

## The rides.. suitable for all

This leaflet describes and illustrates 3 rides starting and finishing in Wallingford. Two of them pass within 400m of Didcot Railway Station and can be adapted to start and finish there.

**Ride A** heads through Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, up Sires Hill and down again to North and South Moreton before returning to Wallingford. 11 miles.

**Ride B** extends Ride A to include Little Wittenham, Long Wittenham and Didcot, before rejoining Ride A at South Moreton. 15 miles.

**Ride C** leaves Ride B in Didcot to explore the old railway line to Upton, returning via West Hagbourne, East Hagbourne and Aston Tirrold/Aston Upthorpe. Rejoins Ride A at South Moreton. 22 miles.

**P Parking:** Wallingford has three long stay car parks within 500m of the start point: Riverside, Cattlemarket and Goldsmith's Lane.

### Refreshments

**All routes:** Red Lion, Brightwell; The Crown, South Moreton.

**Ride A:** The Bear at Home, North Moreton.

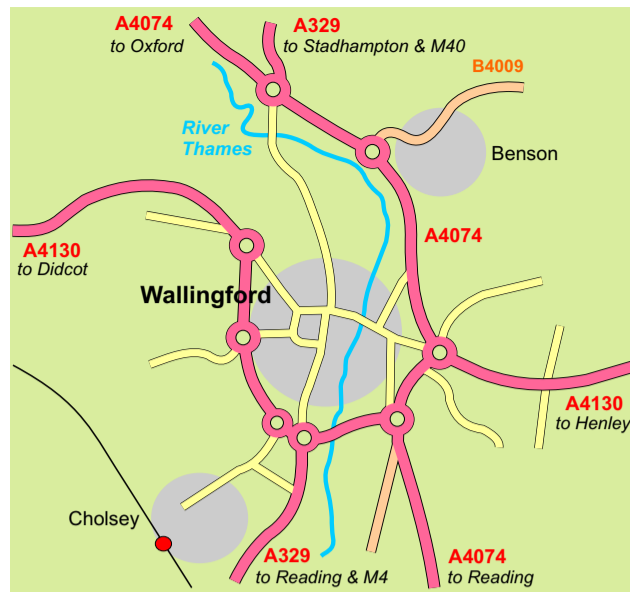
**Ride B:** The Vine & Spice & The Plough, Long Wittenham; Pendon Museum café (check opening times [www.pendonmuseum.com](http://www.pendonmuseum.com)); various pubs and cafes in Didcot.

**Ride C:** George & Dragon, Upton; Horse & Harrow, West Hagbourne; Fleur de Lys, East Hagbourne; Style Acre Tea Room, Red Lion & Barley Mow, Blewbury; Chequers, Aston Tirrold.

**Shops:** Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, East Hagbourne and Blewbury have village shops. Didcot and Wallingford have a wide range of shops.

**WC Toilets:** There are public toilets in Wallingford and Didcot

## Wallingford.. how to get there



**By car:** From Oxford, take A4074 & turn right at Shillingford roundabout. From Reading, take A4074 & turn left at Crowmarsh roundabout. From Didcot or Henley (A4130) follow signs for Wallingford from the bypass.

**By rail:** Wallingford is 3 miles from Cholsey and 6 miles from Didcot railway station. Rides B and C pass close to Didcot Station and can be joined there.

### 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](http://www.sustainablewallingford.org)



with assistance from: South Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire Community Foundation, Wallingford Town Council & East Hagbourne & South Moreton Parish Councils

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# Wallingford

Oxfordshire

## Cycle rides West from Wallingford

3 rides  
between 11 and 22 miles



discover the local area  
by bike

**W**allingford  
The Wallingford Welcome

## Wallingford.. historic Oxfordshire town

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



A short ride west from the town takes you into open countryside with few hills and wide views. From the nature reserve surrounding Wittenham Clumps, to the rolling landscape at the foot of the North Wessex Downs, the mixture of dedicated cycle paths and quiet country roads make this area particularly rewarding to explore by bicycle at any time of the year.

**i** For further information on Wallingford visit [www.wallingford.co.uk](http://www.wallingford.co.uk) or call the Town Information Centre: 01491 826972

## The rides.. landscape

All the rides start and finish at the Town Information Centre under the Town Hall in Wallingford. Each route has been developed and tested by families with a wide range of ages and abilities. There is a good supply of refreshment stops on each ride, and while there are some small climbs, most of the terrain is fairly level.

**Ride A** This passes through Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, an amalgamation of villages first mentioned in the Domesday Book. After a gentle climb up Sires Hill, the ride turns south towards North and South Moreton. The hill past the Bear at Home pub is the last; from there the ride heads back to Wallingford, often assisted by a following wind.

**Ride B** Take time to explore Wittenham Clumps as the reward for the short sharp climb up to the nature reserve, or visit Project Timescape, on the left as you start to descend. Take care going down the hill: there may be gravel on the road. Continue through Little Wittenham and Long Wittenham, where the ride passes the Pendon Model Railway Museum. After Long Wittenham, you will be riding between fields on a purpose-built cycle path, before arriving at Didcot, near the Railway Centre which is famous for its steam trains.

**Ride C** Ride C follows Sustrans route 44 for the first section. One highlight is the stretch along the old railway line west of Didcot, past sculptural seats and signposts, on a wide path with big views. A bigger view can be seen from the hill above Upton, where this ride leaves route 44, which is worth following to Wantage another time. Enjoy the villages of East and West Hagbourne (take refreshments at the Fleur De Lys PH)

before heading towards Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe. The Iron Age hill fort of Blewburton Hill can be seen on the approach to the Astons. The ride then reaches South Moreton and heads back to the start.



Small skipper

## What can the local area offer the cyclist?

The area west of Wallingford is characterised by level farmland, punctuated by hedge-lined streams and scattered ancient villages. Nearby lie the twin hills of Wittenham Clumps, the site of an Iron Age hill fort and now a nature reserve with extensive woodlands, managed by the Northmoor Trust. The Clumps offers views across the Thames Valley to the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Part of a highly productive landscape which has been farmed for thousands of years, the villages of this area have been inhabited since before their appearance in the Domesday Book. With their old thatched cottages and winding streets, they are picture-postcard pretty and particularly rewarding when exploring by bicycle.

There is plenty to see for rail enthusiasts. The Cholsey and Wallingford Railway has its own station in Wallingford and runs trains on selected weekends. The Pendon Museum at Long Wittenham displays model railways and is usually open on weekend afternoons. Didcot Railway Centre has a collection of steam engines and is open most weekends. Plus, Ride C uses a section of railway embankment which was a victim of the Beeching cuts in the 1960s.







### Ride A

Signpost (SP)

- 1 Cycle from Town Information Centre to traffic lights and turn left. You are now on National Cycle Route 5 (NCR5). Continue over a mini-roundabout and out of town.
- 2 Straight ahead at large roundabout, using shared cycleway/footpath and refuge, then take next left, SP Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. Follow road through village (keep left at fork with Baker's Lane) and past Red Lion PH.
- 3 Just before war memorial, turn right into The Square, which becomes Church Lane (SP NCR5). [Or continue ahead for 50m to visit village shop, then return.]
- 4 At T junction, turn left (NCR5), then, on a right bend, bear left onto track, following NCR5 signs. Cross main road and continue on track for 200m. Turn right at T-junction with road. For **Ride B**, go to 1 now.
- 5 At top of hill, where road swings right, turn left (SP N & S Moreton, Aston Tirrold).
- 6 At crossroads with major road, continue straight ahead with care.
- 7 At the bus shelter in North Moreton village, turn right into High Street (SP South Moreton & the Tirrolds) and continue to South Moreton.
- 8 Pass Crown PH on left. At end of village, turn left (SP Cholsey, Wallingford).
- 9 On a right bend, turn left (SP Wallingford).
- 10 Straight ahead at large roundabout and again in about 800m at mini-roundabout.
- 11 Turn left at T-junction at St John's Green and follow one-way system back to the Town Information Centre.

### Ride B Follow Ride A steps 1 to 4

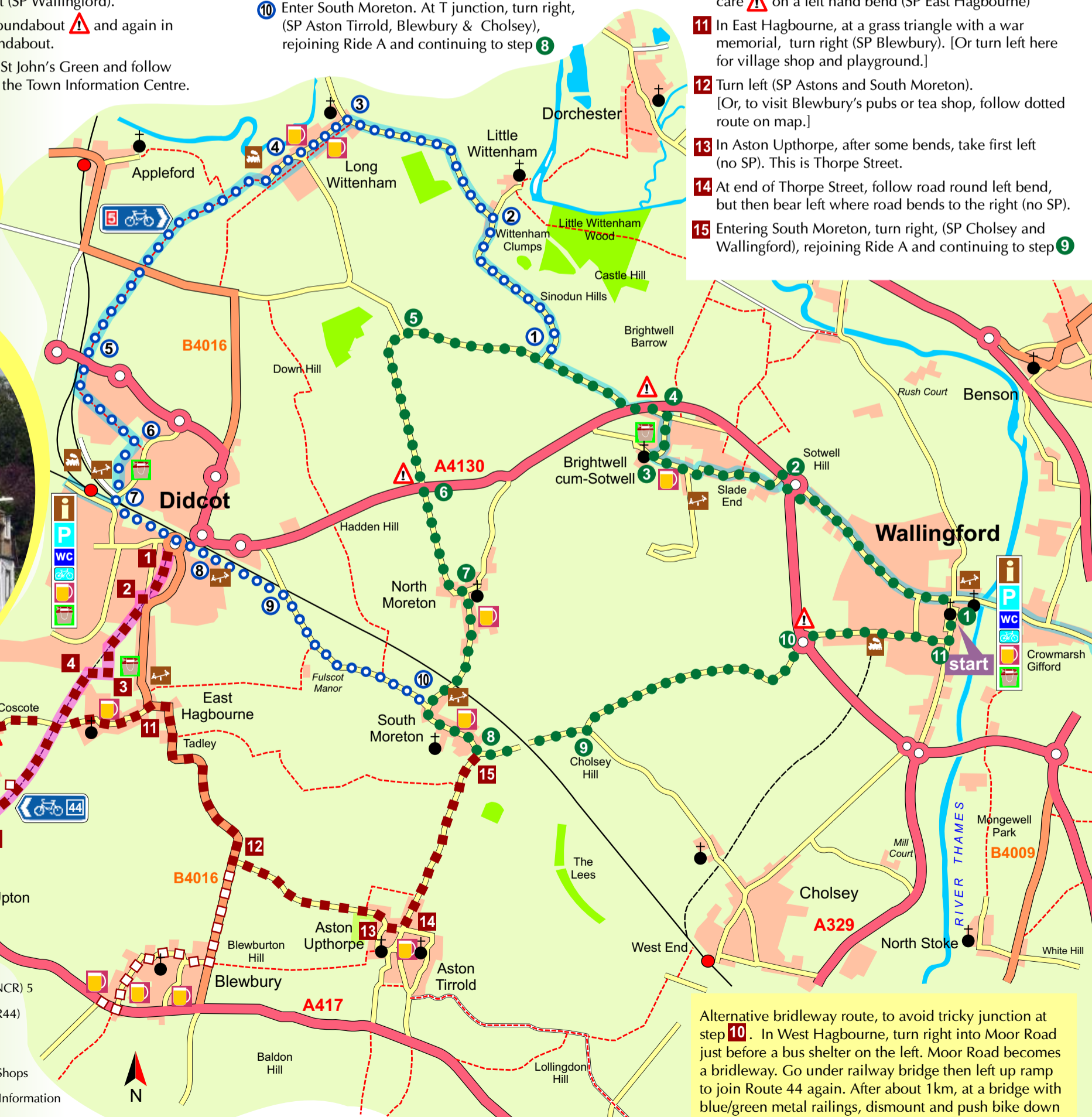
- 1 Turn right, (SP Wittenham Clumps, NCR5). Short, steep uphill stretch then downhill section: take care.
- 2 In Little Wittenham, turn left at war memorial (SP Long Wittenham & Clifton Hampden also NCR5).
- 3 In Long Wittenham, turn left at T-junction (SP Appleford, N. Moreton, Didcot).
- 4 At end of village street, where main road bends left, go straight ahead with care (SP Pendon Museum, NCR5). Beyond museum, continue ahead as road narrows to cycle track. After about 1km, cross a road with care.
- 5 Path swings right, downhill and sharp left through a tunnel. Walk this stretch with children. After tunnel bear right onto brick cycleway (NCR5). Stay on this cycleway (still NCR5) where it swings left at pylons.
- 6 After pond on left, turn right at Sustrans sign (NCR5).
- 7 At road, dismount. Cross road to footpath and turn right, walking under railway bridge to traffic lights. Turn left onto cycle route 44 (SP Upton, Wantage). [OR, for shops and cafes, follow blue 'Town Centre' signs straight ahead & return to this point later.]
- 8 Swing left at roundabout and cross road at toucan crossing. [For **Ride C**, go to 1 now.] Turn left on cycle path. Just before railway bridge, cycle path turns right (SP South Moreton) past houses and then parallel to railway.
- 9 When cycle path meets road, turn right.
- 10 Enter South Moreton. At T junction, turn right, (SP Aston Tirrold, Blewbury & Cholsey), rejoining Ride A and continuing to step 8

### Ride C Follow Ride A 1 to 4 then Ride B 1 to 8

- 1 Turn right to next toucan crossing. Cross road, swing right then sharp left up ramp (SP Route 44). Follow R44 signs through housing estate.
- 2 At path junction, turn right onto green cycle path (R44). In 100m, cross Hagbourne Road to Bridge Close and turn left. In 50m, bear left onto path, and in a further 50m, keep right at fork. Follow route under bridge and past sports field on left (SP R44).
- 3 At path T-junction, turn right (R44).
- 4 Straight ahead at a path 'crossroads' then follow route as it swings left to use old railway embankment (R44).
- 5 Where tarmac ends on embankment, take tarmac ramp down to the left, then turn left onto stony track (R44).
- 6 At T junction, turn right into a residential street (R44) and follow it around left and right bends.
- 7 At main road, turn right then immediately left with care (SP R44 Harwell Campus and Wantage)
- 8 At T junction, cross road to viewpoint. Then turn right, down hill (SP West Hagbourne).
- 9 Cross main road using refuge and push bike through gap in hedge onto track. Turn right at road and follow it through West Hagbourne village.

[Alternative brideway route, to avoid tricky junction at step 10 see foot of page]

- 10 About 800m beyond West Hagbourne, turn right with care on a left hand bend (SP East Hagbourne)
- 11 In East Hagbourne, at a grass triangle with a war memorial, turn right (SP Blewbury). [Or turn left here for village shop and playground.]
- 12 Turn left (SP Astons and South Moreton). [Or, to visit Blewbury's pubs or tea shop, follow dotted route on map.]
- 13 In Aston Upthorpe, after some bends, take first left (no SP). This is Thorpe Street.
- 14 At end of Thorpe Street, follow road round left bend, but then bear left where road bends to the right (no SP).
- 15 Entering South Moreton, turn right, (SP Cholsey and Wallingford), rejoining Ride A and continuing to step 9



	National Cycle Route (NCR) 5		Regional Cycle Route (R44)
	Bridleways (unsurfaced)		Refreshments
	Take care		Information
	Car parking		Cycle parking
	Toilets		Playground
	Railway Museum		

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Alternative brideway route, to avoid tricky junction at step 10. In West Hagbourne, turn right into Moor Road just before a bus shelter on the left. Moor Road becomes a brideway. Go under railway bridge then left up ramp to join Route 44 again. After about 1km, at a bridge with blue/green metal railings, dismount and push bike down ramp and down a few steps. Turn right at road to rejoin Ride C before step 11.