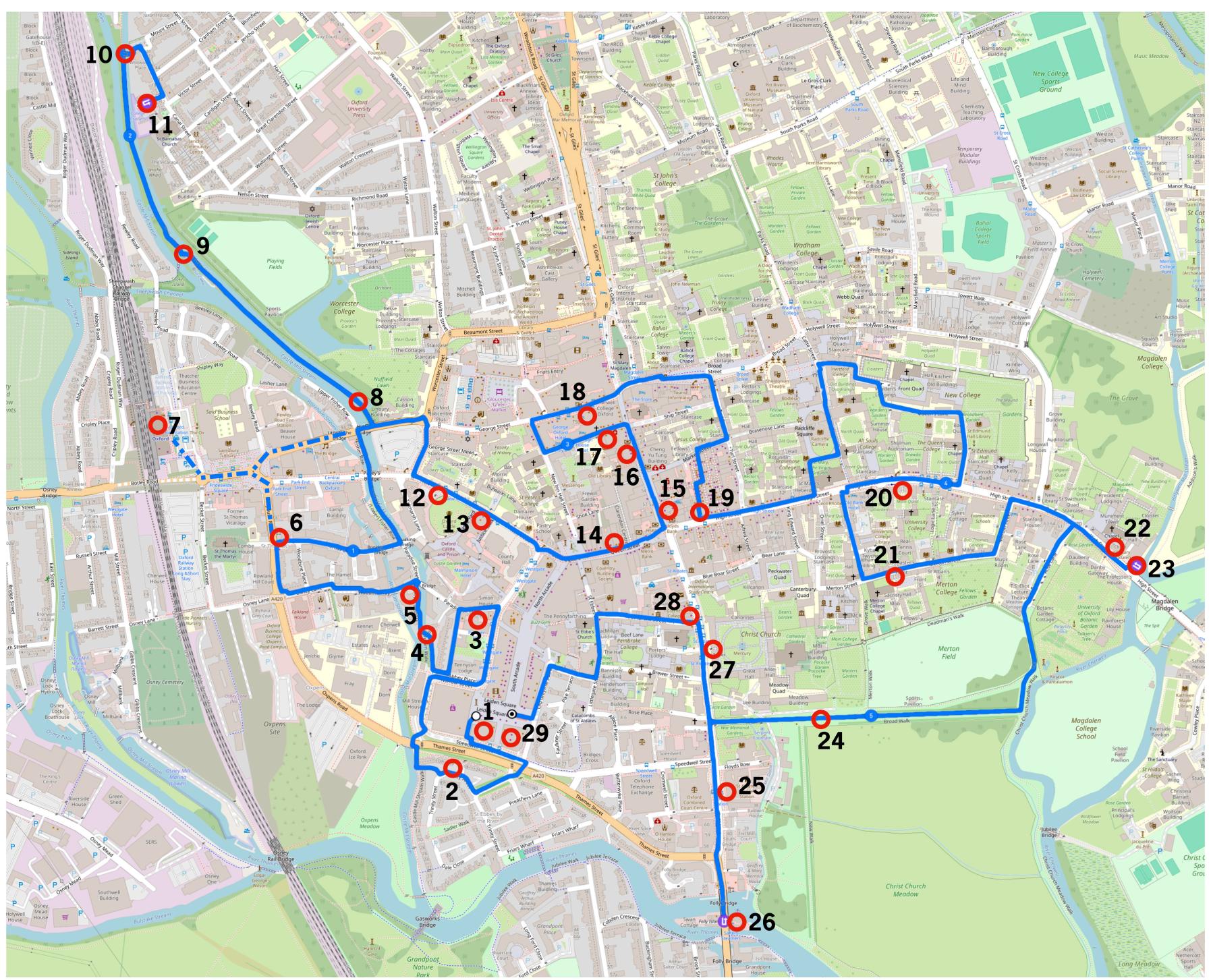


The Full of Beans Walking Tour

Oxford, England

Sponsored by Westgate College





The Full of Beans Walking Tour

Full of Beans is set in the English city of Oxford, and much of the action takes place at fictional locations like Westgate College, The Firkin Folly, or Collard Green's Vegan Café. Some places in the book are based on real locations, but reimagined. Others still are as described in the book (except the people, all the people in the book are fictitious). To find out which is which and what is what, why not take a tour?

By popular demand (of my daughter), here is the Full of Beans walking tour. It is intended to snake past many of the geographical highlights of the book, and the city. It is about a 6-mile hike if you do all of it, but it's mostly flat and there are plenty of places to get refreshments and have bit of a sit. You will see a lot of the outskirts of the city, but also much of the city centre. There's a fair bit of walking you can skip and, while the tour takes you to less popular, more lived-in bits of Oxford, you do also get to see some of the more traditional tourist attractions.

Please bear in mind that some of the places I picked are private property and not associated with the book at all in reality. Please be respectful of privacy and quietude.

Of course, not everyone can get to Oxford in person but you can do a virtual tour on Google Earth:
<https://tinyurl.com/ya6ur255>

Naturally Google Earth is a lot less walking, and is probably much quicker to zip around the city, but you will have to provide your own refreshments.

1 The Breakfast Club

We start and finish in the Westgate Oxford shopping centre, assuming you drove to Oxford and parked here. If you came by train, start at waypoint 7. The Breakfast Club is the place to go for an early morning start. Go early or book ahead of time. This is where Phil has a full English breakfast after returning from surveillance on Chianti Carbonara in Brighton and sleeping in the car, at the end of Chapter 3 before travelling back to his own time.

2 Kelly's Garage

An optional trip across Thames Street to Trinity St to see where Phil keeps his Ford Zephyr 4 MkIII. See if you can spot the garage pictured on the website.

3 Main Gate, Westgate College

Cross back over and walk alongside Westgate Shopping Centre up Norfolk St. Westgate College would be on your left. Turn left onto Paradise St., where you would find Greyfriars' Tower, the Main Gate entrance to Westgate College. WestgateCollege.org.uk

4 The Backs

Continue by turning left onto Paradise Square, walk down where the west side of the College buildings would be on your left and The Backs on your right. Turn right onto Abbey Place and then right on Mill Stream Walk. This is where The Backs would be; peaceful, open lawns by the Mill Stream and benches to sit on. Phil's favourite place in Oxford, can you imagine it? Also the site of Arbley Scrump's bonfire in Chapter 10. Bear left through the sculptural railings onto the Woodin's Way footbridge.

5 School of Divinity

Continue onwards towards Swan Bridge. On the left is where the Chapel would be, as well as the School of Divinity, which hosts the conference in Chapter 19. Then turn left to continue west on Woodin's Way and, from Osney Lane, turn right on Hollybush Row and head north.

6 Mrs. T.'s B & B

On the north corner of Hollybush Row and St. Thomas' St. (where '44' is) would be Marion Thistle's bed and breakfast. This is where Phil would have lived during his PhD years, revisited in Chapters 12 and 27.

7 Oxford Station

If you came by train, you will start the tour here. If you didn't, you can detour to the station to see where some of the action takes place. You could even pop to Appleford Station by train too! It would be about an hour or two round trip, or if you're traveling back towards London by train, you could catch the slow train and stop off there.

8 Canal Side Footpath

The best bit of the walking tour, for me, is Phil and Holly's stroll to Jericho up the Canal Side footpath (Chapter 13). It's a bit of a hike there and back again, so walk a short way, to see the narrowboats moored on the canal, and turn back if you like. But watch out for the swan shit (Chapter 13).

9 Isis Canal Footbridge

If you make it this far, continue onto the footbridge over the Isis Canal and head northward, keeping an eye out for the next footbridge across to Jericho.

10 Jericho Footbridge

Up the stairs and cross over the footbridge, down the steps the other side, right onto Canal Street, and then right into Combe Road.

11 Holly's House

I imagine that Holly lives in Number 1, the end terrace at the Canal Street end, on the left. She bought the house when she got a good job in publishing, and stretched with the mortgage. Then she got laid off and decided to go back to college to study for her Masters. Incidentally, the first Inspector Morse episode really was filmed here, and Morse's love interest lived in the furthest house on the right. Head off back to the Canal Side footpath and all the way back down to Hythe Bridge.

12 Castle Mound

Walk past the Worcester St. car park and onto New Rd. As you reach the Castle Mound is the spot where Phil buys his poppy in the rain (Chapter 17).

13 Slug & Lettuce

Continue on New St. and on the right you will see the Slug and Lettuce where Phil and Akito talk (Chapter 17). At the end of New St, bear left past Bonn Square (where Phil has breakfast in Chapter 34) and continue onto Queen St.

14 Phil's Flat

There are a couple of opticians on the left, and then next to Holland and Barrett there is a black door that is supposed to be the entrance to Phil's flat. His flat would be where Hank's bar is currently, above Popeyes. I imagine, in the book, Phil lives above a kitchenwares shop, a bookshop, or an Ann Summers. But not Popeyes.

15 Starbucks

Continue past Carfax Tower and then left onto Cornmarket St. On the right is Starbucks (Chapter 7).

16 McDonald's

Just a little further up on the left is the McDonald's (Chapter 13 and others). Somewhere near here, between two Georgian buildings, is where Pedge & Co. would be.

17 Three Goats Heads

Turn left onto St. Michael's St and on the left is the Three Goats Heads pub from Chapter 13. This is a great spot and a good time to stop for refreshments. The Steak and Ale pie really is very good. Please don't expect to find Jim, though. He isn't real. I made him up.

18 Wig and Pen

Continue round the block to the right, and right again, onto George St. and the Wig and Pen (Chapter 7) is on your right. It's a very cool pub - with an 'accessible' toilet!

19 Varsity Club

Continue on to Broad St, right into Turl St., right again into Market St and then left into the Covered Market. You should allow time for a wander round, and look up at the Alice decorations. Leave the market via 'Avenue 1' on the west side where you will see the entrance to The Varsity Club (Chapter 13). The rooftop is a good spot to go for a cocktail and the view is very cool, but dancing in real-life only happens on Level 1, not on the rooftop (Chapter 13). Had enough? Head to waypoint 27 or turn left onto Main St. As you set off walking, across the street on the right is Alfred St where Betty's Buns would be serving the most luxurious pastries in all of Oxfordshire, if Betty's was real.

If you'd like a sightseeing detour, turn left at St. Mary's Church (where you might be able to get a nice cup of tea). Now we're entering real Oxford tourist territory. Stroll past the Radcliffe Camera. Marvel at where you are around here. It is why Oxford attracts so many to visit. If you have time to spare, the Bodleian Library is here and the courtyard is worth a look. Make your way to Catte St. Turn right onto New College Lane where you will see the Bridge of Sighs. If you'd like a detour and maybe a drink or a bite to eat you could go left into St Mary's Passage and to the Turf Tavern. Otherwise continue down Queen's Lane.

20 University College Main Quad

Turn right onto High St. On the other side of the road you will find University College. If you're lucky, the gates might even be open. This was the real inspiration for Westgate's Front Quad. The lawns with the path in between and the buildings seen on the website, looking from Staircase C (Chapters 17 and 24). Apart from the gate itself, this is where the frontage of Westgate College was taken from for the aerial view on the website.

21 Merton College Main Gate

Continue on High St. and head left on Magpie Lane, then left again onto the tranquility of Merton Street. Here you will find Merton College main gate, that was used to create the image of Westgate College's Greyfriars' Tower, the Main Gate, that is so important to the plot. Note that Westgate is a mirror image of Merton College's entrance. If the gate is open, you will be able to see the Porters' Lodge that, in its Westgate incarnation, features in the story too. Venturing in through the gate is liable to get you asked to leave, but beyond the gate and the lodge, Merton's quad isn't pretty and did not feature in the design of Westgate College. Continue on and turn right onto High St. again. If

you are flagging at this point, or time is getting short, you can make your way directly to Tom Tower, waypoint 27 and head back to the car.

22 Magdalen Tower

A short way down the street, on the left, you will see the highest point in Oxford; Magdalen Tower. It's pronounced like 'maudlin' in case you need to talk to the locals about it, or ask directions. Fergal O'Reilly refers to the tower in Chapter 2.

23 Punts on the Cherwell

A little further, and down by the punt hire dock, is the spot where Phil travels to in Chapter 9 before he heads to Brighton. The punts can also be seen from Magdalen Bridge over the River Cherwell.

24 Broad Walk

Head from Magdalen Tower, across the road, and down Rose Lane. Go through the metal 'kissing gate' (which closes at 9pm), and bear left along by the river Cherwell on Christ Church Meadow Walk. Turn right onto Broad Walk and find the spot overlooking the meadow near the imposing, gothic-style Meadow Building (Chapter 34).

25 Havarti's Workplace

Then walk on to St. Aldate's. If you are exhausted, turn right and head to waypoint number 27. If you aren't exhausted yet, turn left for a half-mile detour south. As you head south, you will pass the Thames Valley Police where Havarti is supposed to work and where Phil is being taken in Chapter 28.

26 The Firkin Folly

Heading further south is Folly Bridge, and Salter's Steamers, where The Firkin Folly would be. Turn round here. You're doing great and we're almost done. This is the home stretch now. FirkinFolly.com

27 Tom Tower

Tom Tower was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. This is the entrance to Christ Church College and it features as the view from the window table in the vegan café.

28 Collard Green's Vegan Café

Just past St. Aldate's Church, near Pembroke St. is where Collard Green's Vegan Café would be. Roughly where Greene College offices and 'Oxford Memories' are situated. CollardGreensVeganCafe.com

29 The Alchemist

Wander west on Pembroke St., turn left on St. Ebbe's St., right on Turn Again Lane and finally left onto Old Greyfriars' St. A short way down, on the right, is a big open entrance to the shopping centre (called Trill Mill Lane). This is where Holly gets dropped off by the Uber (Chapter 23). So, now you are back at the Westgate shopping centre and you have earned a cocktail, so head up the escalators to the top floor and The Alchemist to finish the tour where Holly gets changed for work (Chapter 25). They do some fun, sciencey cocktails with dry ice and laboratory glassware!

