



Walk 14: Older Earley North & South

This walk gives the opportunity to see the older parts of Earley – those parts that pre-date the construction of the Lower Earley estate from 1977. The walk starts and finishes at Chalfont Park in the south, technically just in Lower Earley but with a convenient car park and bus stops. It goes north on pedestrian paths then takes to the pavement, diverts through the university's Whiteknights Park and crosses the railway and A3290 dual carriageway on Church Road. Turning north west, the walk goes down a quiet road before going beneath the A3290 and entering Palmer Park (and Reading Borough Council's area). It goes along Liverpool Road with its Victorian terraced housing to the river Kennet. You soon pass back into Earley and go along the river Thames and through Thames Valley Park. You go under the main Reading to Paddington railway line and head south via The Drive, Bulmershe Park, High Wood and Earley Station footbridge to walk on suburban roads to Maiden Erlegh Lake, and back to the start on quiet footpaths. As Earley was built when town planners did not consider dedicated pedestrian paths a necessity, much of the walk is on pavements. Note that some of the paths through the university are permissive paths. The University may close these at any time but seldom does this.

Although quite long the walk is not strenuous. It may be split into two shorter walks – a north section starting at Sol Joel Park and a south section starting at Chalfont Park.

Length(s)

Complete Walk 8.8 miles (14.3 km). Allow 4 hours plus stops.

South Section only, 4.5 miles (7.3 km). Allow 2 hours plus stops.

North Section only, 5.4 miles (8.7km). Allow 2½ hours plus stops.

Starting Point(s)

Complete Walk & South Section only, point (1)

- Car** **Chalfont Court Car Park**, Chalfont Way, Earley RG6 5HQ (adjacent Suttons Bowls Club)
OS Grid Ref: SU 7413 7000, w3w: [///levels.tricky.price](#)
- Bus** **19b** **Chalfont Court Asda** stop (next to car park entrance) or
21 **Chalfont Circle** stop and walk 300m along Chalfont Way past the red post box.

North Section only – join walk at point (10) except train

- 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.
- Bus** **19a** **St Peters Church stop** (next to Sol Joel park entrance)
17 **Three Tuns stop**, Wokingham Road. (Walk towards the traffic lights, turn left at Co-op)
4/X4 **May's Lane**: Wokingham Rd, (walk towards traffic light turn right at Co-op)
- Train** **Earley Station**, Station Road, Earley, RG6 7DY (start/finish point 26),
OS Grid Ref: SU 7527 7203, w3w [///other.using.these](#)

Refreshments

South Section

McDonald's, The Square, Lower Earley
Costa Coffee, The Square, Lower Earley (Near the BP petrol station).
Toby Carvery pub/restaurant, Chalfont Way
Asda Kitchen, Asda Lower Earley
Greggs, Asda Lower Earley

North Section

Thames Valley Park Café, near point (17).
Costa Coffee Drive Thru, next to Aldi, just before point (20)

Route Instructions (See maps below for numbered points)

1



At the edge of the park and with your back to the car park, turn right and walk past the children's nursery on your right. At the T-junction with a path turn left to reach a fork in the path just past a litter bin This is point **(2)** below.

2



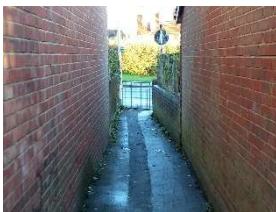
Take the right-hand fork and follow the path round as it goes past the green railings to Hillside Primary School on your left. Come to an underpass beneath Rushey Way. This is point **(3)** below.

3



Go through the underpass and immediately turn sharp right on a rising path to meet Rushey Way by a 20mph sign. Immediately turn sharp left onto a public footpath. Follow the dirt path until it comes tarmac, with a fence in front of you and a large, dead tree on your left. Bear left on the tarmac path. Continue on the path past a green on your left and go between Whiteknights Primary School on your right and a water tower on your left. Come to the T-junction with Elm Road. This is point **(4)** below.

4



Turn right and immediately cross Elm Road at the pedestrian lights. Turn right and follow the left-hand pavement, across Langdale Gardens and come to a roundabout. Cross Rowland Way to the left of the roundabout and continue along Elm Road to another roundabout. This is point **(5)** below.

5



Cross Pepper Lane at the traffic island, turn left and walk along the right-hand pavement, past a service road entrance to Boiler House Cottages to come to the Pepper Lane entrance to Reading University. This is point **(6)** below.

6



Turn right and immediately cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and go diagonally left by a recycling bin. Soon come to a road. Cross this, take the path on the on the right-hand side of the road, go across a service road and then past the Dept of Archaeology on your left to come to a pedestrian crossing. (The large building in front of you is the Library.) Turn right and follow the path past car park 10 to come to another pedestrian crossing. This is point **(7)** below.

7



Go straight on then over a bridge by Whiteknights Lake to come to a road. Keep to the left-hand pavement, pass several service roads to come to Earley Gate. This is point **(8)** below.

8



Cross Whiteknights Road. Carry on in the same direction and soon pass between concrete bollards. After the BP petrol station on your left come to the Three Tuns crossroads and Wokingham Road. This is point **(9)** below.

9



Keeping in the same direction cross Wokingham Road at the lights. Carry on past the estate agent's office for a short distance along Church Road to a point opposite the entrance to Sol Joel Park. This is point **(10)** below.

South Section Alternative. *At the traffic lights at point (9) turn right and walk along Wokingham Road for 900m to Kenton Road. This is opposite point (26). Turn right into Kenton Road and re-join the walk.*

10



Continue along the left-hand pavement of Church Road crossing two roads on your left and past pedestrian lights on your right. Go over the metal pedestrian bridge over the railway and across the bridge over the A3290. Come to metal railings. This is point **(11)** below.

North Section Alternative. *At the entrance to the Park, point (10), turn right and go past the Church and school to the pedestrian lights. Cross the road and turn right to join the walk.*

11



Turn left and follow the left-hand pavement of Anderson Avenue downhill for 650m to meet Culver Lane. Turn left and go beneath the A3290 and the railway. Culver Lane becomes Palmer Park Road. Soon come to Wykeham Road. Here you cross Palmer Park Road at the bollards to an entrance to Palmer Park. (You are now in Reading Borough Council's area.) This is point **(12)** below.

12



Go through the railings into Palmer Park and follow the path on the right round to the entrance on London Road. This is point **(13)** below.

Fully opened in 1891, Palmer Park is named after George Palmer of Huntley & Palmers biscuit fame. He was mayor of Reading from 1857 to 1858 and MP for the town from 1878 to 1885. He gave the land to Reading which became Palmer Park.

13



Go through the gate and turn left. Immediately cross the road at the pedestrian lights and turn right. Soon turn left into Liverpool Road. Take the right-hand pavement for 670m to a crossroads with Cholmeley Road. This is point **(14)** below.

14



Turn right and walk down to the river Kennet – a popular place to feed swans. This is point **(15)** below.

15



Turn right and walk beside the river. Go under a railway bridge – you are now back in Earley. Go under a pipe-bridge and another railway bridge to reach the river Thames by Horseshoe Bridge. Turn right and follow the river to Wokingham Waterside Centre. Continue on the grassy path beside the river past several benches for 500 m to reach a public footpath signpost. Turn right and cross the meadow to come to wooden railings up to Thames Valley Park Drive. This is point **(16)** below.

16



Turn left and walk to the pedestrian lights. This is point **(17)** below.

17



Cross the road at the lights and turn left, follow the footpath round to the right-hand side of the roundabout and take the first right. Come to another roundabout. This is point **(18)** below.

18



Go round to the right of the roundabout, take the second right and soon come to the tunnel beneath the main Reading to Paddington railway line. This is point **(19)** below.

19



Go through the tunnel and onto the left-hand side of the road beyond. Keep to the pavement on the left and, at the roundabout cross to the right-hand side. Go around to the right of the roundabout past Aldi. Cross the road that leads to the entrance to Costa Drive Thru and follow the pavement to meet the dual carriageway. Turn right and soon come to pedestrian lights. This is point **(20)** below.

20



Cross the dual carriageway at the pedestrian lights then bear right. Immediately turn left and follow the left-hand pavement along The Drive. Cross Erleigh Court Gardens and continue uphill to meet Culver Lane. Turn left and walk up to the roundabout where Pitts Lane meets Church Road. This is point **(21)** below.

21



Cross to the far side and turn right. Walk along the left-hand side of Church Road to the end of the houses by a public footpath sign. This is point **(22)** below.

22



Turn left and enter Bulmershe Park. Head diagonally across the park towards yellow bollards. (You are now in Woodley). Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and turn left. Walk along the right-hand side of the road to the entrance to UOR Bulmershe Pavilion. Come to the end of the stone wall This is point **(23)** below.

23



Turn right and follow the dirt path to reach Kingfisher Drive just after some houses. Turn right and follow the right-hand pavement – it eventually becomes grassy – next to High Wood. Reach a green where the road bears left. This is point (24) below.

24



Bear slightly right on the path with the green on your left and woods on your right. At the end of the green keep on the path ahead with a fence on your left (and with lamp posts). Ignoring paths into the estate keep on this path for 400m to reach the steps up to Earley Station Footbridge. This is point (25) below.

Bonus: at point (24) you can turn left, go past a children's playground and do a loop around South Lake returning to point (24). This adds 1.6km.

25



Go over the bridge to Earley Station. You are now back in Earley. Turn right and soon reach Wokingham Road. This is point (26) below.

26



Turn right and immediately cross the road at the traffic island. Turn left and then bear right to Kenton Road. Walk the length of Kenton Road on the right-hand pavement crossing a roundabout and several side roads to reach the T-junction with Silverdale Road. This is point (27) below.

North Section Alternative. At point (26) turn right and follow the pavement along Wokingham Road for 400m to May's Lane. Turn right and after 40m turn left into Sol Joel Park. Walk across the park to the car park and the end of your walk.

27



Turn right into Silverdale Road. Cross to the left-hand pavement and reach Lakeside. This is point (28) below.

28



Turn left into Lakeside and keep to the left-hand pavement. At the end of the houses go left and then immediately right to follow the gravel path beside Maiden Erlegh lake. At the end of the gravel path cross to the tarmac path and come to concrete bollards. This is point (29) below.

29



Go through the bollards and turn left. Immediately cross Beech Lane at the pedestrian crossing. At the notice board cross the green space to Radstock Lane. At the road turn left to come to the junction of Radstock Lane and Redhatch Drive. This is point (30) below.

30



Turn right and after 120m carefully cross Redhatch Drive then turn left into Collins Drive. 120m later, after the garage to a 3-storey house on your left, turn left onto a gravel path. This is point **(31)** below.

31



Continue on the path, ignoring the bridge on your left after 150m and turnings to the left and the right, until it comes to silver-painted railings (the gate is missing) by a concrete bridge over a small stream (ditch). Ignore the bridge and bear right on a gravel path that soon becomes tarmac, with green space on your right. Ignore turnings to the right to reach a T-junction with another path. This is point **(32)** below.

32



Turn left and pass through metal railings. Carefully cross Durand Road to come to an alley by the Salvation Army Centre. This is point **(33)** below.

33

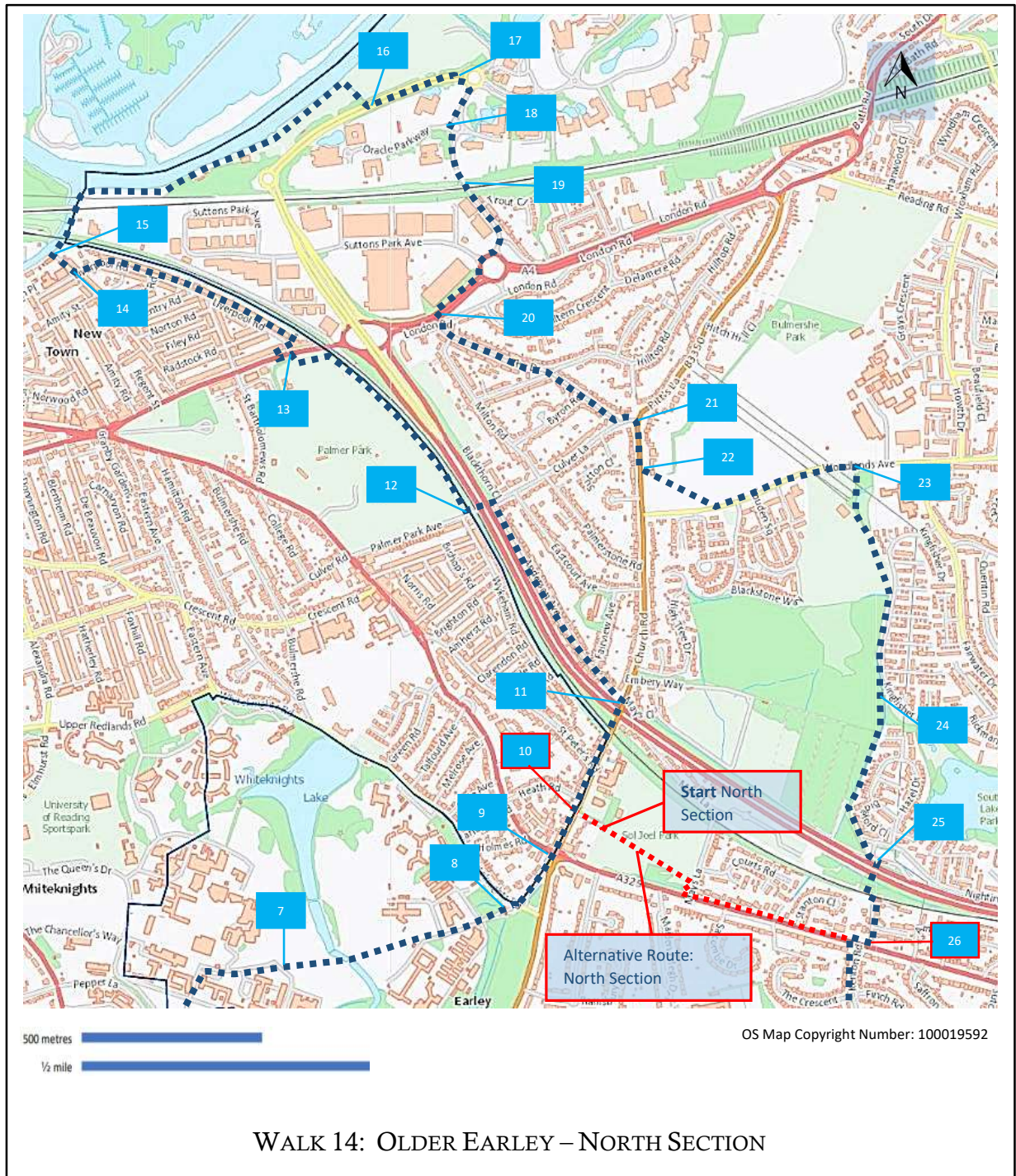


Turn right through the metal railings onto a broad tree-lined alley. Come to metal railings where the alley meets Chalfont Way. This is point **(34)** below.

34



Cross Chalfont Way at the traffic island and turn left. You will soon see the car park on your right and the end of the walk.



WALK 14: OLDER EARLEY – NORTH SECTION

