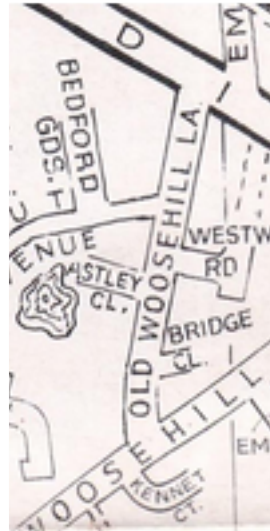
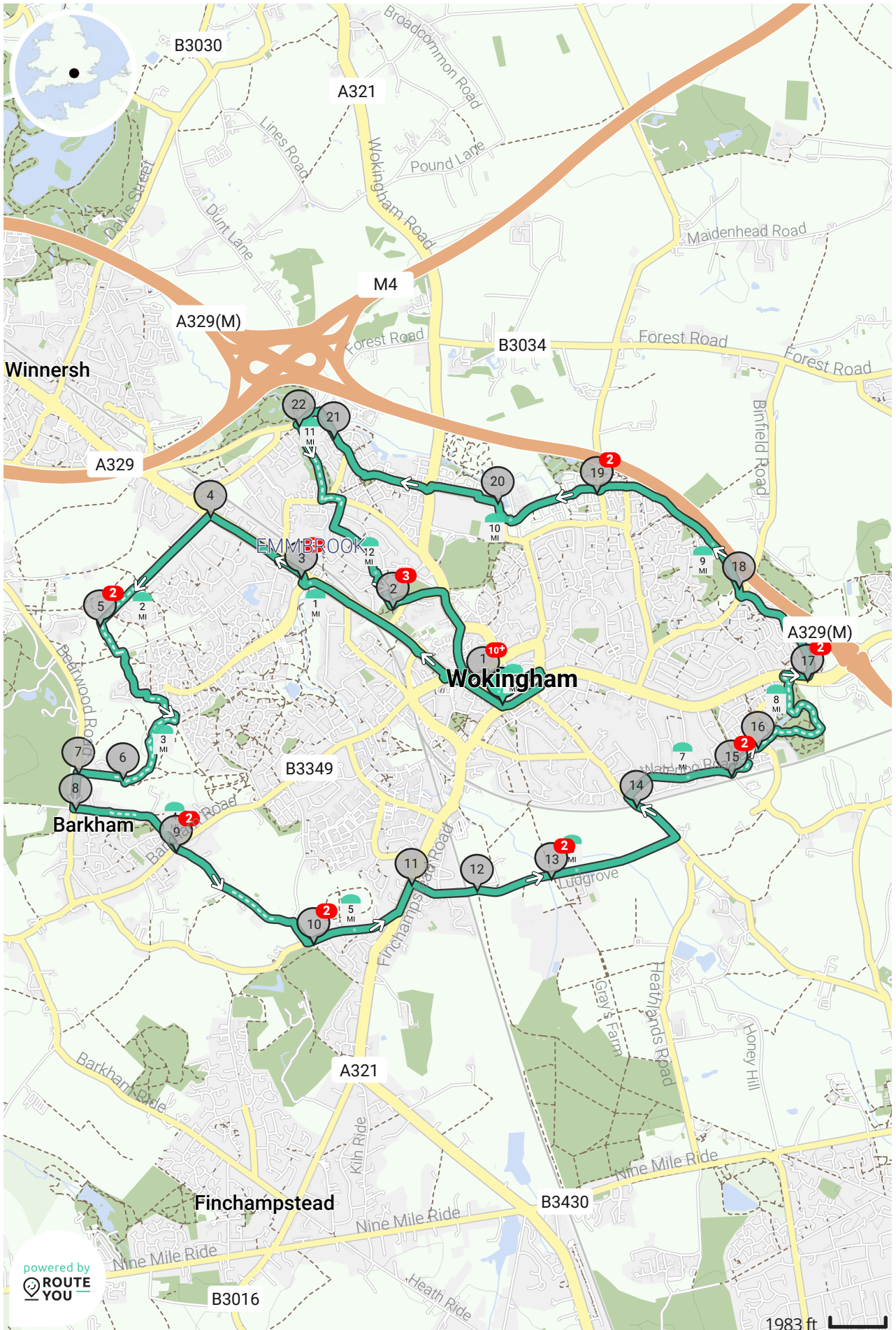

Wokingham - Beating The Bounds - 13 Miles

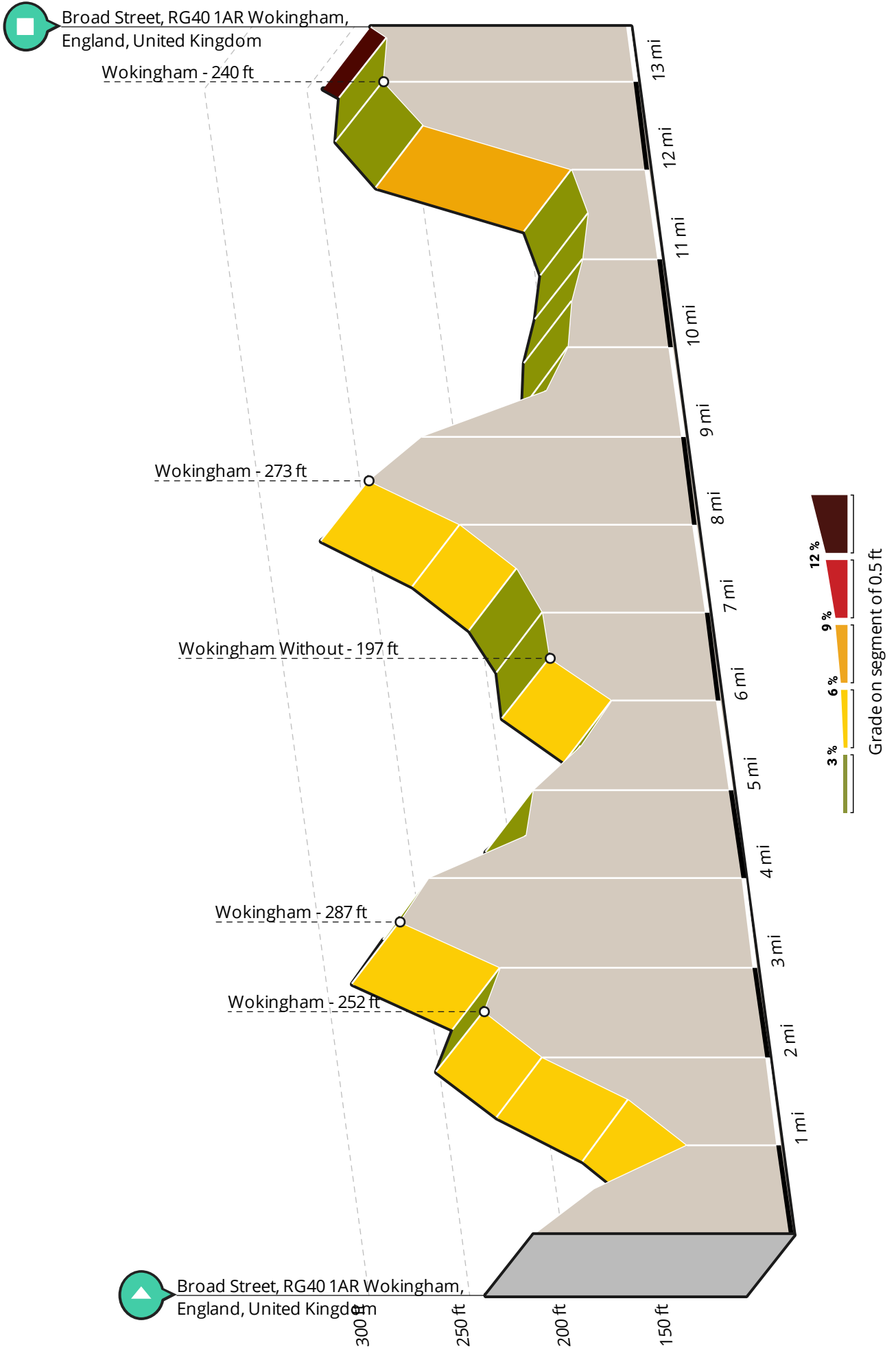
This route is offered to you by

The Wokingham Walk





map data: © OpenStreetMap Contributors; Cartography: © RouteYou



Wokingham - Beating The Bounds - 13 Miles



Length: 13.6 mi

Ascent: 509 ft

difficulty level: 8/10

Broad Street, RG40 1AR Wokingham, England, United Kingdom

Broad Street, RG40 1AR Wokingham, England, United Kingdom

Route description

'Beating the Bounds' was an ancient practice carried out to ensure the knowledge of parish boundaries was maintained and passed from generation to generation. This involved swatting local landmarks with branches to maintain a shared mental map of parish boundaries.

This new free event is being organised by Wokingham Town Council and Wokingham Lions Club, and features a route to walk as much of Wokingham town's boundary as possible. This will be approx. 16 miles following most of the perimeter of Wokingham Town Council's administrative area - the exact boundary cannot be walked due to inaccessibility in some areas. For people wishing to walk not quite as far, there will be a shorter walks of approx. 2 or 7 miles taking in parts of the Town Council boundary to enjoy.

Note that children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Place of interest

Wokingham Town Hall
(1), RG40 1AS, England

1 - Distance along route: 0.01 mi

You are starting your journey outside the Town Hall, built in 1860 to house not only the Town Council but also the Police and Fire Services. It replaced the earlier Guildhall, which had stood since Tudor times (Queen Elizabeth I referred to it as the 'clockhouse' in her 1583 charter for the Town).



Figure 1: Wokingham Town Hall



Figure 2: Wokingham Town Hall

The first picture is from 1905, the second shows the earlier Guildhall.

Market Place
Market Place (2), RG40 1AT, England

1 - Distance along route: 0.01 mi



Figure 3: Market Place

Boots, on the north side of Market Place, replaced the department store run by the Heelas family from 1800 until 1960. They also established a larger Department store in Reading, now owned by John Lewis.

The first photograph was taken in 1900 and the



Figure 4: Market Place

second about 1950.

The Electric Cinema, Broad Street
Broad Street 10 (3), RG40 1AB, England

1 - Distance along route: 0.06 mi



Figure 5: The Electric Cinema, Broad Street



Figure 6: The Electric Cinema, Broad Street

The building housing the Nationwide Building Society at 10 Broad Street was once the Electric Cinema, which opened in 1913. It later became the Savoy until closing in 1951.

Montague House
Broad Street (4), RG40 1AU, England

1 - Distance along route: 0.11 mi



Figure 7: Montague House (Source: *The house of Lt. Col. Williamson*)

Opposite the Elms is Montague House, with Chalk restaurant currently downstairs and managed apartments above. There was once an Elizabethan schoolhouse on this site, run by Henry Mountague, father and son. It was replaced by the current building at the start of the 18thC, designed for Lt Col Adam Wiliamson, at that time serving in the Army but later Governor of the Tower of London, as his country retreat.

In the early 20thC it housed Grosvenor House School, run by Laura Baker, before becoming a private residence and then a local authority adult education centre and library.

The Elms
Broad Street (5), RG40 1BA, England

1 - Distance along route: 0.13 mi

At 26 Broad Street The Elms presents a Georgian brick exterior which covers a much earlier wooden 16C interior. That material contributed to a massive fire in 2011 which gutted much of the building and destroyed the roof. It was renovated and now contains nine elegant flats.

The second picture shows the fire in 2011.



Figure 8: The Elms



Figure 9: The Elms



Tudor House

Shute End (6), RG40 1BD, England



- Distance along route: 0.17 mi



Figure 10: Tudor House

At the end of Broad Street stands Tudor House. At the beginning of the 20thC it was home to Laura Baker’s Grosvenor School before she moved it to Montague House. It later became offices and a surgery before reverting to a private house again.

In the 1920s the brick frontage was replaced with

timber and plaster to give the house its current appearance.

Image: Tudor House when it was Laura Baker’s Grosvenor School



Shute End and the Terrace

The Terrace (7), RG40 1BP, England



- Distance along route: 0.23 mi



Figure 11: Shute End and the Terrace

At this point Broad Street becomes Shute End, its name coming from the Anglo-Saxon word ‘shete’ meaning ‘land that stands out’. On the right The Terrace is on a raised surface.

No 15 The Terrace is possibly the oldest building in Wokingham, although now covered by Georgian brickwork.

Opposite Station Road is the Queen’s Head, a barn in the 15thC, becoming a pub in around 1777. It has a cruck (curved) roof frame, uncommon in the south of England.

The picture shows Shute End and The Terrace in 1859



St Paul’s Rectory

Station Road (8), RG40 2AD, England



- Distance along route: 0.26 mi



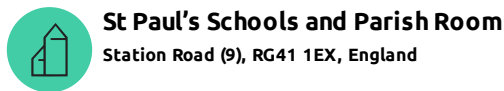
Figure 12: St Paul’s Rectory



Figure 13: St Paul's Rectory

On the corner of Broad Street and Station Road are the Wokingham Borough Council offices. The central part was once the Rectory for St Paul's church in Reading Road ahead of you.

The second image is from a 1911 map.



1 - Distance along route: 0.31 mi



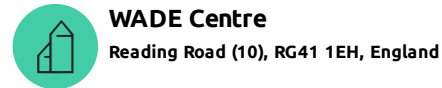
Figure 14: St Paul's Schools and Parish Room



Figure 15: St Paul's Schools and Parish Room

The building on the other side of Station Road once contained St Paul's infant and junior schools and a parish room in the reign of Queen Victoria erected by John Walter III of Bearwood, owner of The Times newspaper, and enlarged by his son Arthur Fraser Walter in the early 20thC.

The plaque (pictured) was designed and presented to the parish of St. Paul by Thomas Edward Ellison of The Elms in 1911.



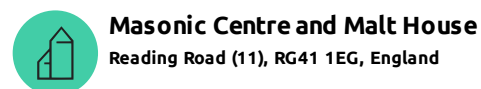
1 - Distance along route: 0.41 mi



Figure 16: WADE Centre

Past Imperial Court on the left is the day care centre for the Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly (WADE). The main building dates from the late 16thC and is Grade II* listed.

Title deeds from 1671 describe it as a "house with outhouses, barns, stables, orchard and an enclosure of land". At some point it acquired the name Woodlands, changed to Litlecourt in the 1930s. It was bought by WADE in 1974.



1 - Distance along route: 0.41 mi

A little further along on the right is the Masonic Centre. Over the original entrance door in the brickwork is the date 1624 and initials R. and E. H. which are believed to refer to Richard Harrison and his wife. It is thought that in the early 18thC Richard Hawe, brewer, who owned property, including "Beches" and "Holt" had the Malt House built as part of his brewery.



Figure 17: Masonic Centre and Malt House

In the early 20thC it became a store house and then an indoor bowling rink before being acquired by the Masons in 1946.



1 - Distance along route: 0.46 mi



Figure 18: Beaches Manor



Figure 19: Beaches Manor

Beeches Manor Care Home is built on the site of Beaches Manor House. The Manor of Beaches dates from at least the 15thC and covered extensive land in this area. It is thought that the name derived from the de la Beche family, despite no record of them living in this vicinity. The name varies between Beaches and Beeches over time.

The Manor House was probably rebuilt on a number

of occasions, lastly becoming a hotel before being destroyed by fire in 1953. The pictures/map date from 1910.



1 - Distance along route: 0.55 mi



Figure 20: St Paul's Church



Figure 21: St Paul's Church

By the mid-19thC Wokingham had become too large for its single parish and the church of All Saints at the east end of town. St Paul's Parish Church and its associated churchyard were created in the west end of Wokingham by John Walter III. He purchased the land and built the church at his own expense.

On September 2nd 1862 Mrs. John Walter laid the foundation stone and Bishop Samuel Wilberforce consecrated the church on July 23rd 1864. The picture shows John Walter III

Skew Bridge and Free Church Burial Ground
Reading Road (14), RG41 1EH Finchampstead, England

2 - Distance along route: 0.71 mi



Figure 22: Skew Bridge and Free Church Burial Ground



Figure 23: Skew Bridge and Free Church Burial Ground

You will soon cross over the railway line between Reading and London Waterloo. The line is at an angle below so the pink wall you pass on your left is called a skew bridge.

Just past the wall is a turning to your left. This would take you to the Free Church Burial Ground, which was established jointly in 1921 by representatives of Wokingham Baptist and Wesleyan Churches, for the benefit of nonconformists of Wokingham and district. Other residents of Wokingham have also been buried there from about 1977.

Emmbrook House
Rotherfield Avenue (15), RG41 2EX, England

3 - Distance along route: 0.95 mi

Near the Woosehill Roundabout there is a turning into Rotherfield Avenue, which runs parallel to the Reading Road. Once this was the site of Emmbrook



Figure 24: Emmbrook House



Figure 25: Emmbrook House

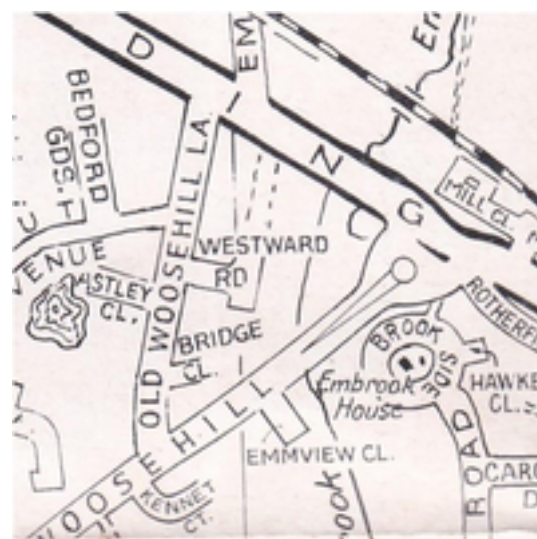


Figure 26: Emmbrook House

House, described in 1771 as a 'mansion' and one of only five houses in Wokingham specifically named on a map of 1790. It became part of the Bearwood estate when John Walter III purchased it in 1836 and was substantially altered thereafter. In 1911 it was sold and in 1936 acquired for use as a residence and stables by the Francis family whose son was the Queen Mother's jockey and, later, crime writer Dick Francis. It was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the Brookside circle of houses.

The pictures show maps of the area from 1790, 1883

and the 1970s.

 **Wescott's Mill**
Mill Close (16), RG41 1EP, England


 - Distance along route: 1.0 mi



Figure 27: Wescott's Mill



Figure 28: Wescott's Mill

North of the roundabout there used to be the Emmbrook Mill (Mill Close marks its location), previously known as Wescott's Mill. The original mill was destroyed by fire in 1884, at which time it served as a paper mill. It was reconstructed as a corn mill and in 1904 it was bought by Frank Heelas, a member of the Heelas family who owned department stores in Wokingham and Reading. He widened the mill run for greater efficiency and managed the mill until 1962.

Images show Wescott's (not Westcott's) Mill and The Millhouse garden

 **Woosehill**
A329 130 (18), RG41 1HD, England


 - Distance along route: 1.06 mi



Figure 29: Woosehill



Figure 30: Woosehill

When you come to the Woosehill Roundabout, there is a large housing development of Woosehill, accessed by the Spine Road. It was built in the 1980s and, before then, it was largely grass and farmland.

The images show maps from the 1870s and 1970s.

 **The Rifle Volunteer**
Reading Road 141 (21), RG41 1HD, England


 - Distance along route: 1.16 mi



Figure 31: The Rifle Volunteer

Near the roundabout, on the north side, is the Rifle Volunteer. This was built as an inn in 1859 and just



Figure 32: The Rifle Volunteer

called The Volunteer originally. It was immediately purchased by John Walter III, with the condition that no other pub should be built within three-quarters of a mile. It acquired its current name in 1883. The first picture shows The Rifle Volunteer in 1910

Brickworks
Reading Road 141 (20), RG41 1HD, England

3 - Distance along route: 1.17 mi



Figure 33: Brickworks



Figure 34: Brickworks

Near the Woosehill Roundabout you come to a Shell Garage. In about 1870 there were a brickworks and kiln on this site but they had gone by 1897.

Images show maps from 1870 and 1900.

Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 1

4 - Distance along route: 1.55 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points.

Reading Road/Simon's Lane

Simons Lane to Fox Hill
Camellia Way (22), RG41 3NB, England

5 - Distance along route: 2.2 mi



Figure 35: Simons Lane to Fox Hill



Figure 36: Simons Lane to Fox Hill

Turning from Simons Lane takes you up to Fox Hill woods, once part of the Bearwood Estate and now an area cared for by The Friends of Fox Hill, with ownership partly private and partly in the hands of the Borough Council. There is a BMX track, sometimes also used by motorcyclists.

Pictures: Base map copyright Wokingham Borough Council. Supplementary information by Friends of

Fox Hill.

Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 2

5 - Distance along route: 2.2 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points.

Cameilia Way Extension

Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 3

6 - Distance along route: 3.25 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points.

Highland Avenue Woods

Bearwood
Bearwood Road (23), RG41 4SR, England

7 - Distance along route: 3.44 mi



Figure 37: Bearwood



Figure 38: Bearwood

At the junction of Highlands Avenue and Bearwood



Figure 39: Bearwood

Road, the Bearwood Estate is across the road. It was once common land as the map pictured indicates. The current estate was acquired by John Walter II, proprietor of the Times, in the early 19thC and his son, John Walter III, built a large mansion (now Reddam House School) as well as St Catherine's Church and an inn (now The Walter Arms) opposite the entrance to his house).

The images are of a Thomas Pride map from 1709, Bear Wood (Now Reddam School) and St Catherines Church.

Sandy Lane
Sandy Lane (24), RG41 4SS, England

8 - Distance along route: 3.61 mi



Figure 40: Sandy Lane




Figure 41: Sandy Lane

Shortly you will turn left into Sandy Lane, which is a metalled road at either end but an unmade path in the middle. After the first set of houses you will see Barkham Recreation Ground (pictured) on your right.

The Lane passes Garden Angels before taking a bend to the right. Shortly thereafter on the left is a road called The Shires. This was recently sold at auction for £10 by a developer.

In 2023 a number of parcels of woodland along Sandy Lane were put up for sale or auction and, presumably applications for building permission will follow in due course (pictured).

 **Doles Lane**
Doles Lane (25), RG41 4BY, England


 - Distance along route: 4.1 mi




Figure 42: Doles Lane (Source: John Norden's 1607 map)



Figure 43: Doles Lane (Source: 1933 map)

Crossing Barkham Road you enter Doles Lane. Doles Farm is to your right, but 'Doles' as a location predates both the farm and the lane, appearing on a map drawn by John Norden in 1607 (Pictured).

 **Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 4**

 - Distance along route: 4.1 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. Doles Lane

 **Evendons Lane**
Evendons Lane (26), RG41 4EH, England


 - Distance along route: 4.82 mi



Figure 44: Evendons Lane




Figure 45: Evendons Lane


Going Down Blagrove Lane you turn left onto Evendons Lane. The earliest name for this area was Yhenedon (1241) but by 1600 it was also known as Indens, as shown on the map.

On the right is Manor Road, but the old Manor House was demolished in the 1860s.

At the end of the Lane is Evendons Junior School. In the early 1900s the main house was occupied by the Garard family, goldsmiths and jewellers to the Royal Family. It became White House School in 1947 and then, after considerable local effort, it became Wokingham's first free school in 2014.

Pictures: 1790 map and The White House School

 **Kimel Cafe**

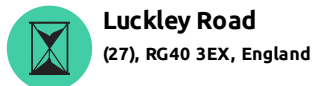
 - Distance along route: 4.88 mi

Kimel Cafe will be open for the duration of the



Figure 46: Kimmel Cafe

Wokingham Beating the Bounds event and also has toilets.



Luckley Road
(27), RG40 3EX, England

11 - Distance along route: 5.36 mi



Figure 47: Luckley Road

On Luckley Road, Luckley House (formerly Luckley-Oakfield) School is on your right. It was formerly a private house, built in 1901 and is now a listed building. Earlier, Luckley Manor was on this site, owned by the Palmer Family from the 17thC.

Passing under the railway bridge you find the road divides. The left fork takes you a little out of your way to Henry Lucas Hospital, Wokingham's only grade I listed building. It was formerly an alms house built in 1666 on land purchased from the Palmer family from a bequest in the will of Henry Lucas. It is now a private house.

The pictures show Luckley House and Lucas Hospital painted by later relative Frederick Lucas Lucas.



Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 5

12 - Distance along route: 5.66 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. Luckley Road



Ludgrove School
(28), RG40 3AA Ludgrove, England

13 - Distance along route: 5.99 mi



Figure 48: Ludgrove School (Source: Roque's map of 1761)



Figure 49: Ludgrove School

There is a path down from the left-hand side of Lucas Hospital to the road that forked right. This road takes you to Ludgrove School.

In the 17thC this had been the site of Tanglely Farm. In 1887 it was replaced by a new building to house Wixenford School, moved from Eversley in Hampshire.

Pictures shows Roque's map of 1761 and Wixenford School.



Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 6

13 - Distance along route: 5.99 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. Ludgrove

Star Lane and Waterloo Road
 Star Lane (29), RG40 2JB, England

14 - Distance along route: 6.76 mi



Figure 50: Star Lane and Waterloo Road (Source: Waterloo Road)



Figure 51: Star Lane and Waterloo Road (Source: Waterloo Lodge)

At the end of the road from Ludgrove School you turn left onto Easthampstead Road and go up to Star Lane level crossing. Network Rail has recently named this as one of the most dangerous crossings in the country so do take care.

The road on the other side of the crossing used to be called Star Lane, taking its name from The Star Inn at the Northern end. The inn closed in 1909 and was replaced by shops.

You turn right into Waterloo Road, the first road on your left being Rances Lane, named after the Rance Family who ran The Plough inn on London Road. Just beyond was once Waterloo Lodge, where John Walter II's son Arthur Fraser was born in 1846.

The pictures show a map of Star Lane and Waterloo

Road from 1875 and Waterloo Lodge in an 1887 map.

Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 8

15 - Distance along route: 7.29 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. End of Clay Lane

Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 8

15 - Distance along route: 7.29 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. End of Clay Lane

William Heelas Way
 William Heelas Way (30), RG40 1GS, England

16 - Distance along route: 7.54 mi



Figure 52: William Heelas Way

Here you cross the major new road called William Heelas Way.

You are in the first of the housing areas of the South Wokingham Strategic Development, known as Montague Park, after Montague House in Broad Street, Wokingham.

William Heelas was a wool merchant who came to Wokingham in the 1790s and sent up a trade which, in due course, led to the establishment of Heelas department stores in Wokingham and Reading.

The path on the other side of the road runs through Buckhurst Meadows, named after nearby Buckhurst House, which was William Heelas's home from 1840 until his death in 1864. It is now the Hilton St Anne's Manor hotel.

Picture of Buckhurst House from 1908.

Oak Avenue
(31), RG40 1PD, England

17 - Distance along route: 8.35 mi



Figure 53: Oak Avenue

Having crossed London Road you turn into Oak Avenue, which is the eastern end of the North Wokingham Distributor Road, opened in 2022. The road connects the new housing developments in north Wokingham as well as allowing traffic to avoid the town centre.

On the right you will see the Oakingham Belle public house. This version of the town's name was used by mapmakers in the 18th and 19th centuries, giving rise to the belief that it derived from the oaks in Windsor Forest, of which the area was once a part. In fact Wokingham has always been the correct name since first recorded in the 12thC.

Just to add to the oak theme, you have Catkin House and Acorn House a few doors up from the pub. Picture of developer's map for the new development.

Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 8

17 - Distance along route: 8.35 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. Corner of Oak Avenue

Diamond Jubilee Way
Diamond Jubilee Way (32), RG40 5PQ, England

18 - Distance along route: 8.9 mi

When Oak Avenue crosses Binfield Road its name changes to Diamond Jubilee Way, since its



Figure 54: Diamond Jubilee Way (Source: Keephatch Nature Reserve)

completion coincided with the celebration of the 60th year of Queen Elizabeth II's reign.

The green space to your right is Keephatch Nature Reserve, a nine hectare area of woodland, a small meadow and two ponds. The woodland is mainly made up of oak and birch, with horse-chestnut, sycamore, Norway maple and ash.

Further along on your left you cross Barford Drive, named after Dr J.G. Barford, whose identification of contamination in the town's water supply in 1871 led to the establishment of a more competent water authority.

The next but one road is Wheeler Avenue in recognition of the Wheeler family's contribution to the town as surgeons, aldermen and solicitors in the 19thC.

Picture - Developer's map of area.

Dalley Road
Dalley Road (33), RG40 5AP, England

19 - Distance along route: 9.68 mi

You cross the roundabout at Warren House Road, the name being associated with the inn to the north but, earlier, with it being an area for rabbits being managed by a warrener. The Distributor road then changes its name to Dalley Road, Edward Dalley being the Alderman of Wokingham in the mid-19thC.

A little way along on the right is Goddard Crescent. Charles Goddard (1861-1946) was a Police Superintendent in Wokingham. He was awarded the King's Police Medal in 1924, particularly for services

Front
*In memory of
 Robert Lockhart
 A Private in the Scots Greys
 who after fighting bravely in the Battles of
 Alma, Balaklava, Inkerman
 And Tourmare
 died on the road on the
 march of the troop from
 Farnham to Wokingham
 On the 26th July 1836
 Aged 26 years
 "Watch therefore for we
 know not neither the day nor
 the hour when the end
 of man cometh"*



The memorial stone at the Baptist burial ground, Milton Road, Wokingham

Figure 55: Dalley Road

during WW1, in which he set up a force of Special Constables to act in the event of a hostile aircraft invasion. He was one of the officers who investigated the disappearance of Agatha Christie in 1926. His colleagues were convinced that she was dead but Goddard, being aware of her marital problems, was convinced that she was alive and would return in her own good time, which she did.

The following road on the left is Lockhart Drive. : Private Robert Lockhart (1830-1856) of the Scots Greys died on the Sandhurst Road on a march to Wokingham en route to Ireland on Wednesday 26th July 1856.

From his memorial stone:
 Front

In memory of Robert Lockhart

A Private in the Scots Greys who after fighting bravely in the Battles of Alma, Balaklava, Inkerman And Tourmare died on the road on the march of the troops from Farnham to Wokingham on the 26th July 1836 Aged 26 years "Watch therefore for we know not neither the day nor the hour when the end of man cometh"

Side

This stone was erected by subscriptions collected by Sergt. J. Hibbert Assisted by the Officers of the Scots Greys March 1886

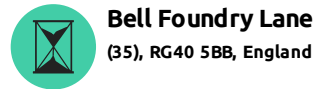


Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 11

19 - Distance along route: 9.72 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points.

Dalley Road



Bell Foundry Lane
 (35), RG40 5BB, England

20 - Distance along route: 10.23 mi



Figure 56: Bell Foundry Lane



Figure 57: Bell Foundry Lane

Bell Foundry Lane. This is an old road that takes its name from Bell Founders Farm, long gone but thought to be the home of Roger Landon, whose foundry was in Smyth Place, north of Broad Street, in the 16thC.

After the road bends left you come to Eldridge Park on your right, a new development which remembers Thomas Eldridge, who took over the foundry in the 17thC. The first road on the right bears his name.

A little further on the next road on the right is Bingham Drive. John Bingham (pictured) owned Lucan's Bistro on the corner of Easthampstead Road and Peach Street until 2000. He was one of the organisers of the Winter Carnival and impersonated Father Christmas on many occasions. He was Vice-Chairman of the Wokingham Society until his death

in 2016.

On your left along the road is Cantley Park, with playing fields, and a hotel - Cantley House, once Matthews Green House - and restaurant.

Cantley Park is where Wokingham's Annual Charity Fireworks display is held - <https://www.wokingham-fireworks.co.uk>

Pictures: John Bingham, Wokingham Piazza development plans in 2004. (l-r) Cllr Garry Cowan, John Bingham, Peter Smee, and Cllr Philip Harding, and Cantley House

 **Toutley Road**
 Toutley Road (36), RG41 1QL, England


 - Distance along route: 11.06 mi



Figure 58: Toutley Road



Figure 59: Toutley Road


Queens Road turns into Toutley Road a little further along. This stretch of the road was already there before becoming part of the Northern Distributor Road. It takes a 90% turn left onto a newly

constructed section leading down to Reading Road. Off the bend, to the right, is Monkey Mates, a children's activity centre.

To the right of the new section is Old Forest Road, where Toutley Hall, once a significant mansion, now houses a number of flats. To the left are the newly landscaped Old Forest Meadows, provided by the housebuilders as part of the planning obligations for the new development you have passed through.

The pictures show a 1816 map with Toutley Common and a 1897 map with Toutley Hall.

 **Wokingham "Beating the Bounds" Point 10**

 - Distance along route: 11.31 mi

One of Wokingham's Beating The Bounds points. Emmbrook Walk

 **Holt Copse and Joel Park**
 Holt Lane (37), RG41 1EE, England


 - Distance along route: 12.34 mi



Figure 60: Holt Copse and Joel Park

Holt Copse and Joel Park is, at 9.3 hectares, the largest and most diverse of the 8 parks managed by Wokingham Town Council. The land has a long history going back to at least the 15th century. As coppice and meadows they were part of the Beaches Manor and later Holt estates. In 1924 the owners transferred some land to the Borough of Wokingham for pleasure gardens. Councillors named this Joel Park after Solomon Joel, a local financier and benefactor.

In 1935 two avenues of trees were planted in Holt Meadows (now part of Joel Park) - a long avenue of green oaks inter-planted with silver birches and a short avenue of red oaks inter-planted with

Lombardy poplars. The long avenue is now called Jubilee Avenue and the short avenue, Connaught Avenue.



Holt School

Holt Lane (38), RG41 1EE, England



- Distance along route: 12.44 mi



Figure 61: Holt School

The main building of the school is Grade II listed. It dates back to the late 16thC when it was part of the Manor of Beaches.

For about 100 years it was owned by the Whitlock family but was sold in 1674 to Richard Hawe, a brewer, and then by 1762 to the Webbs, who were also brewers.

Ater a number of different owners it was bought in 1859 by John Heelas, son of William Heelas who had started the draper's shop that became a department store in the Market Place.

The Holt remained in Heelas ownership until 1929, when John's son Daniel died. At that point it became Holt School and additional buildings were constructed in the gardens of the house.

The picture shows the Holt when in private ownership



The Auction Rooms Formerly The British School, 1841



- Distance along route: 12.88 mi

In 1836, members of the non-conformist Baptist Church in Milton Road decided that "provision should be made for the daily instruction of children of dissenting parents whose poverty prevented



Figure 62: The Auction Rooms Formerly The British School, 1841



Figure 63: The Auction Rooms Formerly The British School, 1841

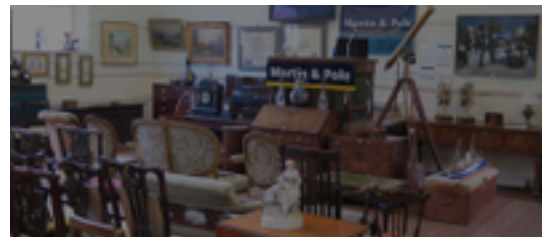


Figure 64: The Auction Rooms Formerly The British School, 1841

them supplying a means for their education". Consequently, the British School was built by subscription opposite the church and opened in 1841 for around 200 children.

The building, on what was then the main route to Twyford, is of red brick, laid in "rat-trap" bond with cast iron windows and timber sliding sashes. It still retains its classic features both externally and internally (where beams and windows still remain in the main and ante rooms).

The school was run on the Lancaster model and under the principles of the British and Foreign School Society. Joseph Lancaster's plan was the "monitoring" system whereby older pupils would

instruct the younger ones, with the master standing at one end on a raised dias, facing rows of benches.. In side passageways, small groups would gather around lesson boards hung on the walls. Hence, ventilation, daylight and quietness were of paramount importance, reflected in the open truss roof and pivoting windows.

Following the advent of state education, the trustees converted the rooms for use as a Sunday School and this remained as such until the building was sold in the 1990s.

The building is grade II listed and is used by Martin and Pole as an auction and storage room, with the venue appearing on television programmes.

 **Baptist Church, Milton Road**
Milton Road (40), RG40 1EG, England


 - Distance along route: 12.92 mi



Figure 65: Baptist Church, Milton Road




Figure 66: Baptist Church, Milton Road

The Baptist Church was founded in 1773 in what was then called Nonsuch Lane. The original building was replaced in 1860 by the current building, designed by Poulton and Woodman of Reading, who were also

the architects of Wokingham Town Hall.

In the 1870s the house opposite was lived in by James Seaward and his family. He was the town's chimney sweep and, being a Baptist, he tended the church and its churchyard.

Pictures: The original meeting house in 1774 and the current building.

 **Former Police Station**
Rectory Road (41), RG40 1DH, England



 - Distance along route: 12.97 mi



Figure 67: Former Police Station (Source: *The Wokingham Society*)

To the right at the start of Rectory Road is the former police station, now turned into flats. It also housed police houses, a courtroom and cells. It was built in 1904 to an Arts & Crafts design by local architect Joseph Morris. It is a Grade II listed building.

 **1 and 3 Rectory Road**
(42), RG40 1DW, England


 - Distance along route: 12.99 mi



Figure 68: 1 and 3 Rectory Road

Rectory Road takes its name from the Rectory of St Paul's Church. Houses Nos 1 and 3 are Grade II listed

and were built in the mid 19thC, predating the road itself and initially backing onto Colborn House, just round the corner in Broad Street.

 **Waitrose, Rectory Road**


 - Distance along route: 13.05 mi



Figure 69: Waitrose, Rectory Road

The rear entrance to Waitrose is off Rectory Road. The store moved to its current location in 1996 from Peach Street. Before that time the area was largely occupied by Rectory Close, and before that by gardens.

The picture shows a 1970 map.

 **Waitrose, Rectory Road**
(43), England


 - Distance along route: 13.07 mi



Figure 70: Waitrose, Rectory Road

The rear entrance to Waitrose is off Rectory Road. The store moved to its current location in 1996 from Peach Street. Before that time the area was largely occupied by Rectory Close, and before that by gardens.

The picture shows a 1970 map.

 **Rose Street**
Rose Street (44), RG40 1XS, England


 - Distance along route: 13.17 mi




Figure 71: Rose Street

Rose Street is believed to be the beginning of Wokingham's planned development. Its earliest mention is by the name La Rothe, which is descriptive in origin and denotes a cleared area. The street is cigar shaped, not parallel as it might appear at a glance; it remains narrow at either end, although the south-western end was substantially widened in the mid 20th Century to enable the easier passage of vehicular traffic. This form of layout is called an enclosed street and it is easy to understand how, by blocking the narrow ends, the street would in effect be enclosed and contain any activities within its boundaries. This would have been the natural place for the commercial activities of fairs and the market, prior to their transfer into the market place we know today.

Rose Street has a huge number of timber framed buildings, the earliest estimated to date from the 14th Century, although many of them are disguised by the much later addition of brick façades. The street would have provided homes for a variety of townspeople, including both merchants and craftsmen; although it remains substantially residential today, it supports far fewer residents than in the past. Rose Street lost a number of historic houses during the 20th Century, some to replacement housing and others to car park spaces. It remains, however, Wokingham's most important historic street, and it is hoped that future developments will allow it to retain.

 **Methodist Church, Rose Street**
Rose Street (45), RG40 1XU, England

 - Distance along route: 13.21 mi

In 1819 a barn in Rose Street was converted into a Wesleyan chapel. Five years later Caroline Bird of Matthewsgreen Farm attended a sermon in the



Figure 72: Methodist Church, Rose Street

chapel and thereafter devoted her life to supporting the poor of the town. She married William Heelas Jnr in 1835 but died in childbirth in 1841. Her husband, although a Baptist, raised the children as Methodists.

With financial help from the Heelas family, but principally due to the efforts of former employee turned businessman Isaiah Gadd, the barn chapel was replaced by the current building in 1870. Isaiah himself arranged for the houses opposite to be built, and dedicated by him to, in his own words above the doors, St John Wesley of Epworth.

31 Rose Street, James Seaward
Rose Street 31 (46), RG40 1XS, England

1 - Distance along route: 13.27 mi



Figure 73: 31 Rose Street, James Seaward

When 31 Rose Street ceased to be a school, the first tenant was James Seaward, a chimney sweep with his second wife Ellen wife and six children from his marriage to his first wife Mary who died in 1878; he lived in this two-bedroom cottage for 44 years. In 1891 he was the first working class man to be elected to the Town Council. His integrity and dedicated service resulted in his elevation to Alderman in 1909;

Wokingham's only Alderman who was born in a workhouse and who declined to be mayor. James Seaward's civic achievements have since been overshadowed by his reputation as the inspiration for Charles Kingsley's 'Tom' in his classic book "The Water Babies". This legend is the subject of Wokingham's first commissioned public work of art, a unique sculpture at the old library entrance in Denmark Street.

The Maiden School, 31 Rose Street
Rose Street (47), RG40 1XS, England

1 - Distance along route: 13.27 mi



Figure 74: The Maiden School, 31 Rose Street

"The Maiden School" was founded by Martha Palmer, the wealthy spinster daughter of Richard and Mary Palmer of Luckley House, Chapel Green. By her will dated June 1713, she gave £400 to her trustees for the purchase of lands to provide an income of £15 a year to pay a school mistress and maintain a school. However it was not until June 1795, that the trustees, led by William Bremner, the minister at Wokingham and the Master at Lucas Hospital, had sufficient funds to purchase 31 Rose Street. This was then fitted out as a school house in which the mistress "of sober, virtuous and pious education and behaviour and bred up in the true faith and practices of the Church of England" was to reside and teach 12 poor girls "of honest parents". Calling each other "sister", these maidens were taught to read English, sew plain work, knit and spin worsted and learn the catechism, up to the age of 12 years.

A National School had already been founded in 1825 at 21 Rose Street where a new National Infants School was created by amalgamating it with the Maiden School in 1842. The building soon became inadequate, however, and within two years a new school room was built in the yard behind 31 Rose Street; the old school house became the residence of

the school mistress and her assistants. By 1875 the National Schools were reformed as the Palmer Schools and relocated in new buildings.

 **The Grasshopper Bar, 56-58 Rose Street**
Rose Street (48), RG40 1XU, England


 - Distance along route: 13.28 mi



Figure 75: The Grasshopper Bar, 56-58 Rose Street

This building was originally a 15th century house with an open hall. It was acquired by a brewery in 1873 as a beer house and became a licensed pub in the 20th century.

At some time a sign with a policeman against a London background was hung on the building and it became known as The Metropolitan but there is no known explanation for either the name or the association with the police.

More recently it has been Bar 56 and is now The Grasshopper Bar.

 **39 Rose Street**
Rose Street 39 (49), RG40 1XU, England


 - Distance along route: 13.3 mi



Figure 76: 39 Rose Street

The wonderful row of medieval and Elizabethan houses at the end of Rose Street contains No. 39, a merchant's house from the late 15thC. In the 16C Lucy Webbe, widow of John Robinson, clothier, lived here. She married William Laud from Reading, also a clothier and in October 1553 they had William, their only son who became Archbishop of Canterbury but was executed during the Commonwealth period in 1645 for his support of Charles I.

In his will of 1634 he made the following bequest: "to pay yearly to the corporation of Wokingham the sum of £50, to be applied for the first year as marriage portions to three poor maids of eighteen years at the least, born in Wokingham, who had served one master or mistress for three years together at the least, and for the two succeeding years for binding apprentice at a premium of £10 each five boys of fourteen years of age born of honest poor people of the Church of England in the said town, with a preference to the fatherless".

 **All Saints Church**
Wiltshire Road (50), RG40 1TN, England


 - Distance along route: 13.38 mi



Figure 77: All Saints Church

The Church of All Saints was dedicated between 1189 and 1193 by Hubert, Bishop of Salisbury. Because some previous chaplains are known, it is clear that there was a building prior to these dates but it is not known when. In 1849, the then churchwardens said in a legal document that two old Saxon arches divided the chancel from the vestry. These cannot be traced and indeed little is now visible of the Norman Church. The old arch built into the south doorway of the nave and the bases of the nave pillars seem all that is left above the ground.

Sometime before the middle of the fifteenth century

the church was rebuilt in the perpendicular style. It may be a co-incidence that a chantry of St Mary was founded between 1441 and 1445. By the 19thC the church was in considerable need of repair and extensive restoration was carried out, to such a degree that the perpendicular architecture was virtually erased.

Recently a major project was undertaken, the pews in the nave being removed, the floor entirely repaved and the resulting space being made available for community use as well as for worship.

Picture from 1812.



1 - Distance along route: 13.4 mi



Figure 78: The Ship Inn

The Ship is a Grade II listed building. It dates from the 17C and became an alehouse in the mid 18thC. In that era it was host to several singing and bell-ringing competitions, which ended in 1791 when only one entrant for each turned up.

It was one of the main bases for the stagecoach trade to London from the late 18thC to the mid 19thC, when the railways put an end to that mode of transport.

No reason is known why an inn so far from the sea was called The Ship.



1 - Distance along route: 13.46 mi

This run of buildings, while superficially appearing to be a single construction, shows on closer inspection



Figure 79: The Overhangs, Peach Street

that they comprise two buildings. These were built at different dates, the earliest estimated to be around the early 16th Century. They display a jetty, which is the name used to describe the timber framing at the point where the upper floor overhangs the lower floor. There are many other buildings in Wokingham that retain or have had a jetty, but not all are so obvious; some have been disguised by shop-fronts, while others have had their ground floor walls built out flush with the upper storey, effectively disguising their previous layout. We are fortunate that these buildings survive, as there was at one time pressure to demolish them. Only the actions of a local businessman, who purchased them himself, secured their future.

It is thought that at one time the Windsor Forest Verderers' Court was held here, dealing with offences committed within the bounds of the Royal Forest. The judges could extract fines for minor offences, but more serious cases had to be referred elsewhere.



1 - Distance along route: 13.54 mi



Figure 80: The Redan



Figure 81: The Redan

This area of Peach Street was redeveloped in the mid-19thC. What is now The Redan was part of a building, dating from 1842, to house Hall's Academy, a private school. It became a public house before the end of the 1850s, during or shortly after the end of the Crimean War, commemorating one of the most violent battles, the Great Redan, which took place in 1855.

The mock-Tudor exterior was added in the 20thC.

The town centre regeneration project in 2010 initially scheduled The Redan for demolition but the first plans were withdrawn due to concerns about the extent and design of the intended redevelopment and The Redan was spared.

Pictures: The Redan today and in 2003.

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