

	CHESTER CITY TRAIL PT 152 - 12km			
START VENUE	The route description starts from Chester Railway Station, Station Road, Chester CH1 3NS but can be started at any point on route. Map 117 Grid Ref SJ 413 669.			
CAR PARKING	There are 2 pay and display car parks at the station, signposted East and West car parks. (Per day rate, £8.00). There are also numerous car parks in Chester however the Park & Ride is recommended (see below).			
PUBLIC TRANSPORT PARK & RIDE	Train/Chester Railway Station. There are 4 Park & Ride car parks served by bus routes Blue Line PR1 and Green Line PR2. See Route Description for drop off points. P&R charge at 31 March 2018, £2.00 per adult return (children free), free parking. Concessionary bus passes not accepted. Details available at http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transport_and_roads/public-transport/buses/park_and_ride.aspx			
DISTANCE/GRADE	12km - Grade 1			
TERRAIN	This is an urban walk with steps up onto the city walls, it is mainly flat with a few small inclines. The walk is mainly on paved surfaces but there is a stretch on a riverside gravel path . (After heavy rain, there may be standing water along this path). Wheelchair/pushchair access would be difficult due to the steps up to and the route along the city walls.			
CITY WALLS	The City Walls are often closed for repairs, there will be local diversions signposted.			
REFRESHMENTS:	As Chester is a City, there are ample places to purchase a wide variety of refreshments.			
TOILETS	There are public toilets available at the start in the Railway Station on the route in the café's and shopping centre.			
BWF / IVV	This trail is registered until 31 December 2018			
ROUTE DESCRIPTION CHECK/UPDATED	31 March 2018 (Please check you are using the latest version if you printed this off a while ago). [uploaded to website 7/4/18]			
BWF DECLARATION	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.			
ENTRY FORM	Please complete the section below and send your IVV log books, Payment and an SAE to the Contact Address. Please check the postage rate for weight/ thickness of the envelope. Overseas postage is more expensive.			
ENTRY FEE	£1.00 per walker (Cheques payable to: Lincolnshire Vikings Walking Club)			
AWARD	Sew-on cloth badge price £2.00. The cloth badge is shown at the top of this page. Quantity Required: _____			
SOUVENIER LOG BOOK	Free stickers for your souvenir log book are available on request. Quantity Required _____			
CONTACT/ ADDRESS FOR STAMPING OF BOOKS	Spike & Helen Elliott, LVWC, 11 St Ives Close, Macclesfield, Cheshire. SK10 3JX. Email: lvwc.bwf89@btinternet.com			
NAMES OF THOSE COMPLETING THE WALK				
DATE WALK COMPLETED		PAYMENT ENCLOSED	£	
EMAIL	(in case we need to contact you about your entr)			
PT POSTAL CARDS	Will be stamped if you do not wish to send your IVV books - YES/NO *			
QUESTION 1			QUESTION 5	
QUESTION 2			QUESTION 6	
QUESTION 3			QUESTION 7	
QUESTION 4				

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

If sections of the City Walls are closed for repairs, there will be local diversions signposted, which are usually just adjacent at ground level. It is not possible to document all the temporary changes as these can happen daily - please follow local signs/maps and/or read slightly ahead on the route description to identify the area you are heading for and follow at pavement level around the walls

March 2018. Substantial work is still being undertaken on the City Walls, at Northgate. Water Gate Bridge is now open.

The Park & Ride drop off points have changed. Depending on route and direction, the stop is either at Stop AA on Foregate Street (near Boots) or The Bars (end of Foregate Street near a clock). Both are on the route. All buses also stop at the Bus Interchange, but this is off the walk route.

- For walkers travelling from Boughton Heath P&R on Green Line PR2, get off at The Bars stop and see instructions in route description Green Line P&R 2 below.
- For walkers on Blue Line P&R1 or Green Line PR2 from Sealand Road, from Stop AA on Foregate Street, turn towards the clock on the bridge over the street, ahead on Foregate Street and just before the clock on the bridge at Lloyds Bank, Turn Left into St John Street .

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Q1: As you exit the station/with the main station entrance behind you, look to the right of the entrance . On the Plaque commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Opening of Chester General Railway Station. Who designed the Station (2 names)?

With the main station entrance behind you, go straight ahead into City Road, keeping to left hand side pavement. After approximately 500 metres go down into the subway. Turn left and then right and leave the subway by turning right up the steps [**Green Line P&R 2 from Boughton Heath bus drop off is The Bars just as you exit the subway**] then go straight ahead along Foregate Street towards the clock spanning the street [**Stop AA**]. Just before the clock tower, turn left by Lloyds Bank into St John Street and use the crossing at the end. Turn Right and then bear left through the brick gateway onto the wooden walkway with black railings round the rear of the amphitheatre. (If the walkway is closed, Turn left and walk round the roadside of the amphitheatre). Continue past St John the Baptist Church and follow the path alongside the railings which goes to your right, round the church and past the ruins.

Continue down the steps and turn left (by Post Box) through the gates into the park. (If the gates are locked or the park closed, use the alley next to this park, sign "access to 4 Parkside", and at the end, Turn Right into The Groves, down to the river, by Boathouse pub, turn right along the riverbank, passing Grosvenor Rowing Club Then go to Question 2). Follow the path through the park, passing under archway and turn right down steps and through the gate and ahead into The Groves (down to the river, by Boathouse pub) and turn right along the riverbank, to the Grosvenor Rowing Club.

[If the riverbank is flooded, retrace your steps to the park entrance then go onto Queens Park Bridge, picking up the route just below Q2]

Q 2: What is the name of the establishment at Number 23?

Continue along riverbank, go under the bridge, turn right and right again to cross Queens Park Bridge. At the far side of the bridge, turn left and go down to the river, then turn right and walk ahead on the path with the river on the left. Continue on the paved path until you come to a gate where The Meadows start. *[The path through The Meadows can be wet in places after heavy rain, but is normally passable]* Go through the gate and continue in the same direction on the gravel path beside the river (still on the left). Continue on path and pass the ferry crossing point. 200 metres beyond

the ferry, just before the gate by the river, bear right on path. Go along the path with hedge on left for approximately 180 metres, through the wooden kissing gate and follow path to another wooden kissing gate 220 metres further on, to exit The Meadows. This gate leads out onto a road, Bottoms Lane.

Continue ahead into St George's Crescent and then follow round to the right (at the triangle fork junction) remaining on St George's Crescent. Take the First Left Turn (by the Bus Stop) and ahead with the School Playing Field railings on your left. Continue ahead through bollards onto Cycle Route. Follow roadway/cycle path round to the right passing tennis courts on left and pass between houses. At the end of 'Northern Pathway' Turn Left and Question.

Q3. What is the name of the University of Chester Campus, which is opposite the end of Northern Pathway?

Continue along pavement alongside school buildings passing white rhinoceros. Just after passing the main entrance to Queens Park High School (and opposite end of Queens Park View road), Turn Right crossing road (zebra crossing available in few metres) onto the Public Footpath (signpost missing 17/06/2017) and continue on tarmac path with metal railings on the right. On reaching the riverbank, go down steps and turn left (river on right) and ahead passing the Water Wheel. Continue along riverbank, passing the Salmon Leap (weir) and ahead to reach steps by bridge. Climb the steps. Turn right and cross the Old Dee Bridge. At the arch, carrying the Old City Wall, go through the narrow pedestrian archway and immediately Turn Right and look at the archway wall and the round blue plaque.

Q4. On the round blue plaque The Bridgegate. When was the present arch built?

With the archway wall still on your right, pass the red post box in the wall and go up the slope between the cafe and the wall. At the top of the wall, continue to follow the wall in an anti clockwise direction (river below on your right).

Continue along the Wall, note the Roman Gardens below on the right and ahead along the wall towards the Clock Tower.

Pass under the clock tower (*built to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria*) and ahead along the Wall.

Along the wall you will pass Chester Cathedral, the route returns to the front of the Cathedral later). Continue along wall to reach King Charles Tower.

The wall turns left as you leave King Charles Tower. At Northgate (by No 1 City Walls) the wall is closed and is likely to be for some time. Descend the steps, cross the road and ahead following diversion keeping wall on your right. At the Water Tower Street sign go up the steps to rejoin the wall at Morgans Mount (you may wish to take advantage of the viewpoint). Continue on wall to reach the Water Tower where the wall turns left again.

Continue on wall as it descends to street level. At Water Gate Bridge (now restored and open) continue on walls over Water Gate Bridge.

Q5. At Water Gate Bridge on the Information Board. In what year was the Georgian Water Gate erected?

After crossing bridge continue ahead at street level and ahead passing the racecourse. At the end of the Racecourse use the pedestrian crossing and continue ahead on path opposite, along the Wall, by Chester Castle. At end of raised wall, follow the ramp down and Turn left passing the University of Chester (in the former County Hall building). Continue along the pavement to return to the Old Dee

Bridge at the end of Castle Drive. Turn left, under the arch, and walk up Lower Bridge Street, passing the Bear and Billet, a black and white timbered pub and then Ye Olde Kings Head.

Continue ahead along Lower Bridge Street, crossing Grosvenor Street/Pepper Street and ahead into Bridge Street. After approx 50 metres.

Q 6. On the left is a Blue Plaque about the Three Old Arches which were part of the facade from The Rows (the elevated rows of shops which Chester is famous for). Above the blue plaque on the actual Three Old Arches, what Year is mentioned?

At the end of Bridge Street, by St Peter's Church, turn right and at the bollards, cross the block paved road and bear left and go up the steps into Eastgate Row. At top of steps continue ahead along The Row. *The Rows in Chester are covered walkways with shops and premises at street level and at the first floor, where you are now, with areas to the right by the railings used as shelves or stalls for the display of goods.* At the second set of steps on the right to street level, TURN LEFT signposted Godstall Lane Shopping Arcade. Continue along the passageway, *which is Godstall Lane and one of only 4 surviving Medieval Lanes within the city walls* to the end and to the Blue Plaque on the right.

Q7. On the Blue Plaque for Godstall Lane. Where was Godstall Lane an important route to?

Turn Left and follow the road past the Cathedral to reach Northgate Street and the Town Hall (*Tourist Information Centre here*). Note the Blue Plaque on the Town Hall. Turn Right along Northgate Street, passing the Library (former Westminster Coach and Motor Car Works) and at the wall, the Northgate, go up the right hand steps and Turn Right. Continue on wall for approximately 350 metres, passing King Charles Tower and by Lampost No. 8 (just before the Chester Cathedral Falconry Centre), go down the wooden steps on the left. Follow the path which curves to the left and then turn right on path towards the canal. Turn right on the towpath (canal on your left). Pass under bridges (take care, all are number 123) and at Bridge 123B by Canalside Inn and The Old Harkers Arms, pass under bridge 123B and go up steps. At top, Turn Right over bridge and ahead back to the Railway Station.

Lincolnshire Vikings Walking Club hope you have enjoyed your walk.