

## Cycle routes from Kingham Station

# Cycle Route 1: Sarsden Circuit



A short easy ride through the Evenlode Valley passing quiet Cotswold border country villages, churches and pubs. A short climb into Churchill.

**Grade:** Easy, a couple of short climbs

**Time:** 1-2 hours

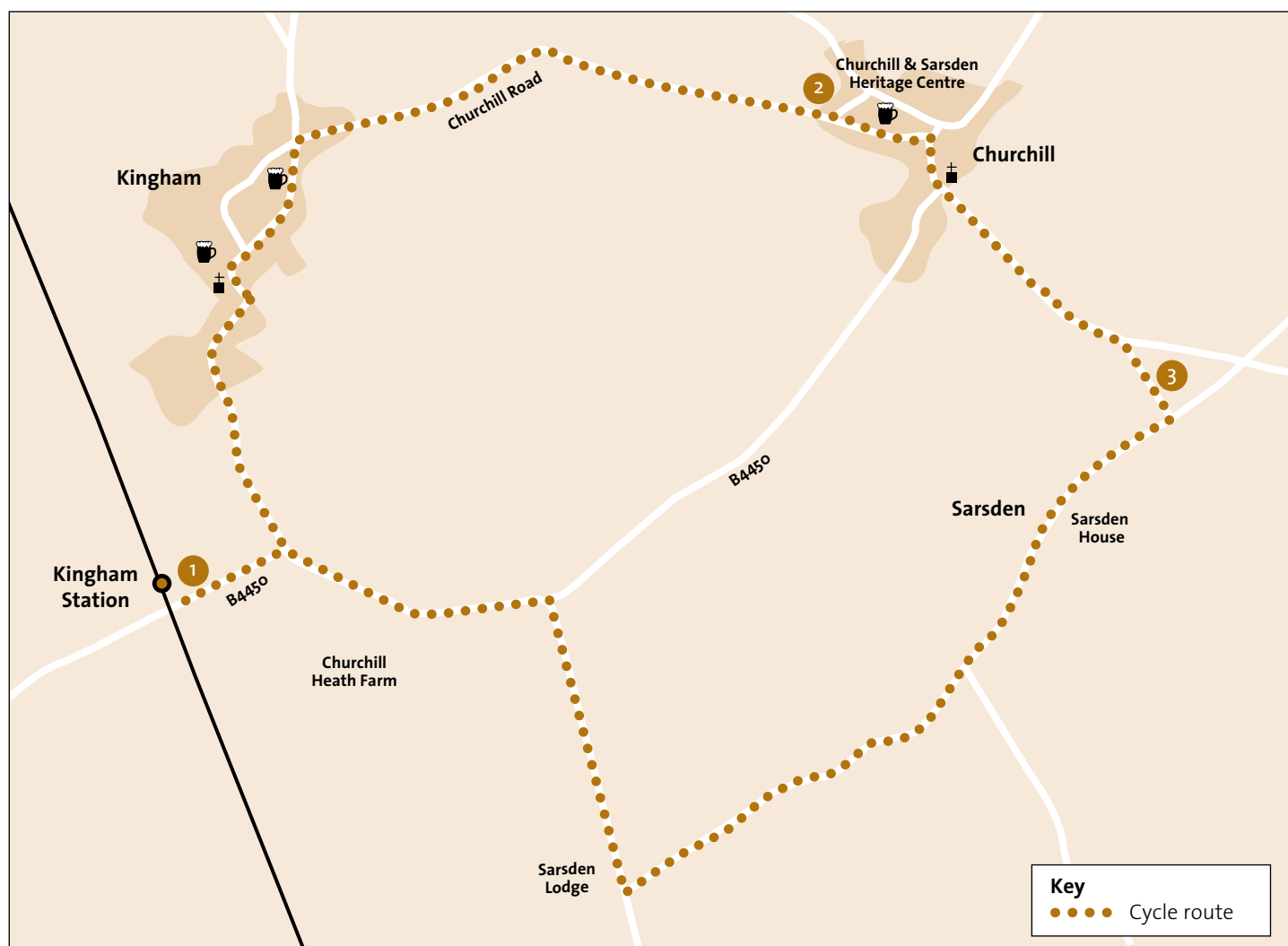
**Distance:** 10km/6.5 miles

**Stops/pubs:** Pub and shop in Kingham, pub in Churchill

**Attractions:** Cotswold villages and churches

### Highlights

- Kingham was voted 'England's Favourite Village' in 2004 by Country Life magazine.
- Churchill has a church tower visible for miles, a two-thirds copy of Magdalen College tower in Oxford.
- The Churchill & Sarsden Heritage Centre contains maps and historical records of the village from 1600 to the present (open 2 - 4.30pm on weekends, April to September).



Turn over for route description

**Cotswolds National Landscape** Cotswold Business Centre, 2 A P Ellis Road, Upper Rissington, Glos. GL54 2QB 07841 663607.

[www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)



Churchill Church

### Route Description

- 1 Turn left from station, after  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile turn left signed Kingham. In Kingham turn right, after the village green, signed Churchill.
- 2 In Churchill turn right at T-junction, signed Kingham Station. At the church turn left (appears straight on) signed Sarsden, then after  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile turn right, signed Sarsden.
- 3 Turn right, signed Merrinscourt then after  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles turn right at T-junction signed Kingham, turn left at next T-junction, signed Kingham and follow road back to Kingham Station.

### Kingham

The village stands on the Oxfordshire bank of the River Evenlode, a tributary to the Thames. Like many Cotswold villages, Kingham's history has been well recorded by various historical residents. Most notable perhaps was the Oxford don, William Warde Fowler, who built a house here in 1913. 'Kingham Old and New' lovingly accounts village life. St Andrew's Church has been heavily restored by the Victorians.

### Churchill

The original Churchill was at the bottom of the hill where only the chancel of its 13th century church remains. Following a fire in 1684, the 'new' village developed further up the hill including the church built in 1832. The village was the birthplace in 1769 of William 'Strata' Smith, the father of geology and the man who drew the map that changed the world. He became a surveyor and engineer and between 1792 and 1795 he worked on the Somerset Coal Canal. During this time he made a study of the rocks and fossils around Bath and observed 'a general law that the same strata are found always in the same order or superimposition and contain the same peculiar fossils'.

### The Cotswolds National Landscape

This route takes you through part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Cotswolds was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1966 in recognition of its rich, diverse and high quality landscape. It is the largest of 38 AONBs in England and Wales, covering 790 sq miles, stretching from the City of Bath and Wiltshire in the south through Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire to Warwickshire and Worcestershire in the north.

For more information about cycling in the Cotswolds, go to [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/cycling](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/cycling)