

This years Giro starts in South Warwickshire before meandering its way around an area of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds often neglected by tourists. Along the way you'll pass through pretty villages and rolling countryside before winding up at the focal point of Cotswold Alfa Day 2014, the magnificent Blenheim Palace. Clear directions of the route are given below and to help you further there is a map on page 6. There is a simple observational quiz to have a go at too. If driven non-stop the route can be completed in about 1½ hours, but please take your time - it's not a race. You'll probably enjoy the drive more if you are not stuck in a long convoy of cars. Try setting off at decent intervals and in small groups of 2 or 3 cars.

**The Alfa Romeo Owners Club expects all those taking part in Giro Panoramico to drive sensibly and legally. Please obey the speed limit at all times. All cars taking part must be road legal. The Alfa Romeo Owners Club accepts no responsibility for damage to persons or property, however caused, that may occur during Cotswold Alfa Day.**

## Information & Questions

The Norman Knight was built in 1880 as a bakery. Just before the first world war the owners added an off-licence. They were eventually granted a full licence and the bakery became the New Inn. It wasn't renamed the Norman Knight until much later.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month the Norman Knight hosts a classic car evening.

At the time of the Domesday Book Whichford was in Northamptonshire.

Whichford Hill is 239 m above sea-level.

For the first ½ mile after point 3 the road you are driving along marks the county boundary. To your left is Oxfordshire, to your right is Warwickshire.

### Question 1

At the cross-roads at point 6, the right pointing sign-post points to Chipping Norton and where else?

In the early hours of 8<sup>th</sup> April 1945 a Wellington Bomber from Moreton-in-Marsh suffered total engine failure and crashed close to Great Rollright killing all 6 of its Australian crew.

The junction at point 9 sits above a railway tunnel on the disused Banbury to Cheltenham railway line. The tunnel supports a large population of bats. The railway cutting north of the tunnel is a nature sanctuary and is accessed by the bridge at point 11.

### Question 2

As you turn right at point 10 what is the name of the road you have just driven down?

## The route (all distances quoted are approximate)

Whichford to Nether Worton. Approximately 13 miles. Eastwards into the ironstone country of 'Banburyshire'.

- 1 From Whichford village green with the Norman Knight in front of you turn right.
- 2 Follow the road around the green. You'll pass the village pump on your right. Continue to follow the road up Whichford Hill.
- 3 After a mile you will reach a cross-roads. Turn right. It is sign-posted to Great Rollright and Chipping Norton.
- 4 After 1¼ miles turn right. It is sign-posted to Little Rollright and Stow.
- 5 Follow this road for ½ a mile and then turn left, sign-posted for Great Rollright and Hook Norton.
- 6 Follow this road under the trees. After ½ a mile you will pass a crossroads. **Q1** Keep straight on, sign-posted for Hook Norton and Swerford.
- 7 Stay on this road. Ignore all side turnings.
- 8 After roughly 1¾ miles the 'main' road bends 90 degrees to the left and it is sign-posted to Hook Norton, but we need to take the side road to the right. It is sign-posted to Swerford.
- 9 Follow this narrow and often bumpy road for ½ a mile and then turn left, sign-posted to Hook Norton.
- 10 The road begins to drop down hill. After ½ a mile you will reach a t-junction, turn right sign-posted to Swerford. **Q2**
- 11 You will soon cross an old railway bridge.
- 12 ½ a mile after the bridge bear left, sign-posted to Swerford and Great Tew.
- 13 Just over ½ a mile will bring you to Swerford. The road drops down and bends hard right and then hard left as it crosses the tiny river Swere. Follow the road up into the village. In the village centre you will see a red phone box and a post box and the road bends sharp right. Now just follow the road up and out of the village until you reach a t-junction on the A361.

The cottages opposite the junction at point 14, together with the Mason's Arms, are known locally as Potato Town.

### Question 3

At the cross-roads at point 18 there is a blue cycle path sign pointing right. It points to Woodstock and where else?

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If you are interested Nether Worton House is up for sale and what is more the price has just been reduced! It was £8 million now it is just £6.75 million!

The roads around Hempton are supposedly haunted by a ghostly horseman. He has never been seen, but the thunder of his horse's hooves have been heard by countless folk, and has even caused cyclists to fall into ditches and horses to unseat their rider!

Mains water didn't reach Barford St Michael until 1960.

RAF Barford St John opened in July 1941. It was home to bomber training units flying Wellingtons and Mosquitos. In 1943 the station served as a flight test centre for the RAF's first jet aircraft the Gloster Meteor. RAF Barford St John featured in the 1949 movie 'Twelve O'clock High' starring Gregory Peck. Today the base is operated by the United States Air Force as a communications centre.

### Question 4

Having left Bloxham you will pass a large brown 'recreational attraction' sign pointing right. One of the attractions is a golf course. What is its name?

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South Newington sits on a bed of Ironstone that stretches across north Oxfordshire. An application to open a mine close to the village was made in 1958 but was refused to protect the beauty of the landscape.

### Question 5

The pub in South Newington is called the Duck on the Pond. As you drive through the village is it on your left or right?

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Mains water was made available to South Newington in the 1950s but mains drainage in didn't arrive until 1975.

- 14 Turn left onto the A361. It is sign-posted to Banbury and Bloxham.
- 15 Stay on the A361. You will very soon pass the Mason's Arm on the left and then a right turn to Enstone and The Tews.
- 16 Just over ½ a mile later take the right fork onto the B4031. It is sign-posted to Hempton and Deddington.
- 17 Follow this road. It includes some nice sweeping bends.
- 18 After 2½ miles you will reach a crossroads. Turn right, sign-posted to Nether Worton, Ledwell and Sandford. **Q3**
- 19 After 1¼ miles you will reach the hamlet of Nether Worton. The entrance to Nether Worton House is in front of you. Follow the road around to the right. Nether Worton to Church Enstone. Approximately 17 miles. Turning north, then west we double back on ourselves before passing one of Britain's (supposedly) prettiest villages.
- 20 Follow the road out of Nether Worton. You will soon reach a 90 degree left-hand bend.
- 21 1 mile after the bend take the left turn sign-posted to Duns Tew.
- 22 Follow this road for 2 miles. There are a few uneven patches so be careful of grounding.
- 23 After 2 miles take the left turn sign-posted to Hempton and the Barfords. It is quite a tight turn.
- 24 Stay on this road for 2½ miles until you reach Hempton.
- 25 When you reach the main road turn right and then immediately left, sign-posted to the Barfords.
- 26 After 1 mile you will reach the village of Barford St Michael. Follow the road through the village. The road gets quite narrow. As you leave the village you will cross the river Swere again.
- 27 You will soon reach Barford St John. Follow the road through the village. As you leave the village and head up hill there is sharp left-hand bend.
- 28 On your right is RAF Barford St John.
- 29 Stay on this road. You will soon reach Bloxham. Keep going until you reach a mini-roundabout on the A361.
- 30 At the roundabout turn left. It is sign-posted to Chipping Norton.
- 31 You will soon pass a Murco Filling station. **Q4**
- 32 You now have a nice run of 4 miles. You will pass through the village of South Newington which has a couple of tight bends. **Q5**
- 33 2 miles after South Newington turn left, sign-posted to Enstone and The Tews. This is the B4022.
- 34 After 1 mile you will pass the entrance to Great Tew quarry.

## Question 6

As you bear right at point 36 there is a red triangular warning sign advising drivers of what village institution?

Great Tew is an estate village that was largely rebuilt in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to be deliberately pleasing to the eye. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century it fell into disrepair and by the 1960's most of the cottages were derelict. In the 1980s when James Johnston inherited the estate he began a programme of restoration. Some of the cottages were sold to private individuals to fund the rejuvenation of the rest of the village.

If you fancy a drink the Falklands Arms in Great Tew is well worth a visit.

In 1898 the governors of Sandford St Martin school were severely rebuked for trying to divert a grant for an assistant teacher to the provision of a water supply.

Until 1884 Sandford St Martin was simply called Sandford. The suffix was added to differentiate the village from the other two Sandfords in Oxfordshire.

Half a mile after joining the B4030 (at point 42) you will pass a crossroads. The sign-post pointing left indicates 'Whiteways Technical Centre' which is actually the home of the Lotus F1 team.

Enstone Airfield opened in September 1942 as a bomber training base. It was also home to a mysterious squadron of heavily modified, black liveried Lancasters. They were kept away from the training unit and, unless flying, out of sight of all other personnel. However, there is no official record of them having ever been at Enstone.

Half a mile after turning left (at point 46) you will pass a large farm on the left. This is Heythrop Zoological Gardens and home to Amazing Animals Ltd. They hire out exotic animals to the TV and film industry. One of the directors is part of the Chipperfield family who used to run circuses and in fact the site used to be the winter quarters of the circus animals. The site has often been the target of animal rights protesters.

In the 1920s and 1930s schools inspectors reported that the remoteness of Heythrop hindered children's contact with the outside world and made boys, in particular, timid and distrustful.

## Question 7

In Heythrop one of the last houses on the left is named after which Shropshire town?

- 35 150 metres beyond the quarry turn left. It is sign-posted to Great Tew but the sign is very dirty and difficult to read.
- 36 After  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile bear right. **Q6** (If you'd like to stop and have a look around Great Tew there is a car park on the left.)
- 37 Follow the road. (It does not go through the pretty village centre.) You will pass, on the left, the entrance to Great Tew Manor and further on the gateway to St Michael's Church.
- 38 After  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile turn left and then immediately left again at the t-junction. As you wait to turn left look ahead of you and you may catch a glimpse, through the trees, of the ruins of the massive walled kitchen gardens of the Great Tew estate.
- 39 After 1 mile you will reach a crossroads. Turn right, sign-posted to Sandford, Barton and Woodstock.
- 40 You will soon reach the village of Sandford St Martin. Follow the road as it passes the church of St Martin. At the little village green the road curves to the left.
- 41 Having left the village you will pass a right turn to Glympton and Woodstock. Ignore it and carry straight on.
- 42 You will soon enter The Bartons. When you reach the t-junction with the B4030 turn right. It is sign-posted to Enstone and Chipping Norton.
- 43 You now have a nice run of 3 miles. You will pass through the hamlet of Gagingwell. You will also pass the entrance to Enstone Airfield and Business Park.
- 44  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile after the airfield entrance you will reach a staggered cross-roads with the B4022. Keep straight on and enter Church Enstone.

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Church Enstone to Blenheim Palace. Approximately 16 miles. Finally we head south towards Blenheim.

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- 45 Just past the 30mph signs turn right. It is sign-posted to Little Tew.
- 46 After  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles turn left. It is sign-posted to Heythrop.
- 47 Follow this road for 2 miles.
- 48 Turn left at the t-junction. It is sign-posted to Dunthrop and Heythrop.
- 49 Now follow this road for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles. You will pass through the hamlets of Dunthrop and Heythrop. In Heythrop there are a couple of 90 degree bends. **Q7**
- 50 You will eventually reach a t-junction with the A3400. Turn left, towards Oxford and Woodstock.
- 51 After 1 mile go straight on at the traffic lights.
- 52 Another 3 miles will bring you to Enstone. There is a speed camera in the village. Follow the main road through the village.

### Question 8

$\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile after leaving Enstone there is a left turn to Radford. What type of road is it?

The main road through Glympton was once part of the main road between London and Aberystwyth.

Glympton is located on the River Glyme. Our route today crosses the Glyme four times.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century local man Thomas Killingworth took over the inn on the London road in Wootton and believing an Englishman's home to be his castle he called it The Killingworth Castle. Another indication of his vanity is that in his will he left a bequest to ensure that the inscription on his tombstone would be constantly renewed.

### Question 9

On the end wall of the Killingworth Castle there is a black and white sign indicating that Stout, Cider and what other beverage is available?

Wootton is sometimes called Wootton-by-Woodstock to distinguish it from the other two Woottons in Oxfordshire.

The River Glyme rises just south of Chipping Norton (close to a certain Mr Clarkson's house) and flows south for 18 miles. It is dammed in several places to create lakes and ponds most notably at Bladon where 'Capability' Brown used the river to form the lake in front of Blenheim Palace.

### Question 10

In Woodstock there is a sign on the wall right next to the speed camera. What does the sign say?

In Woodstock about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile after the speed camera you will pass the Black Prince pub. Each August this is the where the Mock Mayor of Old Woodstock is dunked in the Glyme in a ceremony dating back to 1776.

During the reign of Mary I (1553-1558) her half-sister Elizabeth (later Elizabeth I) was imprisoned in the gatehouse of Woodstock Manor. Elizabeth was held there for almost a year. The Manor was destroyed during the civil war and sixty years later its remains were cleared for the construction of Blenheim Palace.

The buildings and courtyards of Blenheim Palace cover over 7 acres. There are 187 rooms in the Palace and it is the only palace in Britain that is not a royal home.

- 53 As you leave Enstone you will pass a Texaco filling station. **Q8**
- 54 2 miles after Enstone you will pass through Kiddington.
- 55  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile after Kiddington turn left, sign-posted to Glympton and Wootton.
- 56 Follow the road, it is the B4027 by the way, for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. As you enter Glympton the road bends sharp left and then in the village it bears right and it sign-posted to Wootton and Islip. As you drive around the right-hander note the village stocks on your right.
- 57 Follow the road out of the village.
- 58 After about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles you will reach Wootton. Follow the road as it passes the Killingworth Castle Inn. **Q9**
- 59 350 metres after the pub turn right at the crossroads. It is sign-posted to Wootton and there is a large pine tree on the corner.
- 60 A further 350 metres will bring you to a t-junction. Turn right. There is a green sign-post pointing to the village centre.
- 61 After 200 metres you will reach a t-junction close to the village school. Turn left. There is a green sign-post pointing to Woodstock.
- 62 Now follow the road through the village. It starts to drop down hill and curves to the left. At the bottom of the hill it bends right before crossing the river Glyme and bending right again. As the road leaves the village it curves to the left.
- 63 Follow the road and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile outside the village take the left turn sign-posted to Woodstock.
- 64 After  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile you will reach a t-junction with the A44. Turn left sign-posted to Oxford and Woodstock.
- 65 After  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile you'll enter Woodstock. Note the speed camera. **Q10** The road crosses the Glyme and then climbs gently up into the town centre.
- 66 About 40 metres before the pedestrian crossing turn right into Market Street. The King's Arms Hotel is on your right.
- 67 After 200 metres Market Street becomes Market Place and the Town Hall is on your left. Then Sheep Street merges from the left. There are no road markings so take care. The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene is on your left and the Oxfordshire Museum is on your right.
- 68 Continue straight on. You are now in Park Street. You will soon come to a sort of walled courtyard with a gateway in it. This is the Town Gate and it is our entrance to Blenheim. Have your ticket ready and the Blenheim staff will wave you through.
- 69 Once through the gate look right and you'll see the Palace across the lake.
- 70 Continue along the drive and allow the marshalls to guide you to your parking spot. You made it. Well done! Enjoy the rest of Cotswold Alfa Day.

**IF YOU HAVE HAD A GO AT THE QUIZ PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 6**