


Section 3

Ipsden to Cookley Green

12.1km (7.5 miles) Route profile page 50

Amenities and Attractions

1 **Wallingford** is a couple of miles off the route but well worth a visit. It is an ancient market town on the banks of the Thames and a good place to relax by the river, have a picnic in the meadows and explore the historic town and castle mound. There is a tourist information centre in the town, tel. 01491 826972

 Rides on Air, Tel. 01491 836289

2 **Ewelme** is a beautiful and ancient village which dates back at least to Anglo-Saxon times. The name itself may be derived from Latin aqua alba - 'sweet water' or Anglo-Saxon Aewhylme - 'the water welling up from the ground'. We do know that Geoffrey Chaucer, who had family ties in the area, wrote about its brook and its sweet waters which were thought to have medicinal properties.

There is a pub in the village and a community shop which serves tea and coffee.

Shepherds Hut pub, Tel. 01491 836636

This section passes through much more open countryside with wonderful views over the Thames floodplain. The picturesque village of Ewelme is a real gem.

Route Information: One road crossing with **fast traffic at the A4130**. Apart from that, the route follows quiet rural lanes. The final stage to Cookley Green involves a long steady climb up and over the Downs past Swyncombe House.

3 **Ewelme church, almshouses and school**

The church dates back to 1436 and has some remarkable features. Alongside are the Almshouses, built of red brick in herring-bone pattern and timbered. They comprise a quadrangle surrounded by a cloister walk with a well in the centre of the square.

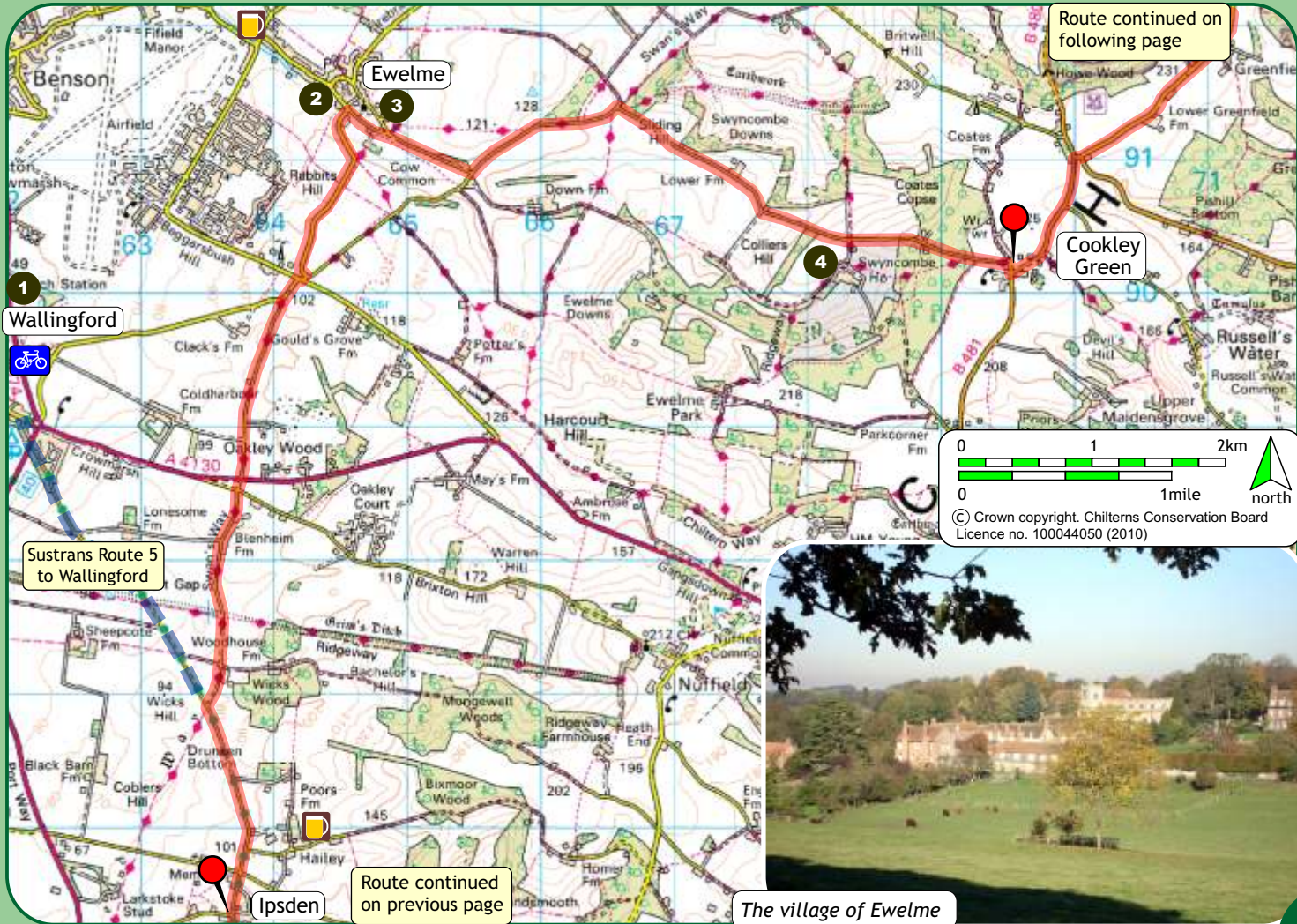
Historic Ewelme School was founded originally as a grammar school, a place of superior education where Latin would be taught by the grammar master. Now converted, it is the oldest school building in the country to be in use as a state primary school.

4 **Swyncombe Church**

11th century church, famous for its snowdrops and bluebells.



Swyncombe Church



Route continued on following page

1 Wallingford

2 Ewelme

4 Cookley Green

Sustrans Route 5 to Wallingford

Route continued on previous page

The village of Ewelme

