

Section 2

Sonning Common to Ipsden

12.9km (8.0 miles) Route profile page 50

This stretch will take you through classic Chilterns scenery dominated by beech woodlands and narrow sunken lanes with high-sided banks. As one nears Ipsden views over the Oxfordshire vale are breath taking.

Route information: Once you have left Sonning Common behind the route is on very quiet lanes. Garsons Hill is long, steep and narrow.

Amenities and Attractions

1 Stoke Row

Stoke Row is surrounded by woodland and quiet lanes. With its pub and village store, it is a popular refuelling stop for cyclists.

Amongst its attractions is the **Maharajah's Well**, an amazing gift from an Indian prince. The well is free to visit and is clearly visible from the main street.

The Cherry Tree pub is in the heart of the village and has a restaurant, large garden and B&B accommodation. Tel. 01491 680430

2 Checkendon

Another delightful place to stop is the village of Checkendon with its Norman church, village green, post office shop and two traditional English pubs.

The Black Horse is a time-warp, tucked away in the woods down a narrow lane. Tel. 01491 680418

The Four Horse Shoes is another pretty pub near the centre of the village. Tel. 01491 680325

3 Braziers Park

An unusual place to stay with lots of character. The manor house has large grounds, offers B&B and camping and can cater for groups. It has been home to some famous people, including author Ian Fleming and singer Marianne Faithful. Some episodes of *Midsomer Murders* have been filmed there. Tel. 01491 680221

4 Ipsden

Small village in fabulous rural setting, with a post office shop.

The King William is a charming country pub perched on a hill just outside the village with stunning views of the surrounding countryside. Tel. 01491 681845

