

Westbury

A 10 mile circular ride around Westbury and Biddlesden
in north-west Buckinghamshire

Circular Ride

• Directions

- From the Biddlesden Crossroads head northwards, turn right onto the bridleway at Abbey Farm Cottages signposted circular bridleway. A commercial shoot is held between November and January. Look out for advice notices and be prepared to use a waymarked permissive track if necessary.
- Walk pass Castle farm and continue for another 350 metres. Cross the farm track then at next junction by the pond on west side, turn right towards the Briary wood. Walk through Briary wood and carry on cutting through the field until reaching the farm track by Thatcham Ponds Farm and continue. At end of the track, turn right and head down south westwards towards Woodgreen Farm.
- Walk through the farm following the signposts, come onto the crossroad and take left. Walk on the road for 150 metres then turn left onto bridleway. Walk south westwards for 1.5 km until the road. On Biddlesden Road, turn left and walk down to the village of Westbury.
- Cross Brakley Road (A422) and walk down Main Street. At next junction, turn left into Mill Lane and lane becomes into bridleway leading into the field. At the field, turn slight left and walk towards line of pylon in the distance. Cross the River Great Ouse and turn right onto the disused railway track.
- At the waymark before the arch, turn left and walk through the fields following the waymark to turn right onto the track.
- Walk the track northwards, passing Sewage work site on left. Go under disused railway bridge and continue to Brakley Road (A422). At Brakley Road, turn right then turn left into bridleway after 70 metres as signposted.
- Continue on bridleway, through little woodland then into the field. Carry on the field edge to the road on the edge of Turweston. Following the road, continue north eastwards to Turweston Fields and edge of airfield. Cut across edge of airfield and rejoin bridleway. Walk along bridleway through Westbury Wilds to Biddleson Road.
- At junction with Biddleson Road, turn left and after 230 metres, turn left onto bridleway again at signpost.
- Walk northwards following waymarks, beside airfield. At end of the bridleway, turn right onto the Whitfield road and walk ends at Biddleson Crossroads.



Features of Interest

- 1 The present Biddlesden House occupies the site of a Cistercian Abbey. Founded in 1147, the abbey was dissolved in 1539. One of three fisheries which may date back to the monastic period can be seen at Blind Bridge. The nearby Abbey House was constructed in the 17th century of local limestone.
- 2 The ride passes through a narrow hedged field which marks the line of an ancient highway known locally as the Woddeyway. At Woodgreen, it was crossed by a Roman road the line of which can still be traced from Buckingham to High Cross.
- 3 The most prominent structure in Westbury is the mill. The present building was constructed early in the 19th century but there would have been a mill on this site from mediaeval times. Mills were an important asset to the lord of the manor as he could compel his tenants to bring their grain to his mill, whilst charging them a toll for the privilege.
- 4 The river Great Ouse rises just north of Brackley and flows for approximately 120 miles via Bedford and Ely to King's Lynn where it empties into The Wash. During high summer a mass of insects appear at the riverside including dragonflies, mayflies and alderflies.
- 5 The path follows close to the old Buckingham to Brackley Junction railway which was completed in 1850. The line crossing on a viaduct here was the Great Central main line from Sheffield to Marylebone

completed in 1898. Neither line survived the Beeching cuts and both closed in 1966.

- 6 During the Second World War, the construction of airfields at Turweston, Silverstone and Finmere had a major impact on the landscape of North Bucks, with large areas of land being laid aside for the construction of runways, control towers and a host of support buildings.
- 7 'Westbury Wilds' or 'The Poores' is a piece of woodland allotted to the parish of Westbury at the time of the 18th century enclosures. In 1764 an Act of Parliament laid down that any profit arising from these woodlands should be distributed among the 'necessitous, industrious and honest poor of the parish of Westbury'.

Follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Further Information:

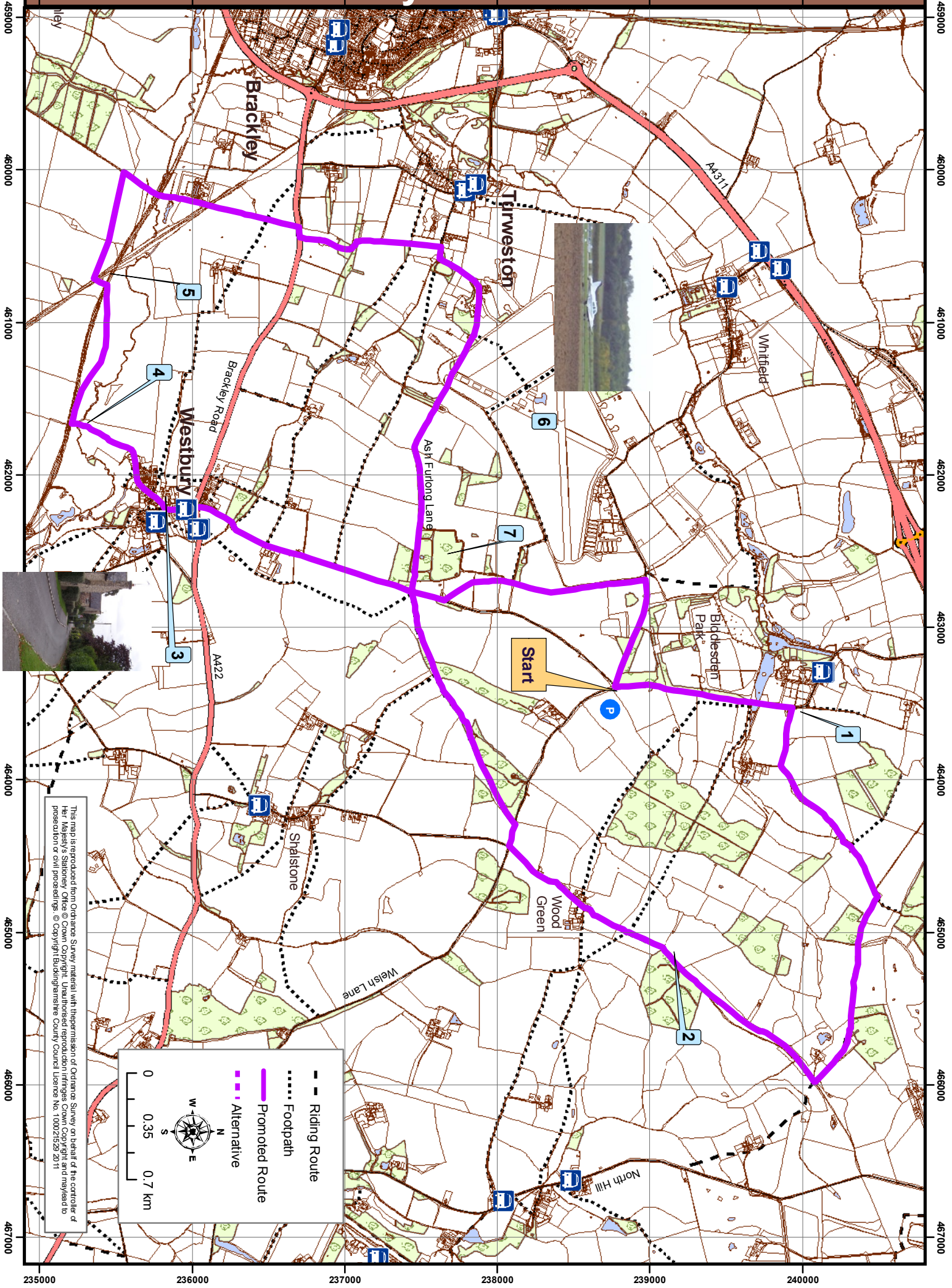
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Westbury Circular Route



Start

P



Riding Route
 Footpath
 Promoted Route
 Alternative

0 0.35 0.7 km

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