



# Circular Rides

in Oxfordshire



*More downloadable leaflets available for free from  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/walksandrides](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/walksandrides)*

Three rides in the  
Chilterns taking in:

- \* Hailey
- \* Little Stoke
- \* North Stoke
- \* Mongewell
- \* Stoke Row
- \* Ipsden
- \* The Ridgeway



Judges' Ride

Judges' Ride has been designed to be travelled by horse or bicycle but can also be enjoyed on foot.



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Getting to the start



The starting point for all three rides is the Black Horse pub near Stoke Row, RG8 OTE, north of Henley on Thames.

From Oxford, take the A4074 Reading road. After the Crowmarsh and Mongewell roundabouts, turn left at the crossroads, signposted to Checkendon. Continue on the Uxmores Road and then turn right.

There is free parking opposite the pub.

## Public transport

For timetable enquiries, please call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.

You will also find information and Oxfordshire County Council public transport timetables in most Oxfordshire libraries and Tourist Information Centres. Alternatively, write enclosing an A5 stamped addressed envelope to: Oxfordshire County Council, Public Transport, Speedwell House, Speedwell Street, Oxford OX1 1NE.

## Easy-to-follow routes

Our promoted routes are marked with metal signposts where the path leaves the road, and with waymarks where there are gates and stiles at changes of direction.

The appropriate Ordnance Survey map to use on this route is OS Explorer 171.

When out riding, it is always wise to let someone know where you are going or, if possible, have someone with you. Take your mobile with you, and make sure it is fully charged. If you use your car to access the route, please park with care – do not block farm gateways or village facilities, and do not leave valuables in view.

### Please follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

## Points of interest

- A** **Maharajah's Well, Stoke Row** looks like an Indian temple and was built in 1864. It was named after the Maharajah of Benares who provided the expenses of sinking the well, building the Warden's cottage and planting the adjacent cherry orchard as a token of friendship with Mr Edward A Reade. His Highness had been told by Mr Reade, who worked in India at the time, of acute water shortages. The well and the cherry orchard are open to the public.
- B** **The Icknield Way** is thought to be the oldest track in Britain. The name may derive from the early British Tribe the Icenii.
- C** **The Ridgeway**, which the route follows after North Stoke, has been a highway for people, goods and animals since Neolithic times, and the chalk ridge has been grazed and farmed since then. In the Middle Ages the Ridgeway was a droving road for Welsh stock brought for sale in London. It runs 85 miles from Avebury in Wiltshire to Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire.
- D** **Grims (The Devil's Ditch)**, also The Ridgeway, are ancient earthworks that had different functions, and this section may have formed a territorial boundary between two Iron Age tribal kingdoms. Other parts of Grims Ditch can be traced in Oxfordshire, Bucks and Hertfordshire.
- E** **Judges' Ride** which goes through Ipsden Wood, may have taken its name from the route being used by the local judge between courts.
- F** **The Black Horse** at the start and finish of the rides is a traditional pub open 7 days a week serving real ale and food, with seating outside.
- G** **The King William pub** is open 7 days a week and serves food. It has an amazing beer garden with tables overlooking great views of the surrounding countryside.
- H** The attractive **Crooked Billet** in Stoke Row, near point 16 on the map, is open 7 days a week and has an eclectic modern set A la Carte lunch menu and seating outside.

If you would like to give us feedback about these walks, you can email [countryside.reviews@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:countryside.reviews@oxfordshire.gov.uk) You can also upload photos of your walk online at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysidephotoupload](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysidephotoupload) Alternatively, call 01865 810226 or write to: Oxfordshire County Council, Countryside Service, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4TL.