Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>27m/43km, or as little as 16m/29km</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start Point</td>
<td>St Ives</td>
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<td>OS Map</td>
<td>Landranger 142 Peterborough, 153, Bedford and Huntingdon, 154, Cambridge and Newmarket</td>
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This interesting ride explores a little known corner of Huntingdonshire. Stone signposts, a holy well, a haunted inn, an earthwork from the Civil War and the great fen drainage system are just some of the things encountered. The 17th century fen drains were designed without the aid of aerial surveys and computers, and dug without mechanical plant. Near Bluntisham and Somersham we find some orchards - a change from the countryside in the earlier and later parts of the ride.

For those from outside the area the chance to explore St Ives is an added bonus.

The ride is described as a basic circuit with optional (but highly recommended) detours so as to allow riders to create a length of ride which suits them.

A word of warning - some of the roads are busy, but it would be a pity to miss out on an interesting ride because of these short stretches of road. Their use has been minimised, and with reasonable care they can be used safely. In particular, the short stretch of A43 has a wide grass verge which can be walked.

Cover photo shows Holywell Village

Points of Interest

**St Ives (A)**
- 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.

**Bluntisham (I)**
- The church has a polygonal apse and the Rectory has a 17th century doorway, re-used in a 19th century front.
- The parapet memorial, in the centre of the village, was built in 1911. This instrument measures atmospheric pressure and temperature, and the graph can be seen. An inscription under the roof tells of its origin.

**Earth (J)**
- Along the A1123 are the southern ends of the Old and New Bedford Rivers, the main parts of the fen drainage system constructed by engineer Cornelius Vermuyden in the 17th century. Note the memorial to the airmen killed in a nearby aerial collision in January 1942 during World War II.
- Along the track here beside the Old Bedford River and to the right, is The Bulwark - an earthwork dating from the Civil War built for the defence of the river crossing.

**Somersham (G)**
- In World War II, there was a grass airfield near here to the south west. Originally designed as a decoy airfield, a dummy to deflect enemy attacks from the operational airfields nearby. Later in the war it was used for practising night time landings and take-offs in enemy occupied Europe. At the junction with the St Ives Road is another direction stone - this one is dated 1773.
- Manor Farm is a Jacobean manor house. The church is small, towerless and Early English (1180 – 1275).

**Woodhurst Village (N)**
- A very pretty “ring” village worth exploring. The church has a shingled oak turret.

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<tr>
<th>Cycle Ride 12 – 27m/43km</th>
<th>St Ives &amp; Oldhurst</th>
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**Huntingdonshire**

Getting Here...

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

**Huntingdon Tourist Information**
- Tel: 01480 385858  Fax: 01480 385951
- Email: Hunts.TIC@huntsdc.gov.uk

**ST Neots Tourist Information Centre**
- The Old Court, High Street
- ST Neots, Cambs PE19 1AE
- Tel: 01480 387878  Fax: 01480 387971
- Email: STNeots.TIC@huntsdc.gov.uk

**Electronic Tourist Information Kiosks:**
- Huntington ST Benedicts Church, 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 2254498 (national rate call).

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

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The Route

1 St Ives to Needingworth
Leave ST IVES (A) on Needingworth Road. At a T-junction with the A1123 (still Needingworth Road) turn right. At a double roundabout (B) keep forward on the A1123, using the shared cycleway/footpath. At a further roundabout, about ½ mile ahead, where the bypass starts, take the second exit to NEEDINGWORTH.

2 The Needingworth detours (4 miles - optional, but recommended)
In the village turn right to HOLYWELL (C). Retrace to NEEDINGWORTH (D) and take the next turn on the right down Overcote Lane. Retrace to NEEDINGWORTH.

3 Needingworth to Colne
Continue through the village to where this road rejoins the by-pass (A123) This is a busy road – take care! Turn right to BLUNTISHAM (E). Take the first turn on the left (High Street). Bear right past the barograph memorial and take the next left towards Colne. If you intend to use the short cut (see below) soon turn left again. Otherwise keep going forward to COLNE.

4 The Earith detour (3 miles - optional, but recommended)
If you intend to ride this detour turn right into East Street, near The Green Man public house. Soon, at a T-junction turn right on the B1050 to EARITH. At the A1123 turn left for ¼ mile to Earith Sluice (F). Retrace via the B1050 through COLNE to SOMERSHAM.

5 Colne to Pidley
If you omit the Earith detour, keep forward to the B1050, then turn left to SOMERSHAM (G) to join the B1089 through the village to PIDLEY (The Mad Cat).

6 Pidley to St Ives
At The Mad Cat keep forward to OLDHURST (H), another quiet “ring” village worth a little exploration. Leave the village on the road towards Woodhurst (so as to minimise the ride on the A141) and at a T-junction turn right to the A141 (This road is very busy - take care!). Turn left on this road for ½ mile (walking on the grass verge) and then right to BROUGHTON (I). Turn left by the church (towards The Raveleys) for nearly 1 mile to a crossroads, where you turn left and go through KINGS RIPTON to a staggered crossroads with the B1090. Turn left and continue straight over 2 roundabouts to pass RAF WYTON (J) main gate, and soon turn right into Mere Way (signposted Houghton), to its end. Turn left on the A1123 and immediately right to HOUGHTON (K). It is worth making a detour right to WYTON (L). Otherwise keep forward into Mill Street to Houghton Mill. Pass through the mill and over the lock and then cross the meadow and river bridge to enter HEMINGFORD ABBOTS on Meadow Lane. At the end turn left to return to ST IVES.

Possible short cut
From Bluntisham to near Oldhurst:
This omits 2 miles, and it gives the opportunity to visit the Raptor Foundation (M) minimising the distance ridden on the B1089. In Bluntisham, from the Colne road, turn left. At about two miles this road reaches the B1040. The Raptor Foundation lies to the right a short way along the B1040. Otherwise keep forward to WOODHURST (N) and then to the A141 to rejoin the main ride just beyond Oldhurst.