Introduction

Distance 25m/40km or as little as 11m/18km
Start Point Stilton
OS Map Landranger 142 Peterborough

This ride explores the most northern tip of Huntingdonshire, and strays a little way into Northamptonshire. On the way you may see aircraft and parachutists and you may also get a glimpse of a train drawn by a steam locomotive on the Nene Valley Railway. Take a ride to the Haycock in Wansford and The Bell Inn in Stilton which were here in the days of the stagecoach 200 years ago - and the road here was the Roman Ermine Street nearly 2,000 years ago. The river Nene was probably heavily used for transport long before that. At Fotheringhay you can see the mound of the castle where Mary, Queen of Scots was executed, and at Norman Cross is a little known memorial to French prisoners from the Napoleonic wars.

Points of Interest

Stilton (A)
- Famous for its connection with cheese, this village is on the Roman Ermine Street. In the 1730s, the landlord of The Bell Inn brought the cheese from Leicestershire and sent it to London by coach. Note the 19th century village pump near the old telephone box.

Norman Cross (B)
- A monument near the Holiday Inn commemorates the French prisoners of war who were held near here in the Napoleonic Wars between 1797 and 1814, 1770 of whom died. Some houses from that period still stand beside the A15 road a little way towards Yaxley, including the large white house which was the residence of the Governor.

Yarwell (H)
- The church has some unusual features - the arches in the walls have oblong windows set within them. Half a mile beyond the village, near Yarwell Mill, to the left you may get another glimpse of the Nene Valley railway, as trains prepare to run back to Wansford station.

Nassington (I)
- Notable in this charming village is the Prebendal Manor House. This dates from the 13th century, when a prebendary was a high ranking church official. The house is claimed to be the oldest manor house in Northamptonshire, and one of the longest continually occupied houses in England.
- The Prebendal Manor and church are on a promontory overlooking the River Nene. The river and streams border the village on all sides. Facing The Manor is the church of St Mary and All Saints which has Saxon stone work and the remnants of a Saxon stone cross.

Fotheringhay (J)
- From the bridge at the end of the village, you can see a mound to the left - all that is left of the castle where Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded in 1587.
- The fine church, now only one third of its original length, has a lantern tower which is a landmark for miles around, and contains excellent displays panels telling of the history of Fotheringhay and the people connected with it.

Haddon (C)
- In the corner of the nave of the church in this small village are stones over 900 years old, from the Saxon church. Stone benches around the walls date from the time when there were no seats in the main body of the church. Hence the old and the weak “went to the wall”.

Elton (G)
- This lovely village has a church dating from the 14th century, with a Danish cross in the churchyard. There is a marvellous collection of old houses around the village green, and an 18th century smithy. Elton Hall has a gatehouse from the 15th century, although most of the house is of 17th and 18th centuries. It has been the home of the Proby family for over 300 years.

Stilton & Wansford

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 2254588 (national rate call).

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

Huntingdonshire
www.huntsleisure.org

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**The Route**

1. **Stilton to Elton**
   - Leave STILTON (A) to the north on National Cycle Network route 12. Beyond the end of the village, turn right to cross the first motorway bridge, signposted B660 and then left on a shared cycleway/footpath to reach the A15 near NORMAN CROSS (B). Cross with care and turn left to pass the memorial and the Holiday Inn Hotel. Follow the road alongside and then under the motorway and through HADDON (C). Follow through a right handed bend, signposted Oundle, to a T-junction. Turn right, signposted Chesterton and continue over a road bridge to another T-junction. Turn left to ELTON (D). Turn right to enter the village.

2. **Elton to Nassington**
   - Leave Elton on the road to SIBSON (E) past Sibson Airfield (from where you may see a steam-hauled train on the Nene Valley Railway (F)) and keep forward to WANSFORD (G). Beyond the river bridge turn left and left again towards Nassington as far as YARWELL (H). At the crossroads turn left and detour through the village to rejoin the Nassington road. Turn left by a demolished railway bridge to enter NASSINGTON (I) on Station Road.

3. **Nassington to Morborne Crossroads**
   - Keep forward through the village to Fotheringhay (J). At Fotheringhay, turn left at the T-junction, signposted Tansor. Leave Fotheringhay on the Tansor road and after 1/2 mile turn left to WARMINGTON. Continue over a roundabout and through the village to a crossroads and turn right. A pause at the top of the hill (or on the way up if walking) is well worthwhile, to note the panoramic view behind. Keep forward towards Morborne to a crossroads just below the telecommunications tower on Morborne Hill.

4. **Morborne Crossroads to Stilton**
   - At Morborne crossroads turn right and continue for 2 miles to another crossroads near Lutton. Turn left and ride through WASHINGLEY to a T-junction with a view of Yaxley church and the chimney stacks of the brickfields beyond. Turn right and continue until you reach another T-junction by a reservoir. Turn left to descend to STILTON.

**Possible short cuts:**

1. From Elton to Fotheringhay to omit 6 miles: At ELTON on the outward journey omit the Wansford loop. Leave ELTON on the Nassington Road. At the T-junction at about 1 mile turn left to FOTHERINGHAY to rejoin the main ride in Section 3.

2. From Haddon to Lutton crossroads to give an 11 mile circuit: At the T-junction beyond HADDON (in Section 1) turn left for nearly 3 miles to Lutton crossroads to rejoin the main ride in Section 4.