

is now redundant. (The key can be obtained from the cottage next door if you wish to see it). Continue along this path parallel to the river until you reach the main road. There is a dismounting block for those of you on horseback who wish to go down under the road. However, we are turning right and crossing Winterbrook Bridge,

5 Immediately after crossing the bridge, follow the slope down to the right and through a gate to the Thames Path. Turn left and follow the river northwards back towards the town for about half a mile, noting the Old Thames Conservancy House and its flood marks; also the new Oxford University boathouse which you saw from the other bank. Continue along the Thames Path. Further along you will come to a very old house behind a high hedge before turning right through an archway under a house. Go over a footbridge before skirting St. Leonard's churchyard.

Bear right at the church onto St. Leonard's Lane and follow the road straight ahead until you come to a wall and gate where the road curves left. This is Castle Priory and was the home of Judge Blackstone who, rumour has it, rearranged the road to give himself more room to build his house! On the other side of the road, at this point, is a brick archway into a car park. Cross the road and go through the archway and, keeping the wall on your right, walk to the car park exit. Turn right into Wood Street, go past the car showrooms and then turn left into Hart Street. At the end of this road, turn right back to the Town Hall.

Walk 3 to Benson Lock 3 miles

1 – 1½ hours

- 1** From the Town Hall, walk north along St. Mary's Street to the High Street, cross over and turn right and walk down the road towards the river.
- 2** Just in front of the Boathouse pub turn left following the Thames Path sign and then after twenty yards turn right to the river. Turn left and continue on this path towards Benson Lock for almost a mile. Look out for herons and kingfishers as well as ducks and grebe as you walk. (This path can be very muddy in wet weather). At the lock turn right and cross over the weir.
- 3** At the road, turn right and walk carefully along the street past many beautiful houses until you reach a sharp left hand bend at Crowmarsh Battle Farm.
- 4** Turn left over a bridge on the road and then immediately right over a footbridge and into a field on a permissive path. Follow this path which skirts around the field, keeping the hedgerow on your right until you reach a kissing gate leading onto a minor road.
- 5** Turn right and walk on the pavement past a large industrial park until you reach a footpath to the right.
- 6** Turn here and at the end of the lane turn left walking alongside a sports field. Continue until you are approaching the main street in Crowmarsh where you will see the old rectory and the church on your left.
- 7** Turn right at the Street and walk to the bridge. On your right on some timbered cottages, you will see a blue plaque for Jethro Tull, the inventor of the seed drill. Continue over the bridge and back up the High Street, turning left into St. Mary's Street opposite the NatWest bank and thence back to the Town Hall.



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Walks in and around Wallingford

Three Walks – One strolling by the river and through the town, one taking in the riverside path and two bridges and the third taking in the river and Benson Lock.



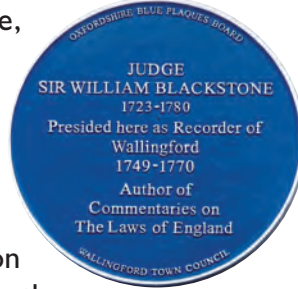
Walk 1 Wallingford Town distance 1.5 miles

- 1 From the Town Hall, walk north along St. Mary's Street past Barclays Bank to the High Street, cross over and turn right. Walk down to the river.
- 2 Just in front of the Boathouse pub, turn left and follow the Thames path sign to the river. Follow this path for 500 yards.
- 3 At the kissing gate and information board turn left into Castle Meadows and walk across the meadow to a double gate. After going through the gate, bear right across the grass to another kissing gate with a red brick wall on the left, leading into Cemetery Lane and turn left. You may want to browse among the graves but, eventually, continue to the main road, cross over and turn left.
- 4 Follow this road towards the town (where it becomes Castle Street) to the end of the pay and display car park on the left. Cross the road and turn into Bear Lane following the signpost pointing to Castle Gardens. All Hallows Churchyard is on the left and then the entrance, through a wall, into Castle Gardens.

After your visit here, return to Castle Street and turn left to the traffic lights.

- 5 At the lights turn right into the High Street, past Waitrose on the left and continue to the Bull Croft on the right. Visit the Bull Croft with its children's playgrounds, tennis courts and grassy recreation area before returning to the entrance on the High Street and turning right. As you reach the museum on your right, cross over the road to a second area of common land, the Kine Croft. Proceed straight ahead, following the line of buildings on the left, towards the Coach and Horses pub. You can see the Saxon fortifications over to the right of the Kine Croft.

- 6 Turn left just before the pub and note the terrace of cottages to your right as you walk to Goldsmiths Lane. Cross here to walk along Church Lane and emerge onto St. Martins Street by the Old Post Office restaurant. Cross the road and turn left to return to the Town Hall.



Walk 2 Two Bridges distance 2.5 miles

- 1 From the Town Hall, walk along St, Mary's Street past Barclays Bank to the High Street, cross over and turn right. Walk down to the river bridge and cross over the river. In the middle of the bridge turn left down the steps to the riverside.
- 2 At the river path, turn left going under the bridge and through gate posts. Follow the path alongside the river for about 500 yards over two footbridges and several kissing gates. You will see a very large, modern boathouse on the opposite bank of the river.
- 3 Turn left and walk across the field to the fence, turning right at the footpath sign. Continue into a farmyard, keeping left and then exit the farmyard through a gate on your left and onto a small farm road, where you bear right. The path passes Newnham Church which

