

Artist Residence

OXFORDSHIRE

EYNSHAM ABBEY RUINS & THE FISH PONDS

Distance: 6 miles

Time: 3.5 hours

1. Starting from South Leigh, walk down the Barnard Gate road from Crossing Cottage and straight on to the bridleway as the road turns left. Across the bed of the old railway track, follow the hedge on your left and up the path through the gap in the hedge and head towards the cottages known as The Nunnery, although there is no evidence that there was ever a nunnery here, only a railway cottage, as the Fairford line to Oxford ran this way, just to your left.
2. Here you come to a tarmac road, which you follow until you get to the next couple of cottages, Newfield and a cross roads of paths. Straight on is Eynsham, to the left is the road to Twelve Acre Farm and the footpath to take is to the right.
3. Following the path with the hedge on your left, carry on through a kissing gate. The path takes you by a wood and lake which is private. The path then follows the course of the old railway, with lots of wildlife, wild flowers and a host of butterflies in the Summer. At the end of this section the footpath directs you left and right around the edge of the industrial estate which was once Eynsham Station.
4. At the end of the footpath you come out into Station Road from where you turn left walking along to the car park (for the Abbey Ponds Walk) which is on your right. The fish ponds have now been restored into a delightful wildlife area.
5. The trail takes you around the playing field and into High Street past St. Leonard's Church and down Acre End Street. From here we walk straight over and down Chillbrook Road, after about 1 mile this will bring you back to The Nunnery where you retrace your steps back to South Leigh.

