

Abingdon Blue Walk Solutions and Further Information

The historical information below is from many different sources and cannot be guaranteed by the setters of the quiz

- B1 Window of 17th century former County Hall of Berkshire built by Christopher Kempster.
- B2 Information Board about the history of St Nicolas Church and Abingdon Abbey in the garden of St Nicolas Church..
- B3 St Nicolas Church main entrance, possibly 12th century. Built at the Abbey gate, for lay officials and servants of the abbey, and for visitors.
- B4 Plaque to St Edmund of Abingdon , born about 1175, first a master at Oxford, then Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral, and finally Archbishop of Canterbury 1233 – 1240. It is on the wall of St Nicolas Church.
- B5 Renovated Grotesques on the old Abbey Gateway, which was built in late 15th century.
- B6 Gateway to the Abbey Grounds, the site of Abingdon Abbey of St Mary, now formal gardens and grounds.
- B7 Information Board about the Gardens and their renovation.
- B8 Information Board about the possible view of the West front of Abingdon Abbey and its size and positioning in the grounds.
- B9 Gateway from the Gardens to Abbey Close through the Car park near the Old Cattle Market site.
- B10 General Information Board about Abingdon outside Waitrose.
- B11 Throughout the development of the old Vineyard Maltings behind Waitrose are “Bespoke Railings”, by Blacksmith Artist Jon Mills. The railings were designed to reflect the industrial history of Abingdon. How many different designs did you spot?
- B12 A fairly wide passageway to continue the walk into another large new development of apartments in Penlon Place.
- B13 A large relief by local sculptor Diana Bell in bronze set into the pavement at the centre of the seating area depicts the industries which occupied this site in the past including a stable, tannery, leather glove manufacture, machinery relating to the Penlon’s medical instrument making, and barley and hops grown here.
- B14 Further down Penlon Place find a stone bench with a bronzed apron realistically draped on one end as though left behind by a worker and a large barley-filled sack and a pair of boots-all of which played a significant role in Abingdon’s industrial heritage. These are also by Diana Bell.
- B15/16 Another gateway and path to pass through into Thames View and follow along towards the Abbey Mill Stream.
- B17 The bronze panels, by Sculptor, Richard Farrington, on the modern bridge over the Abbey Mill stream are motifs from the ancient (8th/9th century) Abingdon silver sword which was found in the River Thames in Abingdon.
- B18 The “Abingdon Needle” by Sculptor, Michael Fairfax, was made to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the town charter in 2006. It is a bath stone spire topped with stainless steel reflecting old and new and representing the Anglo Saxon church that was superseded by the impressive 12C Abbey Church. The outline of the later church can be seen in the nearby Abbey Gardens.
- B19 Wall of Abbey Gardens by “Trendell's Folly”, an imaginative 1920s addition of mock-ruins in the Abbey Gardens using old masonry. Seen from Abbey Close
- B20 Checker Walk takes its name from the old Abbey Chequer (money house) which is still standing at the bottom of this lane.
- B21 The Chequer Chimney is the best surviving chimney of the 13th century, for a counting house, or house of Exchequer, for the abbey.
- B22 Passageway between the Unicorn Theatre and the one remaining medieval cottage in Thames Street.
- B23 Window in Thames Street of the Abbey outbuildings converted for use by the Friends of Abingdon who own and look after the Abbey buildings.
- B24 A bridge over the Abbey Millstream: known as the Gas Works Bridge. Gas works were established on the island in 1834.
- B25 The Old County Gaol hexagonal top, built by French prisoners during the Napoleonic Wars, now developed mainly for housing.
- B26 Sign for the Crown and Thistle, an old 17th century coaching Inn in Bridge Street with a lovely old cobbled courtyard and much character.
- B27 Royse Court lantern, entrance to the older Guildhall buildings probably early 20th century when restoration work was undertaken.
- B28 Information Board about this area.
- B29 Windows above shop in Bridge St. Originally the complete facade was in severe Victorian Gothic style. Date c1867.