

# Introduction

Distance	19m/30km
Start Point	Godmanchester
OS Map	Landranger 153 Bedford and Huntingdon

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 time 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 15th 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 medieval 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 contains many ancient and interesting houses including the Manor House in Earning Street, which dates back to 1603.
- Island Hall is an important mid 18th century mansion of great charm, owned and restored by an award-winning interior designer. This Georgian house enjoys a tranquil river setting with formal gardens and an ornamental island. The house is open to groups of visitors. Pre-booking is essential Tel 01480 459676.

### St. Ives Town (H)

- The town 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 Hursting Stone - one of the three surviving Hundred stones of Huntingdonshire was moved here in 1952. All Saints church, at the west end of the town had its spire demolished by an aircraft colliding with it in World War I.

### 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.



Hemingford Grey



Chinese Bridge, Godmanchester

- 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.

### Offord Cluny (B)

- The mill, to your right as you approach Offord, is now converted to residential use. Fine views of the river can be seen here but watch for the traffic on the narrow lane.
- 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 d'Arcy (C)

- 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 Battalion, "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.

### Graveley (D)

- On the right, about 1/2 mile before the village and in the entrance to Cotton Farm, is a small memorial to those men and women of the RAF Pathfinder Force who served at this former airfield in World War II between 1942 and 1945. The connection with the RAF is commemorated on the village sign in the village centre.

### Hilton (E)

- At the left turn leading to Fenstanton, note the large village green. A short distance to the right is a turf maze. These turf mazes were once a feature of many villages, but this survivor is a rarity. The maze was created in 1660 by William Sparrow, as the monument in the centre tells us.

### Fenstanton Clock House (F)

- Just before the 16th century King William IV inn in the High Street, is the Clock House which dates from the 17th century and which has been restored in recent years. The clock is from Conington Castle which was demolished in the 1950s.

### Fenstanton Churchyard (G)

- Consider making a detour through Chequer Street, which is opposite the King William IV. At about 1/4 mile, turn right into Church Street leading to the church which stands in a picturesque corner of the village. The churchyard contains the base of a preaching cross, and on the far side of the church is a stone which tells us "Lancelot Brown (Capability), Lord of the Manor of Fenstanton 1767 - 1783 lies buried near this spot". He lived in the manor house, although he travelled widely in his landscaping work.



Hilton Maze

## 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:

Huntingdon 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

[www.huntsleisure.org](http://www.huntsleisure.org)

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# Huntingdonshire

Cycle Ride 11 - 19m/30km  
Godmanchester & Graveley



## Drift Through Time...

[www.huntsleisure.org](http://www.huntsleisure.org)

# The Route

## 1 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.

## 2 Graveley to St Ives

Continue through the village for about 1½ 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.

## 3 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 Braggs 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.

