

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 (A1123) *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 ¼ 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.

