



Introduction

The Cookham Bridleway Circuit is an undulating 18km (11 mile) signposted horse-riding route, principally within the parish of Cookham. A small section lies within Bisham parish.

The circuit is made up of public bridleways, restricted byways, and permitted bridleways across National Trust and Woodland Trust land. Some of the village roads can be busy at times. The circuit incorporates a range of different sceneries: common land, beautiful ancient woodlands, open farmland, and narrow village lanes.

Panoramic views across the Thames are contrasted with ancient cart routes carved into the woodbanks, open National Trust common land, and views across open farmland to Maidenhead and beyond. This interesting and varied route offers something for every type of recreational horse-rider.

There are a number of different surface types within the route: metalled roads and tracks, stone surfaced bridleways and Restricted Byways, enclosed woodland paths, and natural and grassed sections. Particular care should be taken on some of the steeper sections of the route, and on the busier roads. Some of the natural sections can become muddy and poached during the winter months: always ride according to the conditions.

There are many off-road sections suitable for cantering, although consideration should always be given to surface type, conditions, other users, and potential hazards (rabbit holes, tree roots etc).

The permitted paths on the circuit have been included with the landowners' consent.

Please stay on the paths and show consideration for the landowners and other users.

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
(Countryside Agency 2004)



Riding Safety Tips

- Ride on the left hand side of the road
- Always wear a riding hat to British Standard PAS015 and ASTM F1163
- Give clear and accurate signals
- Make sure you can be seen: wear fluorescent/reflective accessories and avoid riding in failing light
- Do not ride more than two abreast on the road
- Pass pedestrians and cyclists slowly, and show courtesy to other route-users

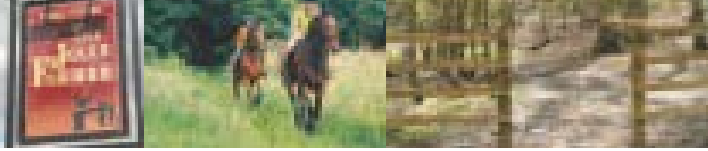
Access to the circuit for walkers

Public bus number 238 runs between Maidenhead and Cookham Dean on Tuesdays and Thursdays operated by Thames Valley Buses.

www.rbwm.gov.uk



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Route Information

- 1 Take care crossing Winter Hill Road - fast traffic
- 2 Take extra care at this crossing – poor visibility on corner
- 3 Take extreme care at this junction – poor visibility. We strongly recommend that this section of the route is only followed in an easterly direction
- 4 Please stay on the signed bridleways in Bisham Woods and do not ride on the footpaths or unsigned paths. These ancient woodlands are a site of special scientific interest (SSSI), and keeping to the signed bridleways will help to minimise damage to the ecology of the area
- 5 Take care crossing Quarry Wood Road – fast traffic
- 6 Proceed cautiously – permitted path is narrow and steep
- 7 Take extra care crossing Winter Hill – poor visibility

Parking

If you intend to box to the circuit, either have someone take the box away while you ride or make sure it is safely, securely and considerably parked. If you have to make arrangements to park, do so well in advance.



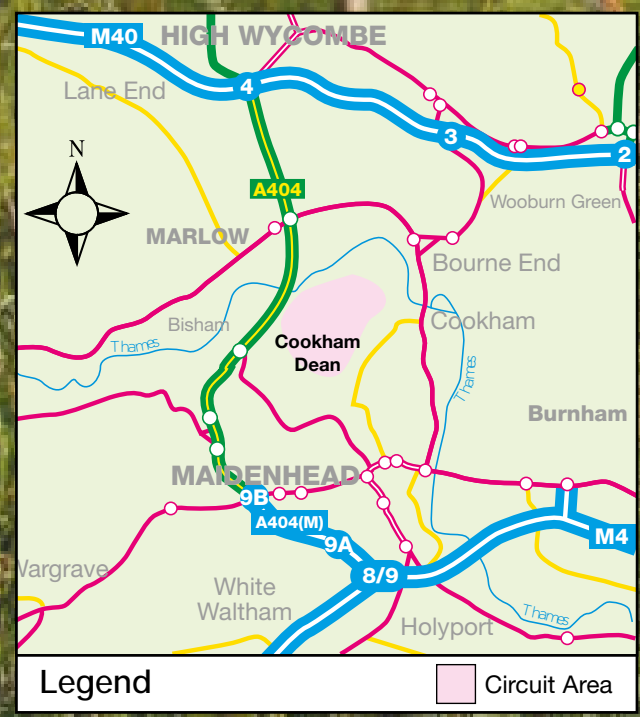
Link to the Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit

It is possible to link up with the Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit by riding southwest across Pinkneys Green and under the A404 to the National Trust permitted paths on Maidenhead Thicket.

Copies of the Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit leaflet can be found on the borough website or obtained from from the Public Rights of Way Team.

Bibliography

The route can be followed on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Series map Number 172 (scale 1:25,000).



Contact Details

If you have any problems with the Public Rights of Way used in this leaflet please contact the Rights of Way Team at the address below:

Public Rights of Way
Neighbourhood Services Unit
Town Hall
St Ives Road
Maidenhead SL6 1RF

Tel: 01628 683800

Email: PROW@rbwm.gov.uk

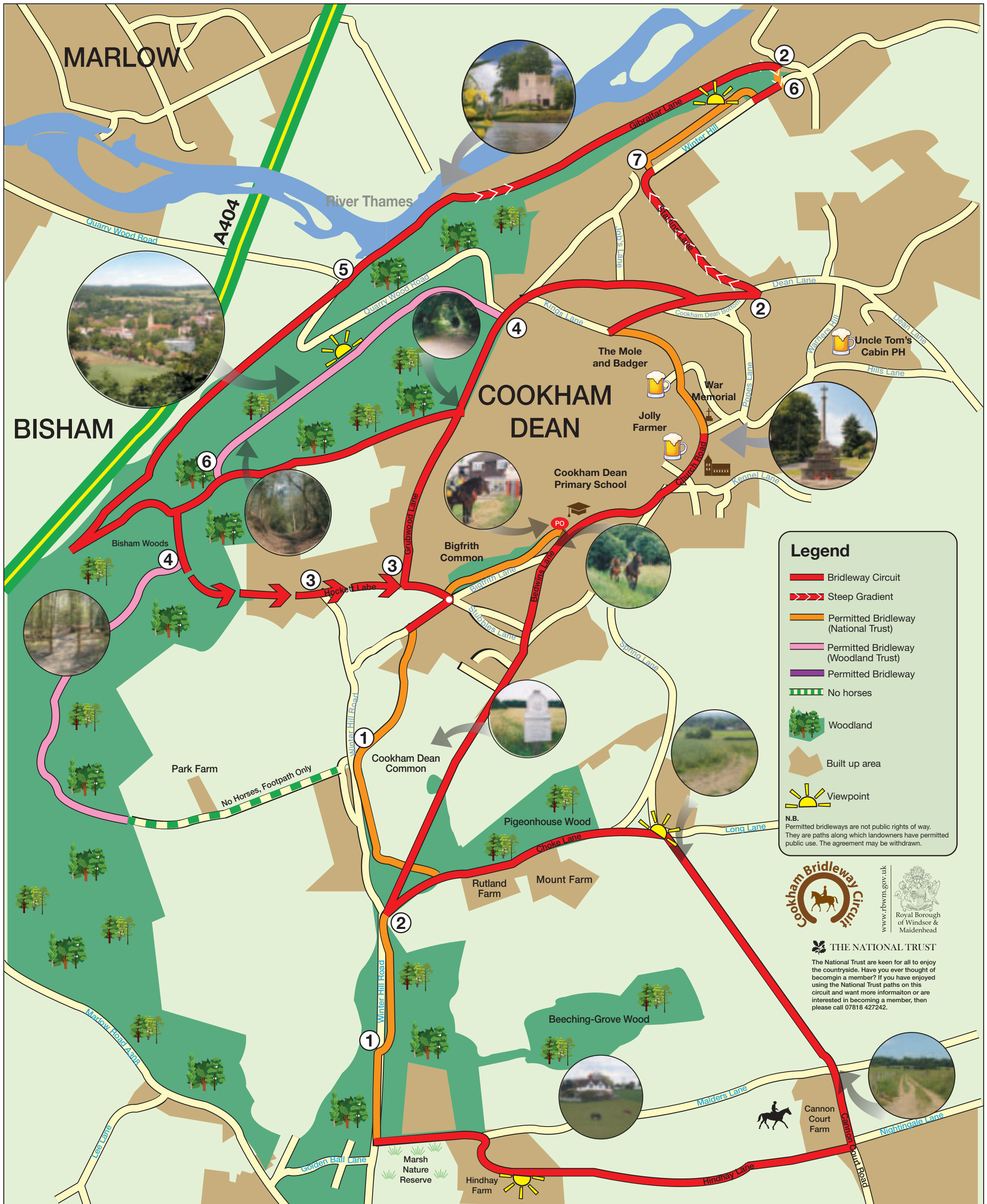
The National Trust can be contacted on 01628 605069

The local Woodland Trust Woodland Officer can be contacted through the Head Office. Tel: 0330 333 3300

This leaflet was produced by:

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Neighbourhood Services Unit

www.rbwm.gov.uk



Legend

- Bridleway Circuit
- Steep Gradient
- Permitted Bridleway (National Trust)
- Permitted Bridleway (Woodland Trust)
- Permitted Bridleway
- No horses
- Woodland
- Built up area
- Viewpoint

N.B. Permitted bridleways are not public rights of way. They are paths along which landowners have permitted public use. The agreement may be withdrawn.

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THE NATIONAL TRUST

The National Trust are keen for all to enjoy the countryside. Have you ever thought of becoming a member? If you have enjoyed using the National Trust paths on this circuit and want more information or are interested in becoming a member, then please call 07818 427242.

