



BRAKSPEAR

ESTABLISHED 1779

**PUB
TRAILS**



**COACHMAKERS ARMS
WALLINGFORD
OXFORDSHIRE**

**3 CIRCULAR WALKS
2.1, 6.1 & 6.7 MILES**



We're delighted to present three circular walks all starting and ending at Coachmakers Arms. The Brakspear Pub Trails are a series of circular walks.

We thought the idea of a variety of circular country walks all starting and ending at our pubs was a guaranteed winner. We have fantastic pubs nestled in the countryside, and we hope our maps are a great way for you to get out and enjoy some fresh air and a gentle walk, with a guaranteed drink at the end – perfect!

Our pubs have always welcomed walkers (and almost all of them welcome dogs too), so we're making it even easier with plenty of free maps. You can pick up copies in the pubs taking part or go to brakspearaletrails.co.uk to download them. We're planning to add new pubs onto them, so the best place to check for the latest maps available is always our website.

We absolutely recommend you book a table so that when you finish your walk you can enjoy a much needed bite to eat too. At the weekend, please book in advance, as this is often a busier time, especially our smaller pubs.

And finally, do send us your photos of you out and about on your walk. We really do love getting them.

   @BrakspearPubs

How to get there



Driving: Postcode is OX10 0EU and the nearest public carpark is the Cattlemarket Car Park.



Nearest station: Cholsey Station 3 miles away.



Local bus services: The number X39 and X40 (Thames Travel) bus service stops just outside the townhall.



Brakspear would like to thank the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and the volunteers who helped make these walks possible. As a result of these walks, Brakspear has invested in TOE2 to help maintain and improve Oxfordshire's footpaths.

Reg. charity no. 1140563

Respect – Protect – Enjoy

Respect other people:

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

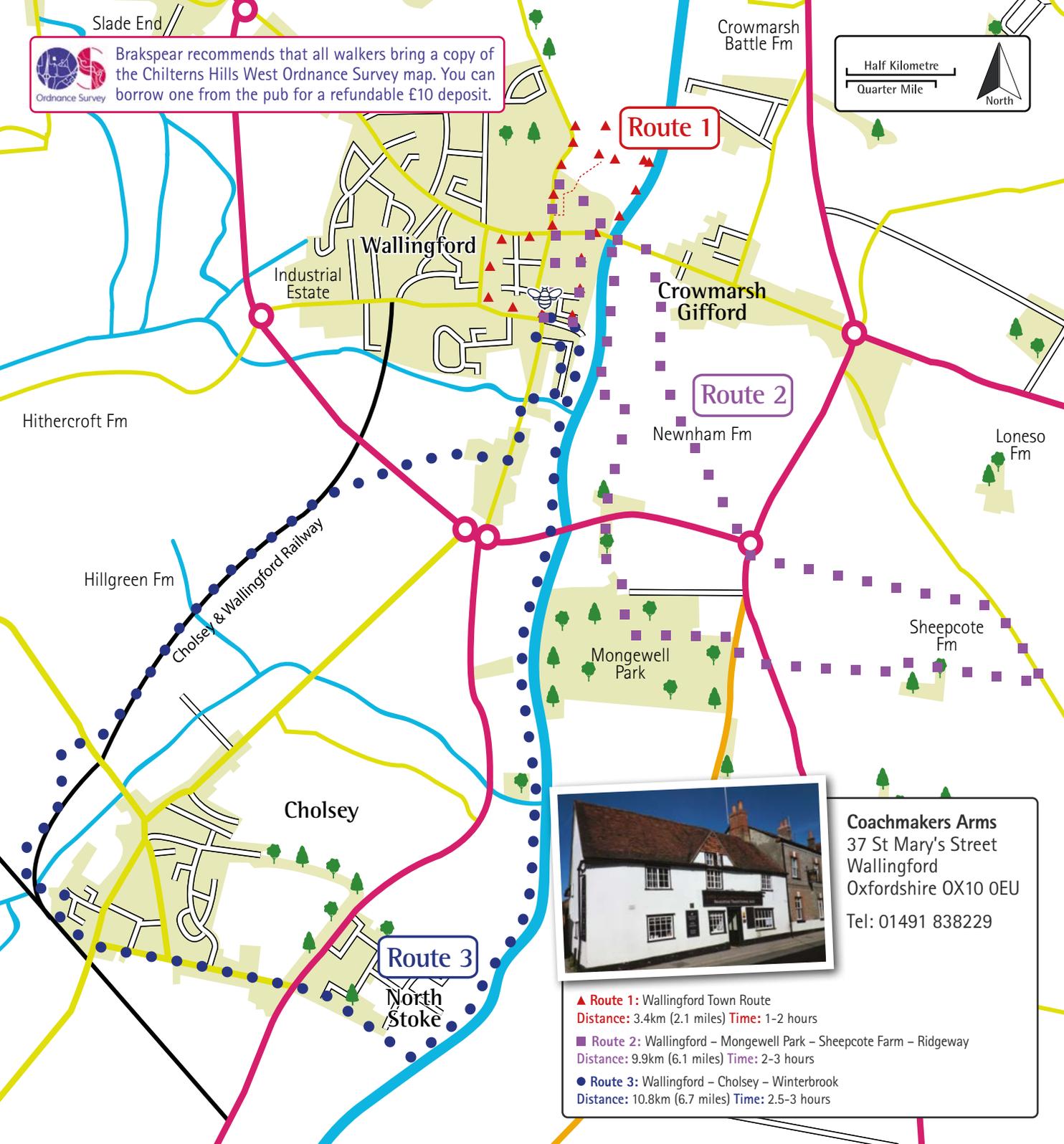
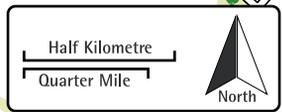
Enjoy the outdoors:

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

For more info visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-country-side-code



Brakspear recommends that all walkers bring a copy of the Chilterns Hills West Ordnance Survey map. You can borrow one from the pub for a refundable £10 deposit.



Coachmakers Arms
 37 St Mary's Street
 Wallingford
 Oxfordshire OX10 0EU
 Tel: 01491 838229

- ▲ **Route 1:** Wallingford Town Route
 Distance: 3.4km (2.1 miles) Time: 1-2 hours
- **Route 2:** Wallingford – Mongewell Park – Sheepcote Farm – Ridgeway
 Distance: 9.9km (6.1 miles) Time: 2-3 hours
- **Route 3:** Wallingford – Cholesey – Winterbrook
 Distance: 10.8km (6.7 miles) Time: 2.5-3 hours

Route 1

An easy walk along the Thames Path and through the centre and some of the older parts of the town.

Directions

Distance: 3.4km (2.1 miles) Time: 1–2 hours

01 With your back to the pub cross the road and walk down the alley opposite then continue into St Leonards Lane past St Leonards Church.

DID YOU KNOW?

St Leonards is the oldest church in Wallingford. There has been a church here since at least the late Saxon period, though it is possible that the first church on the riverside site dates back as early as the 6th century. You can easily make out the distinctive late Saxon stonework, with stones laid in a herringbone pattern. The Saxon stonework is most easily seen in the north wall and over the round-headed windows. The oldest part of the current structure is the tower, much of which is 11th century. Henry I granted the church to the monastery of St Frideswide at Oxford, and after the Dissolution of the Monasteries it reverted to the crown. The church was heavily damaged in the 1646 siege of Wallingford, when Parliamentary troops used the church as a barracks. It took repairs in 1656, 1695, and 1700 before the church could finally be reopened for worship. From 1849 the church was rebuilt in Gothic Revival style, under the direction of Henry Hakewill.

02 Follow the road round to the left past the Wallingford Rowing Club and St Peters Church until you meet a main road.

03 Cross over the road, turn right, then almost immediately left into Castle Lane and after a short distance bear right and follow the path to the riverside.

04 Follow the Thames Path, crossing a footbridge on the way for about 450m then leave the Thames Path, turn left and follow a path up a slight slope towards Castle Meadows.

DID YOU KNOW?

Castle Meadows is owned by South Oxfordshire District Council and managed as a wild life site by Earth Trust.

05 Go through a gap in the hedge line, to view the remains of Wallingford Castle that are still visible above ground it is best if you turn left and follow the perimeter fence in a southerly direction until you reach the remains of the Queens Tower thought to be part of the Royal Apartments. At this point there is an information board that provides more information. If you look beyond the information board you see more ruins of what are thought to be part of the inner wall.

06 Continue to follow the path as it bears round to the right and you will see some metal gates over to your left. If you wish to see the Castle Gardens and/or take a short cut back into Wallingford walk through these gates and over a footbridge

into the Gardens. (Dashed red line of map) (Note: Dogs are not allowed in the Castle Gardens)

07 Once in the Gardens they are some fine trees to admire in particular the Giant Redwoods.

08 To leave the gardens go to the south western corner to exit through a gateway in the boundary wall, then turn right and walk a short distance into Castle Street. (Pick up the instructions at Point 12)

09 To continue to look around the Castle Meadows follow the path(s) in a more northerly direction.

10 To exit the Meadows head towards the flag pole on the northern edge of the site and walk into Cemetery Lane.

11 Turn left and walk along the lane, between both halves of the Cemetery, until you meet the main road (Castle Road), turn left and walk along the road until you reach the traffic lights at the cross roads in the centre of Wallingford.

12 Turn right at the traffic lights and walk along the road for 250m when you will reach Wallingford Museum. It is worthwhile to pay a visit to the museum to see the exhibits and to learn more about the history of Wallingford and its castle.

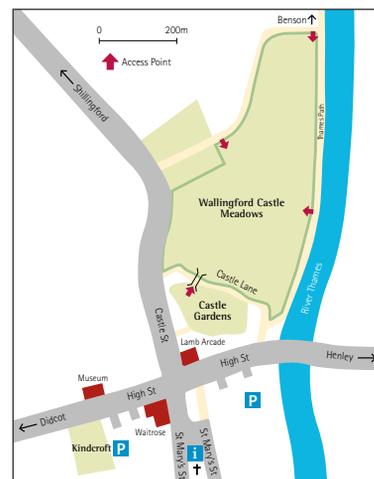
13 After visiting the museum cross over the road into the small park opposite called the Kinicroft.

14 If you walk along the western perimeter of the Kinicroft Park you will see signs of the old defensive earth wall built in King Alfred's reign to protect the town from marauding Danes.

15 When you reach the south west corner leave the park via a footpath that goes up a ramp.

16 At the top of the ramp turn left and walk along the top of what was the southern perimeter wall.

17 At the end of the footpath continue on in the same direction to enter Mill Lane, at the end of the lane turn left and you find yourself outside the Coachmakers Arms.



Layout of Castle Meadows and Castle Gardens

Route 2

An easy but fairly long walk from Wallingford along the Thames and a climb from Mongewell Park to return along a short section of the Ridgeway.

Directions

Distance: 9..9km (6.1 miles) Time: 2-3 hours

01 Turn left out of the pub and walk along St Martins Street into the centre of Wallingford, where you will pass St Mary-le-More Church, the Town Hall and the Corn Exchange.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wallingford is a historic market town that has played a key role in a number of significant moments in the history of England. The submission of Stigand, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1066 at Wallingford to William the Conqueror effectively paved the way for William to be crowned King of England in London. In more recent times Wallingford has achieved publicity as the TV location for the town of Cawston in Midsomer Murders with The Corn Exchange portrayed as Cawston's theatre.

02 Continue on to the crossroads by Waitrose, cross over into Castle Street, here you may want stop a while to browse a little through the Lamb Arcade, an old coaching inn now converted into an antique centre that has featured a number of times on TV.

03 Continue along Castle Street for 250m and then take the footpath on the right marked by a finger post at the side of a small cottage.

04 Follow the path alongside a very old garden boundary wall then under two footbridges, (one stone, one wooden) and into Castle Lane.

05 Continue along the lane until you reach a main road called The Street turn left and walk over Wallingford Bridge.

06 When you reach the other side of the Thames take the stairs on the left hand side of the bridge and descend from the bridge to reach the path beside the Thames below.

07 Turn left to follow the path under the bridge and continue on for just under 750m, turn sharp left leaving the riverside and then after a short distance turn right and walk past Newnham Farm buildings.

08 Bear right on to the farm access drive and follow the drive past a small but charming 12th C St Mary's Church at Newton Murren.

09 After the church pick up the footpath and follow it under the main road (A4130) and into what were the grounds of Carmel College.



Wallingford Corn Market

DID YOU KNOW?

Carmel College was founded in 1948 as a predominantly Jewish boarding school and was described in the Observer as the Jewish Eton. Sir Philip Green is amongst its Alumni who are referred to as "Old Carmelis". The school closed in 1997 due to financial difficulties. The distinctive concrete synagogue, dining hall, and amphitheatre, designed by local architect Thomas Hancock, are Grade II listed buildings; the Julius Gottlieb gallery and boathouse, designed by Sir Basil Spence, are also Grade II listed. The Mansion House was an old manor house with particular significance. Agatha Christie (who lived nearby in Wallingford) used it as the basis for the mansion in her 1952 play *The Mousetrap*. The 2011 film, *'The Iron Lady'* featured a scene where Margaret Thatcher is perfecting her prime-ministerial voice, which was shot on location within the Synagogue of Carmel College.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Ridgeway Long Distance Trail – An 87 mile route from Ivinghoe Beacon in Hertfordshire to West Kennet Barrow in Wiltshire. Following a route used since prehistoric times, the trail passes through open down land, secluded valleys, woodland and hedgerows, linking many archaeological sites.

Route 2

An easy but fairly long walk from Wallingford along the Thames and a climb from Mongewell Park to return along a short section of the Ridgeway.

Directions

(Continued)

- 10 Continue along a road in the same direction pass what were school buildings and staff accommodation and are now private houses.
- 11 Ignoring a left turn carry on in same direction into a cul-de-sac then follow a footpath for just over a 100m before turning left and over a stile on to another footpath then follow the path across an open field.
- 12 Walk pass a row of houses on the left and then continue on up a slight slope to pass a much larger house with a court yard and follow the footpath as it bears right to exit the field onto a public road (B4009).
- 13 Cross the road diagonally and take the footpath on the opposite side of the road to continue uphill across another field to another public road (A4074).
- 14 Cross this major road with care to pick up the footpath on the other side of the road and follow this path uphill to Sheepcote Farm.
- 15 On approaching the farm turn sharp left and then right and walk through the farmyard to pick up the footpath again as it crosses a field.
- 16 When you reach a lane turn left and walk along the lane for just 450m then at the Ridgeway sign leave the road and turn left on to the Ridgeway Path.
- 17 Follow the path for some 1.4km until you come to the A4074 again, cross the road with care.
- 18 On the opposite side of the road by the entrance to a private road turn right and walk a short distance along the verge of the A4074 until you reach a footpath sign, turn left and go through a metal gate.
- 19 Follow the path through a small copse exiting via a small footbridge and some steps on to the verge of another major road (A4130).
- 20 Cross the road carefully and pick up the footpath on the opposite side of the road via some steps and a stile.
- 21 Follow the path for 650m and when you reach a farm access drive, cross the drive, bearing slightly right, to pick up the footpath again.
- 22 Follow the path for about for 750m until you exit on to a public road by Wallingford Bridge.



St Leonards Church

- 23 Cross over the road, turn left and walk across the bridge using the pavement.
- 24 When you reach the other side of bridge continue on for a short distance then cross the road to take the first turning on the left (Thames Street).
- 25 Walk along Thames Street pass St Peters Church and the Wallingford Rowing Club, when the road turns right by a car park carry straight on in the same direction until you reach St Leonards Church.
- 26 At the church follow the lane (St Leonards Lane) round to the right then carry on in the same direction until you reach an alleyway, walk along the alleyway to emerge on St Martins Street opposite the Coachmakers Arms.

DID YOU KNOW?

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Route 3

A fairly long walk along the Thames Path then through Cholsey and returning via Winterbrook.

Directions

Distance: 10.8km (6.7 miles) Time: 2.5-3 hours

- 01 With your back to the pub cross the road and walk down the alley opposite then continue into St Leonards Lane past St Leonards Church.
- 02 Then take the Thames Path to the right and walk behind the church and over a footbridge then bear left and follow the path down to the River Thames.
- 03 Follow the Thames Path along the river past the Oxfordshire University Boat Club.
- 04 Continue on for 700m along the riverside under a major road (A4130), through a metal gate and into a meadow. (This area is part of a flood plain and is prone to flooding in very wet weather).
- 05 Keeping to the riverside go through a series of metal gates before passing the Oxford Brookes University Rowing Club.
- 06 Continue to follow the river ignoring a signed footpath to the right then through a metal kissing gate past a World War 2 Pill Box, one of many that remain on this stretch of the Thames. Still following the river enter the Cholsey Marsh Nature Reserve.

DID YOU KNOW?

This tranquil riverside marsh is managed by BBOWT. It is home to a wide variety of unique wetlands wildlife and makes a fantastic destination for any nature lover. The marsh, with its patches of grassland, willow scrub and ponds, makes an ideal habitat for plants such as the Loddon lily and nesting birds such as snipes, wagtails and reed buntings. With the proximity of the Thames keep your eyes peeled for other wild life such as Grey Herons, Kingfishers and if you are lucky maybe an otter.

- 07 Continue on following the riverside through the reserve ignoring any unmarked paths off to the right until you come to a gravel track.
- 08 Leave the reserve and the river by turning right and walking along the track.
- 09 After a short distance the track becomes a tarmac lane and passing on your right what was Fairmile Hospital and now is a housing estate and apartments.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fairmile Hospital was first established in 1870 as the County Lunatic Asylum. In 1948 the hospital became part of the NHS and was finally closed in 2003 and sold for development.

- 10 At the junction with a main road (A329), taking care, cross over the main road, then carry on in same direction along Papist Road opposite.
- 11 Continue walking for just under a km until you reach the other end of Papist Road.
- 12 Cross over the junction into West End and follow the road round to right and after 100m take the footpath on the left opposite Sandy Way
- 13 Follow path as it turns to the left then immediately after going under the railway bridge turn sharp right and take the footpath across a wooden footbridge and through a metal kissing gate then walk alongside the C&W railway for 400m.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Cholsey and Wallingford Railway line (Bunk Line) is run as heritage railway by the CWR Preservation Society. The branch line between Cholsey and Wallingford was opened in 1866 with plans to extend the line via Watlington to Princes Risborough linking GWR with the Wycombe Railway but for financial reasons the line beyond Wallingford was never built. Passenger services closed in 1959 with goods services to the Maltings ending in 1981. The C&W Preservation Society was then formed and the first limited service started in 1985 with regular services between Wallingford and Cholsey opening in 1997.
www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com



Cholsey and Wallingford Railway

Route 3

A fairly long walk along the Thames Path then through Cholsey and returning via Winterbrook.

Directions

(Continued)

14 Cross another footbridge and go through a metal gate and head towards a church standing in what appears as splendid isolation.

15 Enter St Mary's churchyard and have look round the churchyard and the church before leaving by the main entrance.

DID YOU KNOW?

St Marys Church Cholsey is an impressive Grade 1 listed building with the tower dating from 11th C with 12th C nave, chancel and transepts. There were later extensions in the 13thC, 14thC and 15th C. Agatha Christie and husband Max Mallowan are buried in the north west corner of the churchyard close to the boundary wall.

16 As you leave the church yard glance over to your left and you will see a large barn.

DID YOU KNOW?

On the site of this barn there was a much older and larger 13th Century barn, in its time the largest in Europe. It was demolished in 1815.

17 Cross the road and take the footpath opposite and follow the grass track across a field to a wooden kissing gate. Go through the gate and then keep on same path as it follows the railway line.

18 Having crossed two footbridges and covered 1.5km you will reach a farm track and a railway crossing.

19 Cross the railway line (taking note of what the warning sign states) and follow the farm track until you reach a main road (A4130).



St Marys Church Cholsey

20 Cross the main road with care then cross over a stile and follow the footpath along the edge of a field until the path ends at a tarmac lane (Winterbrook Lane).

21 Follow the lane until you reach the junction with the Reading Road, cross this road with care, turn left and walk a few metres along the road and you will come to a double fronted brick house called Winterbrook House.

DID YOU KNOW?

Winterbrook house is where Agatha Christie and her husband Max Mallowan lived from 1934 until her death in 1976. You might speculate that they could have followed the same route you have just travelled along returning from a church service at St Marys in Cholsey.

22 Continue along the Reading Road for another 250m then take the footpath on the right that runs by a stream (Bradford's Brook).

23 After 150m turn left by Ferry House into Chalmore Gardens and walk along the road with houses on the left and the Oxford University Boat Club (Fleming House) on the right.

24 Follow the road round to the left into St Lucian's Lane and at the end of lane turn right in the Reading Road.

25 Follow the road, past St John's Road* on the left, back to Coachmakers Arms.

*Note: For anyone with further interest in the C&W Railway they can find the Wallingford Station and depot by walking along St John's Road for 700m and the station is on the left hand side of the road.



Agatha Christie's Grave

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www.coachmakersarmswallingford.co.uk

www.brakspear.co.uk



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