

From overleaf:--

From **5** the main line followed the Vale of White Horse to the left past East Challow, Uffington and Shrivenham to Swindon and right past Grove, under the railway, west of Drayton village and into the Thames near Abingdon.

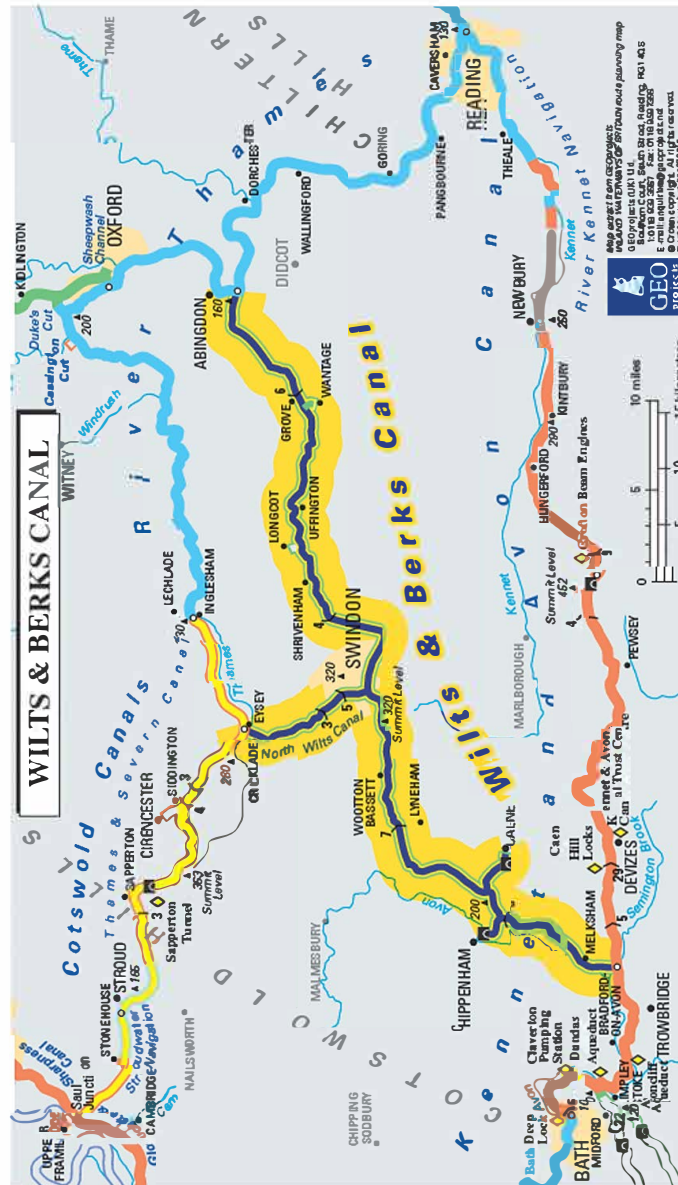
The Trust is actively restoring this main line to give a continuous green corridor through the length of the Vale, accessible to residents and visitor walkers, joggers, cyclists and – eventually – navigation by canoes and powered boats.

From **5** choose to go left along the road footpath, go left at the roundabout and then soon *very carefully* cross the main road to follow the waymarked footpath across a field. This much-used route leads past about 800 metres of restored canal to **6** the site of a humpbacked bridge (now flattened) in East Challow. Return to **1** by a footpath behind the Village Hall in Canal Way, up across the field, *carefully cross* Challow Road, go past King Alfred's Community and Sports College and into **7** a footpath leading down past Naldertown to Betjeman Park.

Alternatively choose from **5** to cross Mably Way into a short footpath connecting to the restored canal past the reclaimed Grove Top Lock (see cover). At **8** *there was an aqueduct over Letcombe Brook* and the footpath then leads up between house gardens to A338 Grove Road. Cross and turn left to follow Station Road for about 600 metres. The original route (and official footpath) is within the rear gardens of Ormond Terrace but the restoration study suggested a local diversion to avoid interference.

At the end of Ormond Terrace regain the canal towpath at **9** *the restored footbridge* over the tail of Grove Common Lock. Turn left past **10** *site of Grove Wharf* to Crabhill Lane. To return to **1**, climb Crabhill Lane to Charlton Village Road, right at the church and into Tirrold Way. Follow the valley along Hampden Road through the alleyway, right at Garston Lane carefully cross Seeson Way into Grove Street and back to the Market Place.

A shorter walk from **5** returns to **1** by turning right at **8** to follow Letcombe Brook, up to a controlled crossing of Mably Way through housing to **4**, **3**, **2** back to **1**.



Produced by Wilts and Berks Canal Trust

The aim of the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust is to restore the canal to a navigable state from the 'Jubilee Junction' with the Thames near Abingdon to the Kennet & Avon near Melksham via the Vale of White Horse and Swindon. A major branch will also be restored along the proposed Cricklade Country Way north from Swindon.

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Mapping by GEOprojects (UK) Ltd. Tel: 0118 939 3567

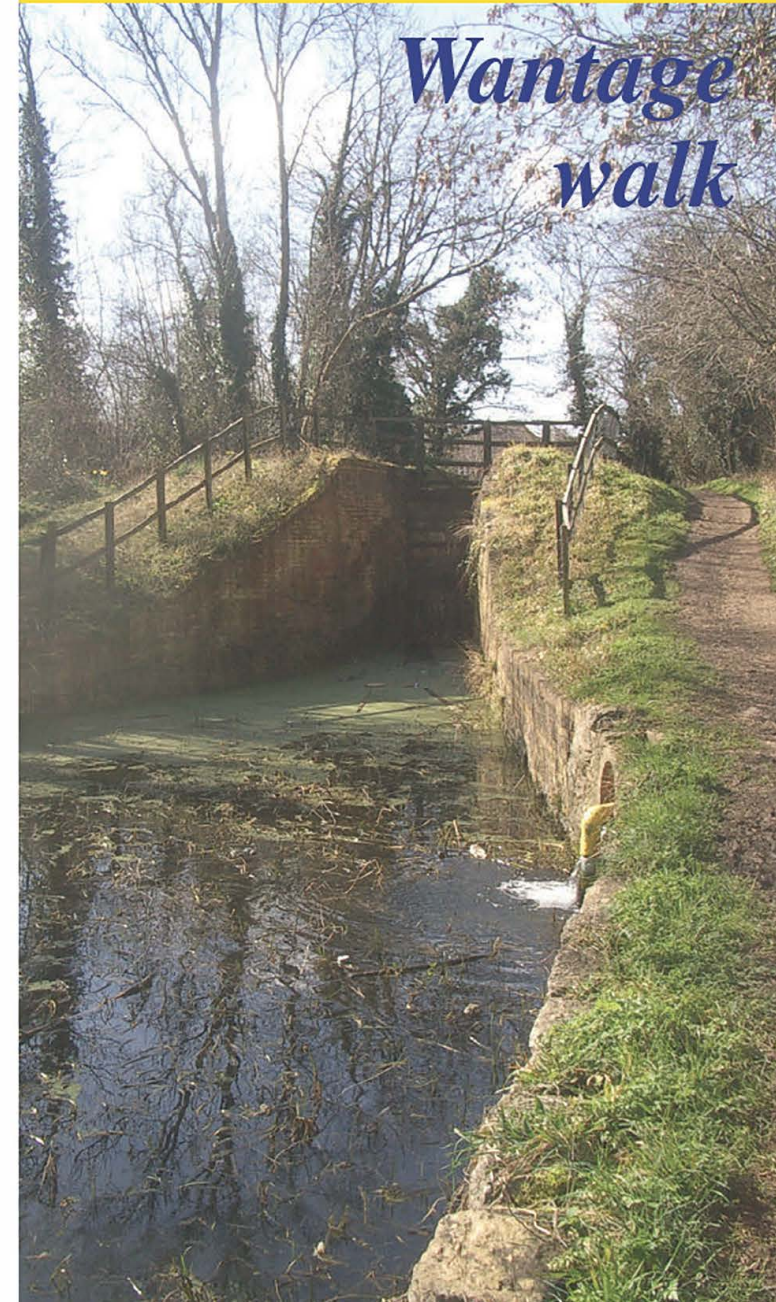
Reg. Office:

Websites: www.geoprojects.net

www.wbct.org.uk



The Wilts & Berks Canal



Explore the former Wantage Arm of the historic Wilts & Berks Canal and the restored waters of the main line from East Challow past Grove.

Start at **1** Church of St. Peter & St. Paul opposite the Vale & Downland Museum behind Wantage market place.

From the churchyard, follow the footpath downhill past a brick garden wall to the right of No. 2 Priory Rd. Turn right after the footbridge to follow Letcombe Brook between tall mill buildings and carefully cross Mill Street to **2** the site of the Wharf at the end of the infilled Wantage Arm of the Wilts & Berks Canal.

From **2** follow either of two footpaths which meet again at **3** a childrens play area.

The new one follows Letcombe Brook itself, but on the left branching right behind the recent apartment buildings is the historic route **3**, **4**, **5** which zig-zags through the housing estate following approximately the line of the former towpath of the infilled Wantage Arm of the canal.

From **3** childrens play area, fork right past the just visible remains of a bridge abutment and carefully crossing residential roads follow the former towpath to **4** a five way junction and onwards to **5** the junction with the main line of the Canal practically buried below Mably Way.

Canal historic main line went both left and right from **5**.

Continued overleaf:--

Key

-  Historic canal route (now filled in)
-  Historic canal route (in water)
-  Former towing path
-  Footpath / Track

