

# Visitors' information

## KEY

**T** toilets **P** car parking **C** café  
**S** shop **W** wheelchair access

**Please note:** The opening times given are for the period of summer 2006. **IT IS BEST TO CHECK OPENING TIMES BEFORE YOU SET OUT.**

## 1 BANBURY MUSEUM

Spiceball Park Road, Banbury OX16 2PQ  
Tel: 01295 259855  
www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/banburymuseum  
**T P** nearby **C S W**  
OPEN: Monday–Saturday, 9.30am–5.00pm;  
Sunday and Bank Holidays, 10.30am–4.30pm  
Admission free

## 2 CHIPPING NORTON MUSEUM

4 High Street, Chipping Norton OX7 5AD  
Tel: 01608 645402 **T** and **P** nearby **S**  
OPEN: Tuesday–Saturday and Bank Holiday  
Mondays, 2.00pm–4.00pm Admission: adults  
£1, children under 16 free, but must be  
accompanied by an adult

## 3 CHARLBURY MUSEUM

Market Street, Charlbury OX7 3PN  
Tel: 01608 810060 **T P** nearby **W**  
OPEN: Saturday, 10.00am–12.00pm; Sunday  
and Bank Holiday Mondays, 2.30–4.30pm  
Admission: adults £1, accompanied children free,  
concessions

## 4 TOLSEY MUSEUM

126 High Street, Burford OX18 4QU  
Tel: 01993 823196  
www.tolseymuseumburford.com  
**T** and **P** nearby  
OPEN: April–October, Monday–Friday,  
2.00–5.00pm; Saturday, Sunday, and Bank  
Holidays, 11.00am–5.00pm Admission free

## 5 COGGES MANOR FARM MUSEUM

Church Lane, Cogges, Witney OX28 3LA  
Tel: 01993 772602 www.cogges.org  
**T P C S W** (partial)  
OPEN: Tuesday–Friday, 10.30am–5.30pm;  
Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holiday Mondays,  
12.00–5.30pm Admission: adults £5.40,  
children (3–16) £2.30, concessions £3.85,  
season and family tickets

## 6 WITNEY & DISTRICT MUSEUM

Gloucester Court Mews, High Street, Witney  
OX28 6JA Tel: 01933 775915  
**T S W** (ground floor)  
OPEN: Wednesday–Saturday, 10.00am–4.00pm;  
Sunday, 2.00–4.00pm Admission: adults £1.00,  
accompanied children under 16 free

## 7 COTSWOLD WOOLLEN WEAVERS

Filkins, Nr Lechlade GL7 3JJ  
Tel: 01367 860491 www.naturalbest.co.uk  
**P C S W** (ground floor)  
OPEN: Monday–Saturday, 10am–6pm; Sunday,  
2.00–6.00pm Admission free

## SWINFORD MUSEUM

Filkins, Nr Lechlade GL7 3JQ  
Tel: 01367 860209 **P** nearby **W**  
OPEN: First Sunday of the month, May–September,  
2.30–5.00pm, or by arrangement Admission free

## 8 PITT RIVERS MUSEUM

Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PP  
Tel: 01865 270927 www.prm.ox.ac.uk  
**T S W** (phone in advance)  
OPEN: Daily, 12.00–4.30pm Admission free

## 9 WATERPERRY RURAL MUSEUM

Waterperry Gardens, Waterperry, Nr Wheatley  
OX33 1JZ Tel: 01844 339254  
www.waterperrygardens.co.uk **T P C S W**  
OPEN: Tuesday–Sunday, 2.00–5.00pm  
Admission free

## 10 VALE & DOWNLAND MUSEUM

Church Street, Wantage OX12 8BL  
Tel: 01235 771447 www.wantage.com/museum  
**T P** nearby **C S W**  
OPEN: Monday–Saturday, 10.00am–4.30pm; Bank  
Holidays closed Admission (annual season ticket):  
adults £2.50, concessions £2.00, young persons  
£1, family tickets

## 11 DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE

Didcot OX11 7NJ Tel: 01235 817200  
www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk **T P C S**  
OPEN: Weekdays (phone to check),  
10.00am–4.00pm; Weekends and Steamdays,  
10.00am–5.00pm Admission: £3–£9.50  
depending on event, family tickets, concessions

## 12 RIVER & ROWING MUSEUM

Mill Meadows, Henley-on-Thames RG9 1BF  
Tel: 01491 415600 www.rrm.co.uk  
**T P C S W**  
OPEN: Daily 10.00am–5.30pm  
Admission (annual season ticket): adults £3.50,  
children £2.50 (under 3 free), concessions £3.00

# Oxfordshire basketry map

Baskets, or rather items made using basketry techniques, used to play a vital part in everyday life even fifty years ago. As a baby you might have slept in a Moses basket. Later in life you certainly would have taken a basket to go shopping, and the carrier on your bicycle would have been a basket. Your easy chair might have been a basket chair, and when you were old and infirm you may have been pushed around in one with wheels on. And, when you finally gave up the ghost, you could have been buried in a basket coffin.

Baskets were everywhere: in the house, in the garden, and at work, whether in an office, in a factory, or on the land. All this changed with the advent of plastics. Plastic containers have replaced baskets almost everywhere.

Baskets were generally cheap, functional objects. When they wore out, they were usually discarded, so old baskets are becoming increasingly rare. This map will lead you to some of the baskets in Oxfordshire that have survived.

To find out more about Oxfordshire's basketry past and present, and about local basketry materials and their use, visit the exhibition: **BASKETS** at **THE OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, Woodstock** Tel: 01993 811456 Admission free  
Open: Tuesday–Saturday, 10.00am–5.00pm; Sunday, 2.00–5.00pm Closed: Monday

The exhibition is in three parts:  
**Oxfordshire Baskets – Then:** Saturday 20 May – Sunday 8 October  
**Oxfordshire Baskets – Now:** Saturday 17 June – Sunday 23 July  
**Willow, Rush, and Straw:** Saturday 17 June – Sunday 23 July  
Exhibition website: [www.oxfordshirebaskets.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshirebaskets.co.uk)

# A basketry map of Oxfordshire

## 1 BANBURY MUSEUM:

There are not many baskets here, but the *Banbury cake basket* is an important relic of a past way of life. There are also some *wicker-covered bottles*, an interesting *child's basketmaking set*, and some good photographs. Worth a visit, but don't expect many baskets.

## 2 CHIPPING NORTON:

An interesting little museum with several domestic baskets shown in context. Of note is a small *wool skip* from the Bliss Tweed Mill, and a *harvest crown*: an impressive Harvest Festival corn dolly made in about 1953. Worth a special trip.

## 3 CHARLBURY MUSEUM:

The collections of this delightful town museum include a *workman's tool bag* made of plaited rush and lined with canvas, and a *delivery basket* owned by a baker, George Joshua Jones. Both date from the early twentieth century. Well worth a visit.

## 4 TOLSEY MUSEUM, BURFORD:

The Museum has two *straw poke bonnets* made in about 1820.

## 5 COGGES MANOR FARM MUSEUM, WITNEY:

Many aspects of rural life in a farm context. Baskets are incidental to the main exhibits, but you will find them everywhere – where they would have been fifty or more years ago. Worth a special trip – allow plenty of time – you will get side-tracked by pigs and chickens, and a cottage garden.

## 6 WITNEY & DISTRICT MUSEUM:

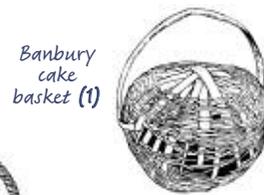
The Museum has good displays relating to Witney's once-thriving woollen blanket industry, including a huge *mill skip* on wheels, and a *shopping basket* in the 1950s kitchen.

## 7 FILKINS:

### COTSWOLD WOOLLEN WEAVERS:

A working mill housed in an eighteenth-century barn, and using traditional equipment. Various *wool skips*, originally from Bliss Tweed Mill, are still in daily use.

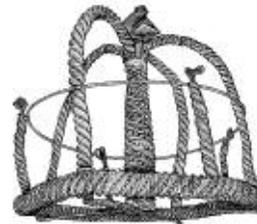
**SWINFORD MUSEUM:** The exhibits in this one-roomed seventeenth-century cottage include a *frail*: a plaited-rush lunch basket, complete with a curved carrying stick.



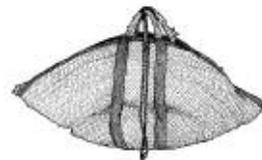
Banbury cake basket (1)



Basketmakers' tools (8)



Harvest crown (2)



Workman's tool bag (3)



Straw poke bonnet (4)



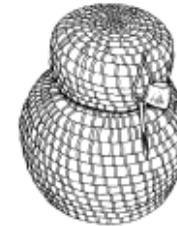
Hand cart (5)



Mill skip (6)



Frail (7)



Bee skep (9)



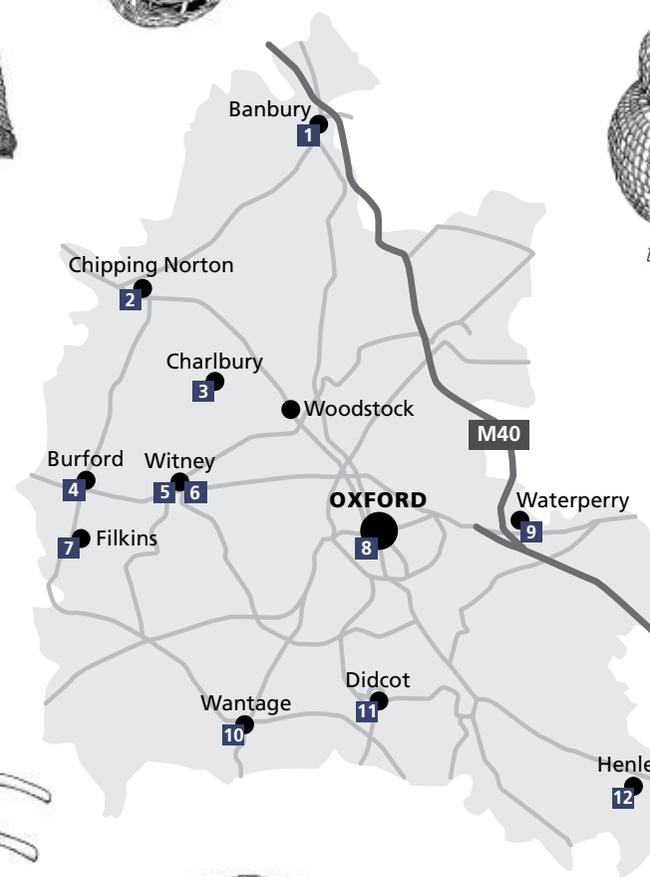
Cherry-picking basket (10)



Luncheon basket (11)



Eel trap (12)



## 8 PITT RIVERS MUSEUM, OXFORD:

Within this famous collection of everyday objects from around the world there are *basketmakers' tools* collected in Oxfordshire in the 1930s (case C121). A small *berry basket* in buff willow represents a typical English basket (case C113).

## 9 WATERPERRY RURAL MUSEUM:

This small private collection has a host of interesting tools and 'by-gones', including a *bee skep* or hive, a *sieve* for horse feed, and *straw-splitting tools*. Worth a special trip, especially as it can be combined with a visit to a charming little church and a splendid garden.

## 10 VALE & DOWNLAND MUSEUM, WANTAGE:

The gems in this museum, housed in a seventeenth-century cloth-merchant's house, include *bushel baskets* used for transporting apples, and *cherry-picking baskets*. Don't miss the *dairy maid's cuffs* in the pantry.

## 11 DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE:

Two major items of interest here: three large *Post Office skips* are on display in the bike shed. In the office tableau, part of the Relics Display, together with a Great Western Railway *wicker in-tray* and a *waste-paper basket*, there is a *luncheon basket* from about 1900 – an early packed lunch. Worth a trip, especially if you are interested in railways as well.

## 12 RIVER & ROWING MUSEUM, HENLEY:

There are just a few things of basketry interest here. The major one is the splendid *eel trap*, more than 2 metres long. This is an accurate replica of what was, a hundred or so years ago, a common object. The museum also houses a skiff with a very finely caned *passenger seat*.