There is nothing really wild about the countryside on this ride - it is just gently undulating and free of motor traffic. But it does take us to the Hamerton Wildlife Park and past a nature reserve, which may offer a break from riding.

At Leighton Bromswold, you can see the fascinating gateway to a castle which was never built. There is also a Hundred stone - a meeting point in medieval times for the collection of taxes and the dispensation of justice. Huntingdonshire had four “Hundreds” or groups of parishes, and three of the Hundred stones survive, all featured in these rides.

A number of short cuts are described, but all of the lanes within the main circuit can be used for pleasant cycling.

Points of Interest

Hamerton (A)
- The Wildlife Park, open all year, specialises in rare, endangered and unusual species and is a wildlife conservation sanctuary. The church has traces of medieval wall paintings. The late 16th century manor house is now a farm.

Coppingford (F)
- Coppingford stands on the site of a destroyed medieval village. The church and moats of a large manor house can still be traced. Charles Stuart slept here one night in 1646 when making a secret visit to the religious community at Little Gidding.

Archers Wood (G)
- As you enter Sawtry, there is a nature reserve opposite St Judith’s Lane, which is open to the public. This 45-acre wood is a prominent feature in the landscape lying at the foot of a boulder ridge close to the fen edge of Huntingdonshire visible from the A1. An extensive path and ride system allows good access to all of the four woodland compartments.

Sawtry (H)
- This large village has plenty of places for refreshment. We do not know when the village of Sawtry was founded, but three churches were mentioned at Sawtry in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The three parishes were Sawtry All Saints, Sawtry St Andrews and Sawtry Judith.

- The Cistercian Abbey of Sawtry was founded by Simon de St. Liz, Earl of Northampton in 1147 and was situated in the North East corner of the village. The three parishes were consolidated in the 19th century and in 1879 a new church was erected and dedicated to All Saints and St Andrew.

Old Weston (B)
- The somewhat scattered village stands mainly on the north side of the stream, but the church is detached from the village and is on the south-west side of it. The village is said to have extended south of the church but was burnt down. The church has a north doorway from about 1200, and a sundial on one of the buttresses. Inside are 14th century wall paintings of St. Margaret, St. Catherine and John the Baptist.

Leighton Bromswold (C)
- To the rear of the church is a 15th century moated gatehouse, with a tower at each corner. It is now a private residence. A castle was to have been built, but only the gatehouse was constructed.

In front of the church is a Hundred stone, thought to be 1,000 years old. It was a sort of judgement and of tax collection. Other Hundred stones are at Iseeldan and the Norris Museum at St. Ives.

Barham (O)
- The village lies on high ground in the middle of the parish on the road from Spaldwick to Buckworth. The church is located at the north end of the village, and near to it are two timber-framed thatched cottages. South of the church is an 18th century farmouse built of stone and brick with a tiled roof. The church has a Norman arcade, a 12th century foot and a 13th century channel. There is a coffin lid from the 14th century, and 17th century box pews and altar table.

Buckworth (I)
- Once a centre for hunting bucks in the surrounding woods, it is now a small village with a large church, which has a 14th century tower that can be seen for miles around. There are old sundials on two buttresses, and a collection of gargoyles. Inside the church is an unusual memorial, a tribute to a father and his two sons. Walter Yeather was killed at Ladysmith in the Boer War and his two sons who were also army officers were killed in action in France in the Great War of 1914-18.
The Route

1. Sawtry to Winwick
   From the public car park in St. Judith's Lane continue to the end of the lane, and then turn left to the centre of the village and at the crossroads turn left into Gidding Road. Continue for about 3 miles to HAMERTON (A). At a T-junction turn left (towards Alconbury Weston) and immediately right to pass the church and arrive at another T-junction. Here turn right and immediately left to WINWICK.

2. Winwick to Old Weston
   At the T-junction, turn left on the B660 to OLD WESTON (B).

3. Old Weston to Sawtry
   At the south end of the village, at the bottom of a descent, turn left to LEIGHTON BROMSWOLD (C). About a mile beyond Leighton Bromswold, turn right signposted BARHAM (D) and then at the T-junction turn left to BUCKWORTH (E).

   Soon after Buckworth is an offset crossroads which is on a bend (watch out for traffic). Cross this road (i.e. turn left and immediately right) and after about 1 mile, turn left at a T-junction and soon right to COPPINGFORD (F).

   Enjoy the panoramic view which opens out just beyond Hill Top Farm, which is aptly named. Easily identifiable are the chimneys at Yaxley brickworks and the distinctive tower of Conington church beyond the traffic of the A1(M). Descend the hill (G) to return to SAWTRY.

The best entry to the village is to turn left at the foot of the hill, about ½ mile before the village. This road has no signpost, but is signed to prohibit large vehicles. This lane is St. Judith’s Lane, and returns us to the car park. Note the farmhouse with Flemish gables at the entrance to the village.

Possible short cuts

From Hamerton to Coppingford to give a 9m/14km circuit:
After turning left in HAMERTON keep forward for a little over 1 mile then turn left to COPPINGFORD to rejoin the main ride in Section 3.

From Howson’s Lodge to Brook Lodge to give a 15m/24km circuit:
About 2 miles past WINWICK, where the B660 bends right near Howson’s Lodge farm, turn left for about 3 miles. Just before a right bend turn left to rejoin the main ride in Section 3, heading for COPPINGFORD.

From Hamerton to near Leighton Bromswold to give a circuit of 12m/19km:
At the T-junction just past Hamerton church turn left for about 1 mile. Then, at an off-set crossroads turn right and immediately left for another mile towards Leighton Bromswold. Turn left (no signpost) to BARHAM and then turn left to rejoin the main ride in section 3.