

A Cycle Ride from Houghton Mill Club Site



This circular route has been suggested by Sustrans' Volunteer Rangers. Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity and is responsible for the development of the 12,000 miles of National Cycle Network. We hope you will enjoy exploring the local area near the Site and make the most of your stay at Houghton Mill.

This route takes in part of National Route 51 of the National Cycle Network, which runs from Colchester to Harwich and Felixstowe and then west to Oxford via Cambridge, Bedford and Milton Keynes. The route starts at the Club Site and takes in the Mill and Godmanchester Common, with the option to extend the ride to visit the Chinese Bridge across the Ouse.

The Route

- 1** Leave the Club Site passing through the mill and across the lock, meadow and river to join Route 51 on the south side of the Ouse valley in Hemingford Abbots.
- 2** A right turn then leads to Godmanchester Common with grazing cows. Follow National Route 51 all the way into Godmanchester, with an optional diversion to visit the Chinese Bridge, to the point where it crosses the Ouse into Huntingdon.
- 3** After crossing the bridge, a left turn leads to 'Castle Hills' historic site with an information board. The main route turns right to pick up the Nature Trail along the west side of the Ouse towards Hartford church situated by the river. You could picnic at various places along this section of the route.
- 4** Once on the B1514, a right turn along the pavement allows access on to the old A1123, which is traffic-free until it comes out at the new road. Cross this road and turn right on to the dual-use path.
- 5** The main road needs to be crossed again to head into Wyton Village and thence immediately into Houghton, a total of around 5 to 6 miles.
- 6** To extend the ride, re-cross the valley but when you reach Hemingford Abbots turn left to follow Route 51 eastwards through both Hemingford Villages, diverting north along the old London Road into St Ives to cross the Ouse at the chapel bridge. Once over the bridge, continue along the traffic-calmed area until the narrow left turn just before a T-junction.

This soon opens out into a wider street that can be followed, passing by the Museum on the left, until the road heads away from the river. At this point carry straight on into and through the churchyard and make a left turn once back on a road again.

At weekends, April to September, a visit to Holt Island Nature Reserve could be made, otherwise ignore the bridge to the island and follow the pathway with the Ouse backwater to your left. This pathway eventually opens out and although strictly not a bridleway for all its length, sometimes path as through The Thicket, sometimes gravel track as by Houghton Meadow (SSSI), but can be carefully ridden all the way back westwards to Houghton where a left turn at the square returns to the mill and the Club Site and another 5 miles completed.



The Route

Starting point: **Houghton Mill Caravan Club Site**

End point: **Houghton Mill Caravan Club Site**

Distance: **6 or 11 miles**

Grade: **Easy**

Surface: **Mostly tarmac but sometimes uneven/potholed - care required on gravel sections or over bumpy tarmac (tree roots).**

Traffic: **Often traffic-free or light traffic though care and attention is required to avoid pedestrians walking their dogs, horse riders or grazing livestock.**

Suitability for young children: **Generally suitable with no non-negotiable barriers.**

Hills: **Flat apart from slight inclines over river bridges.**

Refreshments/facilities: **Houghton Mill National Trust tearoom at start. Local shop and pub in village. Public conveniences by Chinese Bridge in Godmanchester, plus local shop and pubs. Public conveniences by Huntingdon Bus Station just beyond the Castle Hills site across the road from National Route 51. Local shop in Hemingford Grey and full facilities in St Ives.**

Nearest railway station: **Huntingdon - 3miles**

Other routes in the area: **National Route 51 to Cambridge and National Route 12 to Peterborough from Huntingdon.**

Attractions: **National Trust Houghton Mill, various wildlife sites along route including Portholme Meadow (SSSI) in Godmanchester.**



If you have enjoyed your ride, why not look at The Club's website www.caravanclub.co.uk which shows other Club Sites with a cycle route close by or visit the Sustrans' website www.sustrans.org.uk to find other cycle routes and how to become a Sustrans supporter.


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This route has been suggested by Sustrans' Volunteer Rangers. The Caravan Club would always recommend that any children or young people under 18 years should be fully supervised by a responsible adult.
Please be aware that using this route is entirely at your own risk.
Extreme care should always be taken when cycling on site, remembering that traffic will be moving around the site and to observe speed limits. Particular attention should be paid when going round blind corners or emerging from paths.