

From overleaf:--

Now **choose** to *turn left to return* parallel to the historic canal route, *or turn right to seek the new route*.

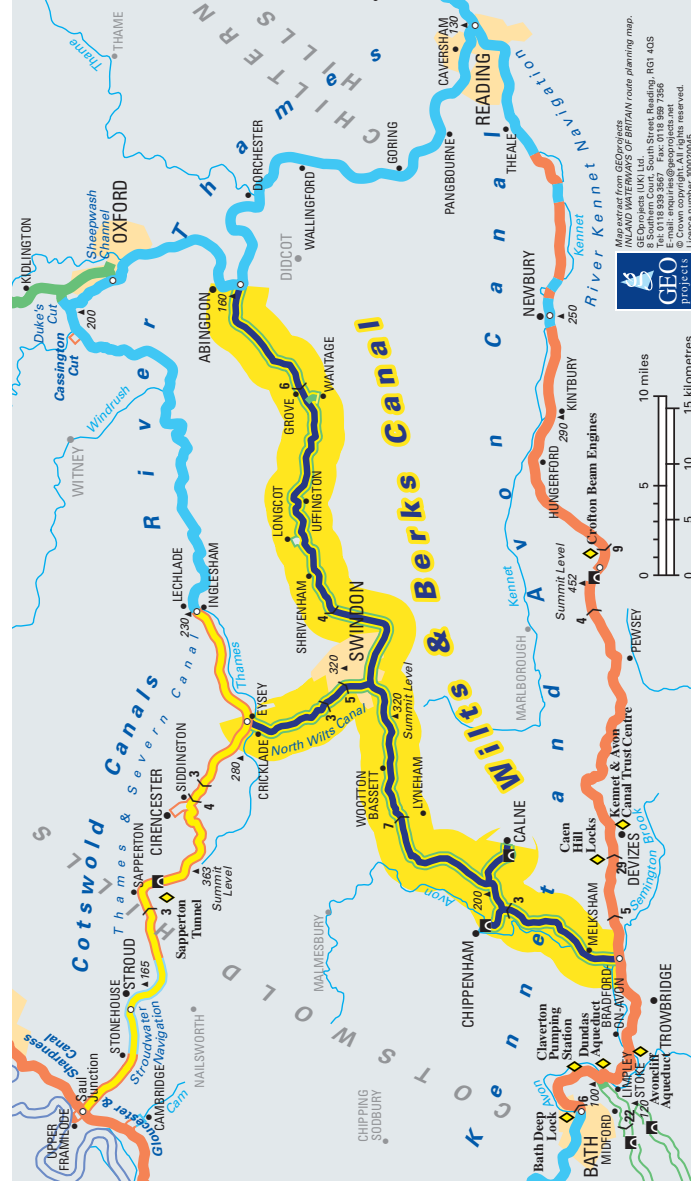
The *historic route* is south of the Ock. They both come under a low A34 bridge to **4** *the weir at New Cut Mill*. To return to Abingdon *turn left* along Mill Lane, and up into a residential street 'Mill Road' to a mini-roundabout on B4017. Cross carefully, *turn left* to the next junction **3** and into Caldecott Road. Return to **1** the old Canal Company Wharf.

The *new route* is much further south. It can be found by *turning right* along Mill Lane to the end, *left* up a farm track over **5** *Oday Hill* to regain B4017 far to the south on the outskirts of Drayton. [eventually the Trust will construct a more direct route along the future towpath running between **5**, **7** and **8**]. For now, *turn left* along B4017 towards Abingdon, then *right* into **6** *Stonehill Lane* and downhill past the end of the **7** 'First Kilometre' to Sustrans cycle track :- Peep-O-Day Lane. *Turn left* (north) along Peep-O-Day Lane until on the right you will see **8** *the new towpath* [2006] leading to our **9** *Jubilee Junction* on the Thames.

From the Junction follow the riverbank upstream to a Vale of White Horse District Council picnic site or return to **8** *Peep-O-Day Lane*. Follow South Quay and West Quay round Abingdon Marina, north to **1** the old Canal Company Wharf via the Sustrans Route past **10** *partial barriers* into Walsham Road, past the Sailing Club, alongside river moorings, past 'Wharf Close' on the left and return into **1** *Margaret Brown Gardens* ... the old Canal Company Wharf on the Thames.

A **shorter walk** returns to **1** by using the signposted Ock Valley River Walk. From **2** *Hermitage Road* go to the end (past house numbers 3, 7, 23 & 41) into a pathway leading to a grassed area. *Bear right*, the path short of the footbridge is the Ock Valley River Walk and leads downstream between the quick flowing Ock and the slow mill stream to arrive back to St. Helens Churchyard, Almshouses and Wharf. Cross the Canal Companies' cast iron bridge over the Ock to regain **1** *old Canal Company Wharf*.

For other walks see ... www.abingdonwalks.co.uk



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
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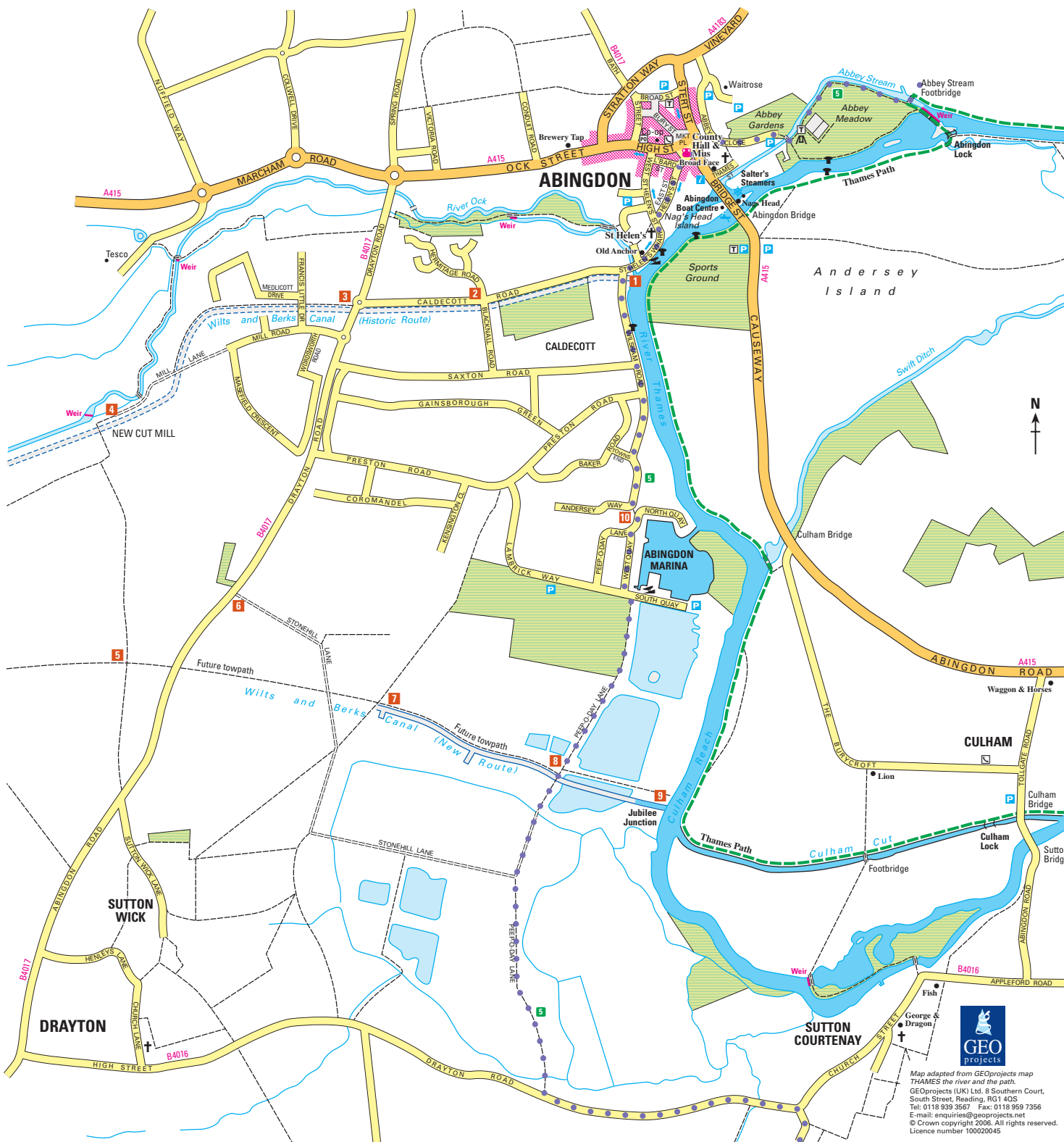


The Wilts & Berks Canal

Abingdon walk



Explore the new and historic routes of the Wilts & Berks Canal at Abingdon.



Key

- Historic canal route (now filled in) **1 2 3 4**
- New canal route for 21st Century **5 7 8 9**
- Footpaths / Track
- **5** National Cycle Route No.5

0 100 200 300 400 yards
0 100 200 300 400 metres

Start at **1** Margaret Brown Gardens on the Thames... formerly the Canal Company Wharf at the end of the Wilts and Berks Canal historic route (see cover).

Use the south (downstream) exit and cross the road. The old stone wall to the right of 'Wharf Close' was once part of the final lock which lowered canal boats into the Thames. Walk past converted foundry buildings on your right and turn left on entering Caldecott Road. The canal terminal basin was once between the twin hedges on your left (south of Caldecott Road). Go through the gap in the railings and walk (west) on grass where narrowboats once stopped. The canal route continued from **2** Hermitage Road to beyond **3** B4017. The long avenue of trees was alongside the towpath and the wide green road margin was once canal (now filled-in).

At **3** B4017 turn right and use a controlled crossing into the park and follow the river Ock upstream into the countryside. A final crossing of the Ock leads into Mill Lane just before **4** the weir at New Cut Mill.

Continued overleaf:--

GEO projects
Map adapted from GEOprojects map THAMES the river and the path. GEOprojects (UK) Ltd. 8 Southern Court, South Street, Reading, RG1 4QS. Tel: 0118 939 3567 Fax: 0118 959 7356 E-mail: enquiries@goprojects.net © Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020045