

# Villages and Facilities

## Bodicote

Once renowned for the cultivation of medicinal rhubarb and herbal remedies. A circular walk and nature trail can be downloaded from the Cherwell District Council website.

Flyover Farm Shop (01295) 270789  
 Bakers Arms (01295) 263230  
 The Plough (01295) 262327  
 Horse and Jockey (01295) 263773

## Broughton

Broughton Castle is a moated, fortified manor house dating from 1300. Royalist forces besieged and occupied it after the Civil War battle of Edge Hill in 1642.

Saye and Sele Arms (01295) 263348  
 Broughton Castle (01295) 276070 [www.broughtoncastle.demon.co.uk/](http://www.broughtoncastle.demon.co.uk/)

## Shutford

Formerly a centre of the local plush weaving industry. A circular walk and village trail can be downloaded from the Cherwell District Council website.

George and Dragon (01295) 780320 [www.georgeanddragon.co.uk](http://www.georgeanddragon.co.uk)

## Epwell

Beautifully preserved ironstone Cotswold village.  
 Chandlers Arms (01295) 780344

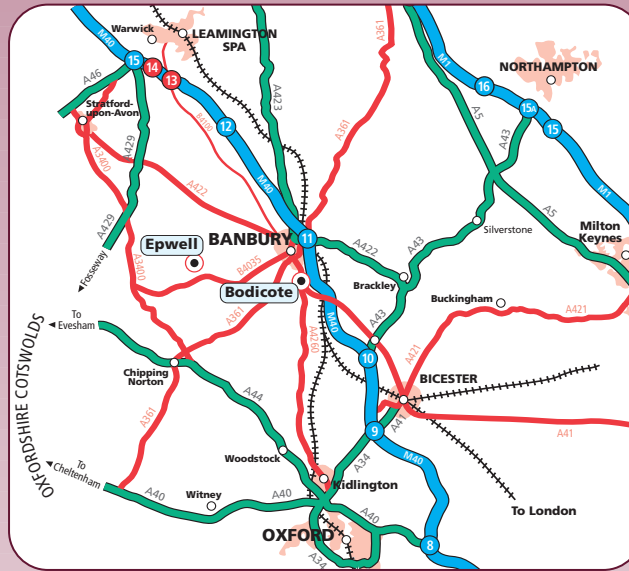
## Sibford Gower

Picturesque village with many well preserved features and fascinating Quaker heritage. An historic village trail can be downloaded from the Cherwell District Council website.

Wykham Arms (01295) 788808  
 Bishop Blaize (01295) 780323 [www.bishopblaize.co.uk](http://www.bishopblaize.co.uk)

## Sibfords/ Hook Norton Crossroads

The Firs Forecourt Shop (01608) 737349  
 The Gate Hangs High (01608) 737387 [www.gatehangshigh.com](http://www.gatehangshigh.com)



### At The Start

The route starts and finishes on Whitepost Road, Bodicote. There is a signed (National Cycle Network) 1 mile route to and from Banbury Railway Station. There is ample parking space along Whitepost Road except in the brief busy periods at the start and end of the school day.

### Safety Advice

- Ensure that your cycle is in good working order
- Check brakes, wheels and tyres
- Carry a puncture repair kit, spare inner tube, suitable tools, lock, money, food and drink
- Wear suitable and high visibility clothing
- A cycle helmet is advisable and may reduce the risk of a serious head injury
- Take special care cycling downhill and crossing busy road junctions
- Ride in single file when roads are narrow or busy (and never more than two abreast)

### Further Information

To discover more about the National Cycle Network and the work of Sustrans visit: [www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk](http://www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk) or call 0845 113 00 65. Visit the Cherwell website (address below) for updated route information and useful links to facilities, attractions and accommodation. If you wish to explore the surrounding area we recommend OS Landranger Map 151 "Stratford upon Avon, Warwick and Banbury".



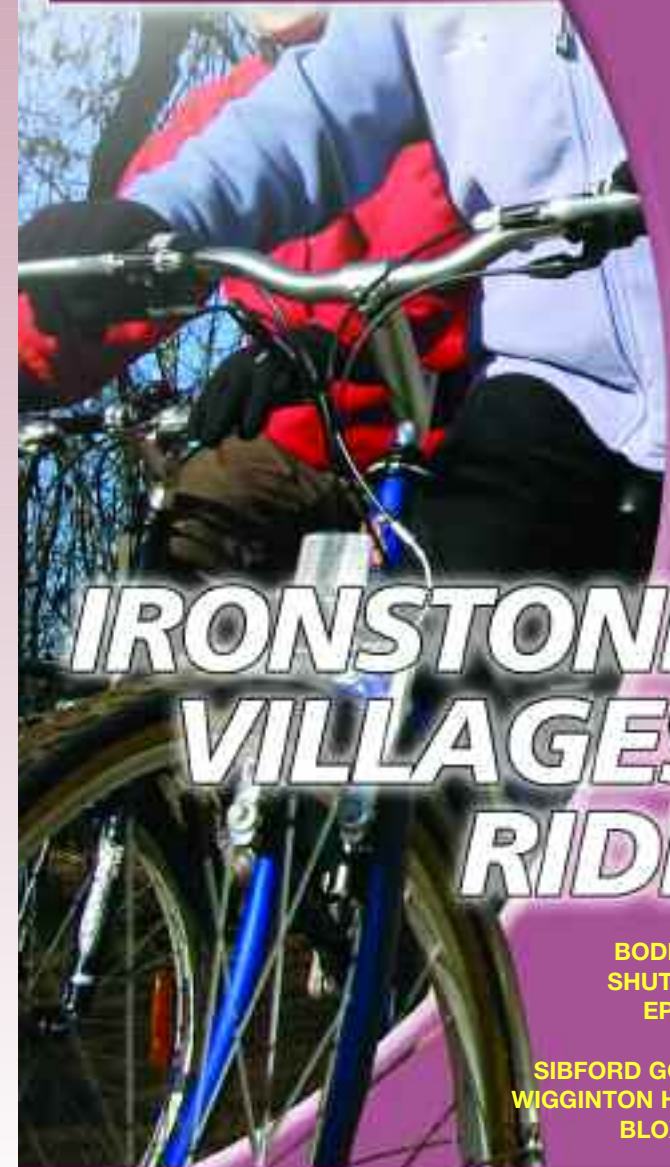
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# CIRCULAR RIDES



# IRONSTONE VILLAGES RIDE

**BODICOTE  
 SHUTFORD  
 EPWELL**

**SIBFORD GOWER  
 WIGGINTON HEATH  
 BLOXHAM**

**Distance** up to 20 miles/32km **Time** up to 4.5 hours  
 LEISURE RIDE ON QUIET ROADS AND SURFACED TRACKS

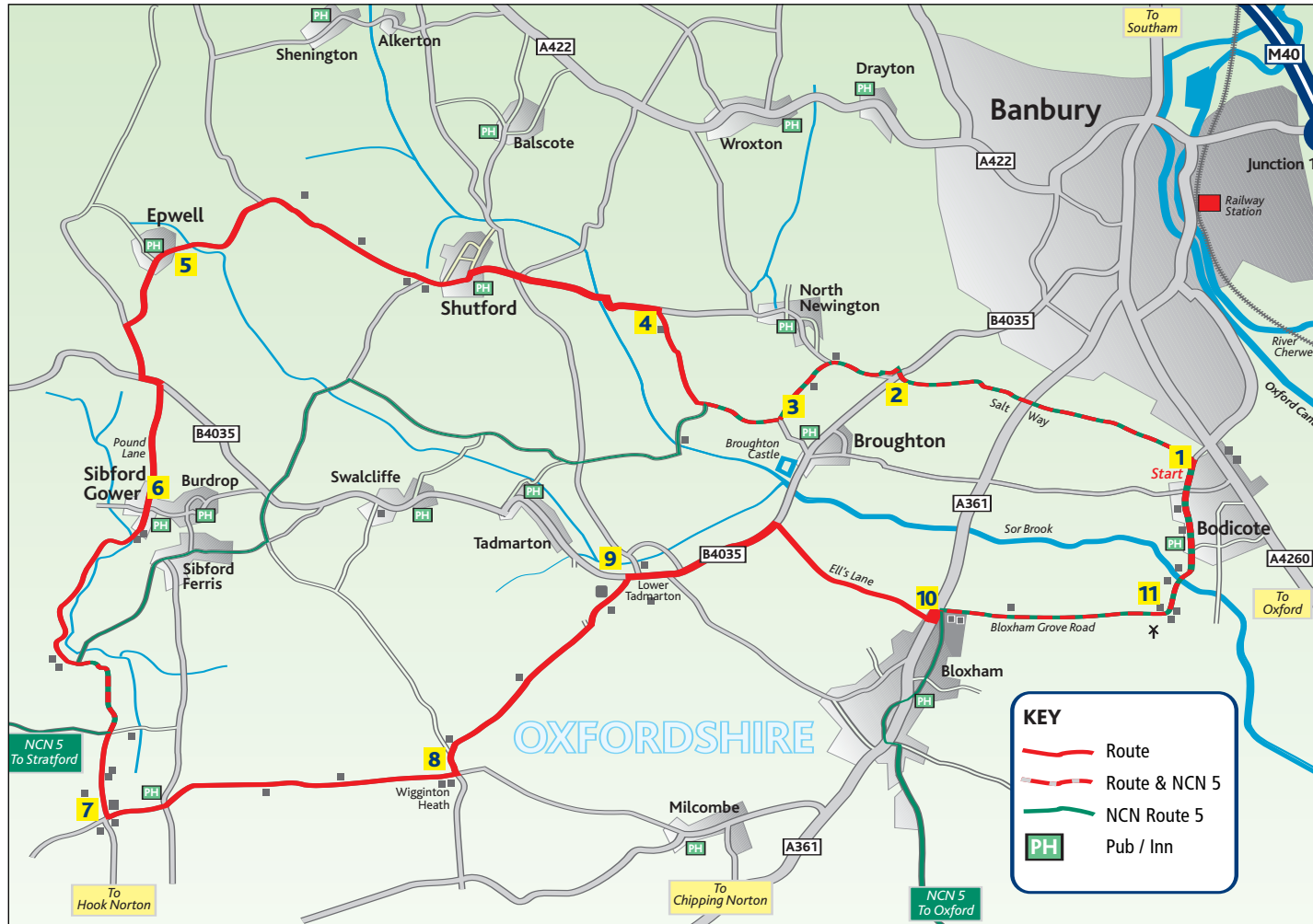


# Ironstone Villages Ride

A 20 mile cycle ride on minor roads and surfaced tracks. From Bodicote, the route heads out along the south side of Banbury and into the northern Cotswolds. It winds through historic villages built of the characteristic local ironstone.

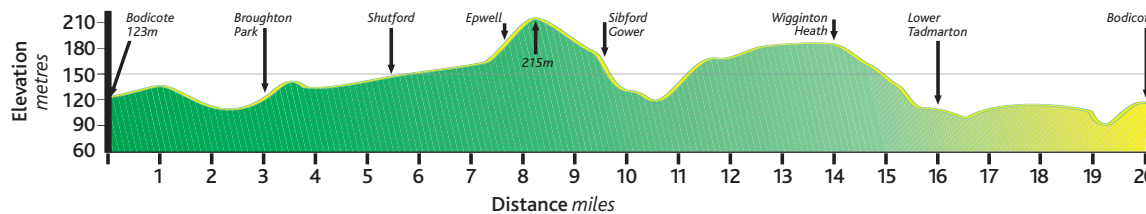
The ride is hilly, but the few steep climbs are short. The cyclist is rewarded with

relieving descents and extensive views of rolling countryside. Sections of the ride coincide with Route 5 of the National Cycle Network (NCN5) as it makes its way to Stratford. The network of connecting minor roads makes it easy for the less energetic cyclist to take shortcuts or for the more adventurous to extend the ride.



## Relief Diagram

NB Compressed distance scale makes inclines appear much steeper than they really are!



# Directions

- 1 From Whitepost Road, Bodicote TL along Salt Way track (SP NCN Stratford). At end, cross A361 using island and continue along track.
- 2 At end, cross B4035 and TL along cyclepath (SP NCN Stratford), then TR with junction (SP Newington) and rejoin road. TL just after 'The Mill House', (SP NCN).
- 3 At end FR (SP NCN) (note views of Broughton Park through hedge to left). Ignore left turn to Fulling Mill (SP NCN) and continue along track as it turns sharp right. Descend past farm to road junction.
- 4 TL (no SP). Take care descending through 'S' bends. Continue into and through Shutford. Stay on same road as it bears left to Epwell (SP Epwell).
- 5 Pass through south side of Epwell, passing 'Chandlers Arms' pub and continue, uphill. TL at end (SP Sibfords). At next junction TL onto B4035, then shortly TR into Pound Lane (SP Sibford Gower).
- 6 Continue into and through Sibford Gower, passing 'Wykham Arms' pub on left. Descend then re-ascend valley, (ignoring NCN signed turns to Sibford Ferris and Stratford).
- 7 At end TL, passing 'The Firs Garage' on left. Shortly pass 'The Gate Hangs High' pub and continue (long road along ridge).
- 8 At cross-roads TL (SP Tadmarton). Follow road as it bears right then descends to Lower Tadmarton.
- 9 At end TR onto B4035 (SP Broughton). Ignore first right turn (SP Bloxham) and continue for 1 mile then TR (SP Bloxham) up Ell's Lane.
- 10 On reaching staggered roads TL then immediately TR (SP Bloxham Grove). Continue, taking care over cattle grid, and FL at stone wall of Bloxham Grove Farm (note windmill on right).
- 11 Go through farmyard and gateway. Follow lane downhill, past mill house on left then up and along Bodicote Church Street, High Street and Whitepost Road back to start.

## Abbreviations:

TL – Turn Left TR – Turn Right FL – Fork Left FR – Fork Right  
 SP – Signposted NCN – National Cycle network

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