

**CEH Wallingford and GWR Museum Didcot**  
Thursday 27 September 2012

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This meeting has been organised by George Freeman

The **Centre for Ecology and Hydrology** (CEH) is part of Natural Environment Research Council and has four sites in the UK. We will visit the Wallingford one where we will hear about research in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, their interaction with the atmosphere and what it means for the human race and other living creatures. For example, they have been monitoring the flow of the River Thames since 1883, and its quality, and predicting the effect of changes on drinking water and biodiversity. They have recently (January) published a study on the changes in ladybird populations. We may hear about these.

OX10 8BB [www.ceh.ac.uk](http://www.ceh.ac.uk)

The **Didcot Railway Centre** is centred on the GWR Engine sheds where there is a large selection of locomotives, vintage coaches and other items. We will be told about the history of the Great Western Railway see the restored locos and signal boxes and look at a section of Brunel's broad gage track. This is a private visit (regrettably a non-steam day) and our guide will take us over the site.

OX11 7JN [www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk](http://www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk)

**Meet** at CEH for coffee and refreshments.

10.30 — 11.00	Assemble at CEH, Wallingford
11.00 — 13.00	Talk and tour of site
13.00 — 13.30	Drive to Didcot station
13.30 — 14.00	Lunch
14.00 — 16.30	Talk and tours
16.30	Tea and depart

**LATE ARRIVALS.** Phone George or John.

**CONTACTS**

Before the meeting John Belling [john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com](mailto:john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com) 07986 379935

On the morning only - George Freeman 07941 916 944 or John's mobile.

**COSTS**

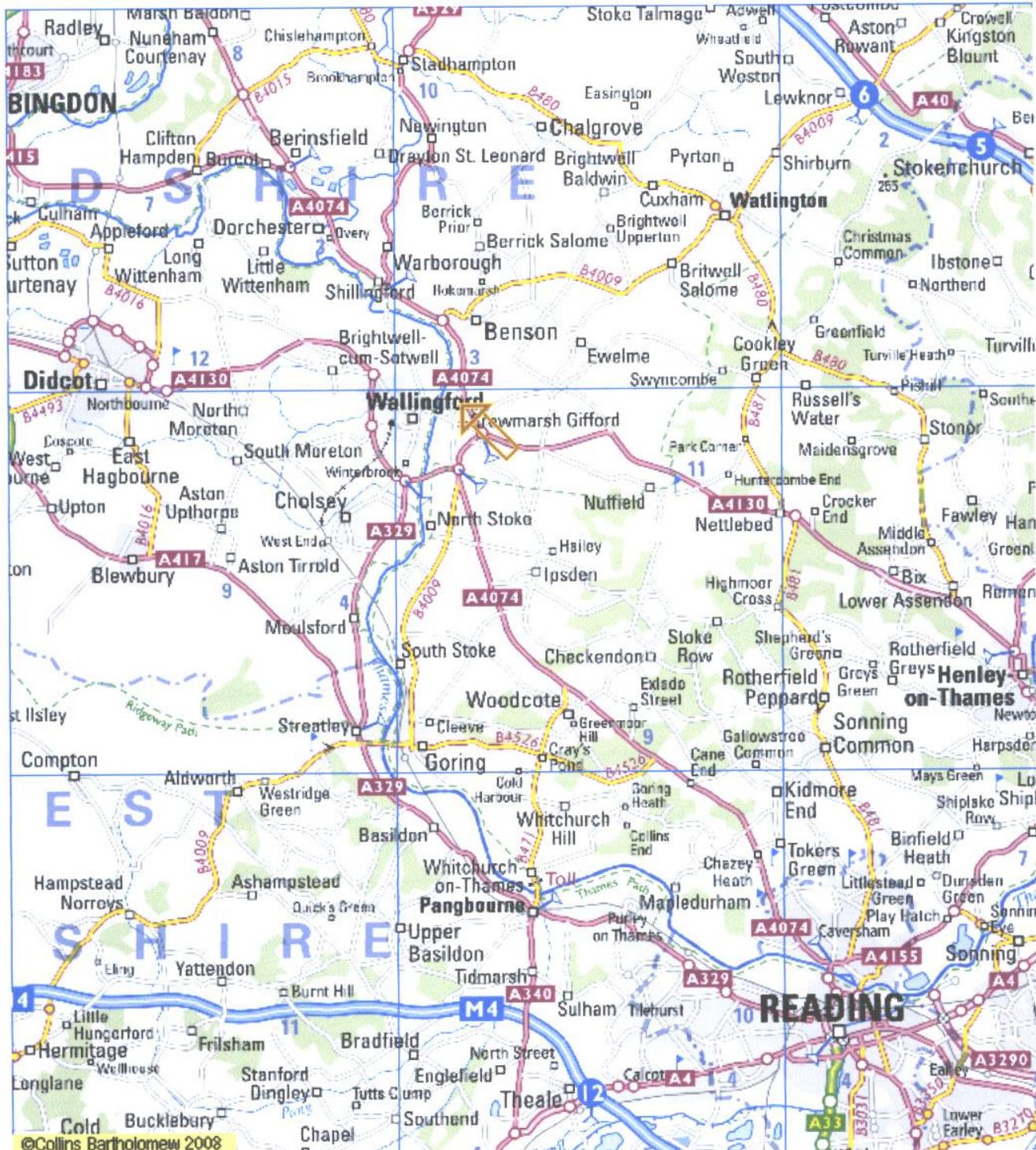
£27 each for a minimum of 15. No maximum. Refreshments included.

**Lunch** will be in the cafe at the Railway Centre. We will pre-order so that the food can be served quickly. See the Menu and choose on the application form. Vegetarians please contact me. They are licensed. I have to inform them a week in advance, ie 20 September.

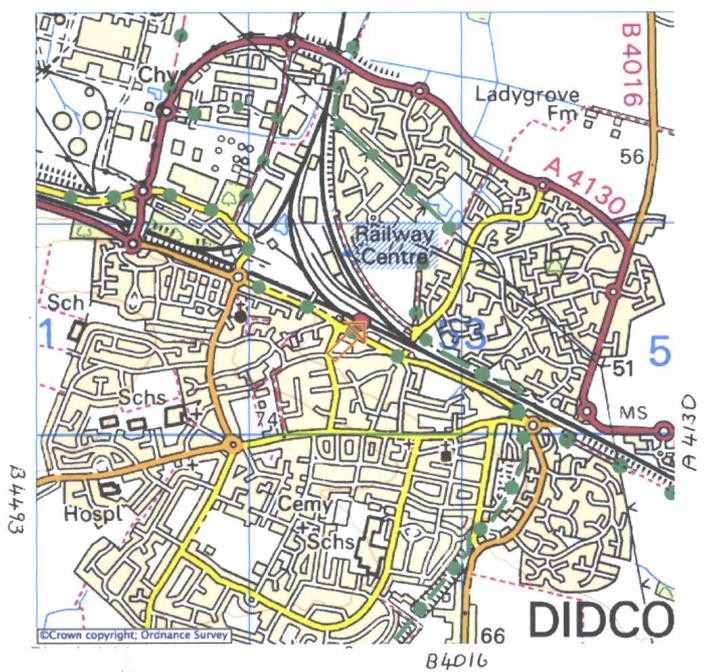
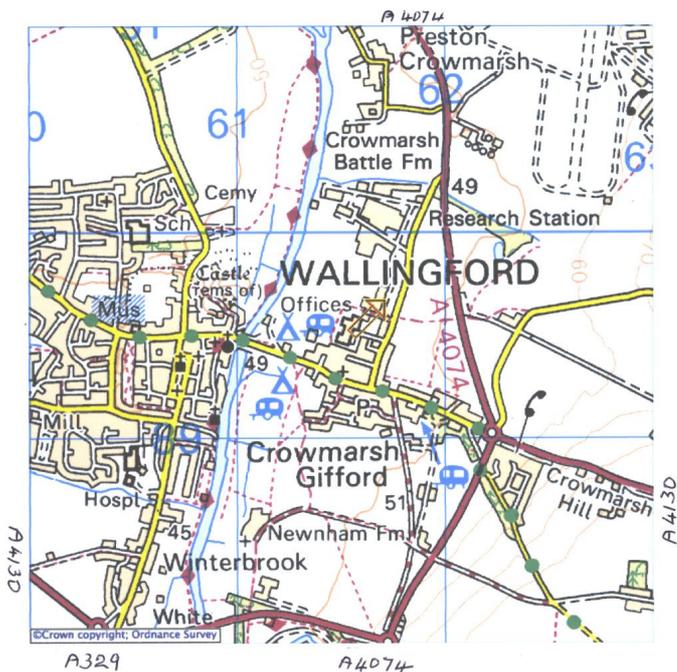
**MENU** Please choose between the two main courses

*Shepherds Pie or Beef Lasagne; served with season vegetables and roast, new or chipped potatoes.  
Pudding is fruit crumble and custard. Tea and coffee.*

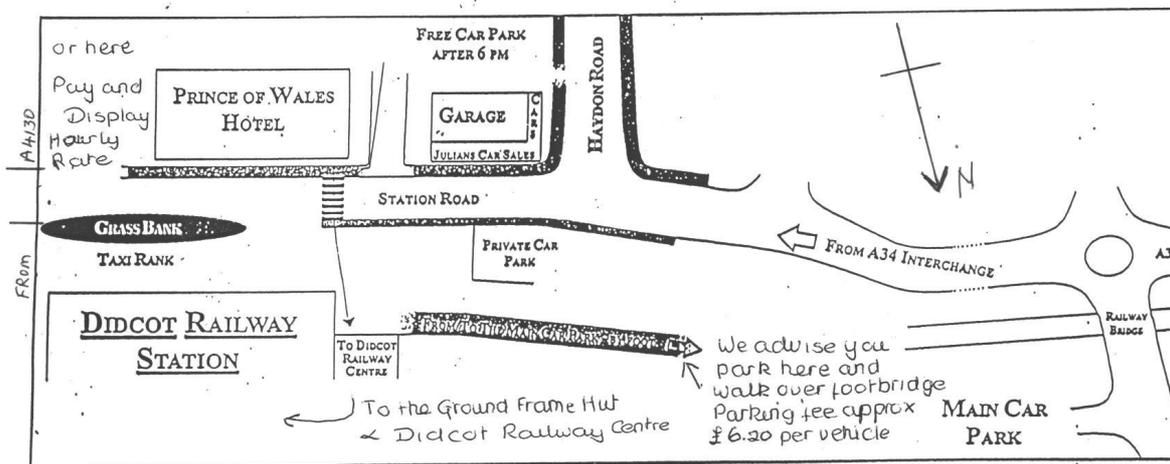
**CEH by road:** CEH's Wallingford site is in the village of Crowmarsh Gifford, about 20-30 minutes from the following motorway junctions: M4 J8/9, M4 J12 & M40 J6 (from London and the south-east); M4 J13 (from the west/south-west), and M40 J8 (from the midlands/north). From the Crowmarsh Roundabout (junction of the A4130 and A4074), travel west towards Wallingford and then turn right at the mini-roundabout in Crowmarsh Gifford, signed Maclean Building. Express bus service (X39/X40) run twice an hour from central Oxford (journey time is 25 minutes) and Reading station (40-45 minutes) to Crowmarsh Gifford.



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[Click here for a larger map](#)



## Didcot Railway Centre Visitor Parking and Access



**Parking** at Didcot. The big car park is at Didcot Parkway railway station and costs about £6 per day. There are other pay & display car parks nearby; pay by the hour. Walk through the station to the Railway Centre.