

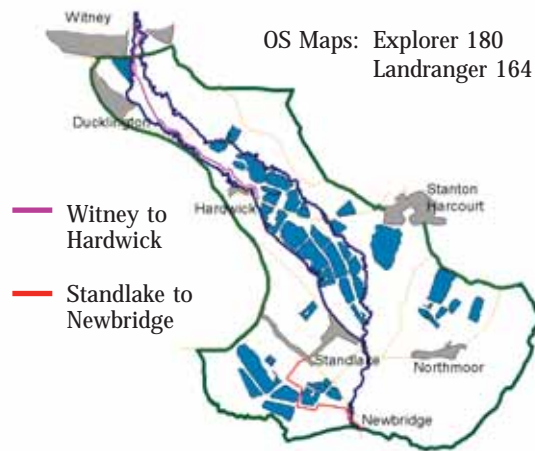
The Windrush Path is a new route currently being created by the Lower Windrush Valley Project that ultimately aims to provide a path from Witney through the valley to link up with the Thames Path National Trail at Newbridge.

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.

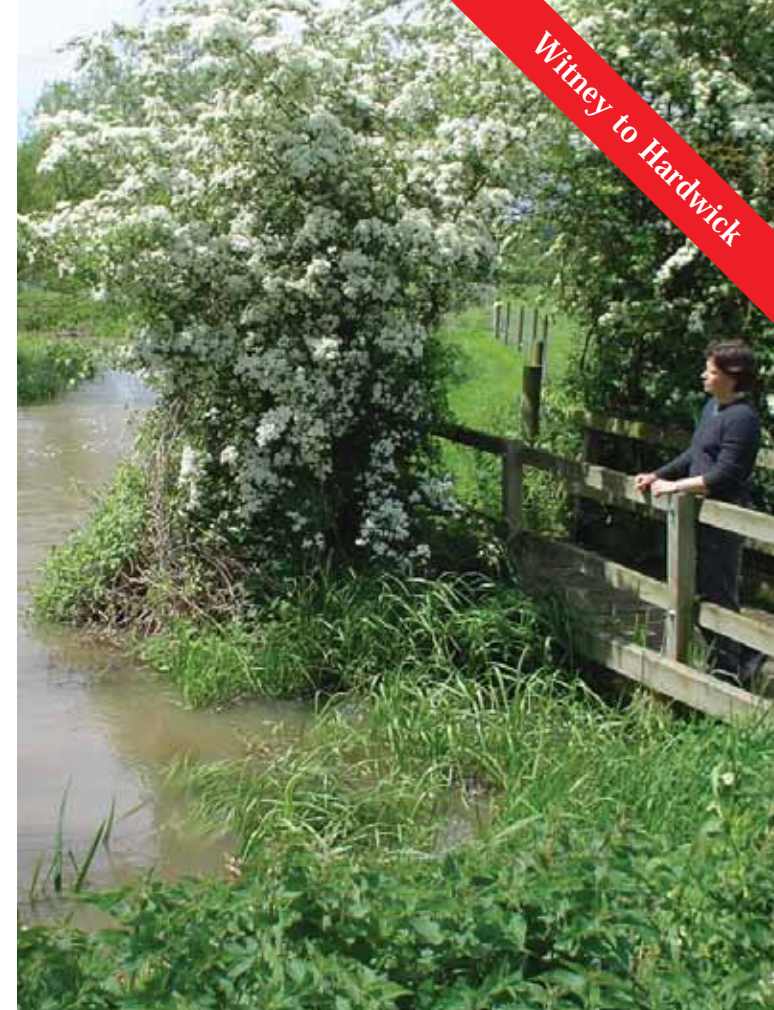
Beyond Ducklington, the Windrush Path picks up a new permissive footpath that runs beside the river, past the area of active gravel extraction at Gill Mill Quarry and on to the tiny hamlet of Hardwick, where an extensive complex of older restored gravel pits has developed into a popular destination for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

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



**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 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 01993 814126

The Windrush Path is funded & supported by:



Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment - TOE



## Walk the Windrush Path





**The Countryside Code**

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

**Ducklington**

Ducklington is found on the western bank of the River Windrush. The village green and pond provide its focal point, overlooked by the impressive Norman tower of St Bartholemew's Church and an old tithe barn, now sympathetically converted into a modern village hall.

The village is renowned for its Snakes Head Fritillaries, a rare flower, which grows locally and on Fritillary Sunday, at the end of April each year, the field is opened to the public with cream teas and stalls available in the church.

**Access to the Windrush Path**

Local people can easily access the Windrush Path on foot and local bus services can solve the problem of retracing your steps on this linear route.

Two regular bus services stop at villages along the Path from Monday to Saturday. Ducklington (Stagecoach no.19) and Hardwick (Thames Travel X15). Call Oxfordshire Traveline on 01865 810405 for timetables.

For car users there are options for designated on road parking, in addition to public car parks in Witney and the village car park in Ducklington. Parking in Hardwick is extremely limited so please avoid leaving cars in this tiny hamlet.

**KEY**

- Windrush Path 5km / 3miles
- Lakeside Path 1.5km / 1mile
- Public Footpath
- Public Bridleway
- P Parking (all on-road except for Village Car Park in Ducklington)
- 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 crosses varied terrain, which may be muddy in winter.