

CIRCULAR CYCLE RIDES

Central
Bedfordshire

Sandy – Mix of On/Off Road

A 38km (24 mile) ride across the open, hilly landscape around Potton, Sandy and Everton follows the escarpment between Sandy and Gamlingay where the Greensand Ridge meets the Oxford Clay. Hassells Hedge is an old Roman Road linking Baldock to Godmanchester and Tempsford Airfield (now disused) was used by the Special Operations Executive during WWII. The areas of sandy soils around Potton were once heathy commons and at The Lodge, the RSPB's UK headquarters, much heathland has been restored to attract rare birds and other wildlife.

Start from Sandy Railway Station or Sandy Town Centre and follow the High Street, over the mini roundabouts and then left along Swaden.

At the T junction go carefully straight ahead along BW27 across the fields. Stay ahead and along the old Roman Road running along the field edges and called Hasell Hedge.

Cross straight over Tempsford Road and continue ahead along BW3 and BW11.

Then fork right along BW4 towards Joan's Wood and then bear right past Hare's Home wood. Follow the concrete road to the gate, across the track, where you turn left over the culvert which crosses the ditch. Then follow the ditch along the bridleway.

Cycle up the hill, keeping to the bridleway along the edge of Woodbury Cinques and then along the edge of White Wood to the metalled Drove Road.

At Drove Road turn right and cycle down to the junction. At the church turn right towards Everton along the road.

At the T junction turn left along Potton Road then right at Ashmore Farm down Mill Lane (BOAT 7) then continue along BW7.

At the crossroads carefully cross the busy B1042 Sandy Road and down Carthage Road. Turn opposite Fen Farm along BW5 alongside the narrow woodland of Potton Belt to Galley Hill and the B1040 Potton – Biggleswade Road.

Turn right onto the road and cycle past John O' Gaunt Golf Course to the Sutton Crossroads.

Turn left here into the village of Sutton and cross through the ford or over the bridge. Head through the village and at the T junction at the east end of Sutton stop and turn left onto the Sutton Road. After a few metres turn right across the road (carefully) and onto BW6.

Follow the bridleway along the field edge to the T junction with another bridleway and turn left onto bridleway 15, follow this for a few metres then turn right (staying on BW15). Follow the bridleway as it curves to the right, along the track then follow it to the right again as it curves around to the north of Water End (Wrestlingworth) where it becomes BW7.

Continue to follow BW7 along the track across the fields to the Eyeworth – Sutton Road and turn left then immediately right here, checking for traffic, first.

Cycle along BW10 (not the footpath – which runs closely parallel to the bridleway here) and follow this all the way to the Dunton – Sutton Road.



Head straight over the road (crossing carefully) and head along BW2 along the edge of Dunton Fen and turn left then right onto BW28.

Continue along the track past Sunderland Hall Farm then past West Sunderland Farm. Continue past the small reservoir then bear left, still on BW28.

At Stratton School turn right onto Stratton Way and continue to the T junction then make a careful right turn onto the B1040 Potton Road.

After passing Nursery Close, on the left, make a right turn onto BW9 and follow the bridleway across Biggleswade Common and past Furzenhall Farm. Bear right and cross the stream onto BW33 and over the disused railway and into the woodlands and heaths belonging to the UK headquarters of the RSPB (The Lodge).

Keep to the bridleway up the slope through the trees and join the entrance driveway where you turn right onto the drive and cycle along the drive to the Gatehouse by the B1042 Sandy to Potton Road. There are refreshments and toilets available from here.

Turn left off the main drive (opposite the Gatehouse) and before you get to the B1042 and go through the gate. Ride carefully and considerably along the permissive bridleway across the newly created heathland, keeping to the track at all times. Bear right down the hill and through the ironstone gateway and leave the RSPB's property. Turn left here, taking great care as this is a very busy road, and cycle the last short section down the hill and back to the railway station (on the left) or town centre, where you started from.

Shortcuts/additions

There are two shortcuts that can be taken along this route:

Halfway along Mill Lane (BOAT 7) turn right by the small wood staying on BOAT 7 and through the narrow wood. Then, after approximately 800m, turn left onto

BW29 and follow the track along the woodland edge then turn a sharp right at the apex of the wood and along BW28 and back to Sandy Station via Everton Road.

After going through the ford in Sutton village turn right 120m past Manor farm onto BW3 and follow the track all the way to BW28 where a right turn will take you back on the route past West Sunderland Farm.

OS Map: Explorer 208

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...

by telephone: 0300 300 8085

by email: recreational.routes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/travelling/your-travel-choices/cycling

Write to Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

