

The rides.. suitable for all

This leaflet describes and illustrates 3 on-road rides in the Chiltern Hills.

All rides start and finish in Wallingford

Ride A heads through Crowmarsh Gifford up towards the hamlet of Hailey, before doubling back through Ewelme and Benson. Around 11 miles.

Ride B extends Ride A to include Nuffield and Swyncombe. Includes 2 km on busy B481. Around 19 miles.

Ride C climbs up to Checkendon and Stoke Row before joining the shorter routes home. Around 25 miles.

P Parking: 3 long stay car parks: Cattle Market, Goldsmith's Lane and Riverside (summer only).

Refreshments

All rides: The Bell and Queen's Head in Crowmarsh; Shepherd's Hut in Ewelme; The Crown Inn at Benson. Riverside Cafe on the Thames at Benson (100m off the route).

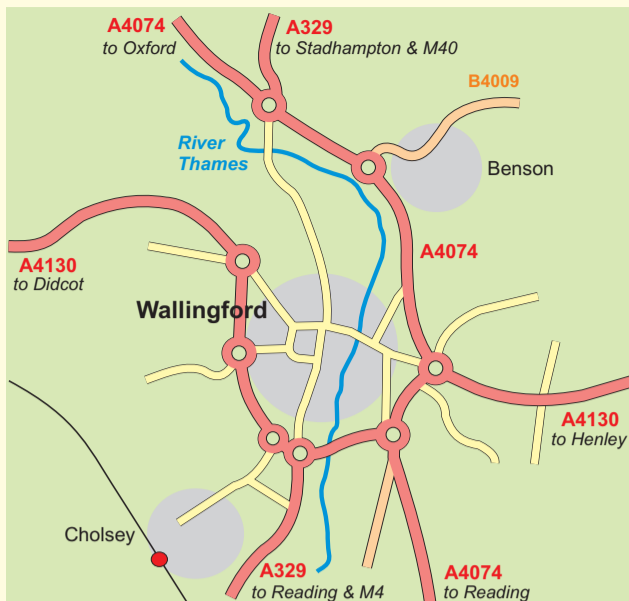
Ride B: The Crown pub 1 km off the route along the A4130 near Nuffield.

Ride C: The King Willam pub at Hailey (400m off route); The Black Horse near Checkendon; The Cherry Tree and The Crooked Billet in Stoke Row; the Four Horseshoes at Checkendon (400m off route).

Shops: Crowmarsh, Ipsden, Stoke Row, Checkendon and Benson. Ewelme community shop is expected to open in Spring 2009. The shop in Stoke Row sells hot drinks.

WC Toilets: at Cattle Market and St Alban's car parks; Riverside car park (summer only).

Wallingford.. how to get there



By car: On the A4074 Oxford to Reading road - head south at Shillingford or west at Crowmarsh roundabouts. On the A4130 Didcot to Henley road - head into the centre of town from the bypass.

By rail: Wallingford is 3 miles from Cholesey and 6 miles from Didcot rail stations.

Cycle safety tips:

- Make sure all bikes are the right size and roadworthy.
- Carry basic repair equipment, and know how to use it.
- Wear a helmet and suitable clothing.
- Be considerate to other road users.
- Always lock bikes when unattended.

This leaflet has been produced by

Sustainable Wallingford

www.sustainablewallingford.org

with assistance from:

Wallingford Town Council, Chilterns Conservation Board &

Crowmarsh Parish Council



Wallingford

Oxfordshire

Cycle rides into the Chiltern Hills

3 on-road rides
between 11 and 25 miles



discover the beautiful
Chilterns countryside

The Chilterns

an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Wallingford.. historic Oxfordshire town

An ancient Thames-side market town on the edge of the Chiltern Hills, Wallingford is ideally placed to make the most of the beautiful surrounding area. The town is well served with pubs, cafes, regular local markets and a cycle shop. There is a comprehensive range of shops covering all requirements. National Cycle Route 5, created by Sustrans, runs through the middle of the town.



A short ride from the town takes you a long way from the urban south-east, with lovely villages, beautiful scenery and almost guaranteed sightings of the spectacular red kite which is so characteristic of the area. The dense network of quiet country roads makes this area particularly rewarding to explore by bicycle at any time of the year.

i For further information on Wallingford visit www.wallingfordtown.co.uk or call 01491 826972



The rides.. landscape

All the rides start and finish at the Town Hall in Wallingford. Each route has been developed and tested by families with novice and more experienced cyclists.

The first stretch takes the rider over the Thames through Crowmarsh Gifford. There is then a short steep rise, leading to lovely views across the Goring Gap to the Ridgeway on the right, and up into the wooded Chilterns on the left.

Ride A undulates gently, with a steep hill down to Ewelme, and is then flat through Benson and back to Wallingford. Ewelme is a very important village historically, with the oldest church school in continuous use in the country, and famous watercress beds. It is worth taking time to explore the church and almshouses, built with the school in 1434. For those more interested in planes and helicopters than history, Benson is home to a large RAF airbase.

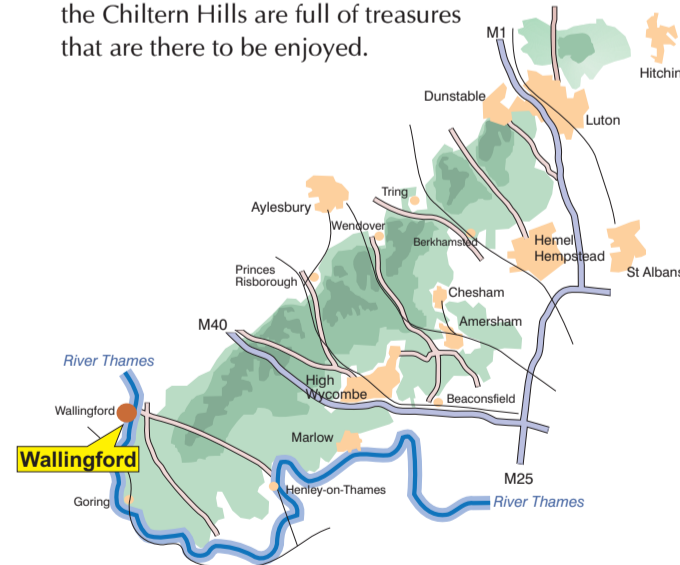
Ride B carries on rising gradually into the Chiltern Hills, reaching Nuffield village, where the churchyard contains the grave of Lord Nuffield, or William Morris, who founded Morris Motors. There is a drinking water tap on the church wall. After this the route undulates, with a long downhill stretch from Swyncombe, whose tiny 11th century church is famous for snowdrops and bluebells. Ride B rejoins Ride A at Ewelme.

Ride C extends the ride to take in Stoke Row and Checkendon. Stoke Row is home to a curious ornate well, gift of the Maharajah of Benares in 1863. The accompanying garden is a good place for a rest and a picnic. From here much of the ride is through typical Chilterns woodland, meeting up with Ride B at Nuffield.



The Chilterns.. an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Chiltern Hills stretch from the River Thames in south Oxfordshire through Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire to Hitchin in Hertfordshire. The area contains some of the finest countryside in the UK, recognised by its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). From quiet valleys with mediaeval villages to dramatic viewpoints on the hilltops, from leafy green woodlands to flower-covered meadows, the Chiltern Hills are full of treasures that are there to be enjoyed.



For more information visit www.chilternsaonb.org or call 01844 355500.



Ride A

Signpost (SP)

- 1 Cycle from Town Hall to traffic lights.
- 2 Turn right onto National Cycle Route 5 and cross the Thames into Crowmarsh Gifford.
- 3 Turn right into Meadow Lane (SP route 5 Reading). Cross A4074 with care & take Coxs Lane opposite.
- 4 For **Ride C**, go to **1** now. After downhill stretch, turn sharp left at unmarked junction.
- 5 For **Ride B**, go to **1** now. Straight ahead at 2 sets of crossroads (beware busy road) SP Ewelme.
- 6 At T-junction on bend, (beware gravel on road) turn right (no SP).
- 7 At T-junction turn right then immediately left (both SP Ewelme, Swyncombe, Cookley Green) & left again (SP Ewelme & Benson).
- 8 Take care on steep descent & follow road through Ewelme.
- 9 At Benson village, turn left at Crown Inn into Old London Road which bends right to become St. Helen's Avenue.
- 10 Just before junction with Church Road, turn L onto marked cycle path alongside A4074.
- 11 Cross A4074 at refuge and follow signed cycle path along Benson Lane. Turn right (with care) at mini roundabout and cross river back to Wallingford.

Ride B

Follow **Ride A** steps **1** to **5**

- 1 At first crossroads, turn right (no SP).
- 2 At T-junction in Nuffield village turn left (SP Nettlebed).
- 3 At T-junction with A4130 turn right (SP Nettlebed, Henley) with care; in 200m take first left (no SP)
- 4 At T-junction turn left (no SP) onto B481 at Park Corner. *[Alternative route (often very muddy) to avoid B481. Turn right off B481 and follow road through Park Corner village. Cross B481 onto small road (SP Swyncombe House, No Through Road). At gatehouse, turn right along bridleway through edge of woods and rejoin original route at Coates Copse.]*
- 5 At Cookley Green, as the road swings right, turn left (SP Swyncombe, Ewelme).
- 6 Soon after Swyncombe Church on left, take care on short steep downhill stretch which may be muddy/stony.
- 7 About 1 km after sharp left bend, turn right (SP Ewelme & Benson).
- 8 In Ewelme village, go straight ahead at Give Way junction into the High Street, rejoining **Ride A** and continuing to step **9**



Ewelme village

Ride C

Follow **Ride A** steps **1** to **4**

- 1 Straight ahead on National Cycle Route 5. Pass Hailey village on left hand side, then straight ahead at crossroads.
- 2 At next crossroads, after steep hill up out of Ipsden village, turn left (SP NCR5).
- 3 At T-junction after uphill stretch turn right (SP Checkendon via quiet lane).
- 4 At crossroads, straight ahead (SP NCR5).
- 5 At fork in road, keep left (SP NCR5) then at T-junction turn left (SP NCR5).
- 6 At T-junction turn right (SP Stoke Row, Witheridge Hill).
- 7 Maharajah's Well on left hand side.
- 8 About 100m after shop, turn right (SP Vanalloys Business Park) into Busgrove Lane (still NCR5)
- 9 After about 1.5 km, in woodland, turn right (no SP) uphill, leaving NCR5.
- 10 In Checkendon, turn right at T-junction (SP Stoke Row, Nuffield) then in 50m take first turning on left (SP Ipsden).
- 11 After Checkendon Equestrian Centre, turn right (SP Ipsden, Nuffield).
- 12 At crossroads, straight ahead (no SP).
- 13 At crossroads, straight ahead (SP Nuffield, Nettlebed).
- 14 At T-junction, turn left (SP Nuffield, Nettlebed).
- 15 Straight ahead at Nuffield village, joining **Ride B** before step **3**

