

11 Upper Ouse

This is a short circuit of the Upper Ouse Valley taking in lovely views of the valley, magnificent churches, charming stone-built villages and the Harrold - Odell Country Park. You can ride out from Bedford (see Connections below) or you can drive and park in the Country Park, just on the north side of Harrold Bridge (grid ref. 956567).

**6 Miles
EASY**

PUBS

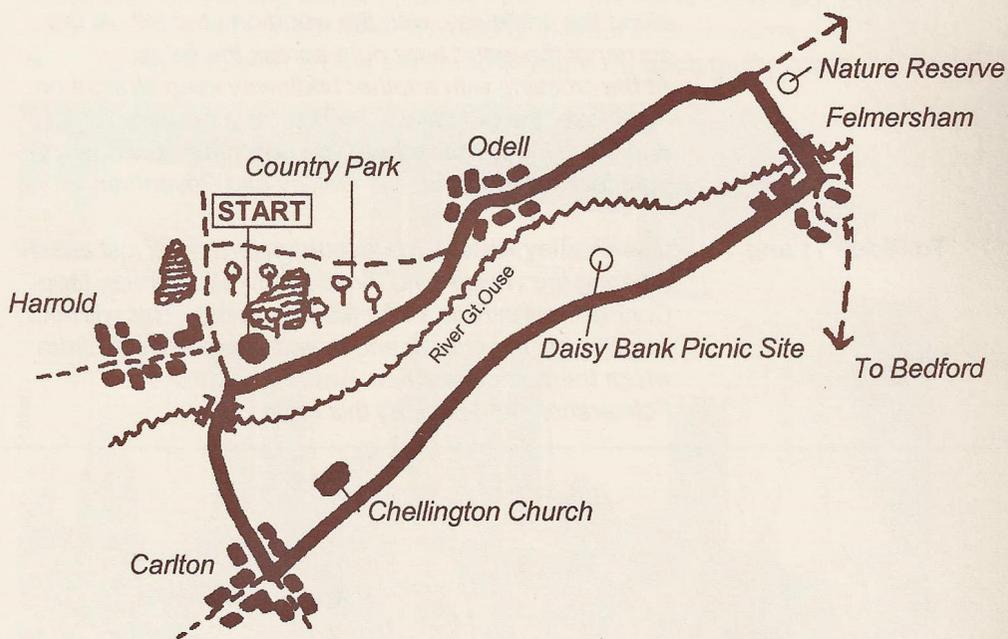
The Bell, Odell

TEAS & SNACKS

Teazels Café, Harrold Pk.

PICNIC SITES

Harrold Country Park
Daisy Bank Picnic Site,
Felmersham Bridge
Playground



Route of Ride 11

Our description starts from the Country Park, a reclaimed gravel working, which is itself worth a visit, either before you leave or on your return. The Visitor's Centre, complete with café, is open throughout the year, from 9.00 am for the café and from 1.00 pm for the Centre.

CIRCUIT OF THE UPPER OUSE VALLEY

Return to the Park entrance and turn left across the long medieval bridge over the Ouse into Carlton. At the cross-roads turn left to Felmersham.

This is an undulating lane giving some marvellous views across the Ouse Valley. Along here is Daisy Bank picnic site. An alternative picnic spot is a mile further on at Felmersham where there is a seat overlooking the river. At Felmersham you are half way round the ride so take time to have a look at the magnificent church.

Turn left over the bridge and the road goes through a Nature Reserve.

The Reserve is famous for its dragonflies. If you wish to explore it, leave your bikes at the gate. The part on the right is more extensive and interesting.

At the T-junction turn left for Odell.

Be ready for another very impressive church as you enter. Don't flog up the hill, there is a footpath beside the road.

At the Village Green fork left and follow the lane past The Bell pub.

This brings you to a gate into the Country Park. Cyclists can ride on the bridleway through the park back to the main entrance. There are two cattle grids, where it would be safer to walk through the side gate. Don't rush! It is too nice not to stop and look at the waterfowl and other birds around the lake.



OLD BRIDGE AT HARROLD

CONNECTIONS

From Bedford you can join this ride by either:-

Rides 1, 2 and 10 *i.e. via Bromham and Pavenham. Use the directions in these rides to get to Pavenham and turn right off the road from Oakley into the road to Felmersham. In Felmersham turn right at the first T-junction and at the second go down past the church and over the river, where you can join this ride. It is 14 miles from Priory Country Park on the east side of Bedford to Felmersham this way.*

Rides 5, 7 and 12 *i.e. via Thurleigh and Sharnbrook. Use the directions in these rides to get to Sharnbrook and then:- Turn left out of the High Street onto the road to Odell. At the first junction after Sharnbrook you will join this ride coming in from the left and continuing onto Odell. It is 12 miles from Mowsbury Park on the north side of Bedford to this ride.*

In both cases you can return by the way you have come, having done the circuit of this ride, or go back on the other route. This grand circuit is between 30 and 35 miles, depending on the options chosen, e.g. you can shorten it by 5 miles by going directly between Sharnbrook and Felmersham.



FELMERSHAM CHURCH AND BRIDGE

Ride 10

Pavenham and Stevington
In Felmersham take the first right (Grange Road) on the edge of the village and then right again to Pavenham. In Pavenham turn right at the T-junction. When you get back to this junction, having done the circuit of Ride 10, turn left into it and go back over the hill to Felmersham where you go right at the first T-junction and left at the second to rejoin this ride at the bridge.

This adds 11 miles in all.

Ride 12

Sharnbrook and Souldrop. *To get to the start of this ride in Sharnbrook turn right, not left, at the T-junction after Felmersham Nature Reserve. Return by the same route (i.e. right at the end of Lodge Road on the road to Odell).*

This very pleasant diversion extends the ride by 6.5 miles.



GREAT OUSE FROM FELMERSHAM BRIDGE