



Walk 5: University, Parkland & Old Buildings –Wheelchair Accessible



A walk through the University's award-winning parkland, which passes the older buildings on the campus which pre-date the University - Park House, Blandford Lodge, Old Whiteknights House and Foxhill House. The walk is entirely on tarmac surfaces. *Note: the majority of the walk is on permissive paths, which are not public rights of way, but which the University allows the public to use. On rare occasions, the University may need to close these permissive paths.*

Length

2.75 miles (4.5 km). Allow 1½ hours plus stops.

Starting Point

- Bus 4/X4/17** **Three Tuns** stop, Wokingham Road
19a/b/c **Earley Gate** stop. Join at point **(3)**
21/21a **Whiteknights House** stop. Join walk at point **(7)**
- Car** **Sol Joel Car Park**, 8 Church Rd, Earley, RG6 7DG (adjacent Earley St Peters Church).
 OS Grid Ref: SU 7455 7208. w3w: ///follow.librarian.vouch
Note the time that the car park gates will be locked before you start your walk.
 To access dropped kerbs, turn left at the entrance to Sol Joel Park. At the Co-op turn left and **immediately** cross Wokingham Road at the traffic lights. On the other side cross Wilderness Road at the lights towards the BP garage. Turn left: you will be between points **(1)** and **(2)**

Refreshments

Three Tuns Pub, 191 Wokingham Road, Earley. RG6 1LT
 Dolche Vita Espresso Bar, Palmer Building, University of Reading, RG6 6EW.

Route Instructions (See map attached for numbered points)

1



From the Three Tuns bus stop walk toward the traffic lights/crossroads and turn right to pass along the side of the BP garage to reach a set of bollards at the end of a cul-de-sac. This is point **(2)** below.

*(Alternative start points: from Sol Joel Car Park see note above; from 19a/b/c bus stop join walk at point **3**, below).*

2









Bear right and follow the right-hand pavement of the cul-de-sac, to reach a road (Whiteknights Road) in front of the Earley Gate of Reading University. This is point **(3)** below.

3



Cross Whiteknights Road at the dropped kerbs and traffic island. Turn right then immediately left to enter the University through Earley Gate. After 90m, nearly opposite a small brown brick building, at dropped kerbs cross to the right-hand pavement. Turn left, cross a road and, with the Reading Enterprise Centre on your right. continue ahead to a mini-roundabout. This is point **(4)** below

- 4  Continue ahead across the road at the roundabout, then bear slightly right to follow the curving tarmac path downhill to a path crossroads just before a bridge over the lake. This is point **(5)** below.
- 5  Cross the bridge and follow the broad pedestrian/cycle track slightly uphill. Whiteknights Park House is visible on your right. Cross two zebra crossings to reach a third zebra crossing at the top of the hill. This is point **(6)** below.
Whiteknights Park House is one of several villas that were built in the 1870s on the former grounds of the original Whiteknights House. This building is now used to house the university's senior common room.
- 6  Continue straight ahead across the zebra crossing, and maintain the same direction, under the overhanging building and then passing Archway Lodge Muslim Centre on your left, before reaching a road. This is point **(7)** below.
- 7  Turn left along pavement then immediately right over the zebra crossing, then left for a short distance for a view of Blandford Lodge. This is point **(8)** below.
The boundary between Reading and Wokingham/Earley runs through this 2-storey, grey brick house, with plate glass sash windows and 2 gables facing west. It was built as part of the Whiteknights Park development, probably in the 1870s.
- 8  Return to point **(7)** but keep ahead on the right-hand pavement past 'new' Whiteknights House to reach Old Whiteknights House. This is point **(9)** below.
(Alternative start/finish point: Bus Nos 21 and 21a, UoR Whiteknights House stop).
Home to the Graduate Schools in Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences, Old Whiteknights House is one of six buildings on the Whiteknights campus designed by Alfred Waterhouse in the 1870s.
- 9  Continue ahead past Old Whiteknights House, keeping to the right-hand pavement to reach blue railings curving rightwards. Ignore the first zebra crossing on your left and continue to the end of the blue railings to a second zebra crossing. This is point **(10)** below.
- 10  Turn left over the crossing and continue down the right-hand pavement to the next zebra crossing. Turn left across it, and immediately right, to follow the left-hand pavement. Pass the entrance to Car Par 2 and go past another zebra crossing to reach a path junction by the next zebra crossing. This is point **(11)** below.

11



Bear left and follow the path downhill to reach a junction by a small circular concrete building (owned by Thames Water) This is point **(12)** below.

12



Turn left and follow the path uphill with the hedge and student accommodation blocks on your left. Follow blue direction signs to reach Foxhill House. This is point **(13)** below.

Foxhill House was built by Alfred Waterhouse for his own use and one of the 6 smaller houses constructed in 1867 after the division of the original estate in 1840. It features High Gothic architecture.

13



Retrace your route to return to point **(10)**. After re-crossing the zebra crossing at this point, turn left along the right-hand pavement of the service road. Maintain the same direction to pass Minghella Studios and the Palmer Building on your left to reach the Dolche Vita Espresso Bar, also on your left. This is point **(14)** below.

14



Maintain the same direction, slightly downhill, passing the Carrington Building on your left, before reaching the Student Union/ 3sixty building. This is point **(15)** below.

15



Turn left in front of the building, then almost immediately right, to follow path downhill, past The Study then an open field on your right, to reach bridge over the lake at the bottom of the hill. This is point **(16)** below.

16



Cross the bridge to reach a path junction on the other side. This is point **(17)** below.

17

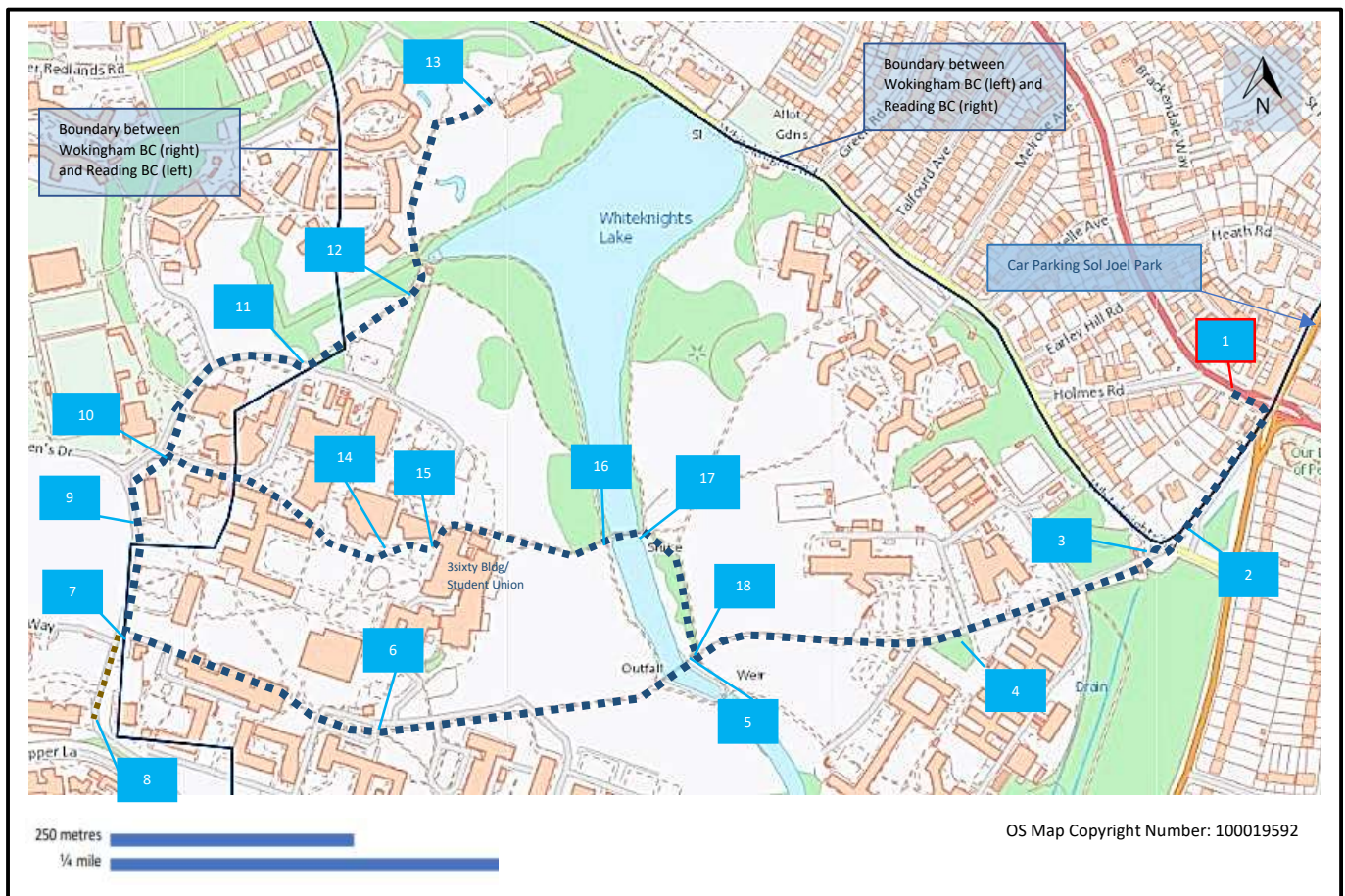


Take the right-hand fork, then turn right to reach footpath crossroads. This is point **(18)** below.

18



Turn left and follow curving path uphill to return to the start of the walk.



Whiteknights

Whiteknights has been in existence since the Norman Conquest when it was known as the Manor of Earley. In 1798 the estate was acquired by the Marquess of Blandford who spent vast sums on library acquisitions and elaborate gardens. However, by 1817 the Marquess, then the fifth Duke of Marlborough, was in debt. As a result, in 1819 the estate was dispersed, and the original house demolished in 1840. In 1867 the estate was divided into six leaseholds and a smaller house constructed in each