



Adrian's Rideout 2026

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GO WEST, YOUNG MAN



From my youth, when cowboy stories were the thing, I've always remembered the above, so, having taken on the job of organising a ride-out, I followed that advice.

An excellent turnout of 18 folks on 15 bikes met at Lasham Gliding Club café on the morning of Sunday 19th April. Splitting into two groups, one led by John Martin (thank you, John) and the other by myself, we set off at 10am, following country lanes (as you've probably guessed) to the west, joining the A303 south of Basingstoke.

Just three miles on the A303 and we turned off and headed for Stockbridge.



From there, we went cross-country through farmland, with the obligatory hold-up by a horse box, to Oscar's café at Tidworth, where we were joined by Dean and Lesley, who live nearby. Unfortunately, when I checked out Oscar's on a previous Sunday it was quiet; today it was heaving, and we had to leave before refreshments as we had a lunch booking at 12:30.



On to Upavon on one of my favourite roads. I love Salisbury Plain—great roads and little traffic.



Unfortunately, at Upavon there was a road closure, for which Garmin and TomTom chose two different diversions. In spite of that, and after running repairs to Erica's top box mount, the two groups converged at Langford Lakes café for our lunch.



Langford Lakes, formerly gravel pits, have been turned into a bird sanctuary, with walks around the lakes. In the café overlooking one of the lakes, a table had been reserved so that we could be seated together.

A convivial lunch completed, and after much chatter, we gradually broke up into groups or singles to make our way home.



My thanks to Mike and Lesley, and Chris and Alison, for tail-ending the groups. Also to the weather gods for smiling on the righteous and giving us a lovely day out.

A big thank you for your donations to the Air Ambulance Charity, we raised £35.00.

