

Explorer routes

We have created three walking routes around Kidlington and the surrounding villages to encourage walking and running for pleasure and to generally improve wellbeing. These routes take in various landmarks of historical interest in Kidlington and the villages.



Route 1 - Water Vole

Distance: 5miles | 8Km, Time: 2hr 30min

1. Start at **St. Mary's Church** then walk along Church Street to the junction with the Moors and Mill Street then turn left along Mill Street.

2. **Vanbrugh's Privy** is located at 95 Mill Street in a garden, continue along Mill Street onto Watermead, there is a parallel footpath on the right which takes you onto Cherwell Avenue, turn left and follow Cherwell Avenue to Queens Avenue then turn left and follow the footpath. When you reach the main road turn right and follow the Bicester Road all the way to Sainsbury's roundabout.

5. Once on the road turn left passing Kidlington Football Club on the left, take a right turn onto Yarnton Road and follow it to the A4260 Oxford Road. Turn left on the A4260 and then right onto the High Street and follow this back to St Mary's Church.

4. Cross the bridge and turn right onto **Oxford Canal** towpath. Pass at bridge 228 onto Yarnton Road going up a small slope with large stones at the top.

NB: the bridge has steps and the canal path is uneven therefore this part of the walk is not wheelchair accessible.

3. **Rosie the Elephant** is located on the roundabout. Walk around the roundabout then turn left in to Stratfield Brake Sports Ground and walk around the right edge until you reach the end of the field. Turn left at the far end of the playing pitches and head along the path until you get to the woods. Once you are at the woods follow the footpath into the woods sticking to the righthand path until you reach the canal bridge.



Please be aware that some areas are at risk of flooding and therefore can be muddy at certain times of the year also some routes have gates, stiles and may briefly join busy roads. Therefore this walk may not suit persons with limited mobility.



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Route 1 - landmarks



Better together



1

St Mary's Church

This beautiful church dates back to 1220 and is listed in Simon Jenkins' '1,000 Best Churches'. Noted for its medieval stained glass and carved bench-ends. St Mary's has 165-foot (50 m) spire known as "Our Lady's Needle" and the tower has a ring of eight bells. It is a Grade I listed building.

Vanbrugh's Privy

Square baroque pavilion in the front garden of Hampden Manor, Mill St. Reputed to have been a privy built over a small stream by Vanbrugh as thanks for the hospitality he enjoyed at Manor Farm while he was building Blenheim.

2



3

Rosie the Elephant

This wire sculpture on the Kidlington roundabout recalls the most famous denizen of Kidlington Zoo in the '30s and gives the village an impressive gateway.



4

Oxford Canal

A linear landmark and reminder of the 18th Century transport revolution.



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