

These walking maps link the Riverside Museum at Blake's Lock to Reading Museum in the town centre and Blake's Lock to the River Thames illustrating Reading's long history on the way.

The trail from the town centre passes through the Abbey Quarter, including the Victorian Forbury Gardens and the remains of Reading's Royal Abbey, then along the River Kennet on the Oscar Wilde memorial walk, beside the walls of the Reading Gaol site. Continue under the bridge and follow the footpath along the canal towards the Riverside Museum at Blake's Lock. Alternatively, you can walk to the Riverside Museum from the Oracle shopping centre along the River Kennet in under ten minutes.

The Riverside Museum at Blake's Lock is an extension of Reading Museum and tells the story of Reading's two rivers – the Thames and the Kennet. It occupies two former industrial buildings, the Screen and Turbine Houses. The Screen House displays include a beautiful Gypsy caravan, made on the banks of the Kennet, a video about Gypsy life and a medieval mill wheel found when The Oracle shopping centre was built.

The Turbine House is a unique building that spans the River Kennet, with waterside views. You can see preserved turbine machinery and summertime art exhibitions.

For more information please see our website www.readingmuseum.org.uk

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RIVERSIDE MUSEUM AT BLAKE'S LOCK

Free admission

Open every day during the summer season 10am – 6pm (1 April – 30 Sept)

Refreshments Bel & The Dragon is adjacent to the Museum. The menu is full of twists on an array of classic British dishes, with a focus on local, sustainable and, above all, quality ingredients.

Parking There is limited parking – remember to collect a car park token from Bel and The Dragon to exit the site.

Directions The Riverside Museum is off Kenavon Drive, about 20 minutes walk from Reading Station. Bus no 17 stops on nearby King's Road.

Riverside Museum at Blake's Lock, off Kenavon Drive, Reading, Berkshire. RG1 3DH.

T: 0118 937 3400
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READING'S MUSEUMS AND RIVERSIDE PLACES TO TRAIL SEE ON FOOT



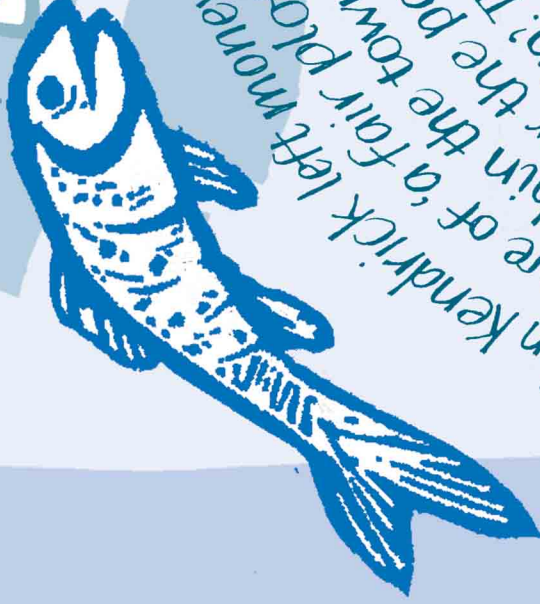
FROM BLAKE'S LOCK TO KENNETMOUTH



FOLLOW THE TRAIL TO THE RIVERSIDE MUSEUM AT BLAKE'S LOCK



STATION

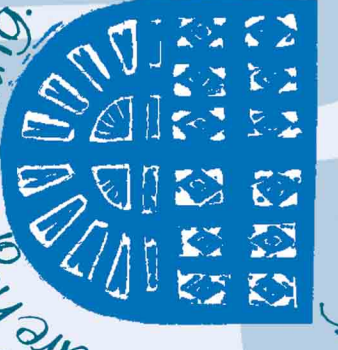


In 1624 John Kendrick left money for the purchase of a fair plot of ground within the town of Reading for the poor to work therein; the Oracle gates are now in the Museum.



The Ma and Lion in FORBURY GARDENS is a memorial to 328 men lost in Afghanistan in 1880

Henry West died in a whirlwind at the station in 1840. He is remembered here



SOANE MONUMENT



FORBURY SQUARE



GAOL

Scar wide walk



brigade had a boat to fight fires from the Kennet.

By 1898 an 'industrial army' of 5,000 men and women worked in Huntley & Palmers biscuit factory - the largest in the world. The factory's fire



RIVERSIDE MUSEUM AT BLAKE'S LOCK

Site of HUNTLEY & PALMERS



The HOLY BROOK now runs in a culvert under the centre of Reading. The culvert roof behind Cattle Street was built in the 16th century using carved stone work taken from the Abbey after the Dissolution in 1539. The Holy Brook runs in a culvert under the centre of Reading. The culvert roof behind Cattle Street was built in the 16th century using carved stone work taken from the Abbey after the Dissolution in 1539.



CRANIE

ABBAY MILL



HIGH BRIDGE

Wharves once lined the Kennet below High Bridge.



Dunton's one of Britain's best known gypsy caravan builders had their premises here. A caravan built at Crane Wharf in 1914 can be seen at Riverside Museum at Blake's Lock

Blake's Lock may be named after Robert Blake. When he was mayor in 1720 an angry mob wrecked the works for the Kennet and Avon Canal. They feared Reading would lose trade to rival towns when the canal was completed.



READING MUSEUM AND RIVERSIDE MUSEUM - FREE ADMISSION