

A Drive Through the South Chilterns

The route for this drive and the exploration of villages is described starting and ending at Henley-on-Thames (see map at end). Allow five to six hours for the driving and time to explore the villages on foot. Also note that some of the route is on narrow country roads, so please drive with care.

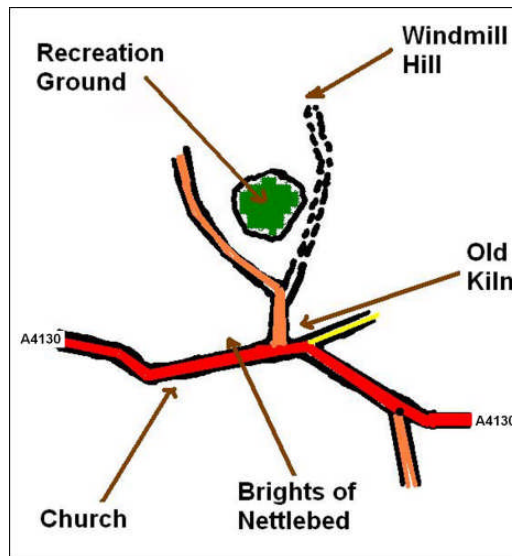
Additional stops may be made for morning coffee, lunch and/or afternoon tea. Any of the inns from the list of public houses below should provide good service for these.

Public Houses

The White Hart, Nettlebed (in the High street)
The Crown at Pishill
The Rainbow, Middle Assendon
The Golden Ball, Lower Assendon
The Bull and Butcher, Turville
The Stag and Huntsman, Hambleden

From Henley, take the A4130 road towards Oxford. Continue on this road until you reach Nettlebed. To explore the village, you can park on the right by the bus stop and old kiln, just before the Watlington turn.

Nettlebed



Places of interest in Nettlebed:



The Old Kiln



Nettlebed Church with stained glass by John Piper



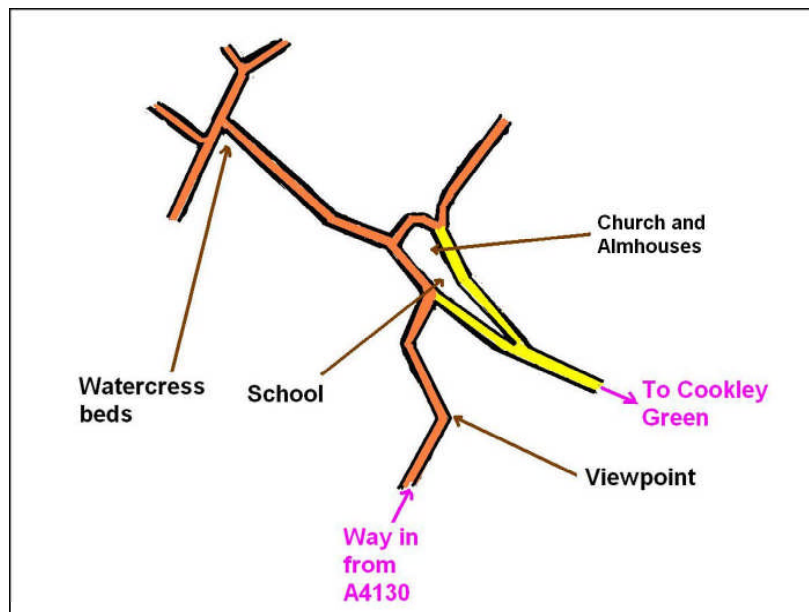
Nettlebed High Street

Leave Nettlebed on the A4130 Oxford road. Continue on this road through Nuffield and down Gangsdown Hill. At the next junction, turn right towards Ewelme. Turn right again, following the signs for Ewelme. To explore the village, you can park outside the church.

There is a good view of the village from a bend just before you reach Ewelme (see village map).



Ewelme



Places of interest in Ewelme:



Watercress beds



Ewelme School



Ewelme Church with Chaucer memorial and adjacent almshouses

Leave Ewelme on the minor road that goes towards Cookley Green. At Cookley Green, turn left towards Watlington (B481) and then take the second turn to the right, turning immediately right again, towards Pishill and Stonor (B480). When you reach Pishill, turn right up a narrow lane towards the church. There is a small car park outside.

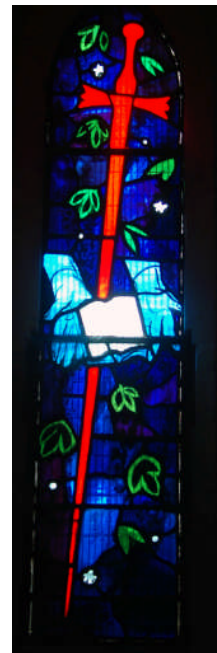
Pishill Church

Pishill church has an unusual 'T' shape. The side aisle allowed Roman Catholics to attend services without seeing the altar.

The church is often open during the day, with tea/coffee available in the porch for visitors.

See also the views from opposite the church.

Pishill church:



Pishill Church



The side aisle inside Pishill church

Stained glass by
John Piper

Go back down the lane and turn right. Continue towards Stonor and Henley-on-Thames.

In Stonor village, Stonor Park is on the left hand side. The house is open to the public on Sunday afternoons and, in July and August, on Wednesday afternoons. Check at www.stonor.com before visiting.



The entrance to Stonor Park

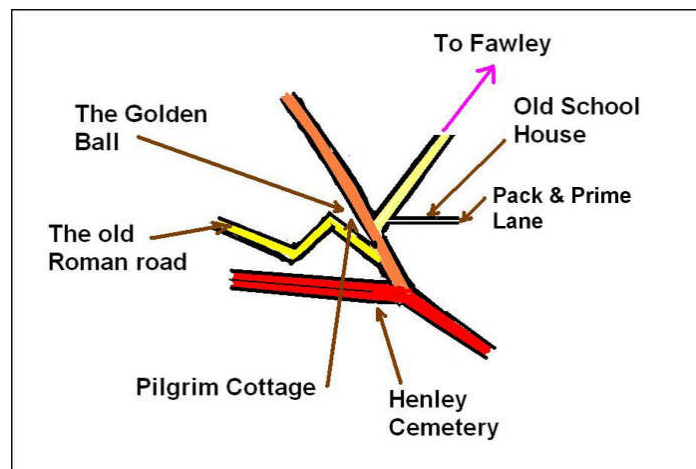
Continue towards Henley-on-Thames until you reach Lower Assendon.

Along the route you pass through Middle Assendon with its picturesque public house, The Rainbow.



The Rainbow inn, Middle Assendon

Lower Assendon



Places of interest in Lower Assendon:



The Golden Ball



Pilgrim Cottage – former home of the author Cecil Roberts



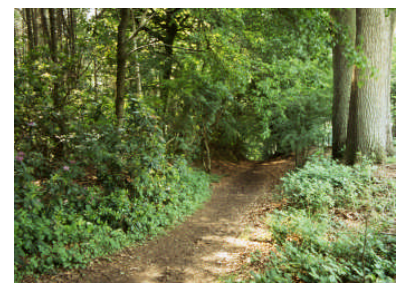
Old School House



Henley Cemetery



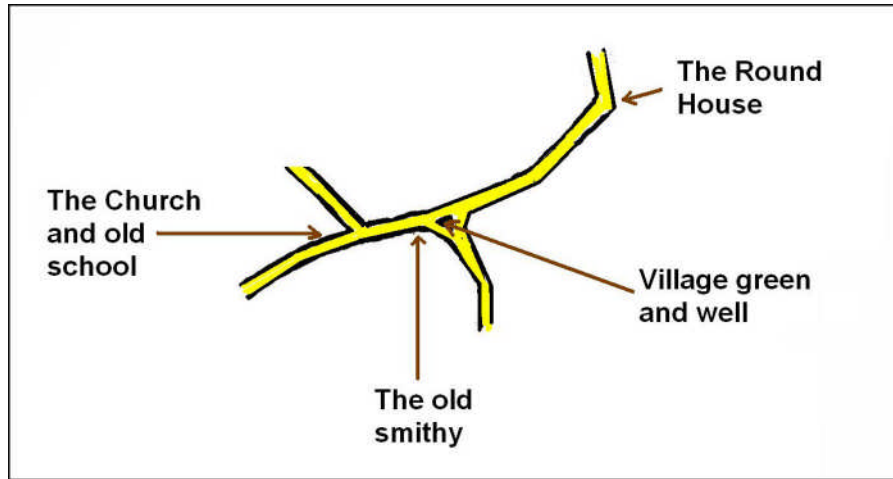
The old Roman Road to Oxford



Pack and Prime Lane – the route taken by King Charles escaping from the Roundheads

From Lower Assendon take the minor road to Fawley. After a sharp right bend at the top of the hill, continue, keeping left at all junctions, until you reach Fawley church, where you can park. You can also park by the village green, a little further on.

Fawley



Places of interest in Fawley:



Fawley church



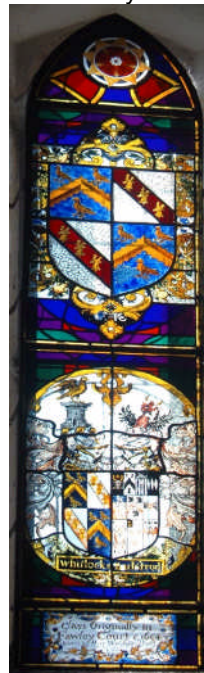
Mausoleum in churchyard



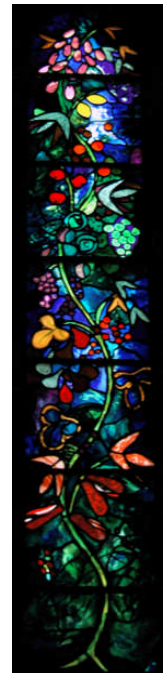
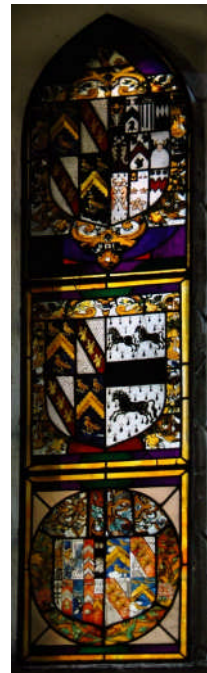
The village well



Whitlock memorial in Fawley church



Stained glass windows in Fawley church



Continue along the minor road through Fawley village towards Northend. Look out for the Round House on your right. At the first T-junction, turn left. At the second T-junction, turn right. At Summers Heath, turn left and shortly afterwards turn right to join the road through Turville Heath towards Northend. Bear right into Northend and, with the pond on your left, turn right towards Turville.

The Round House at Fawley



Turville

The village of Turville has been used as the location for several films and the television series *The Vicar of Dibley*. You can park outside the church.



Cottages in Turville



Windmill above Turville



Stained glass window by John Piper in Turville church

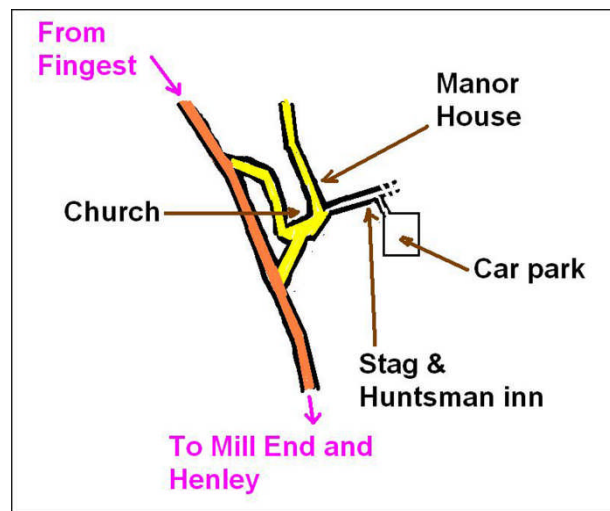
From Turville continue along the road you were on towards Fingest. Ignore the turnings onto minor roads to the right and then left. At the T-junction, turn left where Fingest church is immediately on the left. You can park outside the church.



Fingest church

After visiting Fingest church, turn round and make your way towards Hambleden, Mill End and Henley-on-Thames. Turn left for the village of Hambleden where you can park in a free car park.

Hambleden



Places of interest in Hambleden:



Hambleden church



Row of houses in Hambleden



The Manor House

Return to the 'main' road and turn left towards Mill End. At the T-junction, turn right onto the road for Henley-on-Thames, the A4155.

