

Swan's Way



a long
distance
bridleroute



Produced in 1990. In progress to be updated in 2008.

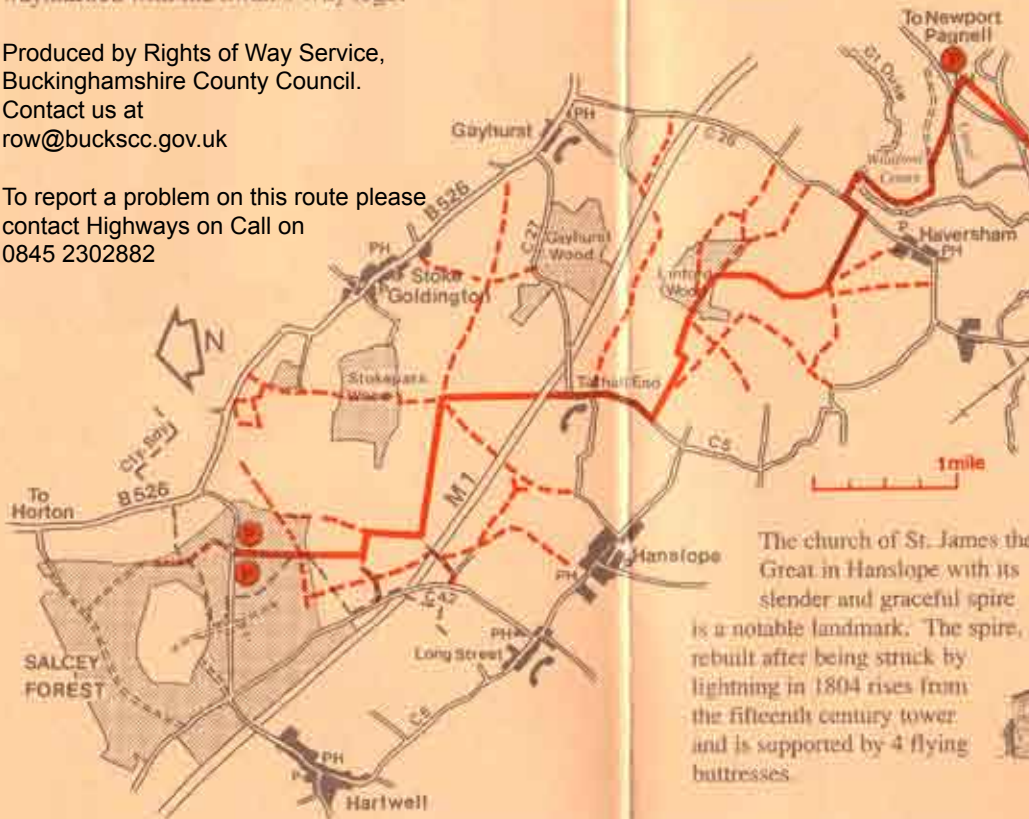
The Swan's Way long distance bridleroute runs from Salcey Forest in the north to Goring on Thames in the south, a distance of 65 miles.

The bridleroute crosses a very wide variety of scenery starting at Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire, then crossing the Ouse Valley, offering fine views, and passing through part of the growing new city of Milton Keynes. South of Milton Keynes is the Vale of Aylesbury with its hilly areas of Waddesdon and Quainton. Swan's Way follows the chalk scarp of the Chiltern Hills with its beechwoods, valleys and views, down to the Thames at Goring.

This leaflet marks the route and describes some features of interest. Post Offices and telephones are indicated on the map in case of emergency, together with public houses and suitable parking places. Water is not always easily available, therefore a collapsable bucket is advised. The bridleroute is clearly waymarked with the Swan's Way logo.

Produced by Rights of Way Service,
Buckinghamshire County Council.
Contact us at
row@buckscc.gov.uk

To report a problem on this route please
contact Highways on Call on
0845 2302882



Salcey Forest is a large remaining area of Ancient Royal Hunting Forest of over 1,200 acres. The Forestry Commission have provided rides, walks (including those for the disabled) and a picnic area. The south eastern part of the forest (mature oaks, hazel and ash) is an important nature reserve, with grassland rides and woodland margins being valuable for butterflies, moths and birds.



The church of St. James the Great in Hanslope with its slender and graceful spire is a notable landmark. The spire, rebuilt after being struck by lightning in 1804 rises from the fifteenth century tower and is supported by 4 flying buttresses.



The land drops down dramatically from east of Haversham into the Ouse Valley providing a panoramic view of Linford Lakes. The route passes by the remains of the twelfth century Church of St. Peters now restored as a local monument.

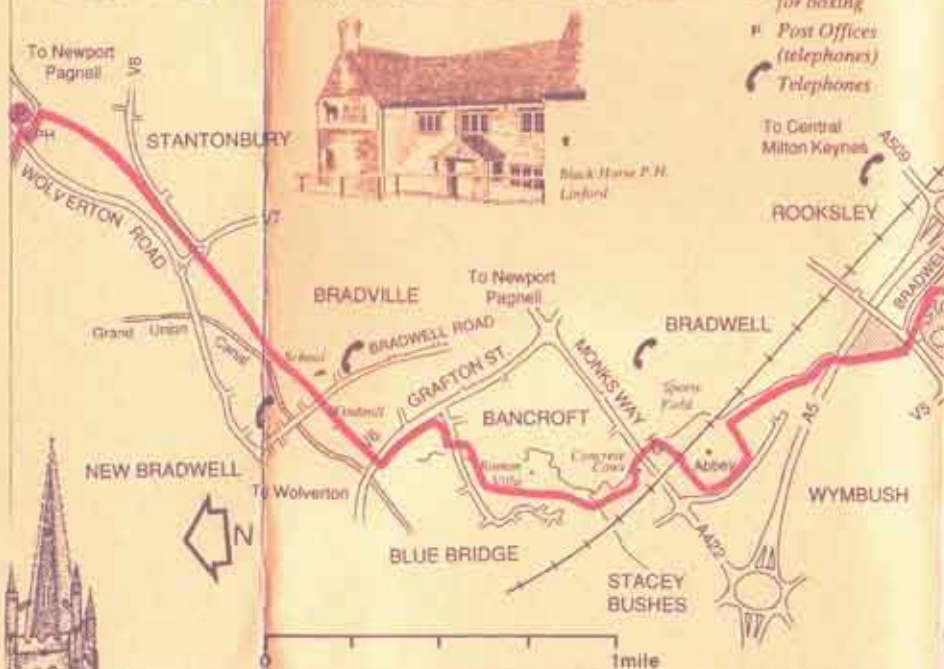


The Grand Union Canal, built between 1793 and 1805, runs through Milton Keynes. It provided a vital link between London and the Industrial Midlands, but today it is used for leisure purposes.

Between Stantonbury and New Bradwell the ride follows a disused branch railway, closed in 1964, now providing a cycleway, footpath and bridleway.

- SWAN'S WAY
- - - Other Bridleways
- P Short term parking for boxing
- P Post Offices (telephones)
- T Telephones

The route through Milton Keynes shown at an enlarged scale.



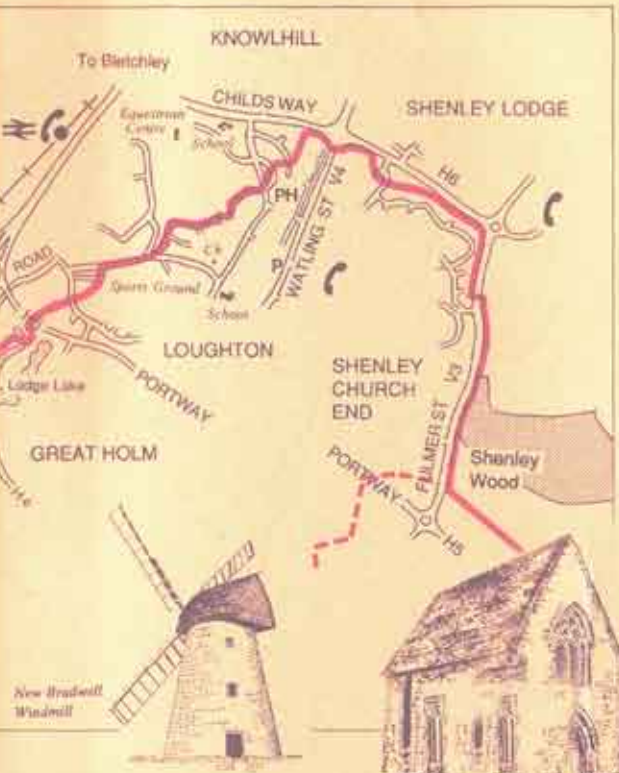
Black Horse P.H. Linford



Church of St. James the Great Hanslope

A modern building just to the east is the A.R.C. Wildfowl Centre and nature reserve creating a valuable nature resource from wet gravel pits. Visitors are welcome by appointment.

Swan's Way passes through the New City of Milton Keynes, planned to have a population of 200,000 by the end of the century. The needs of horseriders in and around the New City have not been overlooked!



New Bradwell Windmill



Bradwell Abbey

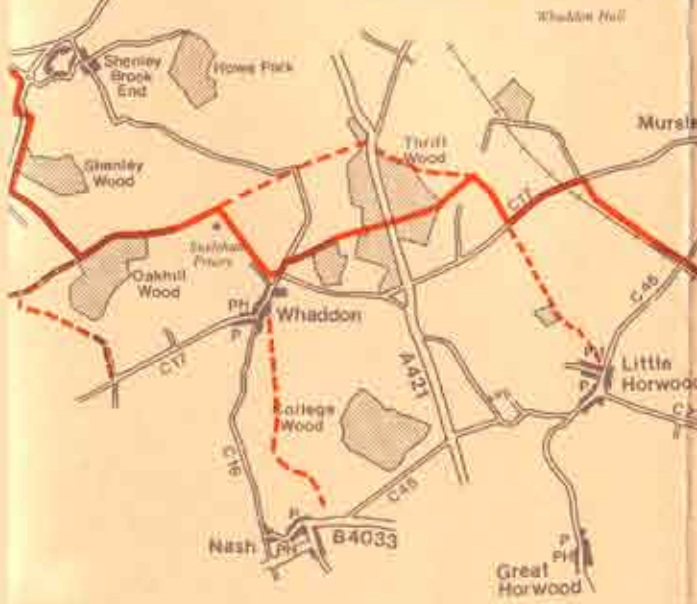
Bradwell Windmill was built around 1817 and ceased working in 1876. It has now been restored as an example of industrial archaeology.

Bradwell Abbey priory was founded in the middle of the 12th century by the Benedictine Monks. After the Dissolution, the abbey continued to be used as a farm by various tenants.



Whaddon Village is on a high plateau and has an interesting church. Whaddon is where Edmund Spenser wrote some of the "Faerie Queen".

The priory earthworks to the east of Whaddon, alongside the path, mark the site of Snelshill Priory, a Benedictine Abbey founded in about 1166 and dissolved in 1535.



Among the hills surrounding Quanton lies Fulbrook Farm, a 16th century moated manor house. On the northern slopes of Quanton Hill ridges mark the site of a deserted mediaeval settlement.

Denham Lodge is a very fine early 17th century house, still surrounded by a water filled moat. In addition there are the earthworks of a deserted mediaeval village.

Quanton Village has many fine buildings including the old windmill. The church at Quanton has a large collection of family monuments and statues.



Swan's Way, south of the A41 skirts the eastern edge of Waddesdon Manor and grounds. The Manor is built in the French 'Chateau' style. The gardens were all carefully designed to give views out over the surrounding countryside. The house and gardens are now managed by the National Trust.

From Waddesdon to Stone, Swan's Way passes through some very attractive countryside and parkland, belonging to the Waddesdon estate.

Now only the 14th century chapel and a few remains of structures incorporated into later buildings still stand. The 17th century farmhouse will soon become the home of the 'City of Discovery Centre', which will offer environmental interpretation facilities for people in the area.



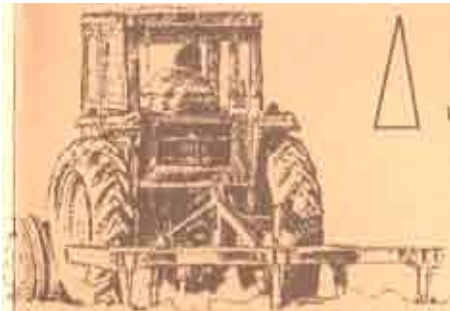
The Green P. H. Little Throed

The attractive village of Swanbourne was virtually destroyed in the civil war. The majority of its black and white cottages are seventeenth century.

North Marston was a famous place of pilgrimage. The spring, reputed to have healing properties, is now marked by a pump and a stone structure. The church is very attractive with a nave roof dating from Chaucer's day. It was restored by Queen Victoria using a fortune left to her by a local miser.

Loughton Valley Park extends from Milton Keynes Bowl to Loughton Village, and forms part of the city's generous network of parks and open spaces.

Loughton Brook has a long history of flooding. To control it four balancing lakes have been built along its course. Swan's Way passes by two of these lakes, Bancroft (occasionally wet) and Lodge Lake where skilful planning has combined engineering works with an attractive parkland setting.



Watlington White Mark

Watlington Hill and its White Mark are managed by the National Trust. Watlington Hill rises to 686 feet giving superb views. Of interest to naturalists are its yews.

Ewelme is a picture book village well worth seeing. At its heart is the marvellous complex of church, almshouses and the village school, all built in the mid 15th century by the Earl of Suffolk and his wife Alice, the granddaughter of the poet Chaucer. Its industries include watercress in the stream running through the village and a honey bottling factory.

Village School at Ewelme



Swan's Way crosses Grim's (The Devil's) Ditch which runs east to west. The ancient earthworks can be traced in Hertfordshire, Bucks and Oxfordshire. It had different functions. Here it formed a territorial boundary between two Iron Aged tribal kingdoms.



Ipsden

South Stoke is a Thames side village with considerable charm and interest, with its thatch and church which is over 700 years old. The Thames railway bridge just north of the village is one of Brunel's finest, visited by engineers from all over the world.

Goring on Thames is a most attractively sited town in the river gap of the Chilterns. The scenery around includes some of the most picturesque reaches of the Thames and the richly wooded hilltops and high commons of the Chiltern Hills.



INSET MAP

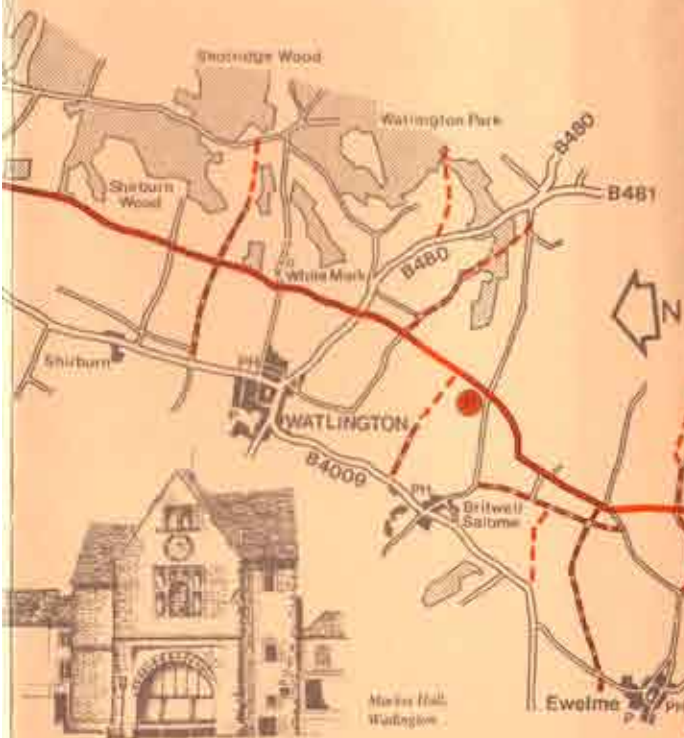
1/2 m

STREATLEY

The locks and weirs, the Church of St. Thomas dating from 1123, and the fine collection of historic buildings make Goring an ideal start or finish to Swan's Way.

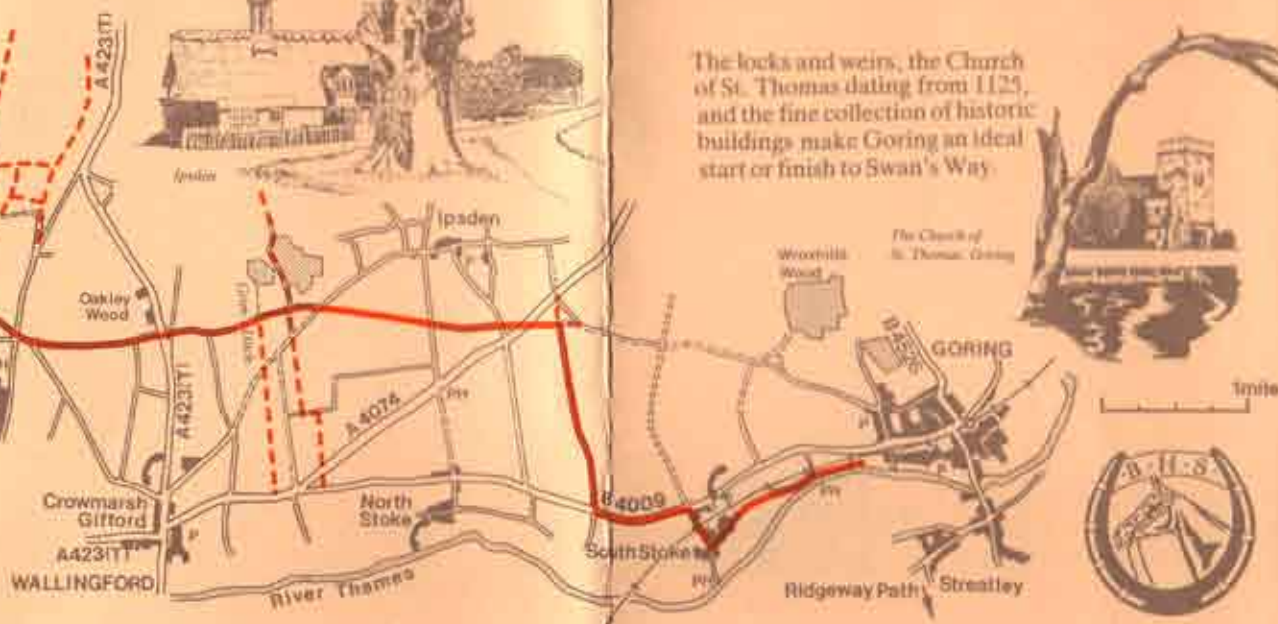


The Church of St. Thomas, Goring



Marion Hall, Watlington

The Watlington White mark was carved in 1764 by a Mr. Horne who could see Watlington Church from his window, outlined against the hill. He thought the church should have a spire so he had one carved so that from his window, church and chalk spire seemed together!



1 mile

