker Walk. Continue SO through the 'Slype' passage and down the steps.

TR. Ahead, over the main road, you will see the Old Goal (*the former Berkshire County Prison built by and for Napoleonic Prisoners and now converted for apartments & business use*).

At the main road TL and make your way over the river and back to the car park.

(If you have started this walk at one of the other car parks in Abingdon then cross the river and TL down the steps by the pink house and follow the directions given at the beginning.)

Welcome back, Lincolnshire Vikings Walking Club hopes you enjoyed the Abingdon Trail.