

# CIRCULAR CYCLE RIDES

Central  
Bedfordshire

## Barton-le-Clay – Mix of On/Off Road

A 27km (17 mile) ride amongst the open, rolling hills and spectacular escarpments of the Barton and Pegsdon Hills with wide views over the Bedfordshire countryside. The dry, well-draining chalk soils mean good cycling in most weathers and the displays of wild flowers during the spring and summer have to be seen to be believed. Look out for birds such as red kites, buzzards and skylarks in the air overhead.

Starting from the car park at Sharpenhoe Clappers (has height barriers) turn left along Sharpenhoe Road. At the first hedgerow on the left turn left along the hedge (BW42) then bear right and cycle along the top of the hill/field edge.

Continue following the bridleway along the escarpment and into the small car park adjacent to the allotments. Cross the car park and turn right along Church Road then left at the T-junction along Sharpenhoe Road, past the village pond on the right and Princes Farm on the left, to the A6.

Cross straight across the A6 with EXTREME CAUTION and head along the bridleway past the Swiss Cottages along BW32. At the junction turn right along BW32 and enter the small wood of Maulden Firs. At the bridleway crossroads turn left (onto the Icknield Way, BW23) and follow this wide, historic trackway to the bend on the road, by Mortgrove Cottages.

Carry straight ahead onto the road (with caution) to the next (left hand) bend and go straight over here (crossing the road with caution) and head through the old Treasures Grove car park (now closed). Head up the wide trackway towards Telegraph Hill.

Stay straight ahead and climb the hill following the edge of the woodland. Continue ahead as the track becomes more defined with trees each side. Then enjoy a long, smooth descent down the track with Pegsdon Hills and Deacon Hill on the right. Watch out for and be aware of other users such as horse-riders and walkers and please ride sensibly.

Stop at the B655 Barton – Hitchin road. Turn left onto the road and head down the hill, at the bottom turn right, across the road (carefully) and into the hamlet of Pegsdon past the rear of the Live and Let Live PH.

At the T-junction turn right along Shillington Road, past Bury and Green End Farms on the left. Enter the village of Shillington with Shillington Manor on the right. Stay on Apsley End Road with the Musgrave Arms PH on the left.

At the junction, bear left and head along Hanscombe End Road past the cottages and turn right at the next left hand bend, past Hanscombe End Farm.

At the fork turn left past Archers Farm and continue to follow the road past College Farm, on the right.

At the T-junction turn left past the small wood then turn left off the road and along the bridleway (BW1) then cross the small stream and continue along BW54 to the metalled road.

Turn right onto the Higham Gobion road and carry straight on past the church, down the small hill and past Westhey Manor, on the right, then into Barton-le-Clay.



Turn left at the roundabout into Barton-le-Clay village and along the High Street (Bedford Road), past the Waggon and Horses on the right. Just past the Post Office (on the right), turn right at the small mini-roundabout onto the Sharpenhoe Road.

Cross over the Barton bypass (A6) and continue to the foot of the unmistakable hill of Sharpenhoe Clappers and enter the village of Sharpenhoe.

At The Lynmore PH turn left and cycle along Sharpenhoe Road with the Clappers on the left. Continue up the hill (steep climb!) and turn into the Sharpenhoe Clappers car park on the left and back to a well deserved finish!

### Shortcuts/additions

Turn left up the bridleway just past the Swiss Cottages towards the Lilley road. Turn left then right and follow the bridleway around Barton Hills NNR then downhill and into Barton where you can rejoin the route.

OS Map: Explorer 193

### Remember when cycling:

Please DO NOT cycle on footpaths.

Always keep to the waymarked routes and do not enter private land.

Always ride in single file when roads are narrow and never ride more than two abreast.

Make sure you are visible to others.

Always use lights after dark or in poor visibility.

Plan your route according to the weather and daylight hours.

Be aware of animals, other cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and car drivers when cycling.

Keep your speed down and give way to walkers and other path users.

Be polite and considerate towards landowners and farmers.

Keep away from farm machinery or farm/forestry operations.

### Contact us...

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