introduction

this ride is a very pleasant circuit linking the flatness of the Ouse valley with the gently undulating countryside to the east which stretches almost to Cambridge. This ride visits the delightful villages of great Gransden, Eltisley, the curiously named Yelling and also Toseland which still has its Hundred stone - one of the three remaining in the District. Riders can vary the basic circuit in a number of ways. Three routes to Great Gransden are offered, and an additional circuit is suggested to neighbouring South Cambridgeshire, and some favourite cycling country.

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.

Eynesbury (B)

once a village separate from St Neots, Eynesbury has now been absorbed into the town. Here, we can see a 17th century rectory, 18th century cottages and an old timbered inn. The church has exceptional animal carvings on pew and bench ends.

Abbotsley (C)

this is a pretty village with two pubs and a church from the 13th century. On the altar is a Flemish painting of the Magi, dating from the 16th century.

Waresley (D)

this is a picturesque village with many thatched cottages and a fine church which is a landmark for miles around. A cross in the churchyard marks the site of the former church destroyed in 1724 and rebuilt 4 years later. The present church dates from 1857.

Great Gransden Village (E)

in the church is a stained glass window and plaque commemorating the Canadian airmen who flew from the nearby airfield in World War II. Around the church are some fine 16th and 17th century buildings. Note also Gransden Hall with its large Dutch gables.

Yelling (F)

Church Farm House, opposite the church is a grand brick building from the 17th century.

Toseland (G)

The church is not easily seen from the road, but it is near the west end of the village on the north side of the road, and has to be approached on a short length of grass footpath. It has a Norman doorway, near which is the Toseland Hundred stone. Toseland Hall is a red brick house, built around 1600, and nearby is a thatched barn of a similar age.

Getting Here...

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

Huntingdon Tourist Information
Tel: 01480 388588 Fax: 01480 388591
Email: Hunts.TIC@huntsdc.gov.uk

Drift Through Time...
The Route

1. **St Neots (A) to Eynesbury**
   Two starting points are suggested - the railway station and the Market Place.
   - **a) From the railway station:**
     Turn left out of the station yard, down Station Road to a roundabout. Take the second exit and immediately, at another roundabout take the first exit (Cromwell Road). If traffic is heavy consider using the shared cycleway/footpath on the other side of the road. After about 1 mile turn left on the B1046 (Potton Road).
   - **b) From the Market Place:**
     Leave the Market Place (a one-way system) by the south east corner, near The King's Head. Turn right to pass the marina and then, opposite the parish church and near The Woolpack, turn right into Church Street to EYNESBURY (B). After about ¾ mile, at a roundabout take the first exit, and soon turn right on the B1046 towards Abbotsley.

2. **Eynesbury to Great Gransden**
   Three choices of route are offered:
   - i) Direct on the B1046 via ABBOTSLEY (C). This is the shortest route.
   - ii) The longest (by 4 miles) is via GAMLINGAY, as described in Ride no. 8, sections 2 and 4.
   - iii) A compromise on distance, but a very pleasing ride is to follow Sections 1 and 2 of Ride 8 for about 4 miles. Where the lane to Gamlingay bends sharp right, turn left and keep forward to WARESLEY (D). At the end of Manor Farm Road in Waresley turn right to pass the church and turn left by The Duncombe Arms to GREAT GRANSDEN (E). At a T-junction turn right to enter the village.

3. **Great Gransden to Toseland**
   Leave the village on the St Neots Road (B1046) towards Abbotsley. Just before the village sign, turn right into Croxton. At the off-set crossroads, go straight across the busy A428 (take great care) turning left and then immediately right to TOSELAND. The A428 is not recommended as a short cut back to St Neots. Continue for about 2 miles to a crossroads. Detour a short way right to YELLING (F) and then retrace to the crossroads. Go straight on to TOSELAND (G).

4. **Toseland to St Neots**
   Continue for 2 miles to a Tjunction then turn left to ST NEOTS. From the top of Paxton Hill are splendid panoramic views over the Ouse valley.
   At a double roundabout on the edge of the town two options are offered.
   - i) To the station:
     Turn left into Priory Hill Road and follow round to the station.
   - ii) To the Market Place:
     Turn right into Mill Lane to its end. Turn left to enter the town on New Street. At the traffic lights turn right for the Market Place.

   **Possible short cut**
   From Thistle Hill to Abbotsley to give a circuit of 9m/14km. About 2 miles beyond the right turn towards Abbotsley Golf Club, turn left on the B1046 to EYNESBURY to the end of Potton Road.