

# CIRCULAR CYCLE RIDES

Central  
Bedfordshire

## Leighton Buzzard – Mix of On/Off Road

A 24km (15 mile) ride on the sandy Greensand soils which means good riding most of the year round and includes the historic market town of Leighton Buzzard with its fine church. Other areas of interest include the Grand Union Canal with its locks and narrow boats and towpath, the Ouzel Valley and the woodlands and lakes of Rushmere Country Park with its café, heronry and buzzards. Look out for the sand quarries around Heath and Reach – providers of very fine quality sands to the building industry.

Start from the car park at Rushmere Country Park, Stockgrove entrance (there is a small charge to park here) and turn right, carefully, out of the entrance onto Brickhill Road.

Cycle along the lane through the trees past King's Wood NNR on the left and Baker's Wood SSSI on the right until you reach a T junction. Turn right, carefully, onto Woburn Road.

After 200m turn left then left again into Overend Green Lane then bear right with Overend Green Farm on the left. Carry along Overend Green Lane to the T junction.

At the T junction turn left and cycle along Eastern Way past the Double Arches sand quarry works on the right. Just past the works take a right turn (with care) into Mile Tree Road.

Continue along the road, past the Stonehenge works on the right and the narrow gauge railway, also on the right. At the small crossroads turn right into Clipstone Lane.

Cycle along Clipstone Lane (very narrow with occasional farm traffic) and follow the lane past Manor Farm on the left then Clipstone Farm on the right.

Clipstone Lane emerges onto a bend of the A4012 Leighton Buzzard – Hockliffe road. This is a busy road so very carefully turn left onto the road then cycle for 330m to the next (left hand) bend. At the bend turn right across the A4012 and into the village of Eggington.

Cycle through this attractive village along the High Street then turn right at the T junction onto Mill Road. Continue along Mill Road into the village of Stanbridge to the T junction then turn right onto Stanbridge Road (carefully as this is a busy road).

Cycle along Stanbridge Road and past Four Winds Farm on the left. At the T junction turn right (very carefully as this is a busy road) onto Leighton Road.

Continue along this road, past the Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club, on the right, and the MOT Testing Station (also on the right) then take the first exit at the first roundabout, onto Roundel Drive.

Follow Roundel Drive to the T junction then turn left into Newton Way.

At the next T junction turn right and cycle straight ahead across Jerrard Close and over the narrow gauge railway (checking for trains first). Then turn immediately right onto Weston Avenue.

Following Weston Avenue bear right into Richmond Road then turn left and into Pages Park.

Keeping to the cyclepath cycle down the side of Pages Park and stop where the path emerges onto Billington Road.



Turn left carefully onto Billington Road and then turn right (carefully) into Eden Way. At the end of Eden Way turn right at the T junction into Chartmoor Road.

At the T junction at the end of Chartmoor Road cross carefully over Grovebury Road and cycle along the Blackbridge cyclepath. Cross the River Ouzel then access the Grand Union canal towpath by turning right.

Cycle carefully along the canal towpath and under Leighton Road then past Tesco's (on the right).

Continue to follow the towpath past Leighton Lock with the Ouzel Water Meadows on the right then past The Globe PH on the right.

Under the canal bridge stay on the right hand side canal towpath and continue to follow the canal until the Old Linslade Road canal bridge.

Turn right at the bridge and up onto Old Linslade Road. Cycle carefully along the road (it is narrow and twisty) until the Rushmere/Bragenham Crossroads.

At the crossroads turn left into Bragenham Lane then immediately right and follow the off-road route through the Rushmere Country Park. Cycle up the tarmaced road past the Visitor Centre (stopping to admire the view, herons and for refreshments). Continue past the Visitor Centre following the waymarked trails, past the large wooden storytelling chair and through the Estate.

At the crossroads in Oak Wood bear right onto the bridleway (BW11) and cycle past the entrance to Stockgrove Park House on your right and continue up the drive to the Lodge House.

Turn right here (be aware of potential traffic) onto Brickhill Road and cycle down the hill to the entrance to Stockgrove Country Park, on your left, and back to the car park.

## Shortcuts/additions

Alternative on-road route. From the Rushmere/Bragenham Crossroads continue along Bragenham lane up the hill past Rushmere Heath Nursery and past Kiln Farm, on the left.

Bear left with Bragenham Manor on the right and continue along the lane until the T junction.

Turn right at the T junction and cycle along the lane into Great Brickhill. At the village centre turn right along Heath Road and follow the lane past Blue Gate Farm and back to the Stockgrove Country Park car park.

OS Map: Explorer 192

## 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.

## In addition, when cycling the towpath, remember the Towpath Cycling Code:

Pedestrians have priority over cyclists on the towpath.



Give way to oncoming users at bridges

Be extra careful at bends and entrances

Cyclists, be prepared to slow down, stop, or dismount if necessary.

Consider other users and the local environment

Ring with Two Tings

Use a bell, giving Two Tings when approaching pedestrians. Ringing with Two Tings is not an order to pedestrians to get out of your way. Be aware that some pedestrians may have visual or hearing impairments and might not hear your Two Tings.

Pass people slowly. Give people space

Slow down when approaching pedestrians and only pass when it is safe to do so. Extra care should be taken when passing children, less able people and animals.

Try to pass on the water side of the path.

Pedestrians will tend to move to the back edge of the towpath to allow you to pass.

Be patient and courteous to pedestrians. Saying "thank you" to pedestrians who move to let you pass will make them more likely to move next time.

Ride at a sensible speed

The towpath is never suitable for cycling fast as there are many other users, low bridges and narrow sections. If you are in a hurry, use an alternative route.

## Contact us...

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