

# the hub

## Oxford to Abingdon



This is an easy and attractive ride using the permissive path by the River Thames or Isis and minor roads. As a historic city, Oxford has many attractions for the tourist whilst Abingdon is a pretty market town with abbey ruins, parks and leisure facilities.

Starting from Queen Street in the centre of Oxford, at the intersection with Bonn Square, head south down St Ebbes. Where the road curves to the left, take a right turn through the bollards onto a surfaced shared path which takes you through a small

left and then crosses the river by way of a shared cyclist/pedestrian bridge. On the other side of the bridge, turn left and follow the path by the river, taking care when crossing the Abingdon Road. An alternative on road route is advisable for those using tandems, trikes and bike buggies because of a narrow radar gate at Iffley Lock, so check your map for details.

If you have arrived at Oxford railway station, there is an alternative, attractive route: turn right out of the station, cycle under the road bridge, and take the second left into Bridge Street on Osney Island. Turn immediately left again and cycle to the end of East Street where you should take the riverside towpath leading to Osney Lock. After the lock, the route passes under the railway bridge where there is a sharp slope up into Grandpont Nature Park. Just past the old Gasworks Bridge, follow the path down to the left and cycle on beside the river, taking care when you reach the intersection with the Abingdon Road.

The off road section continues as far as Kennington. The stretch of river between Oxford and Iffley Lock is much used by university boat crews for rowing practice and there are benches and seats, another

nature reserve and a good pub by the lock, the Isis Tavern. The route emerges onto Sandford Lane at Kennington. Turn left for Sandford Lock and the excellent food at the King's Arms, or turn right to continue on road to Abingdon. At the top of Sandford Lane, turn left and cycle on past the fields until the famous public school, Radley College, appears on the right. Turn left down Church Road at this point, following the route signs through Radley village which has a shop, pub, play area and railway station.

At the junction with White's Lane bear left and then almost immediately left again into Thrupp Lane. At weekends this quiet road takes you past nice views, a riding school and fields full of ponies, however, care must be taken during the week when HGVs use the road. At the end of Thrupp Lane turn right and then left to join the railway path into Abingdon via Barton Fields. This quiet, traffic free route takes you through to the extensive Abbey Gardens in Abingdon where public toilets and a café are among the attractions. For the town centre, turn right over a small bridge by the paddling pool and then left into the car park. Follow the lane directly ahead from the car park exit and where it curves to the right, take the left signed cycle path through the bollards and under the medieval arch. The main shopping area is to the right, the town museum is opposite and to the left is a bridge over the Thames and picnic areas by the riverside. It is possible to continue on Route 5 to Didcot using the traffic free Peep-o-Day Lane, then on road through the delightful village of Sutton Courtenay before a further traffic free section behind the towers of the power station.

### The Route

**National Route:** 5

**Distance:** 6 miles one way

**Terrain:** flat, mostly traffic free

**Public transport:** railway stations at Oxford, Radley and Didcot

**Nearest bike hire:** Bike Zone, Oxford - 01865 728877

**Maps:** Hanson Way leaflet – free from Sustrans

**OS maps:** Explorer 170/180, Landranger 164

**Tourist information:**

Oxford - 01865 240261

**Places to search for on Sustrans website mapping:** Oxford, Abingdon