Introduction

Huntingdonshire District Council

This ride uses quiet roads in pleasant countryside. It includes the burial place of the landscape architect “Capability” Brown. Like all such designers, he could not possibly have lived long enough to see his work in its maturity, and yet we can enjoy it over 200 years later. Since “Capability” worked in so many locations around the country it may come as a surprise that he had to be lord of the Manor of Fenstanton.

Some points of interest on this route are a memorial to RAF and other service men and women at the former airfield at Graveley. A 17th century turf maze at Hilton, and a manor house which has been continually occupied since the 12th century. An optional short detour at St Ives leads to a chapel on a 13th century bridge, one of only three in the country.

Cover photo shows Fenstanton Clockhouse.

Points of Interest

Godmanchester (A)

- Godmanchester lies across the River Great Ouse from Huntingdon and is linked by a meadow causeway and stone bridge. The town was founded as a Roman settlement on the crossroads of the Via Devana. The town is laid out in a pentagonal street pattern.
- The town received its charter from King John in 1212 AD and is famous for the rare 15th century chapel on the beautiful bridge, one of only 3 such chapels in the country. Note also the 18th century Bridge House on the south side of the river.
- Oliver Cromwell lived in the town for some years in the 17th century. His statue is on Market Hill.
- The Norris Museum tells the story of Huntingdonshire. A Hunting Stone - one of the three surviving hundred stones of Huntingdonshire was moved here in 1952.
- All Saints church has connections with the RAF Pathfinder Force, which operated from Graveley airfield. The church key is obtainable from the Rector at Offord d’Arcy.
- Both the Offords contain many old houses, most notably the grand Manor House across the road from Offord Cluny church.

Offord Cluny (B)

- The church is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. On the north side of the church, in the Currington family plot, is a tombstone commemorating Frank Charles Currington of the 1st Huntingdonshire Cyclists Batallion, “who gave his life for his country 23rd November, 1916, aged 21 years”.
- Near the church is the Manor House - a 17th century house with an 18th century front.

Offord d’Arcy (C)

- The Chinese Bridge is a replica of the original which was built in 1827 and designed by the architect Gallier in the then fashionable Chinese Chippendale Style. From here there are splendid views of the River Great Ouse.
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St. Ives Town (H)

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Hemingford Grey (I)

- At the end of Church Street is the 12th century church. The steeple was blown down in a storm in about 1730 and the tower is now capped in an unusual manner.
- A short way along the river bank, on the opposite side of the road from the church, there are fine views of the river and the moated Manor House. It is about the same age as the church and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited houses in Britain. The Manor is open to the public by appointment – Tel: 01480 463134. The present owners are descendants of the writer Lucy Boston who recreated the house as Green Knowe in her magical books.

Getting Here...

Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950
Bus & Coach Enquiries: 08705 808080
Traveline (bus/coach/rail): 0870 6082608

Huntingdon Tourist Information
Tel: 01480 388588  Fax: 01480 388591
Email: Hunts.TIC@huntsdc.gov.uk

St Neots Tourist Information Centre
The Old Court, 8 New Street
St Neots, Cambs PE19 1AE
Tel: 01480 388788  Fax: 01480 388791
Email: STNeots.TIC@huntsdc.gov.uk

Electronic Tourist Information Kiosks:
- Huntington St Benedict’s Court, Huntingdon
- Ramsey Great Whyte, Ramsey
- St Ives Market Hill, St Ives
For details of accommodation vacancies, contact Huntingdon or St Neots Tourist Information, or Huntingdonshire Association for Tourism’s Vacancy Line Tel: 0870 2254858 (national rate call).

If you require a large print version of this information, please contact Huntingdon Tourist Information.

Huntingdonshire District Council

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Godmanchester to Graveley
Leave GODMANCHESTER (A) on Silver Street and head through OFFORD CLUNY (B) to OFFORD D’ARCY (C). Turn left to climb gently to GRAVELEY (D), perhaps stopping to enjoy the panoramic view which is behind you.

Graveley to St Ives
Continue through the village for about 1 1⁄2 miles. At the A1198 turn right (take care - fast moving traffic) and immediately left to HILTON (E). Cross the B1040 and keep on to a T-junction at the far side of the village. Turn left for about 2 miles where you must make an enforced detour to use a bridge over the busy A14. At the T-junction shortly before the main road turn left to FENSTANTON (F and G). Go through the village and at the King William IV go straight on to ST IVES. Use the cycleway/footpath on the north and east side of the road if traffic is heavy, follow this taking a right turn to ST IVES. At the roundabout go straight on along Hemingford Road.

St Ives to Godmanchester (part of National Cycle Network Route 51)
If you are visiting ST IVES (H) turn right into London Road just beyond the roundabout. Cross the old bridge with a chapel on it to reach the town, and leave by the same route. Do not use the by-pass road, which is certain to be busy with motor traffic. Otherwise keep forward to HEMINGFORD GREY. After about 1 mile, where traffic turns left into Pound Lane, keep forward (signed “The river” “Unsuitable for long vehicles”). Take the first right into Church Street (I). Leave via Church Lane which is on the left with no name sign just before the church, opposite Hemingford Grey House which leads to Bragg Lane. Turn right into Manor Road which leads to HEMINGFORD ABBOTS High Street and Common Lane. At the end of Common Lane, go straight on beyond the gate on the cycleway until it emerges on a tarmac road (Cow Lane). Turn left to the end to reach Cambridge Road. Turn right to enter GODMANCHESTER.

Short cuts
None are recommended on this ride. The A1198 and A14 are emphatically NOT recommended for cycling. The B1040 from Hilton to Fenstanton is also not recommended.