



Design and Heritage Statement

The *Camino Inglés* Pilgrimage Way Marker

Reading Abbey, Berkshire



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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

This document has been produced in support of a proposal to install a stone way marker/milestone (“Mouteira” in Galician) at a location within the surrounding grounds of Reading Abbey. The site is protected with scheduled monument status. Therefore, Section 4 contains a heritage statement to accompany this application.

1.2. Applicant

This statement has been prepared by the Confraternity of St James UK (CSJ) in conjunction with the Culture and Heritage Team of Reading Borough Council in support of a full planning application that is being made to seek consent for the proposal.

1.3. Background

The stone marker will signal the starting location of the modern-day St James’ Way Camino Inglés (“the English Way”) pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain.

Reading Abbey was the centre of the cult of Saint James in the Middle Ages. From the abbey, the probable route of a medieval pilgrim is traced, via the ancient capital city of Winchester, to the port of Southampton, where a boat is taken to the port city of A Coruña. From this point, the pilgrim follows the Camino Inglés through Galicia to reach the cathedral in Santiago, where the tomb of Saint James the Great, the apostle of Jesus Christ, can be found.

1.4. Objective

This proposal will form part of a wider project to place milestones in relevant locations all around the world, in places where pilgrims have travelled and will travel the different routes and paths to reach the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

The ‘Camino Project’ of the Galician Government seeks to work with relevant bodies in the UK, such as the CSJ and Reading Borough Council to organise the necessary permissions and consents to enable the placing of the stone marker in a suitable location beside Reading Abbey, where it can be easily found and recognised. The ‘Camino Project’ will be supplying and shipping the completed milestone to the UK and when suitable permissions and consent are in place, the CSJ and Reading Borough Council will organise the installation.

There are resources and information readily available detailing the significance and history between Reading Abbey and Saint James, in particular the CSJ’s publication, ‘A Pilgrim Guide to St James’ Way’ with contributions from the Friends of Reading Abbey organisation. The proposed milestone will display the Camino symbol and a yellow arrow to direct the pilgrimage journey.

Its placing will forge the connections between Reading and the other Camino routes in continental Europe. It forms one of three applications for the St James’ Way Camino Inglés, to site stone way markers at significant points along the route. The others are in Winchester and Southampton. These three combined will substantially elevate the profile of the Camino pilgrimage to the South of England.

2. Site Details

2.1. Site Location

The site is situated in Reading town centre beside Reading Abbey. The abbey has the postcode RG1 3BA.

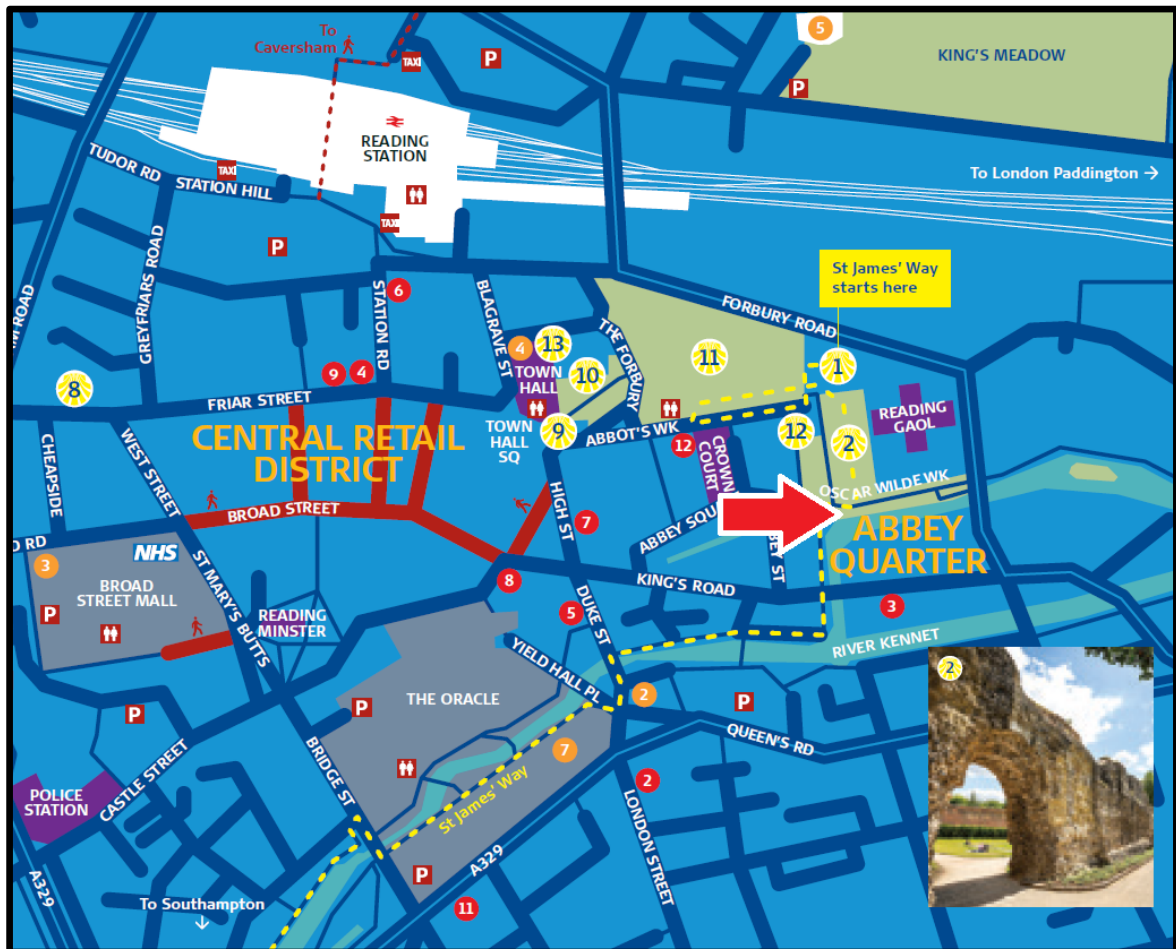


Figure 2.1A – Location map

This map also traces the St James' Way route (yellow dashed line) through Reading.

2.2. Site Setting

The extensive remains of Reading Abbey stand on the banks of River Kennet in the Abbey Quarter of central Reading. The abbey was founded in 1121 by King Henry I. His daughter, Princess Matilda, brought the 'Hand of St James' relic to the abbey from Germany. This relic, and others, drew medieval pilgrims to the abbey to venerate the saint.



Photo 2.2A – Reading Abbey as seen from the opposite bank of the River Kennet



2.3. Proposed Waymarker Location

The location proposed for the stone way marker is close to the remains of Reading Abbey, on the upper verge between Oscar Wilde Memorial Walk/Chestnut Walk and the Kennet & Avon Canal/River Kennet – see orange arrow on the Figure 2.3A map.

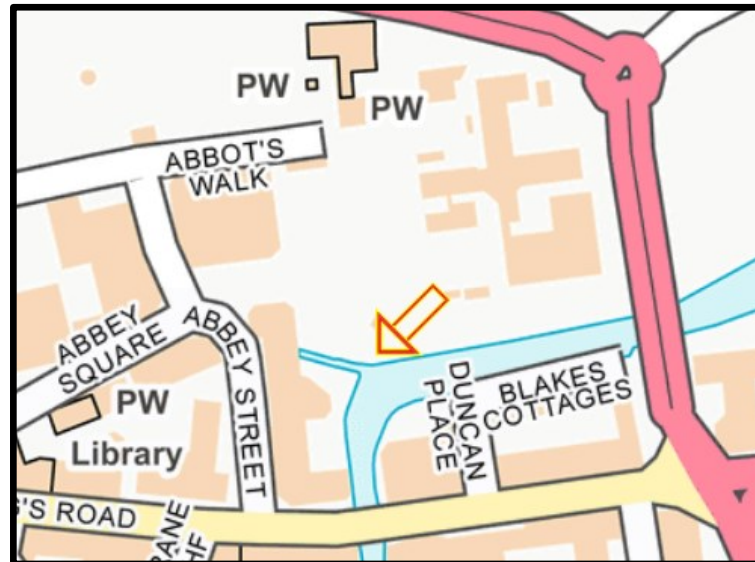


Figure 2.3A – Location of proposal

2.4. Visual Representation

This photo gives a visual representation of the way marker proposal. It has been superimposed on its proposed precise location at the centre of the empty tiled area on the verge of Chestnut Walk beside the abbey and the river (although it's not an accurate portrayal as the yellow arrow and scallop shell motif would point in the opposite direction).



Photos 2.4A – Visual representation of proposed milestone location



2.5. Site History

Reading Abbey was founded on 18th June 1121: this was the day when a small party of monks arrived from Cluny and Lewes priory to start work on the site. The Abbey was founded by King Henry I – the youngest son of William the Conqueror – and was his place of burial. It was a royal Abbey from its inception and lavishly endowed with lands and relics. It remained under royal patronage until its dissolution by Henry VIII in 1539. At the time of the dissolution, it was one of the ten wealthiest monastic foundations in England.

The Abbey was strategically located on major communication routes linking London and Windsor to the south and west. Throughout its 400-year life, it was visited regularly by the Kings and their Council and hosted parliaments, royal weddings and other historical events. This connection continued after its dissolution, when the Abbey was taken into the hands of the crown and monastic buildings were converted into a royal palace visited by Edward VI, Mary and Philip, Elizabeth I and Charles I. The Abbey also held the lordship of Reading and had a significant impact on the social and economic development of the town.

A significant portion of the monastic site has been occupied by Reading Gaol since 1786 (now disused). The Abbey was one of the leading Benedictine Abbeys in Europe, and its possession from the early days of the **Hand of St James the Great**, among a collection of 230 or so relics, endowed it with great significance for visiting pilgrims. The abbey ruins were closed to the public in 2009 for safety reasons and re-opened in 2018 following extensive works funded by a £3.1m Heritage Lottery Grant and now form the central core of the Abbey Quarter.

2.6. Site Status

In 1915 the abbey and Civil War earthwork, which includes: Forbury Gardens, Abbey Gateway, Reading Gaol and the surrounding area between the river and roads were designated with scheduled monument status, given to register the national historic importance of the site whilst offering protection in perpetuity against unauthorised change. Section 4 demonstrates the suitability of the proposal within this setting.

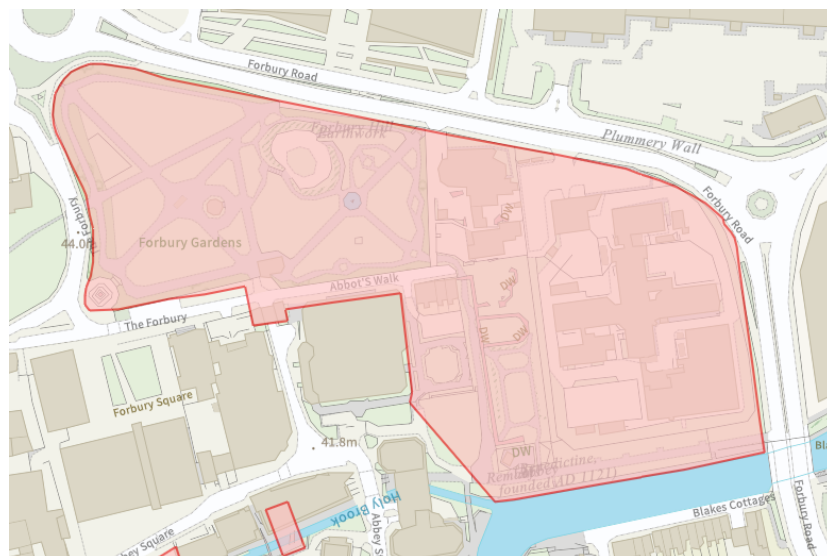


Figure 2.6A – Area of Scheduled Ancient Monument Status



2.7. Site Ownership

Today the land is owned and maintained for the public by Reading Borough Council.

The ownership of the wider area (Abbey Quarter) and specific locale (along Chestnut Walk) is detailed in the excerpt below from a conservation document, provided by Christelle Beaupoux from the Culture and Heritage Team at Reading Borough Council.

“The Abbey Quarter site currently contains a wide spectrum of uses, representing a significant portion of the historic town centre of Reading. The surviving standing ruins of the Abbey buildings occupy a slice through the middle of the site starting at the south end with the remains of the Reredorter fronting the river on Chestnut Walk and working northwards with the site of the Dormitory buildings forming an enclosed grassed public park area. To the west of this, outside the ownership of Reading Borough Council, is the surviving wall of the Refectory. The Chapter House and South Transept ruins stand more austere in a gravelled area and the visible ruins peter out with fragments of the North Transept amongst the Presbytery and School attached to St James Roman Catholic Church, also not in RBC ownership. In Forbury Gardens themselves, there is a significant amount of carved-facing stonework from the Abbey built into the access archway, the boundary walls and the park shelter. The church, presbytery and school are Victorian buildings forming a family of flint-faced ecclesiastical design. To the east of this is the Prison where the ornate early Victorian ‘Tudor’ style cross-block is enclosed within a high modern security wall. This closed in December 2013 and now provides a further exciting opportunity to redevelop and enhance the site.

Chestnut Walk is a tree-lined avenue running between the prison wall and a quay for narrowboats on the River Kennet (where it is part of the Kennet & Avon Canal). It has railings and street furniture designed on an Oscar Wilde theme and forms part of a well-used pedestrian route eastwards along the river. On the opposite bank of the Kennet, there is a well-preserved terrace of early Victorian houses which have been included in the Abbey Quarter on account of their contribution to the river frontage.

Reading Borough Council has an Access Policy which applies to all its sites and public spaces. There is level access to the Abbey Ruins from Forbury Gardens and Chestnut Walk, circulation within the site. The council’s projects and improvement schemes have maintained the area including public realm improvements, new interpretation and way findings strategy highlighting the historic significance of the site (Abbey, Oscar Wilde...) falling and replacement of the diseased trees and the installation of benches/lighting on Chestnut Walk.”

2.8. Location Photo



Photo 2.8A – View from proposed location looking toward the abbey



3. The Milestone and What it Symbolises

3.1. Design

The milestone design is a small obelisk that is representative of the Camino de Santiago. It is acknowledged as an established Camino symbolic guide to pilgrims and is used widely around the world at key locations to indicate the correct direction and the distance to Santiago de Compostela. Each milestone contains the recognised symbols of the Camino: the yellow arrow and the scallop shell. On the rear of the obelisk will be an outline map design identifying the location in the UK. A specification document is included with this application.



Figure 3.1A – Milestone Design

3.2. Material

The milestone is a solid piece of granite which will be shipped to the UK from Spain. The Galician Government are making efforts to export these granite landmarks to emblematic places around the world.

3.3. The Camino Inglés: the revived ancient pilgrimage

The Camino de Santiago, which translates to the “Way of Saint James” in English, is a network of trails serving pilgrimage to the tomb of the apostle Saint James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, north-west Spain, where tradition has it that the remains of the saint are buried. The Camino Inglés (“English Way”) is the trail followed by medieval pilgrims from England and Ireland, who travelled by sea to the Galician ports of Ferrol and A Coruña.

A modern-day pilgrim walks this path as a means of personal and spiritual formation which is immersive in the history, nature, faith and culture they encounter.

3.4. Santiago de Compostela

The Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela is one of three major, traditional Christian pilgrimage sites in the world, the others being Rome and Jerusalem. Having been traversed by Christians for over 1,000 years, it serves as the last remaining pilgrimage site in which a vast majority of pilgrims reach their destination by means of walking. The Camino is truly unique in that it has maintained an extensive infrastructure of pilgrim accommodation.

4. Heritage Assessment - Nature and Significance of the Heritage Assets

4.1. Scheduled Monument

The statutory list registered with Historic England categorises the site as a Scheduled Monument (area outlined in red in Figure 2.6A) with the List Entry Number 1007932 and the description “*Reading Abbey: a Cluniac and Benedictine monastery and Civil War earthwork.*”

There is an obligation therefore under this protective legislation to make this application to Historic England for Scheduled Monument Consent.

4.2. Listed Buildings

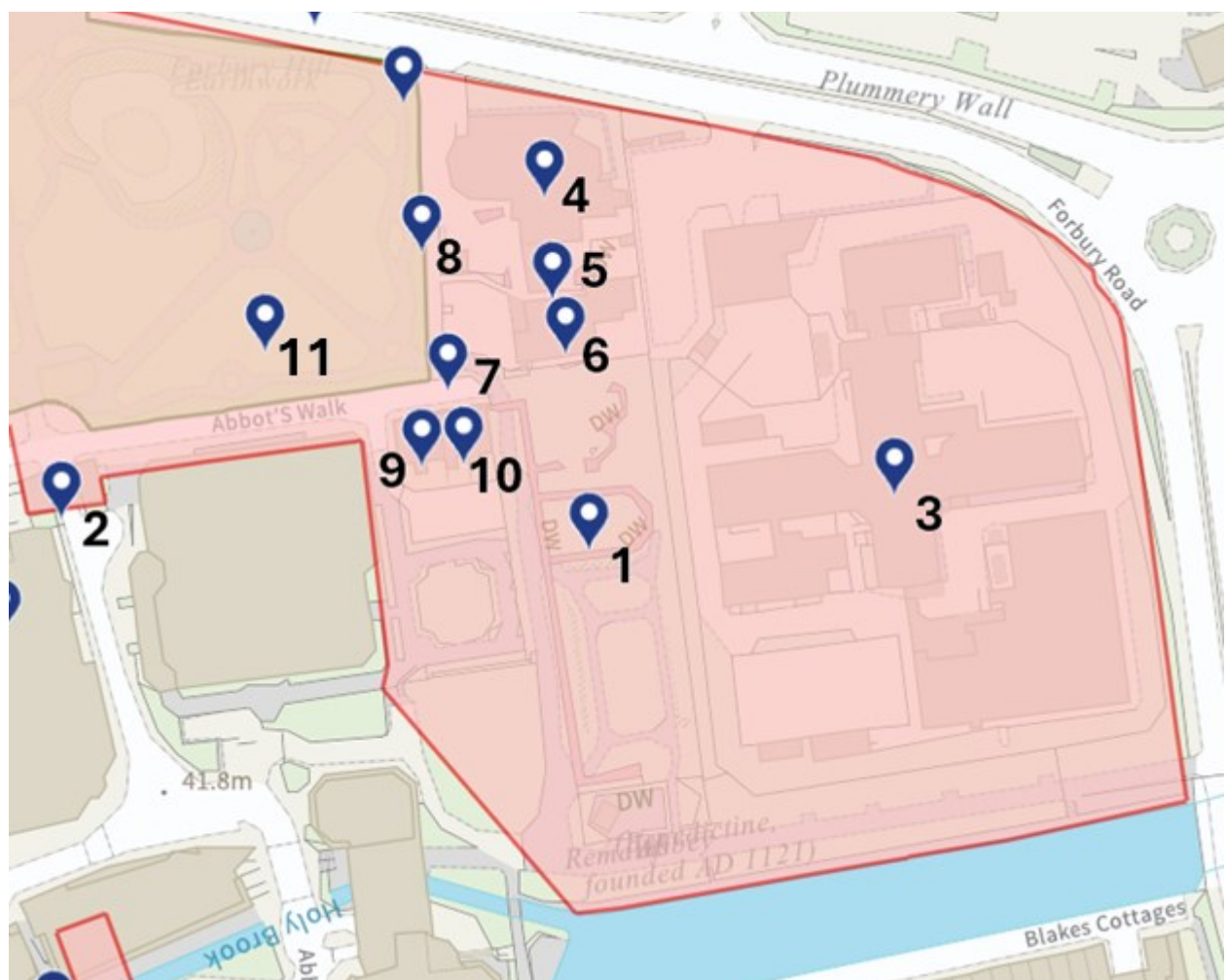


Figure 4.2A – Historic England Registered Assets

Within the scheduled monument setting are:

1. “**Reading Abbey Ruins**” (label 1 in Figure 4.2A) which is categorised as a Grade I Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1113477.



Reading Abbey was founded in 1121 by Henry I and intended to be England's principal Cluniac House. Extensive precincts stretched from the Plummery Wall to the Kennet and from St Laurence's (at the west gate) to the east side of the Gaol. Caen stone, quarry flint and Taynton stone. The remains are principally grouped to the south of St James's RC School. They include portions of the north and south transepts, the chapterhouse (which must have resembled that at Durham), the west wall of the Dorter and the rere-dorter.

2. **"Abbey Gate"** (label 2 in Figure 4.2A) is also categorised as a Grade I Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1155691.

The Abbey Gateway was originally the inner gateway of Reading Abbey. It has a porter's lodge on the ground floor and a large open room above the gate. The gateway marked the division between the area of the abbey open to the public and the section accessible only to monks, with the abbot's lodging just inside the gateway. The gateway thus became the meeting place between the abbot, who commanded considerable powers within the town, and the people of the town.

After an extensive restoration which was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, it reopened in 2018. The room above the gateway is now used by Reading Museum as part of its learning programme for local schools, whilst the arch below is available for use by pedestrian and cycle traffic.

3. **"Reading Gaol (main building) former Her Majesty's Prison"** (label 3 in Figure 4.2A) is categorised as a Grade II Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1321948.

County gaol, 1842-4 by George Gilbert Scott and William Boynton Moffatt, altered c.1970. Certain buildings and parts of the buildings are excluded from the Listing.

Famous for the poem by Oscar Wilde, a former inmate, "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" which was based on the memory of an execution that took place here while he was serving a sentence for homosexual offences (1895–1897). On the night of 28 February 2021, the graffiti artist Banksy painted a mural on the wall of the prison depicting a prisoner escaping on a rope made of bedsheets tied to a typewriter, speculated to be a reference to Wilde's imprisonment.

Closed in January 2014. In January 2024, the property was sold for £7 million to the non-profit Ziran Education Foundation, run by the Chinese-born businessman Channing Bi.

4. **"Church of St James's"** (label 4 in Figure 4.2A) is a Grade II Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1113480.

Roman Catholic 1837-40 by Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin. Untypical Norman style. Much altered 1925 by W.C. Mangan (south aisle and apse ambulatory), and 1962 by Bingham Towner (north aisle). Flint with Bath stone ashlar dressings.

Interior: wooden roof, vaulted apse. C12 interlacing on re-used stone from Abbey is now the font. Pugin's first church design. The Norman style was probably dictated by proximity of Abbey remains.



5. **“St James’s Presbytery”** (label 5 in Figure 4.2A) is a Grade II Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1321947.
Circa 1840. By Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin. A rare example of Norman revival - quite alien to his normal style. Very much altered and included for the sake of the fragments of the Norman Abbey built into it. Two storeys.
6. **“St James Former School Buildings”** (label 6 in Figure 4.2A) is a Grade II Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1113481.
1876. Plain Gothic. Flint with Bath stone ashlar quoins and dressings.
7. **“Archway connecting Forbury Gardens to Abbey Ruins including retaining walls flanking path to Abbey Ruins, Forbury Gardens”** (label 7 in Figure 4.2A) is categorised as Grade II* Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1113478.
Mid C19 archway incorporating numerous fragments from the C12 Abbey.
8. **“Wall between Forbury Road and Abbott’s Walk to west of St James’s Church”** (label 8 in Figure 4.2A) is a Grade II Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1303165.
Bounds Forbury Gardens to east. Probably circa 1840 or 1855. Flint with Bath stone ashlar piers of varying height. Ends in small gate to Abbot’s Walk with arch of re-used voussoirs and chevron capitals (C12), stepped parapet over.
9. **“10, Abbot’s Walk”** (label 9 in Figure 4.2A) is a Grade II Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1303781.
Early C19. (Probably circa 1840). 3 storeys and basement. Silver grey brick.
10. **“11 and 12, Abbot’s Walk”** (label 10 in Figure 4.2A) are Grade II Listed Buildings with the List Entry Number 1113391. Early C19. 3 storeys and basement.
11. **“Anglican Cross”** in Forbury Gardens (label 11 in Figure 4.2A) is a Grade II Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1113479.
Erected 1909 “To the memory of Henry Beauclerk, King of England, who founded Reading Abbey on June 18, 1121, and was buried before its high altar on January 4, 1136”. Tapering granite shaft on 3 steps. Tall. Capped with ringed cross. On north side badge of Plantagenets (3 leopards) and on south, badge of the abbey (3 scallops). The erection of this monument was instigated by the local antiquary Dr James on Hurry.
12. **“The Plummery Wall”** along Forbury Road/Gardens is a Grade II Listed Building with the List Entry Number 1113482.
Mid C19 wall on site of and probably incorporating the medieval Plummery wall Dwarf wall of mixed flint and random rubble and brick with low mid-C19 railings. North side about 8 feet high.

From the start of the St James’ Way Camino Inglés at the St James Church, pilgrims pass these Listed Buildings as they walk the route before reaching the proposed stone marker. This not only immerses them in a fascinating start to their pilgrimage, explained by many information boards, but also presents the heritage behind the reason for their journey from Reading to Santiago de Compostela.



4.3. Distance of Proposal from Heritage Assets

The stone marker would be located within the area designated as a scheduled monument. The marker would be 8 metres away from the corner of the necessarium (rere-dorter) wall of the abbey and 26.5 metres away from its modern-day public entrance from Chestnut Walk. It would also be approximately 100 metres away from the Listed central parts of the gaol.

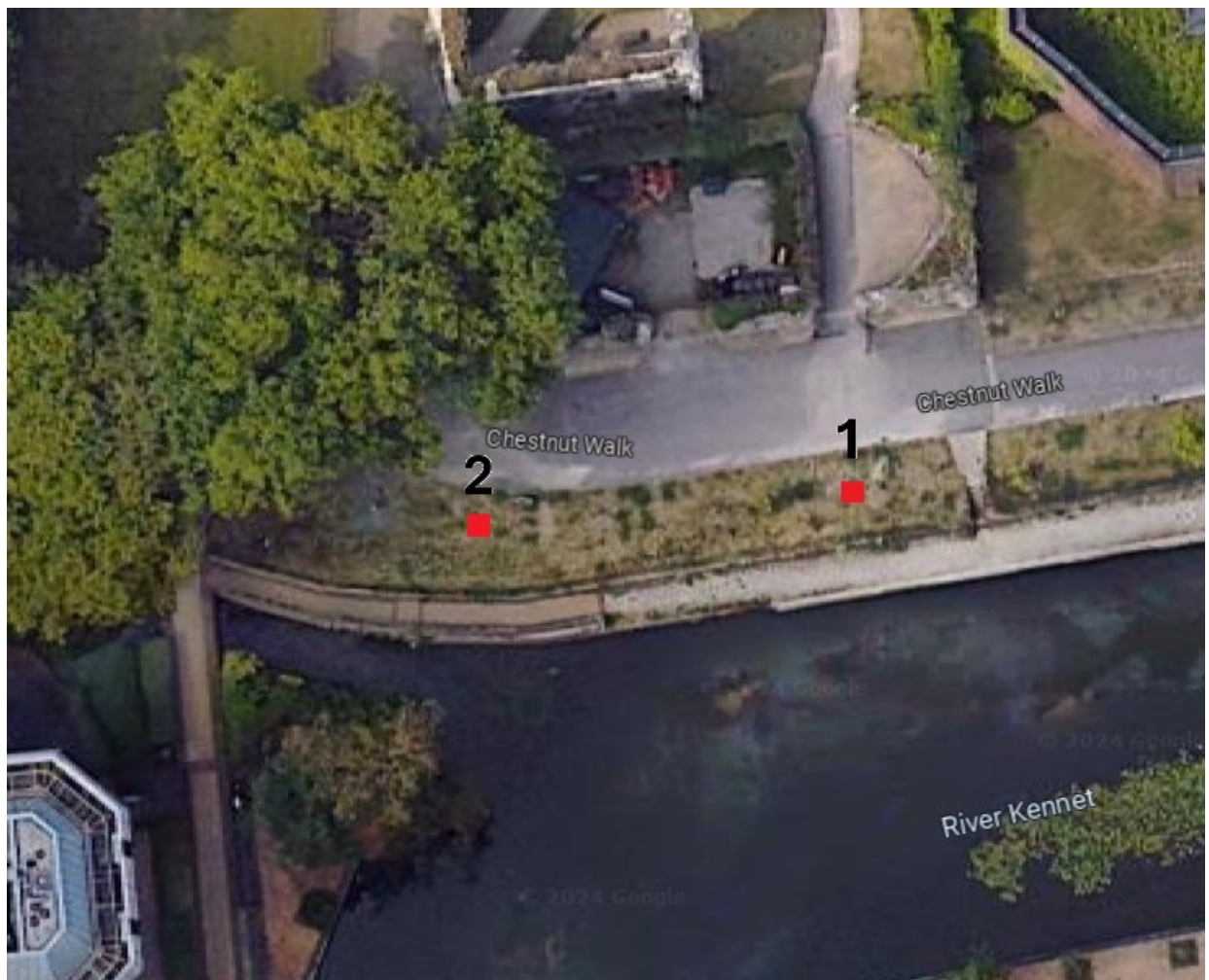
4.4. Pre-Application Consultations

Positioning the stone marker within the remaining abbey walls was dismissed as invasive and unnecessary.

The two locations considered were outside the abbey walls and would be seen by pilgrims soon after leaving the abbey. Both options were on the top verge between Chestnut Walk and the River Kennet.

Option 1 was immediately opposite the entrance to the abbey from Chestnut Walk on grass.

Option 2 was a further 25 metres along the Camino route as it goes along Chestnut Walk at the end of the abbey, on a 2.9-metre square empty tiled area. The purpose for tiling this area is no longer known.



Aerial photo 4.4A – Locations considered and consulted on

Consultations on these positions were made with Historic England, Reading Borough Council and The Friends of Reading Abbey.

Option 1 would have marginally interfered with the free access/use of the grass verge. It was acceptable.

However, Option 2 (covered in Section 2) presented an ideal custom-built area to stage the stone marker for pilgrims and visitors to gather around. Its use repurposes the empty tiled area, so became the preferred location.

A summary of the responses received can be viewed in Section 6.



Photo 4.4B - Option 1

4.5. Impact on the Heritage Assets

The installation works will further disturb the tiled area to establish a sound base (600mm x 600mm x 200mm) for the ½ tonne stone way marker. After removal of the bricks a 200mm deep hole would be hand-dug to allow a concrete foundation to be laid. The tiled area would be levelled for the stone way marker to be pinned by 4 corrugated stainless-steel rods (diameter 10mm, length 300mm; lessened after slotting the rod into the base slab of the stone way marker) with resin to set the base.

A concrete drill (for the connector rods) and small HIAB hydraulic crane (to lower the 500 kg stone way marker onto the rods) would be the machinery used on the site for the installation. Photo 4.5A shows its installation at Finchale Priory in County Durham, where it was not pinned; only set in a resin bond.



Photo 4.5A – Installation at Finchale Priory near Durham



The stone marker would stand at 1.15 metres in height set apart from the abbey by the walkway and verge beside the river. Due to the small scale and use of natural material, it is intended not to be harmful to the setting and visual experience of the listed buildings and scheduled monument. The proposal should be viewed in context, with the impact of existing modern installations such as the railings along the Oscar Wilde Memorial Walk and signage about the abbey.

The stone marker would be a small-scale intervention that is intended to be part of the pilgrimage story of the site.

4.6. Positive Impact / Justification

Today, the Camino attracts thousands of pilgrims from all over the world to travel the different routes and paths to reach Santiago de Compostela establishing it as an important economic, cultural and touristic asset that inspires positive change and enables opportunities to achieve health and spiritual goals.

The motivations of modern pilgrims are very diverse. They may be religious, spiritual, or may just want to complete the distances for sport or outdoor achievement with the added health benefits. This diversity is a key value represented by the 'Camino Project', making this experience unique.

The stone marker in Reading will further extend awareness and opportunity for the town and could inspire local, national and international pilgrims to visit to walk the Camino. It would herald the return of pilgrimage to the Reading Abbey's history.

Those taking part can qualify for the *Compostela* in Santiago, a certificate issued by the Catholic Church that acknowledges the pilgrimage distance has been completed, evidenced by collecting stamps at locations on the trail. Additionally, on the St James' Way, the *Via de Sanctus Iacobus* certificate is issued by venues in Southampton to pilgrims who complete the route from Reading.

A pilgrim passport, stamp, guidebook, map booklet and scallop shell (the tie-on item worn by Camino pilgrims) are available at Reading Museum, who act as the Pilgrims' Office. Pilgrims arriving in Reading visit to register their setting off on the route.

The new stone pilgrimage way marker in the Abbey Quarter complements REDA's map and efforts to establish 'Reading for Modern Pilgrims' and will be showcased at the annual Reading Walks Festival in May and Reading Water Fest in June.

4.7. Archaeology

Given the scale of the work and the minimal depth needed to set a foundation on a previously disturbed site, no archaeological exploratory works are expected. Historic England's pre-application response affirmed the installation of the stone way marker "would not need the work to be monitored by archaeologists."

Nevertheless, Berkshire Archaeology would be kept informed as the proposal is further considered and contacted if excavation concerns are raised or uncovered.



5. Planning Policy

The stone marker proposal is a small scaled, low-key intervention on a protected historic site and all relevant details will be scrutinised by the planning authority and the organisations that are tasked with the protection of the monument and historic setting.

The objective is to contribute positively to this setting and reveal the significance of the pilgrimages that this unique milestone represents and to enhance the site with a symbol of not just the past, but opportunities for visitors and modern pilgrims to take in the present. In that respect, the proposal should be considered against:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16
- Reading Borough Local Plan (2019)
 - Policy EN1: Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment
 - Policy EN2: Areas of Archaeological Significance
 - Policy EN4: Locally Important Heritage Assets



6. Consultation Summary

This section details the expertise that has been consulted. It includes a summary of the pre-application consultations with excerpts from correspondence received.

6.1. Historic England – Pre-Application Ref. PA01200193

Request email from David Sinclair to Historic England Berkshire Team

21.11.23 – Title: Listing Entry No. 1007932 - Installation of a Granite Pilgrim Distance & Directional Marker ("Mouteira" in Galician) near Reading Abbey for St James' Way Camino Pilgrims

... I have given two potential sites by the footpath beside the canal. They can be seen on the attached map and through the 9 photos. The map also shows the St James' Way pilgrimage route from St James Church, its start, through the abbey into Reading town centre. My preference is site 1 because this site is also functional – pilgrims will see it as they leave the abbey. However, please would you assess both sites for suitability.

Also attached are the mouteira's specifications received from Xunta de Galicia and translated into English. It is the international 'Milestone' version that we would like to place outside the Reading Abbey. This makes the pilgrimage connection of Reading, now a Camino Inglés starting destination, with Santiago de Compostela, which houses the tomb of the Apostle Saint James in its cathedral. The specification gives directions on how the marker is fixed to the ground...

David Wilkinson, BA, MLitt, MCIfA, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, London and South East Regions Group

19.12.23 – Title: Our reference PA01200193. Historic England pre-application advice. Proposed Pilgrim Marker at Reading Abbey

Thank you for requesting our advice on this proposal. I have copied your request email in below (*see above*). Historic England would have no objection to the installation of the pilgrim marker at either of the two locations you suggest. The maximum disturbance into the ground required appears to be 20 cm and in that case you would not need the work to be monitored by archaeologists.

Aside from any other permissions you would need (I understand you are already talking to Reading Borough Council), you would need to apply for scheduled monument consent which is administered by us but granted by the Secretary of State...

You will see towards the end of the form that there is a requirement to give notice of an application to other owners of the scheduled monument. This can seem onerous and in your case I suggest you give notice to the Council and say that you weren't able to identify the other owners, as serving notice on, for example, the MOJ would be a waste of everyone's time for such a small intervention...



6.2. Reading Borough Council – Landowner and Planning Authority

Alex Brannen – Communications Manager, Reading's Economy & Destination Agency

6.12.23 – Title: Mouteira update

I have spoken to Christelle Beaupoux in the Culture department who has liaised with RBC Planning on our behalf. They are happy, in principle, for the milestone marker to be sited on the empty tiled location just along from the entrance to the Ruins on Chestnut Walk. However, we will need to check with Highways that there are no other plans for that site (I have asked the question) and then you will need to make a formal planning application through the Council's planning system. Christelle advises that the Council process may take up to 4 months and she estimates the Historic England process might take as long so worth doing the two in parallel.

7.12.23 8:53am – that is the Council's favoured location (*i.e. the empty tiled location*) and I think it would be much easier to get planning permission on that site...

7.12.23 12:58pm – Highways have no objection so, in principle, it should sail through the RBC planning process...

6.3. Berkshire Archaeology

Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist, Berkshire Archaeology

24.10.24 – ... it's good to see your proposals and the advice that you have sought. Given the shallow intervention and the fact that Historic England have stated no archaeological mitigation would be required, then Berkshire Archaeology doesn't need to be involved ... we usually get a copy of any scheduled monument consent sent out from HE so I'll be able to see how it progresses.

6.4. The Friends of Reading Abbey

John Painter, FORA Secretary

5.12.24 – The Friends of Reading Abbey (FORA) support the installation of the mouteira in the site proposed, as a prominent way of promoting the St James' Way at a key public point in its route from where it leaves the Abbey Ruins to join the Kennet towpath. We also support the design, which has a direct connection with the Camino network across Europe.

FORA have been active supporters of the development of the St James' Way and the *Camino Inglés* from Reading Abbey to Southampton. In the High Middle Ages Reading Abbey was the major centre in England of pilgrimage and devotion to St James, inspired by the Abbey's possession of The Hand of St James relic. FORA has promoted the local Reading pilgrim trail, linked to the St James' Way.



6.5. Confraternity of St James UK

David Sinclair, CSJ Development Lead – St James' Way Camino Inglés (Volunteer)

An aim of the CSJ is to revive and promote Caminos in the UK – pilgrim routes that were used in the Middle Ages by pilgrims on their way to Santiago. The style of the stone way marker is synonymous with the Camino. Therefore, its addition at the start of the St James' Way beside Reading Abbey is closely aligned with the CSJ's charitable objects.

Its addition also further crystallises this *Camino Inglés* route outside of Spain for generations of would-be pilgrims.

6.6. English Heritage

English Heritage's nearest site to Reading is Silchester Roman City Walls and Amphitheatre, which is passed by pilgrims on the St James' Way on stage 2 of the route. Therefore, they have not been consulted.



7. Sources of Online Information

This section provides the relevant sources that have been considered. They are likely to be enthused by the implementation of the proposal.

7.1. Reading

Visit Reading

<https://www.visit-reading.com/ideas-and-inspiration/itineraries-and-breaks/pilgrimage>

<https://www.visit-reading.com/things-to-do/walking-and-cycling-routes/pilgrim>

Reading Museum

<https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/your-visit/st-james-way-for-camino-pilgrims>

7.2. St James' Way

In England from Reading to Southampton, a recognised Camino Inglés route

Confraternity of St James UK

<https://www.csj.org.uk/st-james-way>

<https://www.csj.org.uk/st-james-way-practicalities>

<https://www.csj.org.uk/st-james-way-resources>

<https://www.csj.org.uk/st-james-way-latest-news>

British Pilgrimage Trust

<https://www.britishpilgrimage.org/portfolio/st-james-way>

Walking the Camino

<https://www.walkingthecamino.co.uk/>

7.3. Camino Inglés

In Spain from A Coruña to Santiago de Compostela

Association of Local Councils of the Camino Inglés

<https://www.caminoingles.gal/en/>

A Coruña Provincial Council

<https://turismo.dacoruna.gal/en/o-camino/camino-ingles->

Design and Heritage Statement

The Camino Inglés Pilgrimage Way Marker, Reading Abbey, Berkshire



Confraternity of St James UK

<https://www.csj.org.uk/camino-ingles>

Camino Ways

<https://caminoways.com/camino-ingles>

7.4. Santiago de Compostela

Pilgrims' Reception Office

<https://oficinadelperegrino.com/en/>