What is the Wallingford Maternity and Birthing Centre?
The Wallingford Maternity and Birthing Centre is a midwifery-led unit with a homely atmosphere. This means it is a place for women, who are likely to have straightforward pregnancies, to have their babies. It is staffed by highly skilled midwives and maternity support workers. It is smaller, more home-like and much calmer than a busy hospital.

“*You are more likely to be looked after by a midwife you have got to know during your pregnancy*”

What is special about the Wallingford Maternity and Birthing Centre?
The Wallingford Maternity and Birthing Centre is a purpose-built centre. It has three birth rooms – two with birthing pools and en-suite shower rooms. The rooms are also equipped with bean bags, birth balls and other equipment to help you feel comfortable and secure. There is a lounge which may also be available to you and your birth partners to use during your labour. The postnatal room has two beds, a shared bathroom and dining area.

As well as use of the pool for labour or birth, the unit can offer you massage and aromatherapy by the midwives. There is music via the Bluetooth sound system and mood-lighting in the pool rooms.

The unit has a team of experienced midwives based in Wallingford that is supported by colleagues from the Didcot community midwife team, enabling the unit to provide care during births twenty-four hours a day.

“*The unit has been awarded the Global UNICEF Baby Friendly Award for the care and support the unit provides to new mothers with breastfeeding*”

Wallingford Maternity and Birthing Centre as an option for delivery
The decision about where to have your baby can be made at any stage of your pregnancy, even during labour. You will be able to discuss this at length with your midwife who will outline your options, and help you to decide the safest place for birth.

“*Research shows that women who have one-to-one support from midwives during birth and who are in a more homely atmosphere labour better, request less pain relief and are more satisfied with their births*”

Our unit prides itself on giving excellent breastfeeding support twenty-four hours a day. 90% of our women leave the unit breastfeeding!

Who can have a baby at the Wallingford Maternity and Birthing Centre?
Because the Wallingford Maternity and Birthing Centre is a midwifery-led unit, it can offer a service to women who have straightforward pregnancies and who are likely to give birth normally.

This means women:

- between 37 and 42 weeks pregnant when labour starts
- having a single baby
- where previous babies have been born normally
- with no medical conditions for mother or baby which might affect the birth.

“*Our midwives are skilled in helping women to achieve the birth of their choice*”

If you fall outside those guidelines but still wish to consider having your baby at the Wallingford Maternity and Birthing Centre, please contact a Supervisor of Midwives (details overleaf) to discuss your options.
Frequently asked questions

It's my first baby – can I give birth at the Wallingford Maternity and Birthing Centre?
Yes – if you meet our criteria you are very welcome as a first-time mother. The home-like atmosphere and one-to-one support from experienced midwives can be very reassuring to women in labour for the first time.

I don’t live in Wallingford – can I still come to the unit?
Yes – many of our women come from around the county and further afield. Please discuss your options with your own community midwife if you are from outside our catchment area.

Can I have a look around?
Yes – we strongly recommend you come and look around the unit. Tours are available twice a week – on Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Please phone the unit on 01491 826 037 or use the email below to book a place on a tour:
wallingfordcommunitymidwives@ouh.nhs.uk
Because we value women’s privacy during birth we may have to change tour times or dates if someone is in labour.

I’m already booked somewhere else – can this be changed?
If you’d like to have your baby with us, speak to your community midwife when you next see her.

Find us on Facebook

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Wallingford Community Hospital
Reading Road
Wallingford, Oxford
OX10 9DU

Wallingford Maternity and Birthing Centre 01491 826 037
Supervisor of Midwives 01865 741 166
John Radcliffe Hospital
Email: wallingfordcommunitymidwives@ouh.nhs.uk

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