

# 17 Great Barford

This ride starts for Priory Country Park and uses the cycle track to Willington and on towards the riverside at Great Barford. From there it continues on minor country roads via Wilden to Renhold, from where it returns to Priory Park on tracks. It can be used as an easy 'out and back ride' to Willington and Great Barford. It connects with several other rides, including the Town rides (see Connections below).

**15 Miles  
HARDER**

## PUBS

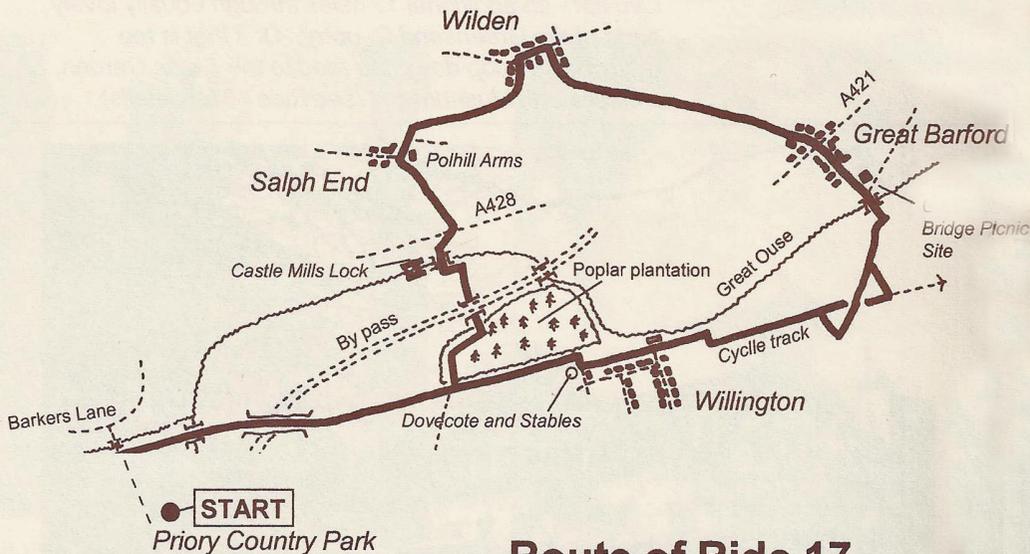
The Crown, Willington  
Anchor, Great Barford  
Victoria Arms, Wilden

## TEAS & SNACKS

Garden Centre, Willington  
Danish Camp, Willington

## PICNIC SITES

Priory Country Park  
Willington Lock  
Great Barford Bridge



**Route of Ride 17**

*Our description starts from Priory Country Park car park.*

## 1. PRIORY PARK TO WILLINGTON (2.5 MILES)

# From the Country Park car park go back up the entrance road and turn right just before the river bridge. Follow the cycle track over the by-pass.

*Immediately after the point where it turns right and over a brook go straight on if you wish to visit the ancient dovecote and stables in Willington now in the care of the National Trust.*

# To return either go back the way you have come or continue, turning left into the village. Where the second road comes in from the right (Station Road) go left through the barrier and up the track. Go left at the end where it rejoins the cycle track in the old station yard. Follow this back to Priory Park. You can continue to Great Barford by turning right in the station yard.

*Immediately to the right is the riverside Danish Camp where snacks and meals may be obtained.*



**ANCHOR PUB AND RIVERSIDE MOORINGS AT GREAT BARFORD**

## 2. WILLINGTON TO GREAT BARFORD RIVERSIDE (3 MILES)

- # After the brook turn sharp left and continue on the track.  
*This will take you past Willington lock and on to the road to Great Barford, which crosses the track on an old railway bridge.*
- # Go under the bridge and left up to the road, where you turn right.
- # At Great Barford bridge traffic lights, turn left over the river.  
*The riverside picnic site is on the right at the end of the bridge in front of The Anchor pub.*

## 3. RETURN VIA WILDEN

- # Go straight on from the bridge through the village and continue straight on.  
*Take care crossing the busy road. If necessary walk to the pelican crossing to the left.*
- # Go over the by-pass and after 2 or 3 miles you drop down to a junction where you turn left for Wilden. Take the first left turn in Wilden, for Renhold.
- # At the next junction turn right down the hill (virtually straight on). At the foot of the hill, turn left at the corner between the Polhill Arms and its car park, onto the bridleway.



THE OLD BRIDGE AT GREAT BARFORD

*This track provides a lovely ride down to the A4280.*

- # Immediately prior to the A4280 turn right along a path which takes you to a pegasus signalled crossing of the main road.
- # After crossing the brook, turn left through the white gate onto the bridleway.  
*Please close all gates behind you.*
- # Follow the bridleway across the yard and swinging to the left of the old mill, cross the river and go under the by-pass.
- # At the T-junction turn right, cross over the quarry road and follow the cycleway for half a mile before turning right onto the Bedford to Sandy cycle track to return to Priory Park.

*This cycleway is now part of the National Cycle Network Route 51 .*

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## CONNECTIONS

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| From Bedford | <i>Use Ride 1 to get to the entrance to Priory Country Park. Don't go into the car park but carry straight on over the access road. All the other town rides connect to Ride 1.</i>  |
| Ride 9       | <i>Keysoe, Bushmead, Honeydon. To extend your ride to take in this quiet circular ride, follow this ride as described and a couple of miles after Great Barford turn right (not left for Wilden) at the bottom of the hill. Follow the signs to Colmworth (next left and straight on) and in Colmworth you join Ride 9 by turning right just beyond the church. Follow Ride 9 and it will bring you back to the church. Return the same way as you went out and carry on through Wilden. This extends the ride by either 10 or 17 miles depending on the options chosen on Ride 9.</i> |
| Ravensden    | <i>A shorter extension of less than 2 miles is possible by going straight on in Wilden and through Ravensden. From Wilden follow Ride 8 as far as Hookhams Lane, where instead of continuing on Ride 8 to the right you need to go left. The Polhill Arms is only a couple of hundred yards down the road, where you rejoin this ride by crossing to get onto the bridleway between the pub and the car park. Take care crossing the road.</i>   |
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