Introduction

Distance 15m/24km
Start Point St Neots
OS Map Landranger 153 Bedford and Huntingdon

There are grand views of the River Ouse at close quarters at St Neots and also when you re-cross it at Offord Cluny and again at Little Paxton if you return that way. You get more distant views of it from Paxton Hill. The ride also takes you past Grafham Water - one of the largest man-made reservoirs in the country.

On the return trip you can see the little known River Kym at Hail Weston. It can flow spectacularly after heavy rain. On your way around at Offord d’Arcy you can see the grave of an army cyclist who lost his life in World War II.

Cover photo shows Grafham Water.

Points of Interest

St Neots (A)
- The river and Riverside Park are features of the town which also has an impressive Market Square and river bridge. The Tourist Information Centre and the local museum are in New Street. They share the same premises - the old courthouse. The museum tells the history of the town and has 100-year-old prison cells.
- The Lion Hotel dates from the 15th century, although much was rebuilt in the 18th century.
- The George Inn opposite is from the 17th century.

Perry (G)
- Refreshments are available all day at the Harbour View restaurant in Mander car park, or from pubs in the village.

Hail Weston (H)
- Note the wooden tower and shingled spire to the church.

Great Paxton (B)
- The church has Saxon stonework in the walls and although it has been much rebuilt in later years, it is large for a Saxon 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.

Offord Cluny (D & E)
- 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.

Buckden (F)
- The main street was once part of the Great North Road, and the village contains many fine old buildings, notably the 15th century gatehouse to Buckden Towers. Buckden Towers was once the palace of the Bishops of Lincoln and the 16th century Great Tower is where Katherine of Aragon, the first wife of Henry VIII, was imprisoned.

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Getting Here...

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

Huntingdonshire Tourist Information
Tel: 01480 388588 Fax: 01480 388791
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 388591
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.
The Route

St Neots to Offord Cluny
As with the other rides from St Neots (A), two starting points are suggested.

a) From the Railway Station:
Turn right on leaving the station and follow Hawksden Road with Priory Park on your left. At a double roundabout take the 3rd exit to leave the town.

b) From the Market Place:
Leave via the north east corner. At the traffic lights turn left into New Street and keep forward. Just before Little Paxton, at traffic lights, turn right into Mill Lane (signposted to Cambridge). At a double roundabout turn left.

Both Routes:
Keep forward to climb Paxton Hill with its views over the Ouse Valley, and then descend to Great Paxton (B) and on to Offord D’Arcy (C) and Offord Cluny (D) and (E).

Offord Cluny to Hail Weston
At The Swan Inn turn left to Buckden (F). Take care over the narrow bridge. At a T-junction turn left into the main street and just before the roundabout take the subway on the right (not easily spotted, but infinitely better than using the roundabout) to cross under the A1. At the far end of the subway take the B661 and follow it towards Perry.

Half a mile beyond the roundabout turn to Grafham, at Highfield Farm. At a T-junction turn left on National Cycle Route 51 to Hail Weston (G). In parts the cycle ways surface is earth or loose gravel and may not be suitable for all bicycles, particularly in wet weather.

Hail Weston to St Neots
For a possible detour to Hail Weston
Turn right on this lane to its end. Otherwise turn left towards Little Paxton and cross the A1 road bridge. Turn left into Little Paxton Lane, and just beyond the church turn right into Gordon Road - unless you are visiting the nature reserve, which is about ¼ mile ahead.

At the end of Gordon Road turn left to pass the mill and cross the river. Do use the footpath and bridge to the left if you want to stop and enjoy the view of the river, which can be spectacular after heavy rain.

At the traffic lights there are two options.

To the station:
Turn left into Mill Lane, and at a double roundabout continue into Priory Hill Road which leads round to the station.

To the Market Place:
Keep forward across Island Common to enter the town via New Street. At the traffic lights turn right to the Market Place.