

GRAND UNION CANAL (TRING) TRAIL (PT299)



- CONTACT:** Peter Tilbury - 116 Wykeham Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 1PL
Telephone - 0118 966 6523 E-mail - BTreading@aol.com
- DISTANCE:** 10km
- ENTRY FEE:** £1.00 per walker (Cheques made payable to Thames Valley Walking Club)
- AWARD:** There is currently no award for this walk. (Please indicate on the entry form if you would like an award if one is produced)
- START VENUE:** Wilstone Reservoir Car Park, Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone, Hertfordshire (on B489 - nearest postcode - HP23 4NT) (OS Explorer Map 181 GR: SP 904135)
- CAR PARKING:** At start venue.
- FACILITIES:** None at start venue, but there are a couple of pubs on the route.
- TRANSPORT:** None to the start venue, but there is a bus stop called 'The Mill' in Wilstone village which is on the route.
- TERRAIN:** The majority of the route is along canal towpaths, with a few minor roads and footpaths. Not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs.

The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

(Updated 1st July 2023)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE GREAT CARE ON ALL ROAD SECTIONS OF THIS TRAIL

Leave car park by walking up steps to reach reservoir. Turn left and at corner of reservoir, turn right to continue following the edge of the reservoir. At end of reservoir, bear left to continue to follow footpath to reach track junction. Turn right and follow track for approx. 200m. Just before 5 bar wooden gate (into Waddesdon Estate), turn left on footpath. Follow footpath uphill for approx. 130m to reach disused canal. Turn left and follow towpath with dry canal on right (this is the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal) to reach the second bench on your left. (1½ km)

Question 1: In whose memory is the bench dedicated to?

Continue to follow towpath to reach kissing gate. Go through gate and turn left to reach road. Turn right on road and after approx. 20m, turn left to cross road onto footpath. Immediately turn right to follow footpath with wire fence on left & road on right. At end of footpath, bear right and go ahead on road for approx. 100m to reach canal. Go over canal and immediately turn left down steps onto footpath with canal on left. Follow footpath with canal on left for approx. 750m. Follow footpath as it turns right and away from canal.

Continue to follow footpath with stream on left to reach road. Turn left to cross stream, then immediately turn right onto walkway signed 'Leading to New Road' (crossing road using pedestrian crossing). Follow walkway with stream on right to reach junction with road. Turn left on road and after 10m is an Air Training Corps building on your left. (3¼ km)

Question 2: What is the phone number for information?

Follow road to reach T-junction. Go straight ahead crossing road **WITH GREAT CARE** onto footpath to left of New Mill Terrace sign. Go up steps and follow footpath between fence and wall to reach junction with road. Turn right and follow road uphill. Continue to follow road passing school on right and immediately after passing house no. 66 on left, turn left into Marshcroft Lane. As houses end, continue ahead on single track lane **WITH CARE** for approx. 650m to reach bridge over canal. Immediately before the bridge, turn left and follow towpath downhill to join canal. On the left is a metal sign. (5 km)

Question 3: How far is it to Braunston?

Follow towpath with canal on right for approx 1,000m. Continue on towpath to pass under bridge 133 at Bulbourne and continue ahead on tarmac access road passing pub on left. Continue ahead on towpath with canal still on right. At cottages, bear left to cross the Wendover Arm and go ahead to pass lock. Continue to follow towpath with canal on right and reservoirs on left (**DO NOT** take left hand fork between the reservoirs). At footpath fork, bear right following arrow on yellow background and staying on towpath alongside canal. At Bridge 132, go up steps to road. Cross road **WITH GREAT CARE** and go ahead on towpath with canal still on right. At canal junction, the towpath bears left to reach locks.

Pass locks and go ahead on towpath to pass under bridge and continue to follow towpath with canal on right. Follow towpath down steps to pass under bridge number 2. Continue on towpath passing under bridge number 3 to reach footbridge (bridge number 4). Turn left by bridge number 4, following black arrow on yellow background. (9¼ km)

Question 4: On the post above the black arrow is a Tring Reservoirs Trail sign. How long is the Aylesbury Arm?

Follow footpath as it becomes a track and passes a play area to reach road. Turn right and follow road round left hand bend. Follow road through village passing the World War 1 war memorial on the left and continue to follow road for approx. 500m to reach t-junction. Turn right and immediately cross road **WITH GREAT CARE** onto pavement opposite. Turn right and at end of pavement, bear left by wooden bollards following arrow on yellow background to follow footpath with hedge on right to return to the car park. (10 km)

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To claim your IVV stamp, please use the 'Permanent Trail Completion & IVV Stamp Claim Form' which is downloadable from the BWF website and send with your record books to the walk contact.