**Introduction**

Distance 24m/39km or as little as 12m/19km

Start Point Huntingdon

OS Map Landranger 142 Peterborough and 153 Bedford and Huntingdon

**Points of Interest**

Huntingdon (A)

- The Old North Road used to pass through the High Street, entering near The Old Bridge Hotel (by the 14th century bridge), where the ring road now cuts through. This was the Roman Ermine Street which ran from London to Lincoln and beyond. There is much to see in the small town centre, although the ring road which surrounds it needs to be negotiated with care if used by cyclists.
- Behind The Old Bridge Hotel, is Castle Hills, just outside the ring road. Here, a Saxon castle used to stand on Castle Mound.
- Castle Hill House was built in 1786. During World War II it was the headquarters of the RAF Pathfinder Force.
- The Cromwell Museum was once a Grammar School, which Oliver Cromwell and (later) Samuel Pepys attended.
- Cowper House (No 29 High Street) built in the early 18th century, is where William Cowper, the poet, lived from 1765 to 1767.

Alconbury (J)

- A detour to the right takes you past St Bartholomew’s church. Opposite Church Way is the quaintly named former Swan of a barn a short way along the road to Abbots Ripton.
- A small, pretty hamlet with many thatched cottages and a duck pond. Note the Victorian post-box set in the wall.
- The large 17th century water mill is National Trust property and contains many ancient and interesting houses, including the Manor House in Earning Street, which dates back to 1603.
- Island Hall is an important mid 18th century mansion of great charm, owned and restored by an award-winning interior designer. This Georgian house enjoys a tranquil river setting with formal gardens and an ornamental island. The house is open to groups of visitors although booking is essential (tel 01480 459676).
- The Chinese bridge is a replica of the original which was built in 1827 and designed by the architect Gallier in the then fashionable Chinese Opperndale style. From here there are splendid views of the River Great Ouse.

Alconbury Weston (I)

- This name is probably best known because of the airfield, which is actually a little way from the village. This was constructed as a satellite for Wyton just before World War II. This airfield is one of the few which date from before World War II, and one of even fewer which are still in action today. In 1942 the RAF Pathfinder Force was established here, and there is now a Pathfinder Force museum. Visits are by appointment only. Apply in writing to The Station Commander, RAF Wyton, Huntingdon, PE28 2HL.

Godmanchester (B)

- Godmanchester lies across the River Great Ouse from Huntingdon and is linked by a medieval causeway and stone bridge. The town was founded as a Roman settlement on the crossroads of the Via Devana. The town is laid out in a pentagonal street pattern.
- The town received its charter from King Johns in 1212 AD and contains many ancient and interesting houses, including the Manor House in Earning Street, which dates back to 1603.
- Island Hall is an important mid 18th century mansion of great charm, owned and restored by an award-winning interior designer. This Georgian house enjoys a tranquil river setting with formal gardens and an ornamental island. The house is open to groups of visitors although booking is essential (tel 01480 459676).
- The Chinese bridge is a replica of the original which was built in 1827 and designed by the architect Gallier in the then fashionable Chinese Opperndale style. From here there are splendid views of the River Great Ouse.

Houghton (C)

- This charming village stands in fine countryside - an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Abbots Ripton Hall (not open to the public) was built in the 18th century.

Wennington (F)

- This is of Potto Brown, a local miller and a Quaker philanthropist.
- The churchyard is to the left, just beyond The Three Jolly Butchers, and the gates carry the crest of the Royal Air Force. It includes many graves of airmen from RAF Wyton who were killed in service.

Wyton (D)

- This little village is worth the short detour to the left on Huntingdon Road. The Three Jolly Butchers is a 17th century inn.

Abbots Ripton (G)

- This charming village stands in fine countryside - an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Abbots Ripton Hall (not open to the public) was built in the 18th century.

Monks Wood (K)

- The English Nature nature reserve to the right of the road is described as an important lowland wood area. Walkers are welcome, but cycling is not allowed in the wood.

Huntingdonshire District Council

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

**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, 8 New Street
St Neots, Cambs PE19 1AE
Tel: 01480 387878 Fax: 01480 387871
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).

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**Huntingdonshire Cycle Hire**

Huntingdonshire

Visit www.huntsleisure.org

Huntingdon & Alconbury
The Route

1. **Huntingdon to Godmanchester**
   (part of National Cycle Network route 51)
   From HUNTINGDON (A) railway station turn right towards the town centre to the traffic lights on the ring road. Use the shared cycleway/footpath to the right of the traffic lights, alongside the ring road, to the traffic lights at The Old Bridge Hotel. Note the Castle Mound behind the hotel. Turn right on the shared track over the river bridge to GODMANCHESTER (B). When the NCN route turns right keep forward for about \( \frac{1}{4} \) mile and then turn right (signposted “The Offords”) into The Causeway.

2. **Godmanchester to Hemingford Abbots**
   At the end of The Causeway go straight ahead into Old Court Hall which leads to London Street. Where London Street bends right (to become London Road) turn left into Earning Street. At the end turn right into Cambridge Road to join NCN route 51, and just before a roundabout with the A14 turn left into Cow Lane. Watch out - the name is not seen from this angle. Keep forward for about \( \frac{1}{4} \) mile and just before a slight rise in the road (the former railway line), near the second lay-by on the right, take the cycleway to the right. This crosses the field to a gate at the end of Common Road, HEMINGFORD ABBOTS.

3. **Hemingford Abbots to Kings Ripton Crossroads**
   Go straight on in Common Road, after about \( \frac{1}{2} \) mile take the first turning left Meadow Lane, (but the name is not visible from this side) which leads to a river bridge, then crosses a meadow, and leads to another bridge by the lock at Houghton (C). Cross this bridge and pass through the mill to Mill Street and the village.
   To the left (along Huntingdon Road) is the village of WYTON (D) which is worth a short detour. Leave Houghton by St Ives Road. At the end turn left and immediately right into Meadow Lane, then left onto B1090 to pass RAF WYTON (E) and keep forward for about \( \frac{1}{2} \) miles, crossing the busy A141 at a roundabout, to a crossroads, near Kings Ripton.
   For a short cut back to Huntingdon - see (a).

4. **Kings Ripton Crossroads to Alconbury Weston**
   Turn right through KINGS RIPTON to another crossroads. Turn left to LITTLE RAVELEY, and then left again by the former church (now a private residence) to WENNINGTON (F). Just beyond the pond turn left to ABBOTS RIPTON (G). At a T-junction our route goes to the right, but the church is to the left. For a short cut back to Huntingdon - see (b).

5. **Alconbury Weston to Huntingdon**
   (part of National Cycle Network Route 12)
   Leave Alconbury Weston via Church Way, a bridleway next to the pub which is signed “NCN 12”, this leads to Huntingdon. Follow this to the church at ALCONBURY (J) and The Manor House. A right turn gives us a fine view of the old bridge, where we turn left and soon left again into Rusts Lane.
   Beyond the motorway underpass follow the road signs to Stukeley at four consecutive roundabouts. The airfield is to the left. This is the Roman Ermine Street. Continue through LITTLE STUKELEY (K) and GREAT STUKELEY (L). Beyond here the track on the left is a shared cycleway and footpath.
   Our route goes straight on, beyond the A141 roundabout to reach HUNTINGDON. At traffic lights opposite “The Territorial” pub, cross the ring road into the High Street. At the George Inn turn right into George Street. Beyond the ring road the station is on the left at about \( \frac{1}{4} \) mile.

(a) **Short cut from Kings Ripton to Huntingdon**
   - to give a circuit of 12m/19km
   From the crossroads near Kings Ripton return to Huntingdon by turning left (signposted Sapley) to the A141. Cross this busy road with care, and use the footpath to the right of a fence facing you. Turn left into Sapley Road, and at the foot of a descent turn right into Desborough Road to its end.
   At traffic lights turn right into Hartford Road for about \( \frac{1}{2} \) mile. From the car park on the right is a shared track leading to traffic lights at The Old Bridge Hotel. Cross at the lights and keep forward on the shared track by the ring road to the station.

(b) **Short cut from Abbots Ripton to Huntingdon**
   - to give a circuit of 18m/29km
   At the B1090 turn left and beyond the village turn right onto an unclassified road. Follow this to a roundabout with the A141. Cross this road with care and continue straight over the next roundabout. Take the second exit off a further roundabout in Kings Ripton Road which becomes Sapley Road. At the foot of a descent, turn right into Desborough Road to its end.
   At traffic lights turn right into Hartford Road for about \( \frac{1}{2} \) mile. From the car park on the right is a shared track leading to traffic lights at The Old Bridge Hotel. Cross at the lights and keep forward on the shared track by the ring road to the station.