

10 Stevington

A choice of rides, a short one to Stevington to explore the village, 3 miles, or a longer circular ride via Oakley and Pavenham which also includes Stevington, 7 miles. You can easily ride out of Bedford to join this ride (see Connections below which offers an off-road variant) or you can drive and park at Stevington Country Way (grid ref. 007525) just beyond the Oakley turn on the Bromham - Stevington road. This can easily be extended to link with the other Ouse Valley rides (see Connections below).

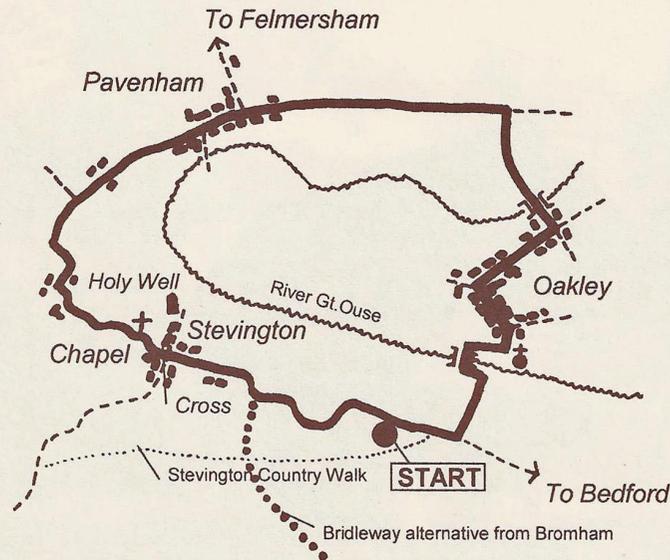
7 Miles
MODERATE

PUBS

The Royal George, Stevington
The Red Lion, Stevington
The Cock, Pavenham
Bedford Arms, Oakley

PICNIC SITES

Oakley Bridge
Pavenham Childrens
Playground



Route of Ride 10

Our description starts from the car park at Stevington Country Way.

1. A SHORT RIDE TO STEVINGTON

Leaving the car park turn left and simply follow the road into Stevington, a village well worth exploring.

On the outskirts on the left is the entrance way to the restored windmill (but you'll need to go into the village to get a key from either of the two pubs). John Bunyan knew Stevington well and was closely involved with the group of dissenters who subsequently founded the lovely chapel on the far side of the village (straight on from the cross about half a mile). Bunyan preached at the Cross which is supposed to have inspired the scene in Pilgrims Progress when Christian lost his burden. The 'sepulchre' into which it fell is thought to be the Holy Well issuing from beneath the Churchyard (half a mile down the lane to the right at the cross).

To return from Stevington simply head directly back from the cross.



THE CROSS, STEVINGTON

2. A LONGER CIRCULAR ROUTE VIA PAVENHAM

- # Leaving the car park turn right and almost immediately left towards Oakley.

As you go over the second river bridge note the flood height in 1823, a stone pillar on the right.

- # Follow the road round towards the church and then bear left to Oakley (signposted 'village only'). Follow this round into the High Street where there is the Bedford Arms and two village shops.

- # Continue to the cross-roads where you turn left towards Pavenham. *Just before Pavenham on the right is a children's playground, if you feel you need a rest. Pavenham was famous for the making of rush mats and baskets and some evidence, much overgrown, survives by the riverside at the bottom of Mill Lane.*

- # Continue through this pretty village and stay on this road as it undulates around one of the broad sweeps of the river to Stevington. *Keep your eyes open for two fine thatched barns in the fields on the right. Just beyond, on the left is the Baptist Chapel (see above for details and other features of interest in Stevington).*

- # At the medieval cross, continue straight on back to the start.



CHAPEL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF STEVINGTON

CONNECTIONS

From Bedford

This ride is readily accessible by using Rides 1 and 2 to get to Bromham Mill. At the end of Bromham Bridge continue past the mill and take the next on the right (signposted to Stevington).

For the Longer Ride. Take the first right after Bromham for Oakley.

For the Shorter Ride. Continue straight on into Stevington.

It is 4 miles from Bromham Mill out to the start of these and back.

Alternatively. You can make use of a bridleway from Bromham to Stevington. This can be a bit too sticky in the wet for non mountain bikes, but gives some glorious views.

Turn left off the Stevington Road on Bromham Village Green into Mollivers Lane. At the top carry straight on along the bridleway, with the wood on your left. At the corner of the wood bear right across the fields.

At the crossing with another bridleway keep straight on down over the old railway track (now a Country Walk) and down to the road where you go left for Stevington or right for the longer ride via Oakley and Pavenham.

To Rides 11 and 12 Ouse Valley Rides. *In Pavenham turn right, just after entering the village onto the road to Felmersham. (see Connections in Ride 11 for full directions). This will take you past the church and over the top of the hill from which there are some fine views. It is four miles to Felmersham and back by this route.*