

Walk 13: South Lake & Whiteknights

This walk starts at South Lake and follows the path alongside High Wood to Earley Station and then on across the Wokingham Road, to Maiden Erlegh Lake. The route continues to Chalfont Park, opposite ASDA, just in Lower Earley, then north to Elm Road before passing through the university campus and over Whiteknights Lake, crossing the Wokingham Road at the Three Tuns and returning to South Lake via High Wood.

Note that some of the paths through the university are permissive paths. The University may close these at any time but seldom does this.

Length

5.4 miles (8.6km). Allow 2 hours 45 mins plus stops.

Starting Point

Car	Park carefully on Kingfisher Drive , (off Fairwater Drive), opposite the park, Woodley, RG5 3LH. OS Grid Ref: SU 75407240. w3w: ///laws.hidden.chain
Bus 13/14	Campbell Road stops, Fairwater Drive, Woodley. near the junction with Kingfisher Drive. Go into Kingfisher Drive, walk on the right-hand pavement to the traffic island crossing between Kingfisher Drive even numbers 230 – 280 and service road numbers 270 to 292.
Train	Earley Station on the Reading to Waterloo line, Station Road, Earley, RG6 7DY, OS Grid Ref: SU 7527 7203, w3w ///other.using.these. Start and finish just after point (3)

Refreshments

Waterside Inn	Fairwater Drive, Woodley. <i>See Map</i>		
<i>Near Chalfont Park, Lower Earley – see Map, all near points (12) & (13)</i>			
ASDA Kitchen	In ASDA	Greggs	In ASDA
Costa Coffee & McDonalds	The Square, Lower Earley	Toby Carvery	Chalfont Close, Lower Earley

Route Instructions (See map below for numbered points)

1



At the chicane crossing on Kingfisher Drive, by the entrance to South Lake park and High Wood, cross the road and enter the park. Bear left and continue towards the footpath junctions with turnings towards the wood on the right and the play area on the left. This is point (2) below.

2



Take the middle path to bear slightly right with the green on your left and woods on your right. At the end of the green keep on the path with a fence on your left. Ignoring paths into the estate keep on this path for 400m to reach the steps up to Earley Station Footbridge. This is point (3) below.

3



Go over the bridge to Earley Station. You are now in Earley. Turn right and soon reach Wokingham Road. This is point (4) below.

4



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 **(5)** below.

5



Turn right into Silverdale Road. Cross to the left-hand pavement and reach Lakeside Road. This is point **(6)** below.

6



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 some concrete bollards. This is point **(7)** below.

7



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 **(8)** below.

8



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 **(9)** below.

9



Continue on the path, ignoring the bridge on your left after 150m and turnings to 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 **(10)** below.

10



Turn left and pass through metal railings. Carefully cross Durand Road to come to an alley by the Salvation Army Centre. This is point **(11)** below.

11



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 **(12)** below.

12



Cross Chalfont Way at the traffic island and continue straight ahead on the wide path, passing the Lower Earley Day Nursery on the left, to reach a fork in the path just past a litter bin. This is point **(13)** below.

13



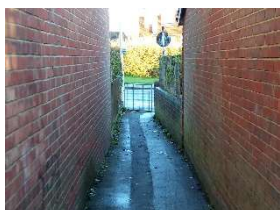
Take the right-hand fork and follow the path round as it goes past the green fence to Hillside Primary School. Come to an underpass beneath Rushey Way. This is point **(14)** below.

14



Go through the underpass and immediately turn sharp right on a rising path to meet Rushey Way by a 20mph sign. Turn left onto a public footpath. Follow the dirt path until it comes tarmac, with a fence in front of you and a large 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 **(15)** below.

15



Turn right and immediately cross Elm Road at the pedestrian lights. Turn right and follow the left-hand pavement, cross Langdale Gardens and come to a roundabout. Cross Rowland Road to the left of the roundabout and continue along Elm Road to another roundabout. This is point **(16)** below.

16



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 **(17)** below.

17



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 and continue on the path on the right-hand side of the road, across a service road and 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 **(18)** below.

18



Go straight on, then over a bridge by Whiteknights Lake, and continue straight ahead eventually coming to a road. Keep to the left-hand pavement, pass several service roads to come to Earley Gate. This is point **(19)** below.

19



Cross the entrance road at the traffic island, then immediately 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 **(20)** below.

20



Turn right to cross the end of Wilderness Road and then left to cross Wokingham Road at the lights. Carry on along the right-hand side pavement of Church Road, passing Sol Joel Park, St Peters Church and School on your right and continue over the railway and A3290 and past the end of Mays Close to reach a bus shelter. This is point **(21)** below.

21



Immediately before the bus shelter turn right and then immediately bear left on to the narrow path under the trees. (Do not go straight on). Continue forward with the houses of High Tree Drive on your left until you reach the entrance to High Wood Nature Reserve, *the last remaining remnant of the once extensive Bullmarsh / Earley Heath which extended over much of what is now north Earley and Woodley*. This is point **(22)** below.

22



Go into High Wood and continue along the winding path until you come to a T-junction with a wider path. You are now back in Woodley. This is point **(23)** below. *High Wood is mainly high forest with a few areas of coppice and a small area of dry and wet heathland. In places you can see remnants of the arboretum (rhododendrons, giant redwoods) created for Thomas Wheble of Woodley Lodge by the horticulturist J.C Loudon in the early 19th Century.*

23



At the junction turn right and continue forward keeping to the main wide path, ignoring offshoots to the left and right. After bearing right, pass over a dry shallow ditch and trees in the centre of the path, to eventually reach a large tree (80cm in diameter) in the centre of the path and a number of paths branching off. This is point **(24)** below.

24



Take the left-hand path, which actually goes straight on and then bears left, to reach a T-junction. This is point **(25)** below.

25

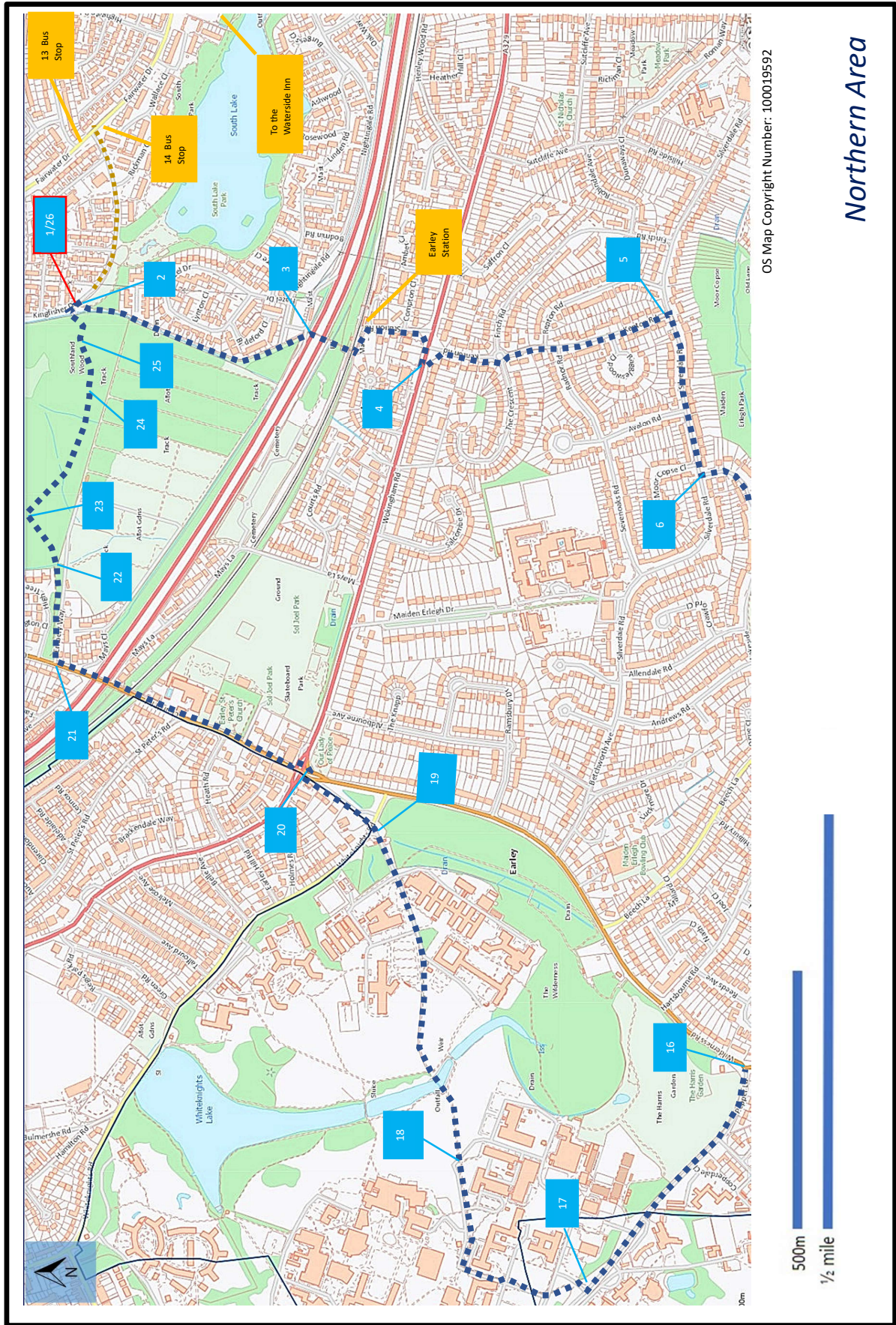


At the T-junction turn right and then left at the triangle to reach the barrier to the road. Exit the wood through the gap to the left of the barrier. Turn right on to the tarmac path then left to reach the crossing on Kingfisher Road where the walk started. This is point 26 below.

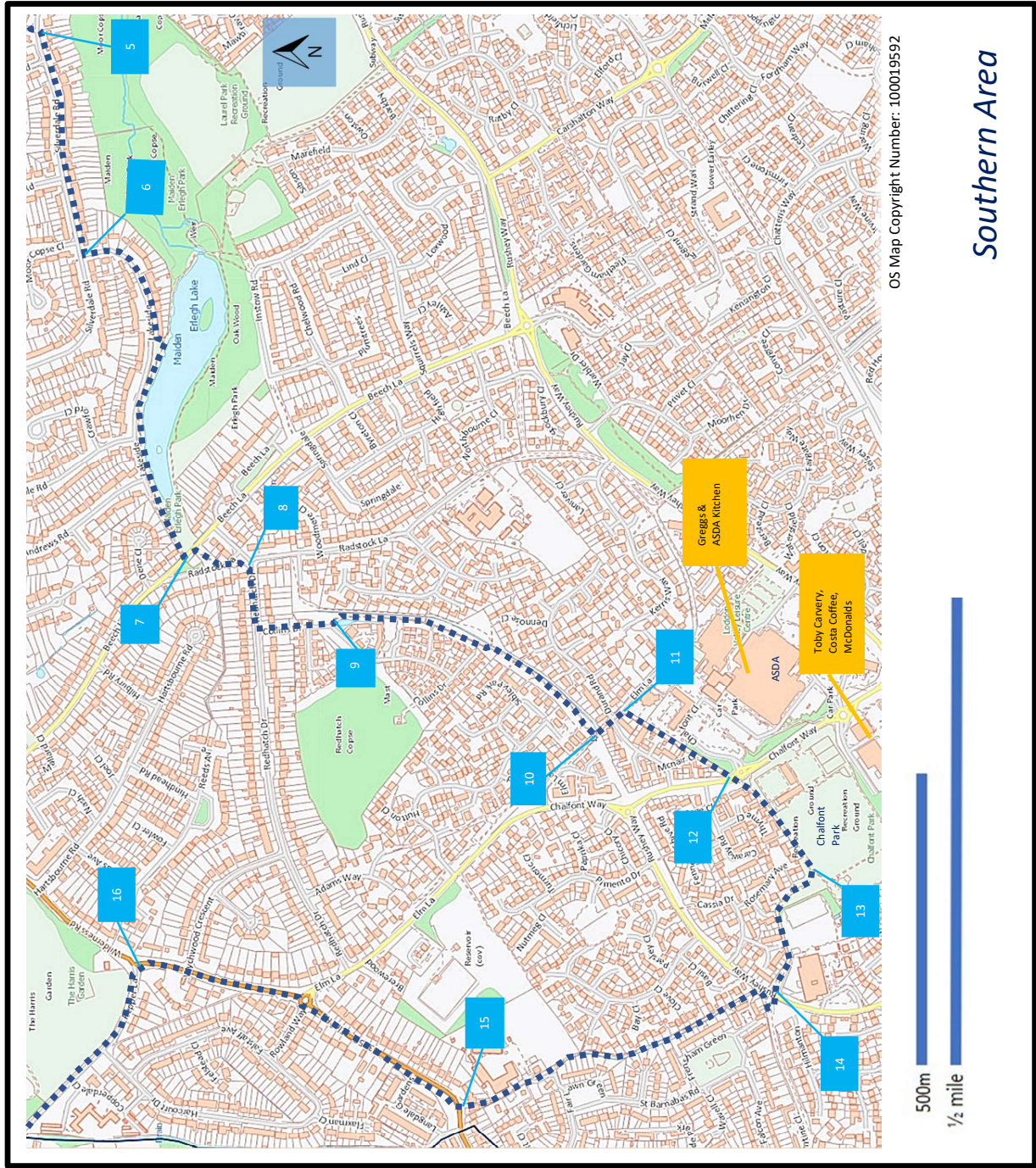
26



Journey's End



Northern Area



Southern Area