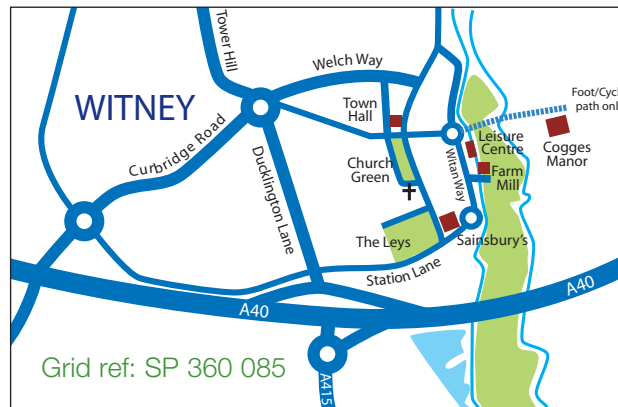




Witney Lake and Country Park offer a gateway to the Lower Windrush Valley, an area that has been transformed by mineral extraction over many years. Managed by Witney Town Council for people and for wildlife, there are surfaced paths round the lake and rougher paths through fields providing a rich variety of walking experiences on the doorstep of the historic market town of Witney.

Witney is world famous for the manufacture of woollen blankets and owes its prosperity over the last 400 years to the wool trade. The magnificent spire of St Mary's Church overlooks Church Green and the town and is visible from miles around. The town today is a vibrant shopping centre with a market twice a week, all set amongst attractive historic buildings.



**On foot:**

- to Witney Lake, from town centre via Avenue Two off Station Lane through the underpass under the A40; from footpaths from Ducklington or from the Country Park
- to Country Park by Farm Mill off Witan Way.

**By bus:** Call Traveline South East on 0871 200 2233 or visit the website [www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk](http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk) for bus timetables.

**By car:** Please note there is no parking at Witney Lake or Country Park. Town centre car parks are a 5-10 minute walk.

**Access for all:** the path around the north side of Witney Lake is wheelchair accessible but the paths on the rest of the site may not be suitable for people with restricted mobility.



## Welcome

The Lower Windrush Valley Project was set up to work in the valley with mineral operators, landowners and local communities as mineral extraction is set to continue for many years into the future. The project aims to deliver a range of environmental initiatives that protect and enhance the landscape and wildlife habitats, and improve public access opportunities in the valley.

## Contact

**Witney Town Council**

Town Hall, Market Square, Witney, OXON OX28 6AG  
Tel: 01993 704379  
Email: [townclerk@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@witney-tc.gov.uk)

**The Lower Windrush Valley Project**

Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham, OXON OX29 4TL.  
Tel: 01865 815426  
Email: [lwvp@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lwvp@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

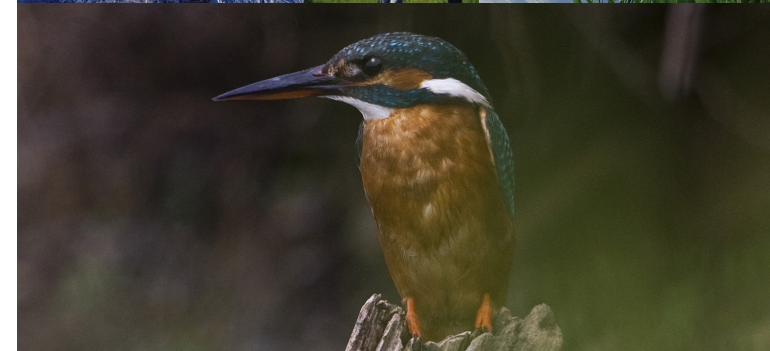
This leaflet was funded by:



Witney Town Council



## Witney Lake & Country Park





Witney Lake, once an active gravel pit, is now an attractive public space with stunning views across open water. The footpath round the north shore of the lake is wheelchair accessible. The southern half of the lake is managed as a nature reserve. Many species of birds have been recorded here, together with some unusual invertebrates and wetland plants. Kingfishers dart along Emma's Dyke and the River Windrush. Great crested grebe can be seen on the lake all year round and summer visitors include swifts that nest nearby in the town.

The Country Park runs from Farm Mill down to the eastern edge of Witney Lake. The field to the north of the A40 is managed as traditional hay meadow. The meadow to the south is much wetter and a network of shallow ponds has been created here to attract snipe and lapwing in the winter and masses of damselflies and dragonflies in the summer. There may be cattle in these fields and it may be very muddy with rough ground in places.



**The Windrush Path**

follows, or runs near to, the River Windrush from Witney to Hardwick. Start from the entrance to the Country Park or from Witney Lake for a walk through meadow land with classic riverside views. The path joins public footpaths to Gill Mill, Rushy Common Nature Reserve and South Leigh. In winter, some sections of the path may be flooded or very muddy.

For the benefit of all visitors and wildlife please keep your dog under close control and clean up after it.

Camping, swimming, cycling and horse riding, lighting fires and barbeques are not permitted.

For more information about fishing contact the Town Hall on 01993 704379.

For further information about the route of the Windrush Path look at the project leaflet Walk the Windrush Path-Witney to Hardwick or contact the Lower Windrush Valley Project on 01865 815426.