



Walk 8: University – Parkland, Lake & Old Buildings

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 - before following the path around Whiteknights Lake. The walk is mostly on tarmac, but there are some woodland and gravel paths round the lake. *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 very rare occasions, the University may need to close these permissive paths.*

Length

2.8 miles (4.5 km). Allow 1 ½ hours plus stops.

Starting Point

Bus: Nos 4, X4 and 17: Three Tuns stop, Wokingham Road.
Nos 19a, 19b and 19c: Earley Gate.
(see route instructions for alternative start point bus no 21/21a)

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.

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 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, leave via entrance road and turn left to reach Three Tuns crossroads; from 19a, b and 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 and enter the University through Earley Gate, following the right-hand pavement., with the Reading Enterprise Centre on your right. Continue ahead to a mini-roundabout. This is point **(4)** below

4



Continue ahead across road at the roundabout, then bear slightly right to follow curving tarmac path downhill to path crossroads just before the bridge the over the lake. This is point **(5)** below.

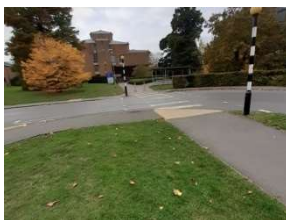
5



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 third zebra crossing at top of hill. This is point **(6)** below.

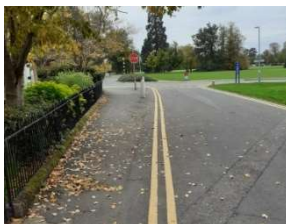
Whiteknights Park House is one of several villas that were built in the 1870s on the former grounds of the original Whiteknights House. This building is now used to house the university's senior common room.

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 za road. This is point **(7)** below.

7



Turn left along the pavement then immediately right over a zebra crossing, then left for a short distance for 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 down the right-hand pavement to reach Old Whiteknights House. This is point **(9)** below.

(Alternative start point: Bus nos 21 and 21a, University 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 past Old Whiteknights House, keeping to right hand pavement to reach blue railings curving rightwards. Ignore the first zebra crossing on your left and continue to second zebra crossing. Do not cross the crossing but continue ahead along right-hand pavement of 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 **(10)** below.

10



Turn sharp left along the side of the Espresso Bar to reach path junction. This is point **(11)** below.

11



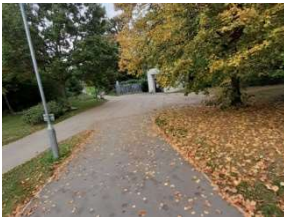
Continue ahead at this junction to pass a children's nursery on your right and then the Biological Sciences Microbiology building on your left to reach a zebra crossing. This is point **(12)** below.

12



Continue downhill to reach a junction by a small circular concrete building (owned by Thames Water). This is point **(13)** below

13



Bear slightly left, then keep ahead and follow the path uphill with a hedge and student accommodation blocks on your left. Follow blue direction signs to reach Foxhill House. This is point **(14)** 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.

14



Cross the courtyard, keeping the Foxhill House on your right. At the end of the buildings, bear right towards some cycle racks. This is point **(15)** below.

15



Just before reaching the cycle racks, turn right down a tarmac path. After 10 metres, bear left on to a path through trees, and follow this path to a T-junction with the gravel lakeside path. Turn left and follow the gravel path round the lake, keeping the lake on your immediate right. Eventually reach a junction with a tarmac path This is point **(16)** below.

16

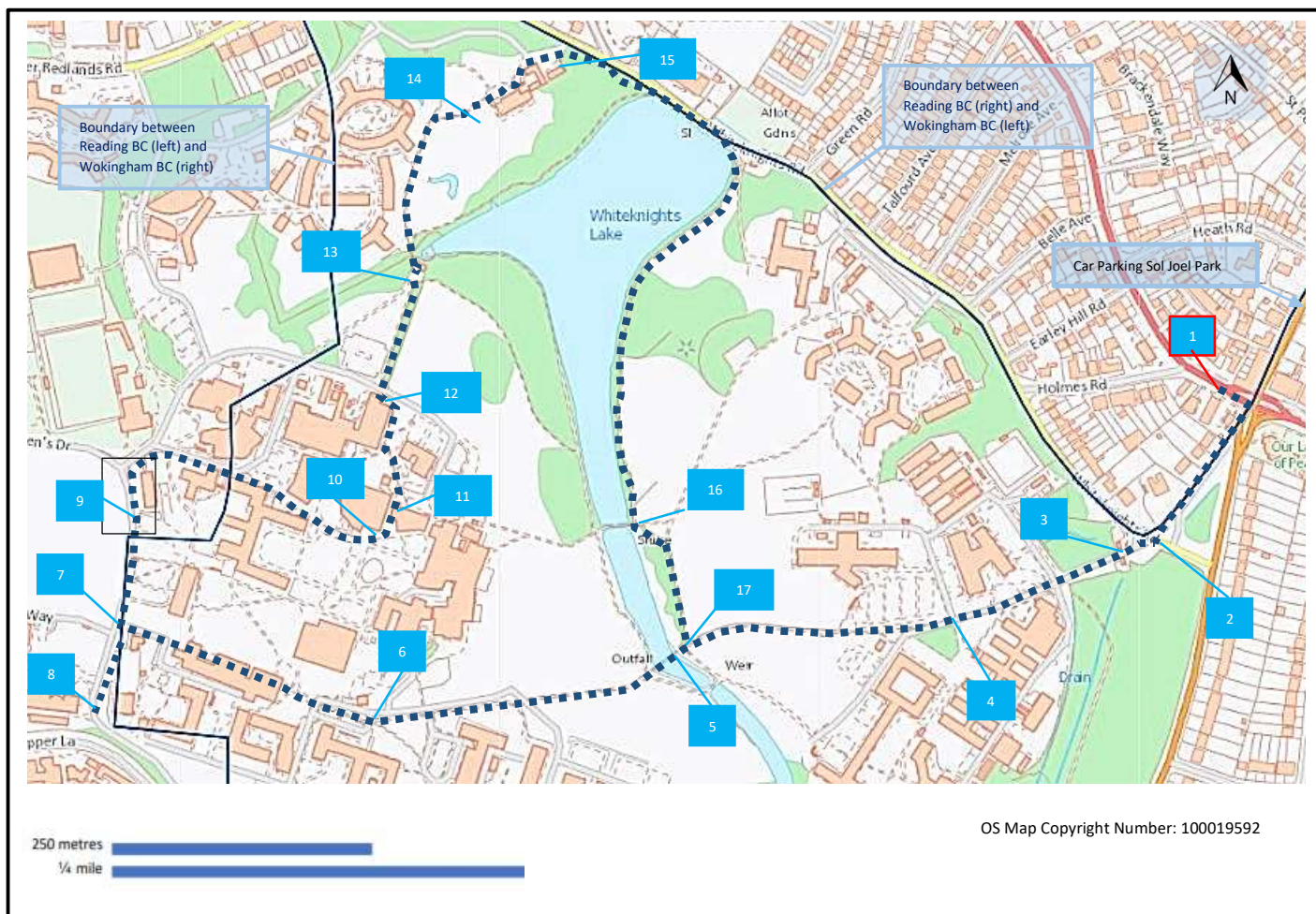


Take the path ahead of you, which bears slightly left, then turn right to reach a footpath crossroads. This is point **(17)** below.

17



Turn left and follow the 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

Reading University Tree Walk

The university has many beautiful trees around the campus and in Harris Gardens. There is a walk around the campus, published by the university that showcases the trees. The publication has photographs and details of the many variety of trees to be found. Details and a downloadable PDF may be found at

www.reading.ac.uk/web.files/fmd/Grounds_Tree_Walk_Brochure.pdf

or by typing "Reading University Tree Walk" in your favourite internet search engine.