The Watercress Way Quiz Answers

Local history

1. How long is the trail? **26 miles**
2. Why is it called the watercress way? Named after Mid-Hants railway, important for taking watercress to London from Hants.
3. What is the name of the disused railway linking Sutton Scotney to Kings Worthy? **Didcot-Southampton railway**
4. How much of the disused railways have been opened for public access? Approximately **20%**
5. How many landowners own the disused railway sections of the watercress way trail? **26**

Local history

1. Why is a shell and 2 croziers chosen to waymark the pilgrimage route the watercress way partly follows? Shell used as food bowl, croziers represent Thomas a Beckett & St Swithun.
2. What is the link between Avington park, one of the watercress way sponsors, and Nell Gwyn? Location of secret trysts with Charles II the River Itchen was diverted for their heated bathhouse.
3. Who used to have a second home by the Itchen river between Itchen Abbas & Chilland, famed for saying 'the lights will go out over Europe'? Foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey's retreat, took Britain into WW2.
4. Which author stayed in one of our sponsor pubs: the plough in the 1860s, supposed to have been inspired to write the novel the water babies? Charles Kingsley.

Downland and rivers

1. What is the dominant geology along the trail? **Chalk**
2. What are flints thought to be made from? **Sea sponges**
3. Where is the source and mouth of the river Itchen? Cheriton and Southampton ocean village. 28 mls 45 km.
4. Why are there so many dry valleys, tributaries of the Itchen, needing viaducts such as in Itchen Abbas, or embankments carved by higher rainfall and frozen ground (permafrost)in last ice age 1.5m-10,000 yrs ago?
   - Which is the odd one out? Rainbow trout farmed fish.
5. What is a drove? Ancient trackway for livestock, started 6000 years ago, many in medieval times, heyday in 18th c. Railways meant fell into disuse, and often have become roads.
6. What are some common names for droves? Oxdrove, Drove rd, Stockbridge, Leckford hutt, Clump…
8. Name some other long distance routes the watercress way partly uses or intersects: Itchen, St Swithuns, Three Castles, Wayfarers walk.

What is watercress?

1. What type of plant is watercress? **Mustard perennial**
2. Where can it grow apart from in a stream? Gardens in waterlogged pots.
3. When was watercress first used? Hippocrates first hospital on Kos to cure blood disorders.
4. What is the link between watercress and the old railway lines? Important for fast transport of perishable crop to main market London.
5. Why was watercress called 'poor man’s bread'? Cheaper, source of iron, sold in paper cones in Victorian London.
6. Why is it dangerous to eat wild watercress? Liverfluke.
7. Why is watercress now branded a superfood? Nutrient 7 vitamin rich low in saturated fat & cholesterol.

Heritage and landscape

1. How many miles of disused railway lines are now open to the public in Britain? **4,000**
2. Why was the watercress line closed later than the Didcot-Southampton line in 1973? Public opposition.
3. Why is a house at station hill Itchen Abbas called 'Beeching'? Named after minister responsible for recommending cuts in 1960s.
4. Name 4 railway artefacts along the disused tracks Photos of Martyr Worthy to Itchen Abbas sleeper ballast telegraph pole, railway track.