

Introduction

Distance	24m/38km or as little as 19m/30km
Start Point	St Neots
OS Map	Landranger 153 Bedford and Huntingdon

This ride takes a pleasant route out of St Neots and follows a little known tributary of the Ouse - the river Kym - for some way before taking us to Grafham Water and then visiting the Staughtons. It then returns over some higher ground offering some fine panoramic views. Look out for the World War II airfield at Little Staughton from which two pilots won Victoria Crosses - and the nearby churchyard which has links with other aviators. Some alternative short cuts are offered, which are as pleasant as the main ride.

■ Cover photo shows Little Staughton church.

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.



Market Square, St Neots

Little Staughton Airfield (H)

■ A memorial in a layby near the entrance to this wartime airfield reminds us that it was used from 1944 to 1945 by the Pathfinder Force. Today it is used for civil flying. The wartime control tower and other buildings can be seen from the lane to Staughton Moor, as can some modern aircraft.



Little Staughton, Church

Bushmead Priory (I)

■ These are the remains of a small Augustinian Priory built in 1195. The Priory is a rare surviving example of crown-post architecture, and the timber frame roof is worth noting. This is now an English Heritage property, and is open in summer at very limited times.

Great North Road (J)

■ The road name reminds us that the Great North Road used to pass along this line before the by-pass was built.

Eaton Socon (K)

■ This village once had many coaching inns, serving the Great North Road, some of which still survive.

Little Paxton (B)

■ Paxton Pits Nature Reserve is at the end of the High Street, and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It has large colonies of cormorants, kingfishers and herons and an interesting visitor centre.

■ Paxton Hall at the southern end of the village is a mid-18th century house, but has the remains of earlier work both in its walls and in its fittings.



Hail Weston Church

Hail Weston (C)

■ The village lies on the north side of the road from St. Neots to Kimbolton. The church is at the south-east end of the village and has a timber tower and a spire of oak shingles. There are several half-timbered houses and cottages of the 17th century. A few Neolithic implements have been found, but greater importance is given to the bronze statuette of the Romano-British period which was found in 1824.

Great Staughton (D)

■ Near The White Horse is a 17th century brick cross with a sundial.

■ Place House, opposite the church, dates from the 16th century.

Stonely (E)

■ On the corner of Old Ford Lane is Stonely Cottage, a thatched house with a tree trunk verandah, built by Captain Welstead, one of Lord Nelson's sea captains.

Kimbolton (F)

■ This village is designated an "Outstanding Conservation Area". It has a fascinating, wide main street, on which the buildings mostly date from the 17th and 18th centuries, although some are older.

■ At one end is the rebuilt Castle where Katherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII was imprisoned for 2 years after spending time at Buckden, and where she died in 1536. The former castle was extensively rebuilt in the 18th century by Vanbrugh, who built Castle Howard and Blenheim Palace. It is now a school and is occasionally open to the public. The north gate and gatehouse were designed by Robert Adam. The church which dates from the 13th century is usually open. A view of the castle is obtained from a little way along the Bedford Road.



Kimbolton

Little Staughton (G)

■ From behind the church there is a panoramic view over the valley to the north.

■ In the church are a Book of Remembrance and a tablet to commemorate those killed in service at the former RAF station nearby.

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

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Huntingdonshire

Cycle Ride 7 - 24m/38km
St Neots & Kimbolton



Drift Through Time...

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