

Visit Witney



about Witney

Witney is a charming and bustling market town with an excellent range of shops and a twice weekly market. Much of the architecture reflects the prosperity that the wool trade brought to the town, 'Witney Blankets' were renowned for their quality across the globe. Just take a look at the towering 150ft spire of the 13th century parish church of St Mary's and the huge church green to appreciate the importance and affluence of the town.



walks around the town

The Visitor Information Centre in Welch Way has a great choice of walks and ideas for whiling away an hour or two, whether you're looking for a scenic or town walk - pick up one of their leaflets, local maps or guidebooks. One walk to try is the Witney Wool and Blanket trail which will ensure you see the heritage of the town.

shopping and eating

Blessed with the Woolgate & Marriotts Walk shopping centres housing larger shops, you will also find Corn street, the high street and intriguing side alleys, all of which have a fine range of independent shops, restaurants, pubs & tea shops. Witney is the perfect place to find that little 'special something' whether you're looking for a unique gift, something for the home or an amazing afternoon tea.



attractions

Cogges Manor Farm Museum is a unique working museum depicting rural life in Victorian times set in an historic manor house and Cotswold stone farm buildings which you may recognise from Downton Abbey.

Wychwood Brewery in the town does tours and tasting and do make sure you call into the Blanket Hall to see the beautiful handmade blankets.

Nearby attractions include Crocodiles of the World, Oxford Bus Museum and Aston Pottery.

5 things to see & do

- 1 Witney Museum shows the history of Witney and the surrounding area and highlights the changes that have taken place over the last 1,000 years.
- 2 Cogges Manor Farm - Historic farmstead and a scheduled ancient monument which tells a fascinating story of the past.
- 3 The Blanket Hall where every blanket woven in the town came to be weighed and measured.
- 4 Wychwood Brewery - whose flagship brand is Hobgoblin with its fantasy based label artwork inspired by the myths and legends surrounding the ancient Wychwood Forest.
- 5 Experience the unique blend of shops in the town and in the two shopping centres.

events & festivals

The town rocks with its own Music Festival as well as the annual Carnival and the evergreen Witney Feast. There's an annual Festival of Food & Drink plus LibFest, a music event that raises money for local charities. And don't forget the annual World Pooh Sticks Championships played out from a bridge over the River Windrush close to Cogges Manor Farm - people come from all over the world to take part!



an amazing wool heritage

The Hudson Bay Company in North America forged strong and long lasting trade links with Witney - known across the world for its blanket making. The native North American Indians prized the 'point' blankets for clothing and bedding because of their excellent insulating and water resistant qualities. The Witney Point Blanket was traded in exchange for furs, particularly beaver pelts which were in great demand in Europe for hat making and were also given as gifts on important occasions. The blankets ended up in many places, not least rolled up and tucked under the back of a cowboy's western saddle and with Wellington's expeditionary armies.



green spaces

Witney has a host of places to sit and relax including the historic Church Green in front of the parish church of St Mary's or the Leys recreation ground behind the church. For those who want to wander then Witney Lake & Country Park is a tranquil haven for wildlife just a short walk from the town centre.



other areas to explore



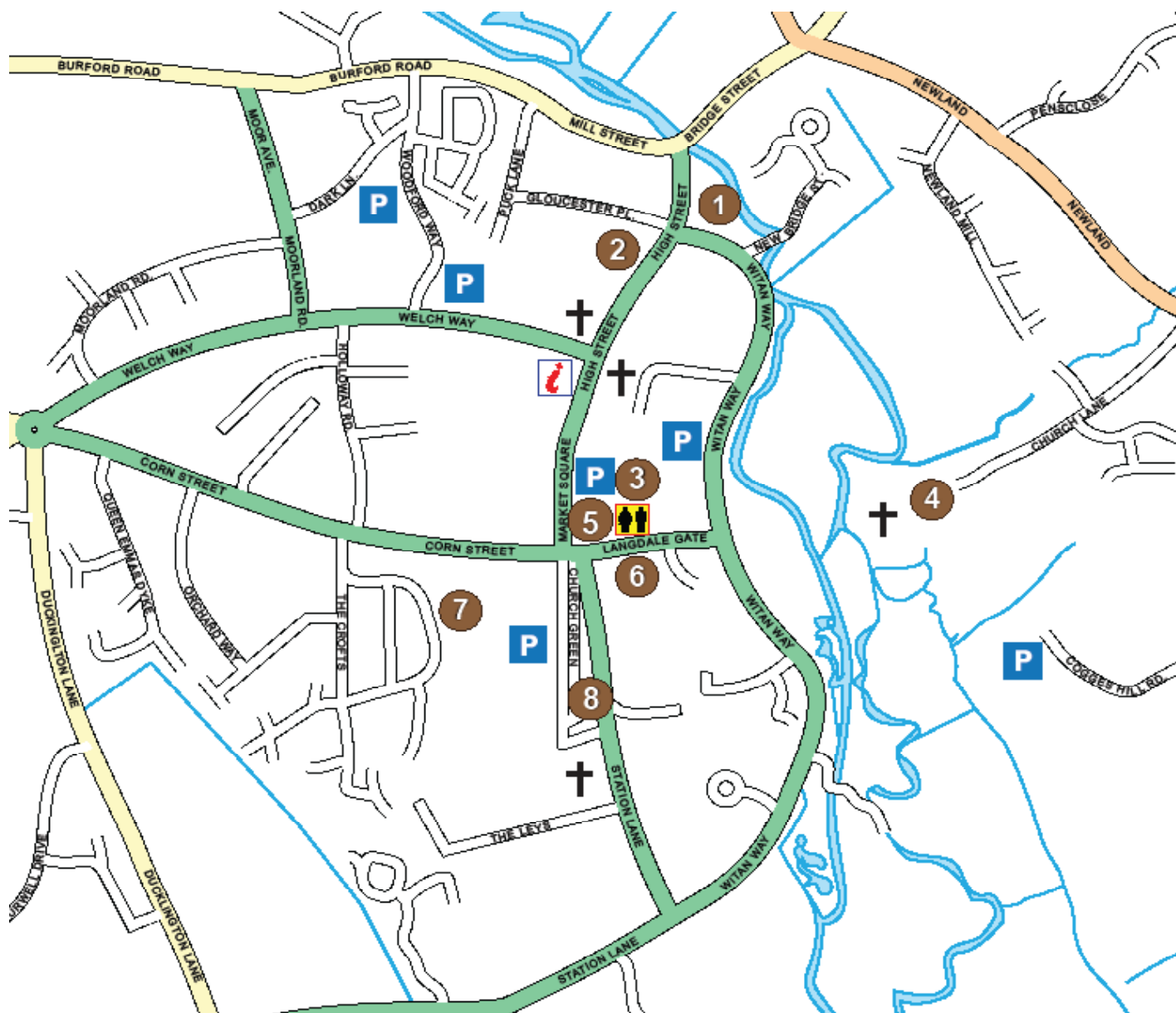
Witney is situated on the Eastern side of the Cotswolds and is surrounded by towns and villages with their own fascinating histories. Burford, Woodstock with the magnificent Blenheim Palace and Chipping Norton are within an easy drive.

Nestling in the Evenlode Valley and on the edge of the Wychwood Forest is Charlbury, a walker's and cyclist's delight.

There is also a Roman Villa in North Leigh and medieval paintings in St James' Church, South Leigh where John Wesley, founder of Methodism, preached his first sermon. Just down the road are the haunting Minster Lovell Ruins on the banks of the River Windrush.

To the South of Witney you'll discover the delightful villages of Aston and Bampton and the riverside towns of Fairford and Lechlade-on-Thames

Visitor map of Witney



make sure you visit

Church Green

Discover its 'Bread and Beef' Cottages and Almshouses

Langel Common & Cogges Manor Farm

Peaceful walks not far from the town lead you to Cogges Manor Farm

visitor information centre

The Visitor Information Centre can be found opposite Marriotts Walk Shopping Centre - the helpful and professional staff provide an excellent accommodation booking service and has up to date information on local events. You can also purchase National Express and Euroline tickets from here.

Tel: 01993 775802

E: witney.vic@westoxon.gov.uk

did you know?

On the spire of St Mary's Church Witney is a monkey carved by stone-masons

If you look closely you can see shrapnel damage on the kerb on one side of Church Green caused by a bomb which fell in 1940.

The Font at St Mary's Church, Cogges was carved in the 12th century but during the middle ages it was covered as it was believed that witches stole the water to add to their 'brews'.

There was once a Plague Hospital on Church Green.










The clock on the Blanket Hall only has one hand.

points of interest

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 The Blanket Hall | 5 Town Hall |
| 2 Witney Museum | 6 Buttercross |
| 3 Corn Exchange | 7 Wychwood Brewery |
| 4 Cogges Manor Farm | 8 Church Green |

For more information please visit:
www.cotswolds.com

Key to symbols

-  Visitor Information
-  Car Parks
-  Public Toilets
-  Shopping Centre
-  Major Buildings
-  Place of Worship
-  One Way Street
-  Coach Parking
-  Footpath