

Cycle routes from Kingham Station

Cycle Route 8: Living History: Wildlife, Hillforts and Halls



A long day ride for the cycling enthusiast, up and over the Evenlode Valley passing historic houses and villages and dropping into the Windrush Valley to visit a wildlife park. Quite country lanes but some climbs along the way. Allow time for stops.

Grade: Hard

Time: 6-7 hours

Distance: 63km/39 miles

Stops/pubs: Pubs and shops in Kingham, Chadlington, Minster Lovell, Brize Norton, Shilton, Little Barrington and Milton-under-Wychwood. Café and toilets at Cotswold Wildlife Park

Attractions: Cotswold villages and churches, Knollbury Hillfort, Minster Lovell Hall, Cotswold Wildlife Park

Highlights

- Knollbury is a roughly rectangular Hillfort consisting of a single rampart and ditch. The rampart is built of piled earth and stone rubble behind a stone revetment of limestone slabs, and measures 10 metres wide and between 1.5-4 metres high. Cultivation has levelled the hillfort interior. There was a surrounding quarry ditch, now filled in, which supplied earth for the construction of the rampart.



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

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Route Description

- 1 Turn left from station, after 1/4 mile turn left signed Kingham. Continue through village turning right, after village green, signed Churchill.
- 2 In Churchill turn right at T-junction, signed Kingham Station. At the Church turn left (appears to be straight on) signed Sarsden. Continue straight on to A361, turn left, then immediately right, signed Chadlington. Pass Knollbury Hillfort in about 3/4 mile.
- 3 Turn right at T-junction, signed Chadlington then straight over staggered X roads into Horse Shoe Lane, signed Leaffield. In 1 1/2 miles cross B4437, signed Leaffield, then in 1/4 mile turn right at T-junction.
- 4 After passing through Wychwood Forest and climbing up to Leaffield, turn right at T-junction, signed Minster Lovell. Turn left by the church, to Crawley then bear right into Buttermilk Lane.
- 5 Turn right at X roads through Field Assarts, then in 3/4 mile turn left (Fordwells), before Leaffield sign. Turn left at T-junction, signed Astall Leigh, then after climbing into Astall Leigh, turn left, signed Minster Lovell, continue for 1 mile then turn right at T-junction, signed Minster Lovell.
- 6 Turn left by the Old Swan, and continue to car park for Minster Lovell Hall. Turn right through car park and continue to Church. Then walk to the ruins through the churchyard. Retrace to the pub and turn left, then turn right after crossing Windrush, signed Brize Norton. Turn right at B4047, signed Burford, then immediately left, signed Brize Norton.
- 7 Continue for around 2 miles, turn right at roundabout, after 1/2 mile turn right into Burford Road and immediately left into Kilkenny Lane. Continue for 1 mile turn right into Shillbrook Avenue. Turn right at T-junction and in 1/2 mile turn left.
- 8 Turn left after going through ford, continue for 1 1/2 miles, cross A361 WITH CARE, signed Holwell, the entrance for Cotswold Wildlife Park is a short distance along on the left.
- 9 On leaving the Wildlife Park turn left and then straight over X roads, signed Eastleach St Martin, then in 3/4 mile fork right, signed Danger Failed Road. Turn right at T-junction and follow signs for Barringtons, TAKING CARE when crossing the A40.
- 10 Continue through Little Barrington, cross river bridge then turn right at War Memorial in Great Barrington. Continue along through Taynton, then turn left, signed Stow and climb to cross the A424.
- 11 Turn left at T-junction and follow signs to Milton-under-Wychwood. Turn right at junction into village, turn left by playing field, signed Lyneham, continue for 1 mile then turn right at T-junction, signed Bruern.
- 12 Turn left at T-junction, signed Kingham, then follow the signs back to Kingham Station.

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