

Witney to Hardwick

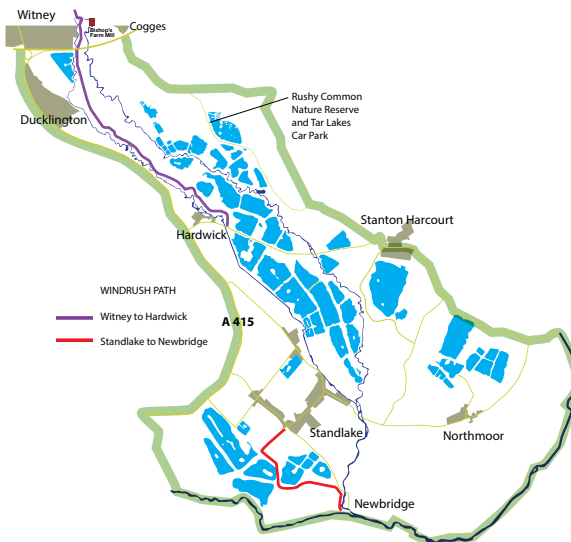
The route of the Windrush Path has been created by the Lower Windrush Valley Project and aims, ultimately, to provide a path from Witney through the valley to link up with the Thames Path National Trail at Newbridge.

Currently two sections of the path are completed. This 5km (3 mile) section between Witney and Hardwick follows the attractive, meandering western arm of the River Windrush for much of its length.

You can join the path in Witney at the Country Park by Bishop's Farm Mill or from the path round Witney Lake. The path then runs through riverside meadows to Ducklington where a separate footpath into the village offers the option of a circular walk into the village and a shorter route back to Witney.

Beyond Ducklington the Windrush Path continues along a permissive footpath that runs beside the river, past the area of gravel extraction at Gill Mill Quarry and on to the tiny hamlet of Hardwick.

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



For further information contact:

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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 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

The Windrush Path is funded & supported by:



Designed and produced by
Windrush Group, Witney working with LWVP

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Cover photograph water vole © Paul Martin

Walk the Windrush Path

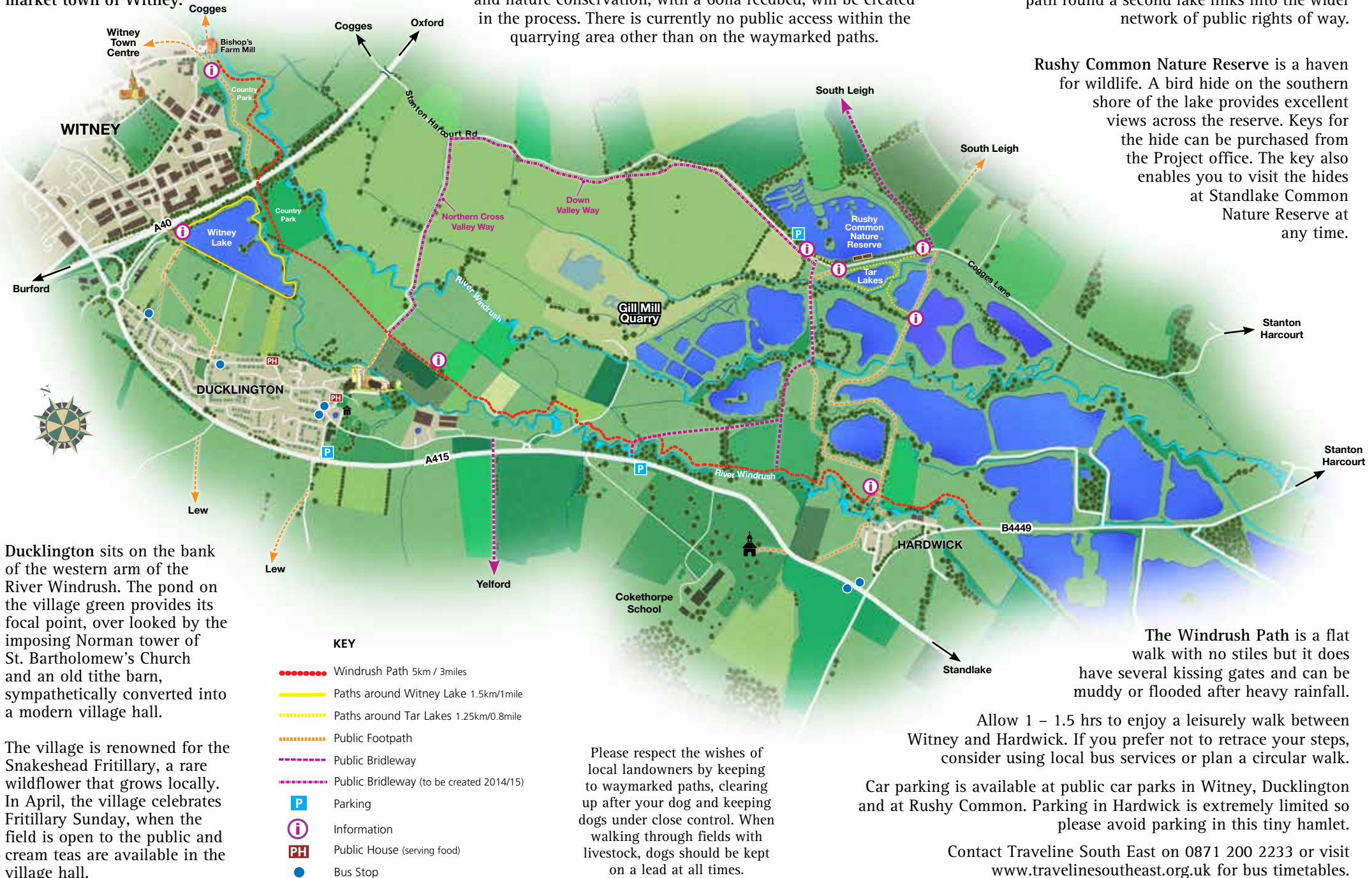


Witney Lake and Country Park are owned and managed by Witney Town Council right on the doorstep of the historic market town of Witney.

Gill Mill Quarry, one of Oxfordshire's largest quarries, will be continuing for many years with the area of extraction extending up to the A40. New lakes and sites for recreation and nature conservation, with a 60ha reedbed, will be created in the process. There is currently no public access within the quarrying area other than on the waymarked paths.

Tar Lakes is an area of public open space for all to enjoy. A surfaced path round one lake is wheelchair accessible and a longer, grass path round a second lake links into the wider network of public rights of way.

Rushy Common Nature Reserve is a haven for wildlife. A bird hide on the southern shore of the lake provides excellent views across the reserve. Keys for the hide can be purchased from the Project office. The key also enables you to visit the hides at Standlake Common Nature Reserve at any time.



Ducklington sits on the bank of the western arm 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.

KEY

- Windrush Path 5km / 3miles
- Paths around Witney Lake 1.5km/1mile
- Paths around Tar Lakes 1.25km/0.8mile
- - - - - Public Footpath
- - - - - Public Bridleway
- - - - - Public Bridleway (to be created 2014/15)
- P Parking
- i Information
- PH Public House (serving food)
- Bus Stop

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.

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 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.