

WANTAGE AREA WALKS & CYCLE ROUTES



Route 11 – Wantage to Ardington running or cycling route (10K)

The ancient market town of Wantage sits on the Letcombe Brook, at the foot of the Berkshire Downs. The town is characterised by 16th century timber framed houses refaced in the late 18th and early 19th centuries in red brick. In 1847 Wantage became an educational and spiritual centre for the Oxford Movement, and the vicar of the parish church, Rev William Butler, was responsible for several fine buildings in the town centre.

To the east lie the villages of Ardington, East Lockinge and West Lockinge, as well as the hamlets of Ardington Wick and Betterton (a hamlet in mediaeval times). West Lockinge is famous for its training stables and the legendary Best Mate racehorse.

This route can be seen on the "walkjogrun" web site at:

http://www.walkjogrun.net/routes/current_route.cfm?rid=93905BCB-EB3A-6151-CC3D70A049D5C0E3



Statue of King Alfred

- 1 Start in Wantage Market Square near the statue of King Alfred. Head out of the Market Square along the A417 Wallingford Street, past Boots and Waitrose. Follow the road across three mini roundabouts in the direction signed towards Reading and Didcot. After almost a mile you reach a further mini roundabout with the Lord Nelson public house on your right. Turn right at this roundabout into Larkhill and around 100 yards further on take a track past allotments



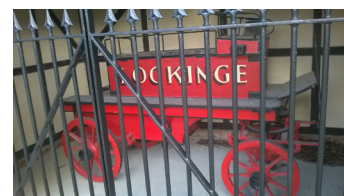
Larkhill allotments

on your left marked with the blue signs of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 544 towards Lockinge, Ardington, Harwell Campus and Didcot.



Path from Wantage

- 2 After around half a mile the track meets a road on a corner. Carry straight on, still following the NCN blue signs, and continue on the road until you reach a T-junction. The old village fire pump is displayed in a building ahead of you.



Village fire pump



Grey horse in paddock

Turn right, signed towards Betterton and Ginge, and head up the hill with a row of cottages on your right. Stay on this road as it swings left by the war memorial. To your right is a statue of Best Mate, three times winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup.



Statue of Best Mate

Keep on the road as it passes Lockinge church to your left, then a little further on swings left over a small bridge and then right to climb through trees. Ignore private turnings to your left.



East Lockinge Church

3 The road climbs for around half a mile before reaching a junction where you turn very sharp left signed towards Ardington. Note

4 Follow this road out of Ardington Village. Those wishing to do so can explore the millennium stones in the plantation on the right. The road arrives at a T-junction with a track straight ahead. Carry on straight ahead on the track, taking care when crossing the road. The track passes through the small car park and after a few hundred yards meets a road where you rejoin your original outward route on a bend. Turn right. Retrace your route back to Wantage Market Square as follows:

5 Follow the road for around 300 yards then as the road swings right take the track that carries straight on (signed on the NCN route 544). Follow the track for around half a mile to its end where it meets Larkhill and turn right. The road descends to a mini roundabout by the Lord Nelson public house where you turn left (signed Wantage). From this point carry straight on, crossing three mini roundabouts to return to the Market Square.



Ardington House

fold line - non-printing

that this turn can be difficult on a bicycle - be prepared to dismount. After a further half a mile the road makes a turn to the right at a point where it is joined by a private road and a track.



Betterton Gates



Ardington Street



Holy Trinity Church

Stay on the road as it descends past Ardington Sports Club and after crossing a small bridge takes you into Ardington Village. At the end the road meets a T-junction by the war memorial. Turn left.



Ardington Village



East Lockinge Church from the bridge

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Further copies of this route and others in the series are available from the Independent Advice Centre, Market Square, Wantage