

Uffington Village Trail



St Mary's Church
Tea & Cakes
Sun 3pm to 5:30pm June - Sept

**Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall,
Childrens Play Area & Village Carpark**



Rosey Brook

Disused Line
Of The
Wilts & Berks
Canal

Uffington
Gorse
(Woods)

Village Shop & Post Office

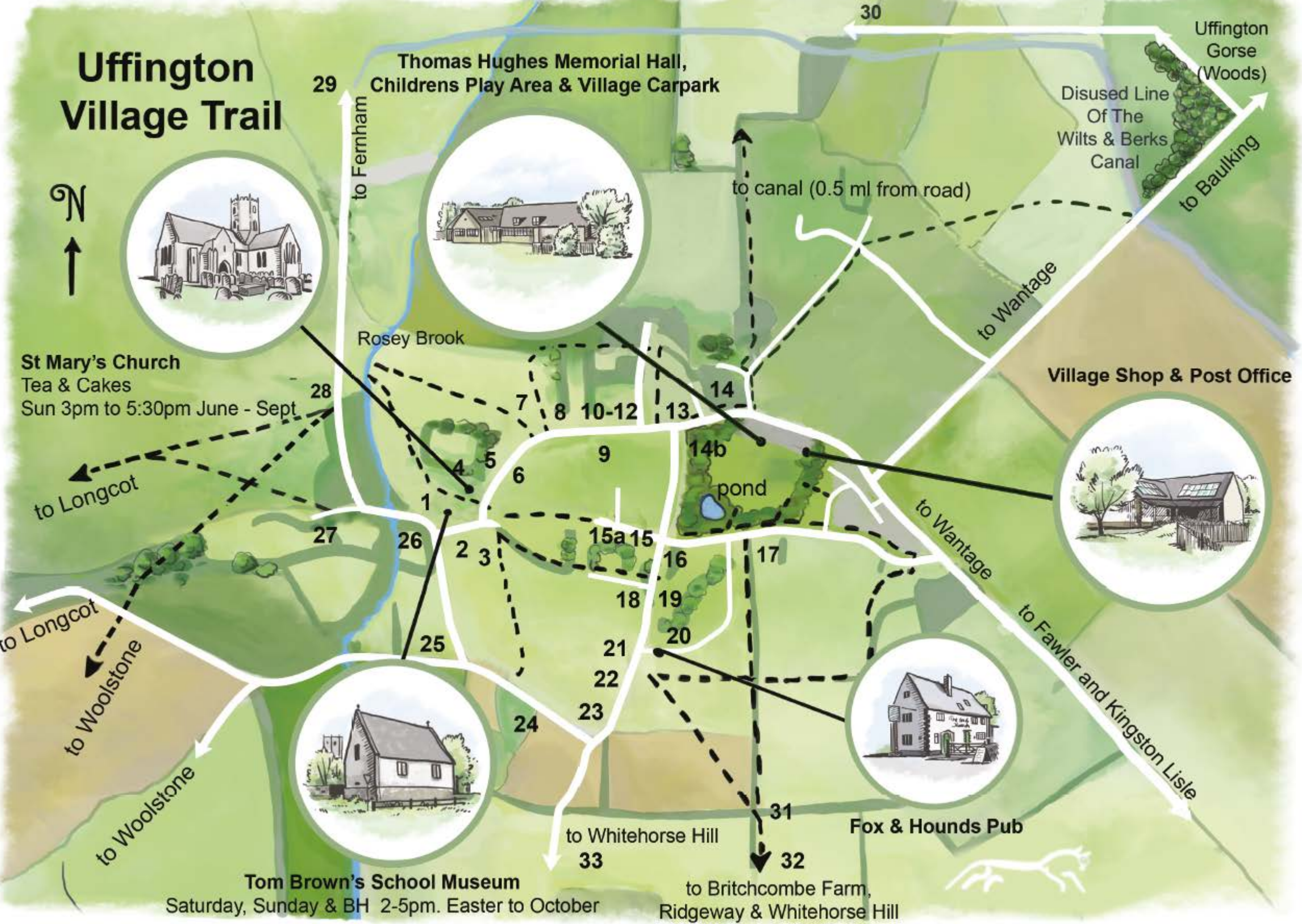


Fox & Hounds Pub



Tom Brown's School Museum
Saturday, Sunday & BH 2-5pm. Easter to October

to Britchcombe Farm,
Ridgeway & Whitehorse Hill



29
to Fernham

to canal (0.5 ml from road)

to Baulking

to Wantage

to Longcot

to Longcot

to Woolstone

to Woolstone

to Whitehorse Hill

to Wantage

to Fawler and Kingston Lisle

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10-12

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14b

pond

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Welcome to Uffington – The village of Uffington lies at the foot of the Downs under the gaze of the famous White Horse and a mile from the ancient Ridgeway. The trail is roughly circular so that it can be joined at any point and is bisected by various footpaths which you can take to explore 3000 years of history. Numbers in the text refer to the map overleaf. The trail is 1.5 miles and will take approx 45 mins depending on ability.

Various wooden markers are sited around the village with brass rubbings - kits are available to buy from the village shop.

1. Tom Brown's School Museum – built as a schoolroom and founded by Thomas Saunders in 1617.
2. Old Smithy House – opposite the museum and formerly a blacksmiths forge.
3. St Mary's Church – known as the 'Cathedral of the Vale' it was built in 1250 on the site of an earlier church. It has an unusual octagonal tower.
4. Benjy's Cottage – named after the character in Tom Brown's School Days and was previously a shop.
5. Uffington C of E Primary School – built in 1853 and designed by architect George Street.
6. Largo House – is the former vicarage and was designed by Henry Edward Kendall and built in 1849.
7. Waylands – built on the site of the Uffington and Vale Garage which operated from Uffington for many years.

Notice the differing ages and styles of buildings as you walk up Broad Street. The older cottages in the village are constructed with local building materials – chalk from the Downs, thatch and elm. The chalk only survives as a building material when it is built on a foundation of 'sarsen' stones – a hard impervious sandstone found on the Downs. It is further protected from the weather by the overhanging thatch.

8. The Old Post Office – previously operated a carrier service and housed a horse doctor and veterinary surgeon.
9. Freemans Close – Freemans Garage and Coach business operated from this site initially with milk deliveries interspersed with coach outings.
10. The White Horse – previously a public house, one of five in the locality.
11. Norton House – previously a shop with the shop windows and entrance opening to the street.
12. The Old Village Shop – now replaced with a modern new building next to the village hall.
13. The Cottage - a bakehouse used to occupy this site, now a row of four houses.
14. Take a short detour, left up a small path beside Little Thatch to meet the road to the Manor Farm. Next to the cottage on the

left is a small garage which used to house a horse drawn, hand operated, fire pump built in 1831 for the Craven Estate. The area opposite the cottage was the Craven Estate Yard housing the timber and builders workshops. The Craven Estate owned the majority of the village and operated the Brick Yard near Uffington Station.

- 14b. Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall - Built in 1975 with money raised from the annual White Horse Show
 15. The Bakers Arms - another former public house and next door to the Bakehouse. The arched window would have displayed the bread and cakes for sale.
 - 15a. Uffington Strict Baptist Chapel - Built in 1831 possibly by William Warren with seating for around 100 worshippers.
 16. Greywethers – was formerly a police house with a small lock up.
 17. Styles Cottage - One of the oldest cottages in Uffington built around 1699
 18. Packers Forge & Wheelwrights – both buildings were the centre of industry in the village. At one stage they were owned by two brothers; one operating the forge and the other the building and carpentry firm and wheelwrights. The large window at the end of Wheelwrights replaced an earlier large entrance where wagons and carts could be driven in.
- The gable ends of Packers Forge and Curtis Cottage show how a second storey and tiles have replaced an earlier thatch.
19. New Cottage – an earlier cottage stood here that housed a shoe and boot repairer and maker (a snobby) and before that a butcher.
 20. The Fox & Hounds – the only remaining pub in Uffington. Next to the Fox & Hounds is a former Quaker Meeting House. There was a strong community of Quakers in the village in the 1700's.
 21. Garrards Farm & blue plaque – Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman lived here with his family between 1934 & 1945.
 22. Pear Tree Cottage – has fine examples of staddle stones outside the frontage. Granaries were built on top of staddle stones to prevent vermin from reaching the corn stored inside.
 23. Yew Tree Cottage and South Cottage – are both unusual having a slate roof. The slates were perhaps brought in on the Wilts & Berks Canal which passed close to the village. It was built in 1780 and had its heyday in the early 1800's before being overtaken by the railways.
 24. South Farm – previously occupied this site and operated a local butchery from the farm buildings.
 25. Tamarisk Cottage & Birdbrook Cottage – this row of thatched cottages was known as 'Workhouse Corner' where the younger children of farm labourers were looked after whilst their parents were working.

26. The Manor House – it was in fact the Craven Estate manager who lived in this fine house and not the 'Lord' of the Manor.
27. Mill House – situated a little way down Fernham Road and operated as a mill.
28. The Craven – formerly another public house known as The Swan.
29. Wharf Farm - the slight rise in the road marks where the Wilts & Berks Canal ran and the site of the former Wharf House beside the canal. A lift-up bridge was used to allow the barges through.
30. Uffington Station – approx. 1 mile outside the village to the North between Uffington and Baulking, the station was on the main line between London and the South West with a branch line to Faringdon. Beside the station was the Station Hotel.
31. Memorial to the crew of Wellington Bomber DV595 which crashed in a field near Uffington in 1942 following a mid air collision with a Wellington N2775.
32. Britchcombe Farm - approx. 1 mile outside the village to the South under the gaze of the White Horse. The farm was run by the Ayres/Seymour family for over 90 years and a scale model made in the 1930's can be seen at Pendon Museum.
33. The White Horse is at least 3000 years old and is by far the oldest of all the chalk hill figures in the country. It has been scoured and re-chalked a number of times and has changed very little in shape over the centuries. Various myths and legends surround its creation, with Dragons Hill, The Manger and Waylands Smithy all adding to the mystery. Further information can be found at Tom Brown's School Museum.

Please use pavements, footpaths and tracks where possible and be aware of traffic and keep children under control.

For further information please visit:

uffingtonmuseum.co.uk

Uffington.
3000 years of history
in one small village.

