

An Oxford Sundial Walk from Keble College

This Walk, starting and ending at Keble College, takes about an hour. It shows 6 of the sundials in Oxford, each of a different type.

Leave Keble College by the Porter's Lodge and turn left along Parks Road to the road-junction. Cross the main (Banbury) Road, and continue north for about 200m, then turn left into Bevington Road. Walk along this short road to the far end, where St. Antony's College stands at the corner of Bevington Road and the main (Woodstock) Road.

An *horizontal sundial* stands on a low plinth on the lawn to the north (left) of the College entrance: a pleasing modern stone work with clear numerals and lettering, placed in a small garden.

From St. Antony's College turn left along the Woodstock Road towards the city, and after 200m cross the road and enter the iron gate into a building with wooden clock-tower and weather-vane: Green College. On the wall beside the Porter's Lodge there is a *meridian dial*. A beam of sunlight, passing through the hole in the disc mounted above the dial face, makes a bright spot on the vertical line at solar noon. The light spot lies on the analemma (elongated figure-of-eight) at 12 noon by the clock each day; earlier or later than solar noon, as the sun's noontide altitude varies during the year.

From Green College, walk further south, passing the Radcliffe Infirmary (right) and St. Giles Church (left). Just beyond the churchyard of St. Giles you will find in a small garden an armillary sphere. This is a type of *equatorial sundial*. The gnomon, in the form of an arrow, is parallel to the earth's axis; the shadow of its shaft falls on the iron strip bearing Roman numerals, which lies in the plane of the equator.

Continue walking south along the wide street, St. Giles, passing another church (St. Mary Magdalene) and then turn left into Broad Street. Cross this street and walk along its south side. Near the end you will find the Museum of the History of Science, (open 12 noon until 4 pm Tues. to Sat.). Inside the front door you will see a staircase; on a landing half-way up there is a window, which includes a *glass window dial*. This once had a gnomon which would have projected from the outside of a south-west-facing window; its shadow would have been cast on the dull white surface, with numerals readable from inside the room.

Go to the end of Broad Street then turn right into Catte Street. When you reach a square with stone-cobbled paving and domed circular building (Radcliffe Camera) cross to the far side and enter under an arch in to the quad of Brasenose College. There, on the south-facing wall is a painted *vertical wall dial* strikingly coloured with the College coat of arms at the root of the gnomon. Since the wall declines east of due south, the dial shows more morning hours than afternoon hours.

Now retrace your steps northward up Catte Street, and turn right into New College Lane, under the 'Venetian Bridge'. New College, at the end of the lane, has a large *vertical sundial* inscribed directly onto the stone of the south wall of the tower. It replaces an earlier dial on this site, and was made in celebration of the year 2000.

Go back to Catte Street, and turn right (northward). Continue across the cross-roads at traffic lights and walk along Parks Road. In less than half a mile you will be back at Keble College.

