This interesting ride explores a little known corner of Huntingdonshire. Stone signposts, a holy well, a haunted inn, an earthwork from the Civil War and the great fen drainage system are just some of the things encountered. The 17th century fen drains were designed without the aid of aerial surveys and computers, and dug without mechanised plant.

Near Bluntisham and Somersham we find some orchards - a change from the countryside in the earlier and later parts of the ride.

For those from outside the area the chance to explore St Ives is an added bonus.

The ride is described as a basic circuit with optional (but highly recommended) detours so as to allow riders to create a length of ride which suits them.

A word of warning - some of the roads are busy, but it would be a pity to miss out on an interesting ride because of these short stretches of road. Their use has been minimised, and with reasonable care they can be used safely. In particular, the short stretch of A141 has a wide grass verge which can be walked.

Cover photo shows Holywell Village

Points of Interest

St Ives (A)
- The town is famous for the rare 15th century chapel on the beautiful bridge, one of only 3 such chapels in the country. Note also the 18th century bridge House on the south side of the river.
- Oliver Cromwell lived in the town for some years in the 17th century. His statue is on Market Hill.

RAF Wyton (J)
- 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 to the Station Commander, RAF Wyton, Huntingdon, PE28 2HL.

Houghton (K)
- The large 17th century water mill is National Trust property and was at one time a Youth Hostel. Milling days are held here most Sunday afternoons. The village contains many 16th and 17th century houses. Note the bust facing the thatched clock tower and pump. This is of Potto Brown, a local miller and a Quaker philanthropist.

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

The Raptor Foundation (M)
- Along the B1040 is The Raptor Foundation, a bird of prey sanctuary and hospital. It is open all year.

Woodhurst Village (N)
- A very pretty “ring” village worth exploring. The church has a shingled oak turret.

Getting Here...

Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950
Bus & Coach Enquiries: 08705 808080
Traveline: 0800 056 56 05

Huntingdon Tourist Information
- Tel: 01480 385858  Fax: 01480 388591
- Email: Hunts.TIC@huntsdc.gov.uk

St Neots Tourist Information Centre
- The Old Court, 8 High Street
- St Neots, Cambs PE19 1AE
- Tel: 01480 388788  Fax: 01480 388791
- Email: STNeots.TIC@huntsdc.gov.uk

Electronic Tourist Information Kiosks:
- Huntington 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.

www.huntsleisure.org

Draft Through Time...
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 (A123) 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 ½ 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 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.