

HIDDEN HERITAGE: WALK 2 - ST EBBE'S & ST THOMAS'

1

- Leave **Bonn Square** (OX1 1EU) past the entrance to **New Road Baptist Church** to New Road
- Cross **New Road**
- Note the **Courthouse** on the left

It is recorded that the last public execution took place here in 1863.

2

- Turn left to the **Old Prison** (now Malmaison Hotel) along Justice Walk
- Turn right into **Castle Yard**
- Pass the old **Castle Mound** on the south side
- Walk past the entrance to **Oxford Castle & Prison**

3

- Turn left into **Mill Stream Walk**
- Walk onto the bridge over **Castle Mill Stream**
- You will soon see the **Castle Tower** and walls

4

- At the road junction, the bridge on the left is called '**Quaking Bridge**'

*Originally, this was a drawbridge out from a castle gateway and no doubt 'quaked' when heavy carts crossed it. This part of the river was also the site of a corn mill referred to in the **Doomsday Book** of 1086, the remains of which were finally removed in 1930.*

5

- After Quaking Bridge, walk straight along **St Thomas' Street**
- Continue westwards across the bridge over a branch of the Thames
- You can see on the left the chimney of the **Lion Brewery**

6

- At the end of St Thomas' Street, cross **Hollybush Row** (carefully) to St Thomas the Martyr churchyard (used in Inspector Morse stories)
- Before entering, see on the left the grey stone parish schoolhouse with an inscription high up on the wall visible from the churchyard

The church land was given to Osney Abbey between 1182-9 and the original church built before 1216. It became the property of Christ Church College at the Dissolution.

7

- Pass through the churchyard
- Turn right into **Becket Street**
- Walk to **Frideswide Square**
- Then walk left under the railway bridge into **Botley Road**

- Turn left into **Mill Street**
- Walk to the end and on the left is the site of **Osney Abbey** (now a burial ground)

8

Founded in 1129, Osney Abbey was rebuilt in 1235-49. In 1542, the church became the Cathedral of Oxford, but in 1546 this title was transferred to Christ Church. By 1557, there were few high walls left, except outbuildings and a mill. During the Civil War, armaments were stored there and in 1643, an explosion in the 'powder room' demolished the rest of the church.

9

- Turn left into **Osney Lane**
- Climb the bridge over the railway line and continue along Osney Lane
- Turn right into **Oxpens Road**
- Walk south and cross the road by the **Ice Rink**
- Walk on to pass over a bridge across the Mill Stream
- Turn left before **Westgate**, following the Mill Stream

10

- Continue past the City of Oxford College building (where you reach the sign for 'City Centre')
- Walk along the footpath until the fork in the watercourse
- Do not cross the footbridge on the left but follow the route to the right through to the City Centre
- Turn right into **Paradise Street**
- Cross **Castle Street** and climb the steps up **Church Lane**

11

- Before taking the escalator down on the right, look up at the mosaic
- At the bottom of the escalator, turn left across **Greyfriars Place** into **Turn Again Lane**

This is where the Oxford Preservation Trust offices are located.

- Note the 17th-century houses on the left
- Turn left into **Littlegate Street**

12

- Turn into **Brewer Street** on your right noting to the north the wall of Pembroke College that is part of the medieval walls
- Walk under the glass bridge

This was built in 2012 and has been nicknamed the 'Bridge of Thighs'.

13

- Turn left into **St Aldate's**

This was called Fish Street in the 14th century and through to the 18th century, but it is recorded that it was called South Street in 1643 probably because the spot was originally the South Gate of the medieval city walls.

14

- On the west side of St Aldate's you see the south-east corner of **Pembroke College** (originally almshouses dating from about 1578)
- Note the blocked doorway, high up on the south wall
- On the right is **Tom Tower**

It was designed by Christopher Wren and built in 1681-2, and every night at 9.05pm, the Great Tom Bell tolls 101 times.

- Continue north and turn left into **Pembroke Square** (where St Aldate's Church is on your right)

15

- As you turn right after passing the back of St Aldate's Church, note the street named '**Beef Lane**' on the left (marking the route of a medieval street)
- Pass through the narrow entry into **Pembroke Street** and turn left
- The **Story Museum** is ahead

This is a street of 17th-century houses, some possibly earlier.

16

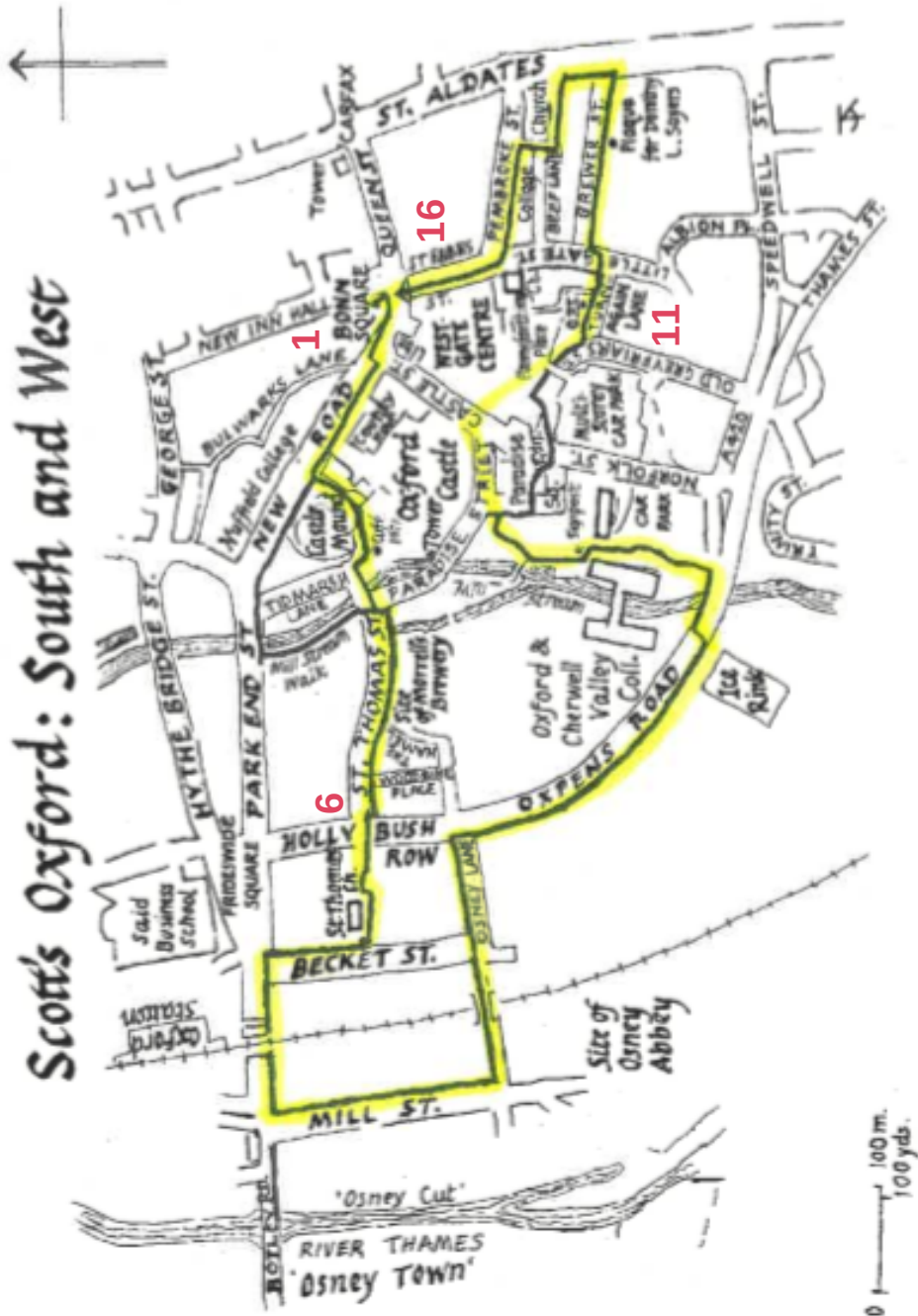
- At the west end of Pembroke Street (before turning right to reach the starting point and complete the walk), note the name of the extension of Pembroke Street westwards (which is **Penny Farthing Place**)

This road is not named after a 'penny-farthing' bicycle, but after a one-time, very early Bailiff of Oxford City, who was called 'Mr Pyneferthyng'.

END OF SELF-GUIDED WALK

Share your discoveries with us @OxfordPresTrust on Twitter! Love Oxford? Find out how you can support Oxford Preservation Trust by visiting the website: www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk.

Scott's Oxford: South and West



CAN YOU SPOT ANY OF THESE ON YOUR WALK?

ILLUSTRATIONS BY EDITH GOLLNAST FROM OXFORD HERITAGE WALKS (BOOKS 4 & 5)

