

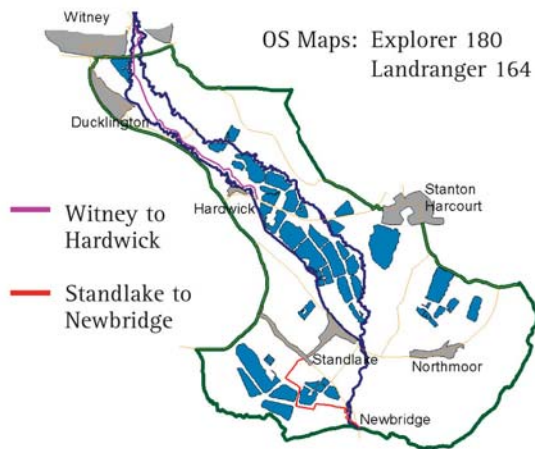
The Windrush Path is a new route currently being created by the Lower Windrush Valley Project that ultimately aims to provide a path from Witney through the valley to link up with the Thames Path National Trail at Newbridge.

This 5km (3 mile) section of the Windrush Path between Witney and Hardwick opened in 2003 and follows the attractive, meandering River Windrush for much of its length.

From Witney, the path runs south through the Witney Lake and Meadows Country Park and then on through riverside meadows to Ducklington. A separate footpath into the village offers the option of a circular walk that takes in the church, the two Public Houses and allows a shorter route back to Witney.

Beyond Ducklington, the Windrush Path picks up a new permissive footpath that runs beside the river, past the area of active gravel extraction at Gill Mill Quarry and on to the tiny hamlet of Hardwick, where an extensive complex of older restored gravel pits has developed into a popular destination for fishermen.

The Windrush Path is being developed in stages with two sections now open to walkers.



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Introduction

The development of the Windrush Path provides a good example of the way in which the Lower Windrush Valley Project works with mineral operators, landowners and local communities to enhance the landscape, wildlife and public access in the valley.

The new permissive path from Ducklington to Hardwick has been created by Smiths Bletchington and is one of many wider community benefits arising from the restoration of mineral sites by this local company.

Find out more

Alternative formats of this leaflet including large print are available on request. Tel 01865 810226

The Windrush Path is funded & supported by:

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Walk the Windrush Path



Witney Lake & Meadows is a 30 ha country park owned and managed by Witney Town Council right on the doorstep of the historic market town of Witney.

Gill Mill Quarry is one of Oxfordshire's largest quarries, which has been operating since 1989 to produce construction materials from the natural sand and gravel deposits found in the Lower Windrush Valley. Active quarries must have strict rules to ensure everyone's safety and so there is no public access within the quarry other than on the waymarked paths.

Tar Lakes is an area of public open space for local people to enjoy. This new 8 ha site offers an opportunity to walk around two lakes using footpaths that enable access for all and link to the wider network of public rights of way.

Rushy Common Nature Reserve is a haven for wildlife and so public access is not permitted across the reserve. However, a bird hide on the southern shore of the lake offers good views across the site. Keys for the hide can be purchased from the project office and enable you to visit this and other hides in the Lower Windrush Valley at anytime.



Ducklington sits on the western bank of the River Windrush. The pond on the village green provides its focal point, over looked by the imposing Norman tower of St Bartholomew's Church and an old tithe barn, sympathetically converted into a modern village hall.

The village is renowned for the Snakeshead Fritillary, a rare wildflower that grows locally. In April, the village celebrates Fritillary Sunday, when the field is open to the public and cream teas are available in the village hall.

Please respect the wishes of local landowners by keeping to waymarked paths, clearing up after your dog and keeping dogs under close control. When walking through fields with livestock, dogs should be kept on a lead at all times.

- KEY**
- Windrush Path 5km / 3miles
 - Paths around Witney Lake 1.5km/1mile
 - Paths around Tar Lakes 1.25km/0.8miles
 - - - - - Public Footpath
 - - - - - Public Bridleway
 - P Parking
 - i Information
 - PH Public House (serving food)
 - Bus Stop

The Windrush Path is a flat walk with no stiles but it does have several kissing gates and can be muddy or flooded after heavy rainfall.

Allow 1 – 1.5 hrs to enjoy a leisurely walk between Witney and Hardwick. If you prefer not to retrace your steps, consider using local bus services or plan a circular walk.

Car parking is available at several on road locations, public car parks in Witney, Ducklington and at Rushy Common. Parking in Hardwick is extremely limited so please avoid parking in this tiny hamlet.

Contact Traveline South East on 0871 200 2233 or visit www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk for bus timetables.