The Kingdom of Wessex Trail

The trail celebrates important Anglo-Saxon (AS) history and landscape in south Oxfordshire. The unmarked route follows existing footpaths. Excavations at Sutton Courtenay have revealed 33 AS buildings, including the largest great hall complex found in Britain. There is also evidence of significant AS occupation in nearby Appleford.

A large AS cemetery was discovered in Long Wittenham in the 1860s, featuring more than 100 graves. Legend says that the village cross is where Bishop Birinus was sent by the Pope to restore Christianity to Saxon England in the 7th century.

The newly-constructed House of Wessex is in Long Wittenham, and lies at the centre of the trail. The building has been reconstructed on its original footprint, using tools and materials faithful to the 7th century. The timber frame of oak and chestnut was hewn by hand, covered with a thatched roof, and its walls constructed of hazel wattle and daub. A living history society, the Wulfheodenas, will hold public open days on the site to demonstrate how the Anglo-Saxons lived.

Near to Little Wittenham is Castle Hill, a Bronze Age hill fort on land owned by the Earth Trust. It provides a wonderful detour, and offers a bird’s-eye view of the trail.

After crossing the River Thames at Days Lock, the trail finishes at Dorchester-on-Thames, but not before passing alongside the Dyke Hills, built during the Iron Age to protect the village. The site of Dorchester Abbey was founded in 635 AD and is one of England’s most important Saxon cathedrals.

Visit sylva.org.uk/wessex

- Download a gps route for the Kingdom of Wessex Trail
- Read more about local Anglo-Saxon history
- Latest news and events

The House of Wessex Project

With support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, work began in 2018 to reconstruct the House of Wessex with the help of volunteers. The building has been reconstructed on its original footprint, using tools and materials faithful to the 7th century. The timber frame of oak and chestnut was hewn by hand, covered with a thatched roof, and its walls constructed of hazel wattle and daub. A living history society, the Wulfheodenas, will hold public open days on the site to demonstrate how the Anglo-Saxons lived.

A model of the House of Wessex. Full reconstruction will take place in summer 2019.
The Kingdom of Wessex trail links the villages of Sutton Courtenay, Long Wittenham, and Dorchester-on-Thames in south Oxfordshire.

6.3 miles / 10.1 km following existing footpaths.

Flat and gentle, mostly offroad. Please follow the Countryside Code and carry a detailed map. Wear appropriate outdoor gear.

A gpx route is available for your handheld satnav, providing turn-by-turn directions. Download from our webpage.

sylva.org.uk/wessex

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**MAP 1**

- **Sutton Courtenay**
  - The Green
  - SU503941

- **Appleford**
  - Pass by the church
  - SU530937

- **Road without pavement (150m)**

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**MAP 2**

- **Long Wittenham**
  - Site of the House of Wessex
  - SU550938

- **Path may be closed. Alternative route along road**

- **Little Wittenham**
  - Pass by the church and Days Lock
  - SUS67934

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