



Warwickshire & Coventry
Historic Churches Trust



The South Warwickshire Seven Local Ride

This 19½ mile ride around the South Warwickshire group of churches is a suggested route as part of the annual sponsored ride organised by the Coventry and Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust.

The money you collect from your sponsors is divided equally between the church nominated by yourself and the County Trust, who are then able to make grants to needy churches. Where we can recover Gift Aid, we will retain the full amount of this, enabling us to increase our grant giving further.

This ride will take in churches at **Long Compton, Barcheston, Cherington, Barton on the Heath, Great Wolford, Whichford** and **Burmington**. You will find it helpful to have with you a copy of the relevant 1:25,000 OS map (Explorer 206).

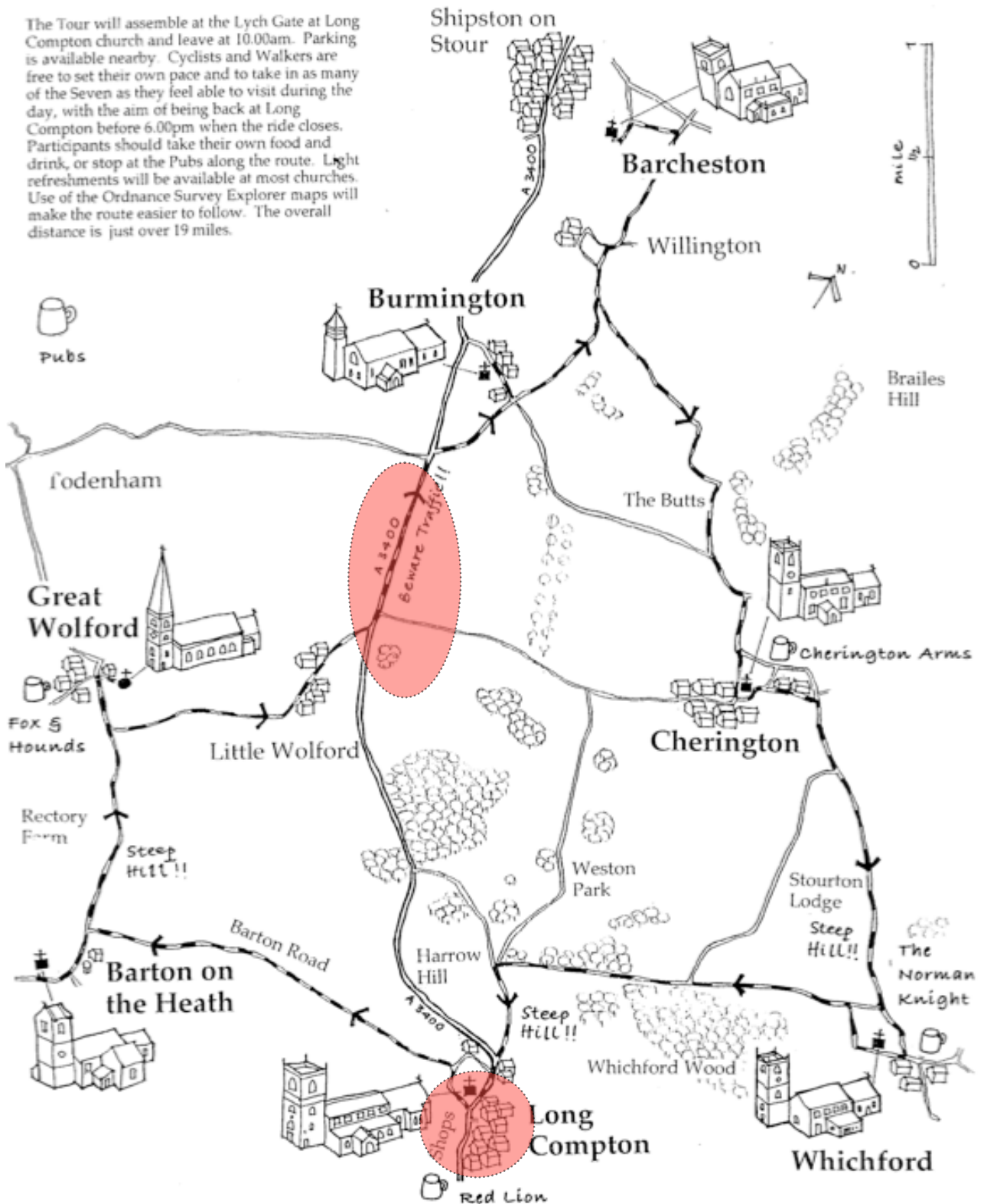
It is suggested here that Long Compton would be a good starting point but you can begin anywhere you choose as it is a circular route. Every church on this circuit plans to be open to welcome visitors.

If you have time to dismount and explore the historic churches mentioned above you may be interested in the notes included.


Safety is vitally important on the Ride. This year we have included a Risk Assessment on the website, and we would ask you to read carefully this document and the text of the blue Sponsorship form before you set out and to follow the advice given. This is of particular importance if you are travelling in a group or have younger children in your party. Whilst the suggested route follows minor roads where possible, we have marked main road crossings on the attached map and extra care should be taken there.

The majority of the churches on this route are usually open for the Ride & Stride event. However, a list of open churches will be available on our website www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk, where you will also find the necessary Sponsorship Forms and other information about the Ride.

The Tour will assemble at the Lych Gate at Long Compton church and leave at 10.00am. Parking is available nearby. Cyclists and Walkers are free to set their own pace and to take in as many of the Seven as they feel able to visit during the day, with the aim of being back at Long Compton before 6.00pm when the ride closes. Participants should take their own food and drink, or stop at the Pubs along the route. Light refreshments will be available at most churches. Use of the Ordnance Survey Explorer maps will make the route easier to follow. The overall distance is just over 19 miles.



ROUTE ROUND THE SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE SEVEN

 Main roads & crossings (heavier traffic)

Notes on the churches: (miles)

Long Compton, St Peter & St Paul (Start)

The Mother Church of the Seven, sitting comfortably at the bottom of the Oxfordshire escarpment. A venerable 13thC Nave and lower tower (raised in the 15thC). Chancel of the same date but much modified in the 19thC with unusual vestry/ chantry chapel. The thatched lych-gate is c1600.

Barton on the Heath, St Lawrence (3.6)

Substantially a 12thC Norman church but much obscured by later alteration. The 'saddle-back' tower was raised in the 14thC at the time the chancel window was put in. Robert Dover, founder of the Cotswold Olympics, lived here.

Great Wolford, St Michael & All Angels (5.1)

A William IV building, all of one period. Impressive in scale and compact in plan. Spacious nave and a western tower with the only steeple of the Seven.

Burmington, St Barnabus & St Nicholas (8.4)

A mid-19thC building, neat and unassuming with a semi-detached louvred belfry. The odd reused stones from the earlier 12thC structure.

Barcheston, St Martin (10.5)

Another small church with ancient Norman bones. The building periods are confusing. 14thC south aisle with tombs including monuments to the Sheldons who established their tapestry weaving business in the hamlet. The 14thC tower, markedly out of upright, clings doggedly to the top of the Stour embankment.

Cherington, St John the Baptist (13.8)

Predominantly 13thC with much 15thC alteration. 18thC windows to north aisle and a collection of mediaeval glass from the same period. Awkwardly compressed 15thC canopied monument at end of north aisle. Again a 14thC tower.

Whichford, St Michael (16.4)

12thC structure, particularly the south doorway. North aisle of 13thC, and tower and chancel of the following century. Recessed priestly tomb in Chancel. The tower is said to have housed hermits at one time.

Long Compton Finish (19.4)

Safety & other information:

see Sponsorship Form.