

# Explore the former Wantage Arm of the historic Wilts & Berks Canal and the restored waters of the main line from East Challow past Grove.

**Start at A** Church of St. Peter & St. Paul opposite the Vale & Downland Museum behind Wantage market place.

From the churchyard, follow the footpath downhill past a brick garden wall to the right of No. 2 Priory Rd.

**Turn right** after the footbridge to follow Letcombe Brook between tall mill buildings and *carefully cross* Mill Street to **B** the site of the *Wharf* at the end of the infilled **Wantage Arm of the Wilts & Berks Canal**.

From **B** there are two footpaths. Avoid the *new* path alongside Letcombe Brook itself, but follow the *old* path (marked by a 'Cyclists Forbidden' notice) between Mill Cottage and the new wharfside housing development.

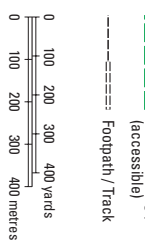
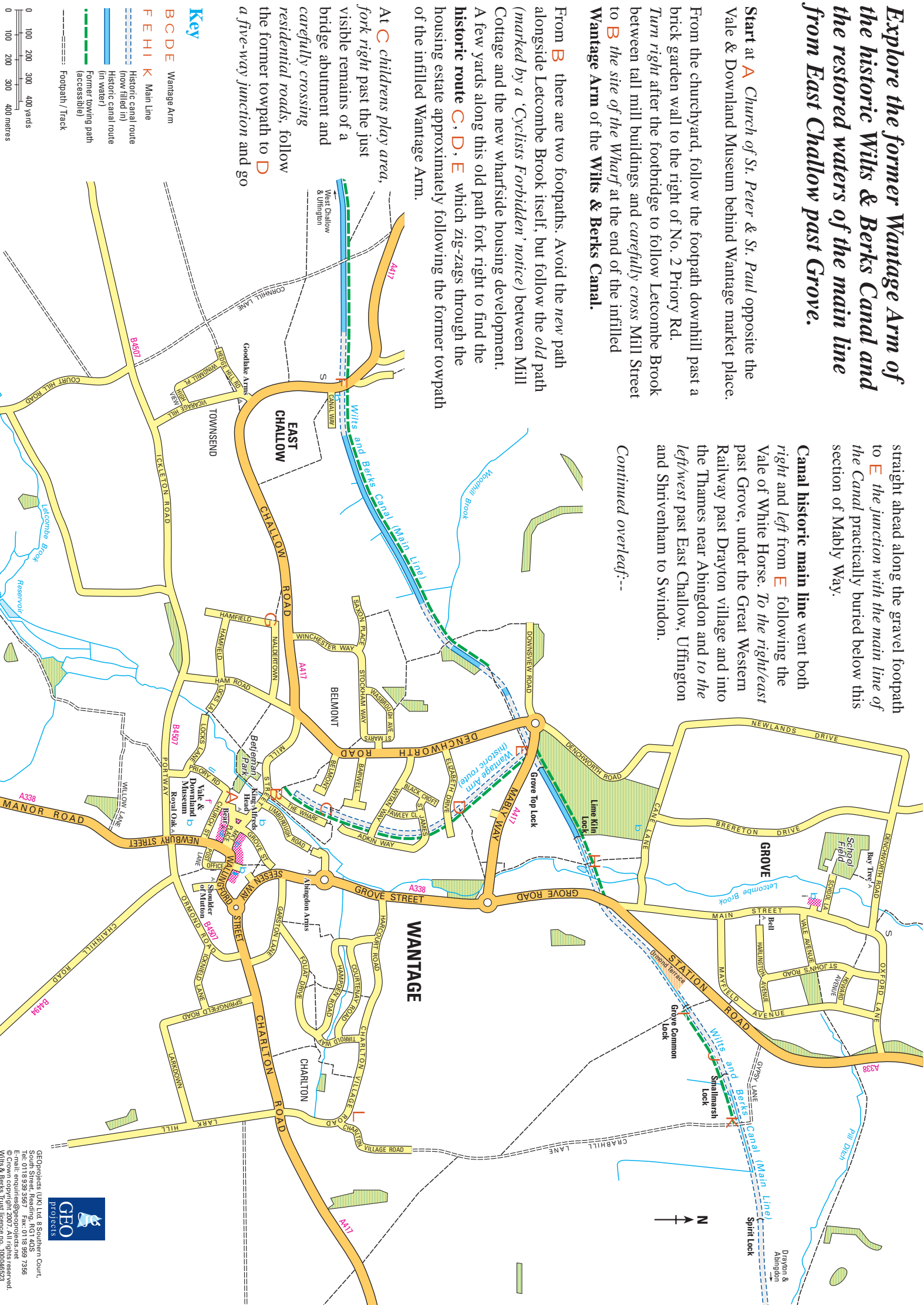
A few yards along this old path fork right to find the **historic route C, D, E** which zig-zags through the housing estate approximately following the former towpath of the infilled Wantage Arm.

At **C** *childrens play area*, fork right past the just visible remains of a bridge abutment and *carefully crossing residential roads*, follow the former towpath to **D** a five-way junction and go

straight ahead along the gravel footpath to **E** the junction with the main line of the Canal practically buried below this section of Mably Way.

Canal historic main line went both right and left from **E** following the Vale of White Horse. To the right/east past Grove, under the Great Western Railway past Drayton village and into the Thames near Abingdon and to the left/west past East Challow, Uffington and Shivenham to Swindon.

Continued overleaf:--



**Key**

- B C D E Wantage Arm
- F E H I K Main Line
- Historic canal route (now filled in)
- Historic canal route (in water)
- Former towing path (accessible)
- Footpath / Track

