

Circular Cycle Ride

Central
Bedfordshire

great
lifestyles

Amphill - Bedford - Cardington Loop - On Road

A 46 km (28 mile) circular cycle ride on quiet roads starting from the attractive Georgian market town of Amphill, situated on the sandy soils of the Greensand Ridge, around the post-industrial brick-worked landscapes of Stewartby and Marston Moretaine, through the county town of Bedford on the River Great Ouse and across the Estate-owned landscapes around Cardington and back up onto the Greensand Ridge to Haynes and Maulden. Cardington is famous for its two airship 'sheds', built in 1915 by the Short Brothers and housing the famous R101 airship.

- Start the ride from the eastern car park in Amphill Park and turn right onto the shared cycle path alongside the B530 Amphill Road. Keep right and stay on this path and cycle alongside the A507 and at the Millbrook roundabout turn right and down the hill into the attractive village of Millbrook (be aware of the speed humps all the way through the village). Cycle past The Chequers PH, on your right, then turn left at the T-junction and head down the short, steep hill, around the right-hand bend and past the entrance to Millbrook Technology Park. Follow the road around several bends and straights and carefully cross over the level crossing (when safe to do so) at Millbrook Station then continue along the straight section of road to the T-junction in Marston Moretaine. Turn right here onto Station Road and past the entrance to The Forest Centre, part of the Marston Vale Millennium Country Park and into the village centre of Marston Moretaine. Turn right at the T-junction and cycle along Bedford Road for some distance before turning left into Lower Shelton Road (cul-de-sac), turn left at the bottom of the close and along the cyclepath/subway under the A421 to Lower Shelton.
- Continue through Lower Shelton then into Upper Shelton then past Shelton Lower Shelton School and turn right at the T-junction and onto Upper Shelton Road. Continue along this road and into the hamlet of Wootton Green. Continue past Hoo Farm, on the right. The road then becomes Cranfield Road and enters the village of Cranfield. Continue through the village where the road becomes Bedford Road then leave the village, round a sharp left-hand bend then bear right just past Brook Farm. At the roundabout on the A428 Bedford by-pass continue straight ahead and along Ridge Road into Kempston.
- Continue straight ahead and join the B560 High Street through Kempston then at the mini-roundabout bear left onto the B531 Bedford Road, past Sainsbury's on your right and through the traffic lights. Cycle past Addison Howard Park, on your left, and through another set of traffic lights, keep straight ahead on Bedford Road.
- Go past the old Masonic Lodge building (on your right) and just past the road named Austin Canons (on your left) and just before Stafford Road turn left off the road and onto the cycle path. Follow the path under trees and grassy areas and cross the Great Ouse river on the bridge. Immediately on the other side turn sharp right back on yourself (towards the river) and then left on the cycle path so following the river towards Bedford. Continue under the railway bridges then under the road bridge (Prebend Street). Immediately after the bridge turn left and up the ramp to the road above. Then bear right and cross the river using the bridge. Please show respect and do not cycle on the pavement and either push your bike on the pavement or cycle (with care) on the road while crossing the river.



- Once over the river bear left down the ramp and onto the other bank, alongside Borough (once County) Hall. Go across the corner of the car park and get onto the cycle path and follow the river heading past Bedford College and its surrounding trees and parkland. Continue under the bridge carrying St. Mary's Street overhead (look out for the low height of the arch and be aware that this cyclepath often floods during heavy rain) and past Bedford Rowing Club on your right.
- Now follow this lovely stretch of cycle path along the Great Ouse, its Embankment, mature trees and gardens. Cross a weir using the bridge and continue through parkland. Over another bridge then past Bedford School Rowing Club, on your right. Go past the 'Butterfly Bridge' (on your left) and continue on the cycle path. At the end of the boating lake turn right and under Longholme Way then bear right and over the narrow bridge over the river (looking out for pedestrians). A few yards after crossing the bridge bear right and follow the path across the meadow and over the small bridge (entrance to Priory Marina). Continue straight ahead, keeping the river on your right and under the trees parallel to Priory Lake. Follow the river around a left hand bend and continue on the cycle path crossing grassy areas.
- Keep on the cycle path and bear round to the right and over a small bridge on the river then onto a tarmaced road then bear right onto the cycle path just before Stannard Way. Follow the path along the verge and around the small roundabout and stay parallel to Stannard Way. Bear right and use the controlled crossing to cross the busy A603 Cardington Road. Once over, keep left and cross (with care) the slip road coming off the A421. Stay on the cycle path/verge and cycle under the flyover bridge then cross carefully the other A421 slip road. Head straight across the verge to cycle on the cycle path alongside Cardington Road and into the small village of Cardington, the home of airships and the famous airship sheds.
- Cycle past Cardington church and the Green and at the T-junction turn right onto Southill Road. Continue through the village and round the left hand bend and past the unmistakable bulk of Cardington Airship Sheds on the right. Follow the road over a narrow steep bridge (crossing the old disused railway) and around several bends before a straight section then past Hillfoot Farm. Climb the steep hill and at the top the road becomes Bedford Road.
- Just past the farm cottages (on the right) turn right down an unclassified lane (signposted to Haynes) and past the entrance to Abbey Farm. Continue along this quiet and narrow lane to the T-junction at the end where you turn right opposite the woodland of Keepers' Warren.
- Cycle along the road past the entrance to Old Rowney Farm and then bear right onto Standalone Warren. Continue on until you reach the cross roads and stop here. Go straight across the A600 very carefully as this is a fast and busy road with bends. Once over the road cycle past Rowney Warren wood (with its popular off-road cycling courses) and then turn left along the lane and down through the wood with large scattered houses on either side. Continue round a right hand bend and through Appley Corner; a small car park and the start of Chicksands Wood are on the left. Carry along the road (still called Standalone Warren) and past Plummers Lane on your right. The road now becomes Church End Road and takes you through the small hamlet, or 'End' known as Haynes Church End.
- Cycle past several attractive cottages and then after a while you cycle past the impressive landscape of Haynes Park with its attendant house on the right. The mansion was built in 1720 and became a school from 1929 to 1992 when it was purchased by an Indian mystic sect, RSSB. Once you are opposite the house take the left turn down Great Lane (signposted to Clophill) and cycle along the lane. The lane is very attractive and gently winds its way past farms and houses and slowly descends. As you enter Clophill the land becomes steeper and then drops down a valley into the village.



- At the T-junction, with St Mary's Church on your left, turn right onto the High Street. Cycle through Clophill village. As you enter the small village 'green' and past the Green Man PH on your right, carry on up to the Flying Horse PH (on your left). Just past the row of small cottages on your right carefully cross the road and use the marked cycle path to carefully cross the A6, using the island in the centre of the road. From here carry straight ahead over the road and down Clophill Road to enter the village of Maulden.
- Cycle along Clophill Road to the T-junction where you turn right onto the continuation of Clophill Road and up the hill past open areas of grass and meadows with the Dog and Badger PH on your right. Continue past Maulden Lower School, on your right, and then past the attractive village green with its thatched cottages. Continue past the Co-op village stores and the White Hart PH (both on the left) and up the hill. Leave the village and carry straight over a roundabout and enter the small attractive Georgian market town of Ampthill via Church Street. Cycle up the hill, past St Andrews Church on your right and then drop down the hill to the town centre. Bear left at the first mini-roundabout then turn right at the second mini-roundabout and into Woburn Street then head up the steep hill. Continue past the Queen's Head PH and the attractive row of brick and timber thatched cottages. From here it is a short ride back along the leafy tree-lined road to the entrance to Ampthill Park car park from where the ride started (on the right).

OS Maps: Explorer 193, 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 8305

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

on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/cycling.aspx

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

Refreshments...

Ampthill – a variety of inns, restaurants and shops.

Ampthill Park Hub Café – in Ampthill Park.

Millbrook – The Chequers PH – 01525 403835
www.thechequersmillbrook.co.uk

Forest of Marston Vale – Forest Centre Lakeside Café
01234 767037 www.marstonvale.org

Marston Moretaine – a variety of inns and shops.

Wootton – a variety of inns and shops.

Kempston – a variety of inns and shops.

Bedford – a variety of inns and shops.

Cardington – The Kings Arms – 01234 838533
www.thekingsarmscardington.co.uk

Clophill – a variety of inns and shops.


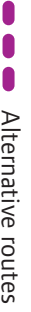





Maulden – a variety of inns and shops.

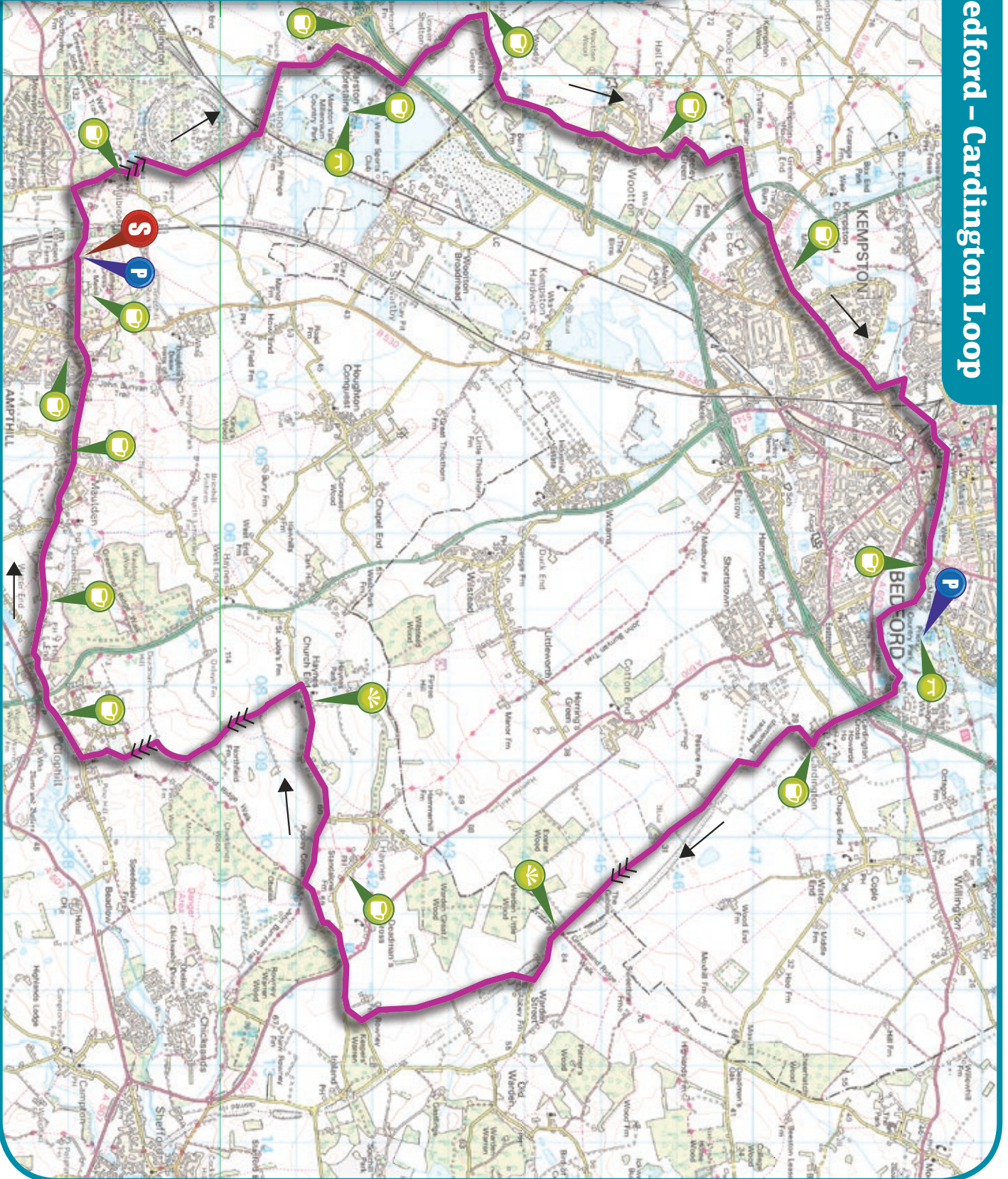


Amptihill - Bedford - Cardington Loop

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Total length 46 km (28 miles)

-  Cycle route
-  Alternative routes
-  Start point
-  Car park
-  Public house or cafe
-  Viewpoint
-  Picnic area
-  Steep hill



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