



- You will see the following signs on the route
- Round Berkshire Cycle Route Signs**
- 7.4 Newbury and Wokingham
 - 7.5 Reading and Windsor
 - Landranger Maps (50000)
 - 16.0 Windsor, Wargrave and Bracknell
 - 15.9 Reading, Wokingham and Pangbourne
 - Explorer Maps (125000) 19.98
 - Ordnance Survey Maps
 - Peter England
 - Windsor & Maidenhead
 - Wokingham CTC Brian Morris
 - (01628) 472300
 - CTC
 - West Berkshire
 - Reading Cycle Campaign
 - (0118) 954 5622
 - Reading CTC
 - Alain Fury
 - (0118) 927 6455
 - Briffeld Bikers
 - Alice Brown
 - (01344) 488494
 - Bracknell FOC
 - Mick Hirston
 - (01344) 452940
 - Bracknell CTC
 - Denek Millidge
 - (01344) 422829
 - Local Contacts
 - Berks on Bikes (Mountain Bike Club)
 - www.bobmbcc.com
 - Reading District CTC
 - www.rwcyc.co.uk/reading-dc
 - Main CTC Web Site
 - www.ctc.org.uk
 - CTC (Cyclists Touring Club) HQ
 - (01483) 41217
 - Wokingham District Council
 - (0118) 974 6472
 - West Berkshire Council
 - (01628) 519510
 - Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
 - (0118) 939 0900
 - Bracknell Forest Borough Council
 - (01344) 354124
- Useful Contacts**
- Utility Authorities

The Golden Rules of Cycling Safety

- 1 Thoroughly check the condition of your bicycle before setting out. Pay particular attention to brakes, tyres and gears.
- 2 Carry a small tool kit, a spare inner tube, a puncture repair outfit, a pump and a lock.
- 3 Load luggage in panniers or other suitable cycling bags. Avoid using a rucksack if possible. A badly laden or top heavy bicycle can be dangerous.
- 4 Be safe - be seen. Always wear bright clothing and carry lights.
- 5 Be properly equipped. Wear suitable clothing and have waterproof gear available. Remember, wearing a helmet will not prevent accidents but may reduce the severity of head injuries.
- 6 Always carry spare food and drink to maintain your energy levels and avoid fatigue.
- 7 Carry a first aid kit and identification in case of accident. Let someone know your plans.
- 8 Always be aware of other traffic. Ride in single file on narrow or busy roads. Give clear signals.
- 9 Obey the Highway Code, the Country Code and local bylaws.
- 10 Be particularly careful in wet or icy conditions.

Enjoy yourself and go at your own pace

Section Six

Windsor to Reading

Take the cyclepath alongside the roadbridge over the River Thames to Clewer and follow the 'traffic'-calmed Dedworth Road out of Windsor to Fifield. The signed Round Berkshire Road route turns North to Maidenhead, an alternative route to the South of Maidenhead is shown on the map. Take care crossing the A308 onto Monkey Island Lane. This track is a bridleway also used for access by a number of farms so beware of occasional heavy vehicles. The surface is 'lumpy' in parts but offers a quiet route into Bray, historically famous for its fickle vicar who changed sides more than once during the English Civil War.

Dorney Court and Common

A detour to visit Dorney Court and Common is possible by using the cycle path alongside the M4 bridge over the River Thames. The first pineapple ever grown in Britain was cultivated at Dorney Court in 1665, a fact reflected in the name of the local pub. The name Dorney means 'Bumble Bee Island'.

In Maidenhead, a special route through Guards Club Park has been provided by agreement with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. This allows the A4 to be crossed at its safest point close to the river. Please ensure that you dismount at the park gates and push your bicycles. **DO NOT CYCLE THROUGH THE PARK AS THIS CONTRAVENES LOCAL BYLAWS.** This splendid open space is very restful and affords the best views of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's famous railway bridge - the longest single span brick arched railway bridge in the world and a masterpiece of 19th century engineering.

The route follows the Thames past Boulter's Lock which was a favourite destination for Edwardian pleasure seekers and the scene famously captured in E J Gregory's 1895 painting. Carry on across the National Trust owned Widbrook Common to Cookham.

In Cookham you are in the haunt of Stanley Spencer, the village's famous artist, and a trip to the Gallery is recommended to see some of his work. Ascend Winter Hill taking care on some of the twists and turns in the narrower sections. Pass through the Quarry Bank Woods, the setting, it is believed, for Kenneth Grahame's 'Windwood' in 'The Wind in the Willows' (watch out for waspels and stoats). Pass over the busy A404 on the new road bridge to Burchet's Green. Next aim for Ashley Hill towards the Dew Drop Inn past the Forestry Commission woodlands and bend downhill to the A423 - watch your brakes! Taking care on the main road, cycle to the next turn off towards Wargrave Manor and join the main road for a short distance through Wargrave High Street. At the outer edge of Wargrave, cross the road to join the shared path and head towards Twyford. Follow the A4 cyclepath over the River Loddon to Charvil where the pelican crossing can be used as the safest way to cross the main road. Use the bridge under the railway embankment and pass Waingels Copse School to reach the quiet streets of Woodley.

The route into Reading uses the Kennet-side Cycle Path for a stretch through Palmer Park (given to the people of Reading by the biscuit manufacturer) and alongside the Kennet and Avon Canal before joining the River Thames towpath. There are no legal rights, at present, to cycle on the towpaths so

please wheel your cycle for the last mile or so to Caversham Bridge, giving you a chance to enjoy the swans and riverside scene.

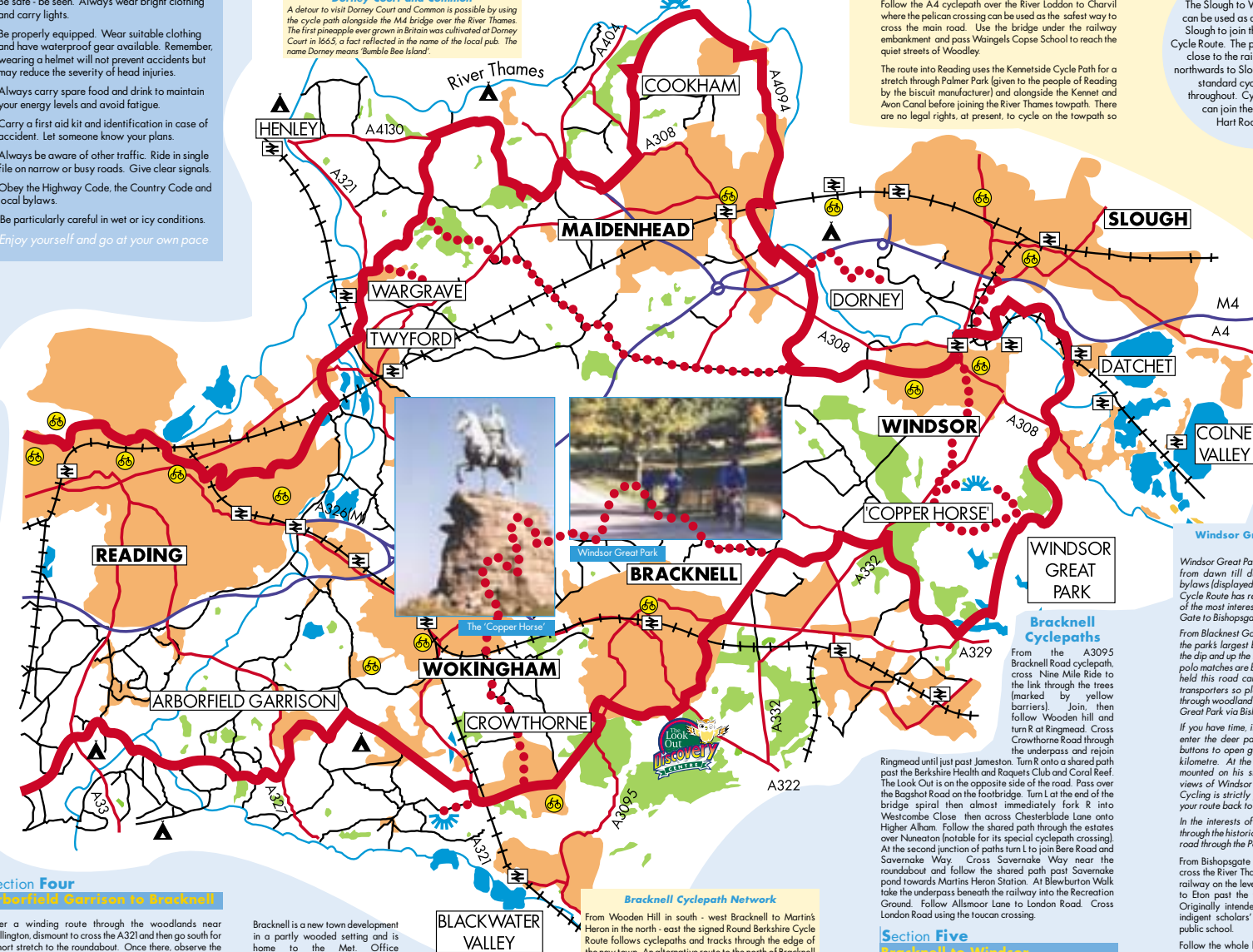
Alternatively you can follow the Kennet Side Cycle Route into central Reading and link with Caversham Bridge from the town centre. Reading Museum and Blake's Lock are interesting places to visit.

Slough Spur

The Slough to Windsor cycle path can be used as a spur for cyclists in Slough to join the Round Berkshire Cycle Route. The path uses a cycle track close to the railway embankment northwards to Slough and is marked by standard cyclepath symbols throughout. Cyclists from Slough can join the Spur at White Hart Road, Chalvey

Key

- Round Berkshire Cycle Route
- Alternative route or link
- Cycle shop
- Railway station
- Viewpoint
- Camp site



Windsor Great Park Blacknest Gate to Bishopsgate

Windsor Great Park's paved roads can be used by cyclists from dawn till dusk provided they observe the Park's bylaws (displayed on signs at gates). The Round Berkshire Cycle Route has received special permission to cross one of the most interesting sections of the Park from Blacknest Gate to Bishopsgate.

From Blacknest Gate cross the bridge over Virginia Water, the park's largest body of water. Follow the road around the dip and up the hill onto Smith's Lawn Polo fields. When polo matches are being played or special events are being held this road can be quite busy with horse boxes and transporters so please take extra care. Follow the road through woodland to Cumberland Gate before leaving the Great Park via Bishopsgate.

If you have time, instead of turning right at Royal Lodge, enter the deer park (using the equestrian mounted push buttons to open gates) and cycle north west for about a kilometre. At the 'copper horse', a statue of George IV mounted on a horse, you will experience spectacular views of Windsor Castle and the parkland of Long Walk. Cycling is strictly prohibited on the long walk so retrace your route back to Bishopsgate to continue.

In the interests of conservation there are no route signs through the historic park, so you should follow the principal road through the Park and exit via Bishopsgate.

From Bishopsgate head for Datchet via Old Windsor and cross the River Thames at the Albert Bridge. Pass over the railway on the level crossing by Datchet Station and cycle to Eton past the famed playing fields of Eton College. Originally intended, in 1440, to educate 24 'poor and indigent scholars' Eton is now the world's most famous public school.

Follow the whole length of the High Street, dominated by the College's buildings and splendidly curious shops, until just before the pedestrianised Thames Bridge to Windsor.

There are more wonderful views of Windsor Castle from Eton and the route keeps these in sight as it crosses the open space known as the Brocas. Cross the low viaduct of the Slough to Windsor railway branch line. Here the route joins the cyclepath from Slough and crosses the River Thames.

Section Four

Arborfield Garrison to Bracknell

After a winding route through the woodlands near Wellington, dismount to cross the A321 and then go south for a short stretch to the roundabout. Once there, observe the magnificent Redwood trees on Wellingtonia Avenue to your right. You can take a short westwards detour along the avenue to Finchampstead Ridges and peep out over the Blackwater Valley into Hampshire. Otherwise, with the towering Wellington trees behind you, follow the B3348 to Crowthorne and A3095 to Bracknell using the dedicated cyclepaths and crossing points.

Bracknell is a new town development in a partly wooded setting and is home to the Met. Office (unfortunately they can't guarantee good weather for your ride!). The route passes around the south of the town crossing close to Coeser's Camp Iron Age Hillfort and the Look Out. There are off-road cycling routes in the surrounding forest and mountain bike hire is available from Wellington Trek. Tel: (01344) 772797 and also from the Look Out.

Bracknell Cyclepath Network

From Wooden Hill in south-west Bracknell to Martin's Heron in the north-east the signed Round Berkshire Cycle Route follows cyclepaths and tracks through the edge of the new town. An alternative route to the north of Bracknell is shown on the map.

Please give way to pedestrians on shared paths and be courteous to other users at all times.

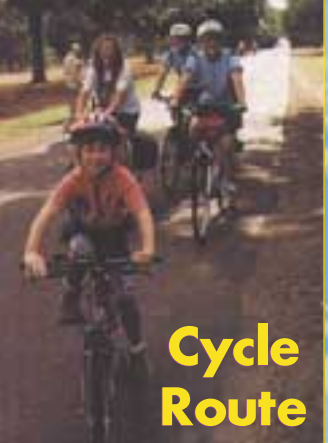
Ringmead until just past Jameston. Turn R onto a shared path past the Berkshire Harrier and Rabbits Club and Canal Reef. The Look Out is on the opposite side of the road. Pass over the Bagshot Road on the footbridge. Turn at the end of the bridge spiral then almost immediately fork R into Westcombe Close then across Chesterblade Lane onto Higher Altham. Follow the shared path through the estates over Nuneaton (notable for its special cyclepath crossing). At the second junction of paths turn L to join Bere Road and Sovereign Way. Cross Sovereign Way near the roundabout and follow the shared path past Savernake pond towards Martins Heron Station. At Blewburton Walk take the underpass beneath the railway into the Recreation Ground. Follow Alltmore Lane to London Road. Cross London Road using the toucan crossing.

Section Five

Bracknell to Windsor

The route from Bracknell to Windsor passes through pleasant wooded suburbs and outstanding parkland. After crossing London Road turn up Long Hill Road and proceed through Chavey Down past Winfield Manor towards Woodside. After the A332 crossing follow the edge of Windsor Great Park to Blacknest Gate.

Round Berkshire



Cycle Route



Introduction

From the rolling downs around Lambourn to the formal splendour of Windsor Great Park, the Round Berkshire Cycle Route offers an opportunity to experience the rich and varied character of England's only Royal county. Following a circular route around the whole county, the attractions vary from scenic forest paths and Thames-side rides to the architectural delights of Eton and traditional market towns such as Hungerford.

The route provides a focus for leisure cycling for people living in, working in, or visiting Berkshire. Cycling is also an excellent means of transport, and many sections of the route can be equally useful for travelling to work, school or shops. Inevitably some major roads have to be crossed or ridden along for short stretches where no other quieter alternatives exist but this has been kept to a minimum. Please read the section on Golden Rules of Cycling safety see overleaf. The route is not recommended for use at night.

The main route is sign - posted along its entire length to help you find your way and some alternative links are shown on the map.

The route can be followed as a 140 mile (225 Km) circuit for those wishing to take up a long distance challenge. It can be used by people wishing to explore their local countryside. This will involve an element of route planning to determine suitable routes to and from the main route. Suggested links to the nearby Oxfordshire and Wiltshire Cycleways are provided.

Cycling is a healthy form of exercise and a great way to explore the countryside and heritage of Berkshire. The route is described in an anti - clockwise direction starting from Caversham Bridge, Reading.

Section One Reading to Hungerford

From Caversham Bridge turn westwards along Richfield Avenue passing Rivermead Leisure Centre. Negotiate the traffic light controlled railway bridges with care on Cow Lane and turn R onto Portman Road cyclepath. At the roundabout junction turn R to join the Oxford Road cyclepath and follow westwards towards Tilehurst Station. At the big roundabout before the station turn L over Down Road. Proceed uphill to the roundabout with Long Lane turn L. After a short distance turn sharp R at the corner of Vicarage Wood and follow downhill to Sulham and over the River Pang to Tidmarsh. Cross the A340 with caution at the staggered crossroad. A gently rising road takes the route towards Upper Basildon and Aldworth passing through landscapes cared for by the Pang Valley Countryside Project. For further information about this Project, Tel: 01189 305335.

Following minor roads to Compton and East Ilsley you will cross the dismantled route of the Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway and pass by Parborough Iron Age Hillfort. Leaving East Ilsley under the A34 dual carriageway cycle through the heart of North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty towards Great Shefford. Take care when joining the A338 for the short distance to the Lambourn Valley. Turn up the valley towards Lambourn, famous as the capital of Berkshire's horseracing industry. Past the church, take the Farn Combe road out of Lambourn.

Pass over the M4 near the Second World War aircraft hangers at Membury Airfield. Join the B4001 but leave it at the Wiltshire - Berkshire border following the valley towards Hungerford Newtown. Then cross the river Kennet and enter Hungerford on the A338.

Alternative Route

- the Ridgeway National Trail

At the Four Points public house in Aldworth cyclists can take an alternative route which includes part of The Ridgeway National Trail. Much of this route is off - road so it will be best suited to those with mountain bikes.

For information about The Ridgeway:

Tel: 01865 810224

Email: mail@rway-tpath.demon.co.uk

Website: www.nationaltrails.gov.uk

Key	
	Round Berkshire Cycle Route
	Alternative route or link
	Cycle shop
	Railway station
	Youth Hostel
	Viewpoint
	Camp site

Lambourn Downs



Section Two Hungerford to Newbury

Hungerford is a place which deserves some time to absorb its unique attractions. The Kennet and Avon Canal can be seen at the Wharf where decorated barges and pleasure cruisers are often moored. The canal was constructed in 1774 and has recently been restored by a consortium of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, local authorities and British Waterways.

Halfway up the High Street, just past the railway bridge, rejoin the route by turning left onto Hungerford Common. Take care crossing the cattle grid and give way to passing cows. Hungerford Common is a survivor of the once extensive common lands of England which were greatly reduced by enclosures during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Aiming for Inkpen and the looming bulk of Walbury hill leave Hungerford Common to arrive at the cross - roads past Lower Green. For the fit and adventurous (especially those with lots of gears) proceed straight on to ascend Walbury Hill - the highest chalk hill in England (see panel). For the less energetic the route zigzags along quiet country lanes to West Woodhay and Wash Common running parallel to the Berkshire - Hampshire border.

On the outskirts of Newbury proceed carefully across the A343. A special section has been devised to enable you to go across the A34 and avoid the heavy traffic. From Manks Lane turn L up Rupert Road then R at Chandos Road. At the T junction with Old Newtown Road turn L for a short distance before crossing the road to follow the brideway bridge over the A34. Continue on to Springfield Lane and then R into The Nightingales. At the T junction with Greenham Road turn R and join Pinchington Lane at the T junction.

Alternative Route - Walbury Hill & Combe Gibbet

England's highest chalk hill presents a real challenge to any cyclist. Although the main route passes by this magnificent viewpoint, the hilltop can be reached by climbing up a long quiet lane. If you have the energy to do so, it is worth the effort as the views from the top on a clear day are truly magnificent. All but the fittest will have to push their bicycles up - and everyone will have to control their speed on the way down. Interpretation panels describe the history of the Iron Age Hillfort (c.750BC), the Neolithic long barrow (c.3500BC) and Combe Gibbet, a later addition, first used in 1676 to hang a pair of adulterous murderers, George Broomham and Dorothy Newman.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DO NOT LEAVE LITTER HERE OR ELSEWHERE ON THE ROUTE.

Section Three Newbury to Arborfield Garrison

Follow the perimeter of the former Greenham Common airbase built in 1938. The whole site is registered as common land and much of it is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. After a dip towards Thatcham the route continues to Crookham, Brimpton and Aldermaston. After going across and along the A340 in Aldermaston, the route keeps to quieter country lanes to Padworth before entering the coniferous woodlands near Mortimer. From Mortimer railway station proceed to Beech Hill and a bridge crossing the A33. Pass over the River Blackwater towards Farley Hill and take care when crossing the A327 to Arborfield Garrison. If you are interested in military vehicles the REME Museum deserves a visit. Tel: 01189 763567 for details.

Links to the Oxfordshire Cycleway

Cross Caversham Bridge, turn left and pass Caversham Court Environment Centre up the hill. Turn first left down The Warren and cycle alongside the recently restored woodlands to Mapplethorpe. Visit the House and 'Doomsday Book' Watermill if you have time. Follow the brideway to Whitechurch - on - Thames and head up the hill towards Gray's Pond, joining the Cycle Route just past the cross - roads.

Route Maps and other information can be obtained from Oxfordshire County Council.

Tel: 01865 810226.

Links to the Wiltshire Cycleway

Leave the Round Berkshire Cycle Route just north of Hungerford on the A4. Join the B4192 for about a mile and then continue on the minor road towards Littlecote. After the entrance to Littlecote follow the road round to Fraxfield. Avoiding the A4, head northwards to pick up the Wiltshire Cycleway at Ramsbury. Mountain bike riders can take an alternative route to Ramsbury past Littlecote House and alongside the River Kennet.

Route maps and other information can be obtained from Wiltshire County Council.

Tel: (01225) 71300 ext:3480.

Bicycles by Train

The train offers an ideal way of getting to and from the Round Berkshire Cycle Route. It also provides fast links between different sections of the route (see map for the location of stations).

For details of rail services:
0345 484950