



Abingdon-on-Thames

Active Travel Map



“Excellent map which adds a lot of value to walking and cycling around Abingdon and encourages people to travel actively locally. Bravo.”- Abingdon resident

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Commissioned by Abingdon Town Council and produced by Sustrans with community input throughout, this map supports walking, wheeling, and cycling for daily journeys to access key services in Abingdon; making the town a more liveable place. The map generates greater awareness of existing local active travel routes, and the navigable design supports visitors and residents to get from A to B actively – benefiting health and wellbeing, improving street safety, and reducing negative environmental impact.

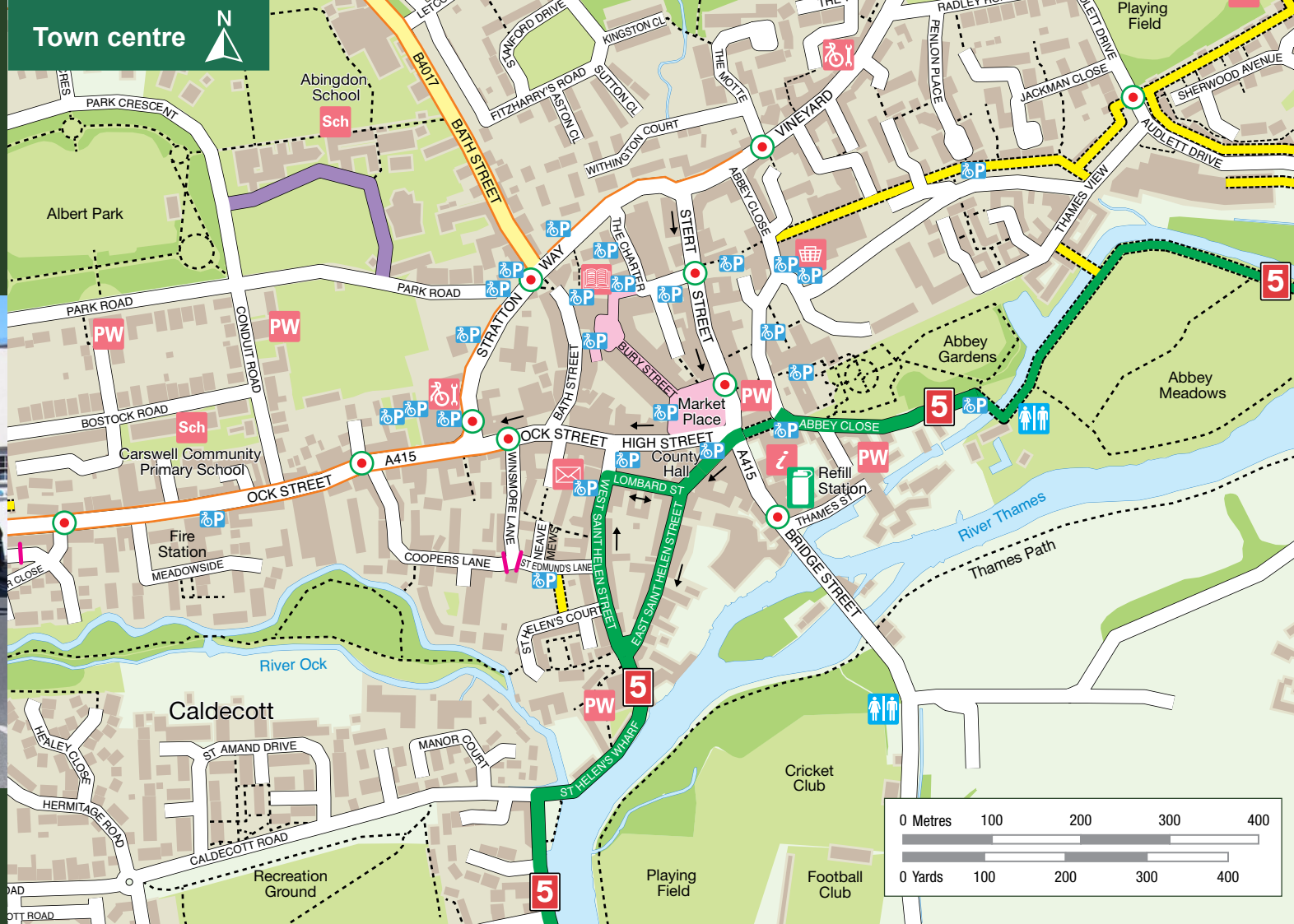
Acknowledgements

Sustrans work for and with communities, helping them come to life by walking, wheeling, and cycling to create healthier and happier lives for everyone.

Abingdon community groups, local resident volunteers and individuals and parish, town, district and county councillors and officers all input into the development of this map.



For an online map and more information scan the QR code or visit: www.abingdon.gov.uk/shop-eat-drink/active-travel-map-of-abingdon-on-thames



Abingdon-on-Thames

Abingdon-on-Thames is an important and historic market town on the river Thames in the county of Oxfordshire, some seven miles south of Oxford city. The town has a wide variety of architecture, shops, restaurants, leisure facilities, thriving businesses, quality open green and public spaces, activities and events. There are a range of good walking, wheeling, and cycling routes within the town and connecting with surrounding villages, towns, and cities. Excavations have established that Abingdon has strong claims to being the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in England with a rich history and living traditions.

In March 2019, Abingdon Town Council considered the town's future declaring a climate emergency in recognition of the global warming crises and that local action is needed to meet the challenges presented and reduce the impact of climate on the town. This includes action to raise the ambition to initiate positive change in terms of active travel to develop an inclusive, environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient, and safe community where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. The Abingdon Town Council Green Forum, set up by the Environment and Amenities Committee, has the purpose of collaborating with active local resident volunteers and groups to promote the action needed in response to the climate emergency.

An Abingdon Active Travel Map

The need for an active travel map that focuses on walking, wheeling, and cycling in Abingdon came from community discussions during the Active Travel and Sustainable Transport Green Forum in early 2022. The concept was then developed by Sustrans, the UK-wide charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle, with town councillors and key community groups. The design is as inclusive as possible having considered the usability, accessibility, and navigability from different perspectives. The map is a tried and tested scale, including a necessary level of detail to navigate the town's streets and routes.

Benefits of travelling actively

- Improved health and wellbeing
- Improved local environment
- Stronger social connections



Look after your neighbourhood routes

Walking, wheeling, and cycling routes often lack appropriate maintenance and clearance. Therefore, it is important and beneficial to take stewardship of your community and neighbourhood by:

- picking up some litter on your local route
- taking secateurs and snipping back greenery that is hanging over a route or covering a route sign
- wiping clean any easy to reach signs and remove graffiti
- clearing away leaves or debris.

Benefits of this:

- more neighbourliness
- improved wellbeing through regular exercise and interaction with nature
- increased awareness of routes, which will promote use and encourage active travel
- increased navigability and accessibility
- improved aesthetics of routes
- increased awareness of your neighbourhood – your local services and surrounding nature.



St Nicolas Primary School Street



Walking on the Daisy Bank path

Street safety, rights and responsibilities as a walker, wheeler, or cyclist

- Listen – some modes of transport might be difficult to hear
- Look – left and right and in all directions necessary, be more cautious around driveways, junctions, and roundabouts
- Crossing the street – choose the safest place to cross, stand in the best view
- Parked vehicles – think of the possibilities that could lead vehicles to move when you're trying to cross between them, walk to the outside edge of the vehicles until you can see more clearly
- Clothing – bright clothing is more visible
- Weather – can you see or be seen?
- Crossings – always check traffic has stopped and there are no emergency vehicles
- Cycle theft prevention – always lock your bike, pick a safe location to lock your bike, keep accessories safe, keep a record of frame number and other identifiable features, register your bike and consider bike insurance



Highway Code changes 2022

- New hierarchy of road users - placing more responsibility on those with the largest vehicles and giving more priority to more vulnerable street users
- Dutch Reach Method - for safer opening of vehicle doors
- People walking or cycling across side roads at junctions have priority
- Safer passing distances for overtaking people cycling, walking and horse riding

20mph in Abingdon

20mph speed restrictions have been approved for many Abingdon streets in 2023 to encourage alternative transport modes for local travel and make Abingdon safer with more attractive routes to walk and cycle.

Local active travel initiatives

St. Nicolas C of E Primary School Street

A School Street limits motor traffic outside schools at the start and end of the school day, providing safer spaces for children and families. This encourages walking, wheeling, scooting, and cycling as well as reducing traffic danger, congestion and pollution. The St. Nicolas School Street began with volunteer support and is now permanent with camera enforcement. Other schools can request a scheme review through Oxfordshire County Council.

Abingdon Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

A plan developed by Oxfordshire County Council and approved in 2022 that identifies key destinations where people can walk and/or cycle with suggestions for potential improvements.

Abingdon cycle shops

Behind Bars Cycles 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat
Coxeter House 21-27 Ock Street, Abingdon, OX14 5AJ
01235 533287 or 01235 535624

New cycles, used cycles, parts, accessories, maintenance and repair

Pedal Power 9am-5:30pm Mon-Sat
92 Vineyard, Abingdon, OX14 3PB
01235 525123

New cycles, used cycles, parts, accessories, maintenance and repair, cycle hire and schemes

Local bus and train information

Radley, Didcot, and Oxford train stations have frequent services to London in under an hour and are easily accessed by walking, cycling and public transport, with Radley being closest to Abingdon. These stations have good cycle parking. Folding cycles can be hired from Oxford station and you can take your cycle on some trains. There are bus services from Oxford to London, Heathrow and Gatwick airports. Local bus services link Abingdon with Oxford, Didcot, Wantage, Wallingford, Witney and other places.