

# Circular Cycle Ride

## The Thatcher's Way Cycle Ride – On Road

Central  
Bedfordshire

great  
lifestyles

A 38km (24 mile) circular cycle ride on quiet roads and cycle paths around the beautiful, undulating countryside to the east of Bedford and through the picturesque estate villages of Old Warden, Southill, Cardington and Moggerhanger.

- Start from the car park at Priory Country Park in Bedford. Cycle past the Visitor Centre and towards the lake then turn left along the cycle path that runs along the lake. Turn left over 'Marina Ford Bridge' and follow the path through the wooded area, then across 'Jetty Bridge'. On the other side, bear left then right across the 'Cardington Lock' and 'Sluice' bridges and leave the Park.
- At the T-junction, turn right onto Stannard Way and past the first roundabout, then just before the second roundabout, bear right onto the cycle path, signposted 'Kempston and Cardington'. Follow the path anti-clockwise around the large, busy roundabout, cross over the A603 (using the Pelican crossing) then bear left across the two slip roads of the A421.
- Then take the next right turning off the roundabout signposted 'Cardington'. In the centre of Cardington turn right at the T-junction by the King's Arms PH and follow the road (Southill Road) out of the village, with the famous Airship Sheds to your right. Continue over a bridge over the old railway line (where scenes from 'Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines' were filmed). Continue ahead and up the steep hill onto the Greensand Ridge.
- Just past the cottages (on the right) turn right down the small lane (signposted 'Haynes') (Shortcut here) and past the remains of the Cistercian Abbey. At the end of the lane, turn left and cycle past Keepers Warren Wood, on your right.
- Just before the old railway bridge turn right (signposted 'Ireland') and up the hill (can flood here in wet weather). At the T-junction turn left and cycle past the Black Horse PH. Then bear left, towards Southill. Continue ahead until you see a road on the left, signposted 'Southill' and turn left into the village.
- Turn left opposite the White Horse PH and follow the road, where the road bears sharply right, continue straight ahead and past the Tree Nursery. Continue ahead and past two attractive cottages on the right and down the hill through woodlands.
- At the T-junction turn right onto Bedford Road and into the attractive 'Swiss' style village of Old Warden. Continue past the Hare and Hounds PH and the entrance to Old Warden Park (both on the right) and out of the village.
- Next, turn left (signposted 'Ickwell' and 'Northill'). (If you stay straight ahead you can visit the outstanding collection of vintage aeroplanes at the famous Shuttleworth Collection and the Swiss Garden).
- After turning left cycle down the short hill into the village of Ickwell – a beautiful village with a large village green and maypole. Continue straight ahead to Northill and past the Crown PH and village pond on your left.
- Continue straight ahead then turn left in the tiny hamlet of Thorncote Green (signposted 'Moggerhanger'). Follow the small lane then turn right at the next junction (signposted 'Moggerhanger'). Just before entering Moggerhanger you will see the nationally important historic Moggerhanger Park with house designed by Sir John Soane, on your left.



- Cycle into the village and stop at the crossroads. Carefully cross the busy A603 and go straight ahead through the rest of the village and past the church.
- Continue on and into the hamlet of Chalton and then turn left (signposted 'Blunham'). (Shortcut here).
- Continue into the village of Blunham and at the T-junction turn left (signposted 'Great Barford'). At the traffic lights turn left just before the bridge. Alternatively, go straight ahead over the bridge and into the village of Great Barford for shops and public houses.
- After several hundred metres turn right off the road to join the Bedford – Sandy National Cycle Route (Route 61) and follow the route towards Willington past Willington Lock and Danish Camp. Continue to follow the path and turn right then left over the River Ouse. Be sure to visit the historic properties of Willington Dovecote and Stable – National Trust properties.
- Continue to follow the cycle path over the bridge on the A421 Bedford bypass and back into Priory Country Park.

## Shortcuts/additions

- Instead of going down the lane (signposted 'Haynes') past the old Cistercian Abbey, continue straight on and then turn left at the T-junction and into the village of Old Warden. Here you rejoin the route as you cycle through the village.
- Instead of going through Blunham village and just past the dip in the road turn left into Old Station Court and follow this road to the end where you join the Bedford – Sandy National Cycleway (Route 61).

OS Map: Explorer 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](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/cycling.aspx)

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

## Refreshments...

**Cardington** – The Kings Arms PH – 01234 838533

**Ireland** – The Black Horse PH – 01462 811398  
[www.blackhorseireland.com](http://www.blackhorseireland.com)

**Southill** – White Horse PH – 01462 813364  
[www.whitehorsesouthill.co.uk](http://www.whitehorsesouthill.co.uk)

**Southill Tea Rooms** – 01462 817430  
[www.southillvillagetearoom.co.uk](http://www.southillvillagetearoom.co.uk)

**Old Warden** – Hare and Hounds PH – 01767 627225  
[www.hareandhoundsoldwarden.com](http://www.hareandhoundsoldwarden.com)

**Shuttleworth Shop and Restaurant** – 01767 627937  
[www.shuttleworth.org/visitor-centre.asp](http://www.shuttleworth.org/visitor-centre.asp)

**Northill** – The Crown PH – 01767 627337  
[www.crownnorthill.co.uk](http://www.crownnorthill.co.uk)

**Moggerhanger** – The Guinea PH – 01767 640338  
[www.guineamoggerhanger.co.uk](http://www.guineamoggerhanger.co.uk)

**Moggerhanger Park Woodland Café** – 01767 641007  
[www.moggerhangerpark.com/ipg/the-woodland-cafe](http://www.moggerhangerpark.com/ipg/the-woodland-cafe)

**Great Barford** – The Anchor PH – 01234 870364  
[www.anchorinnngreatbarford.co.uk](http://www.anchorinnngreatbarford.co.uk)

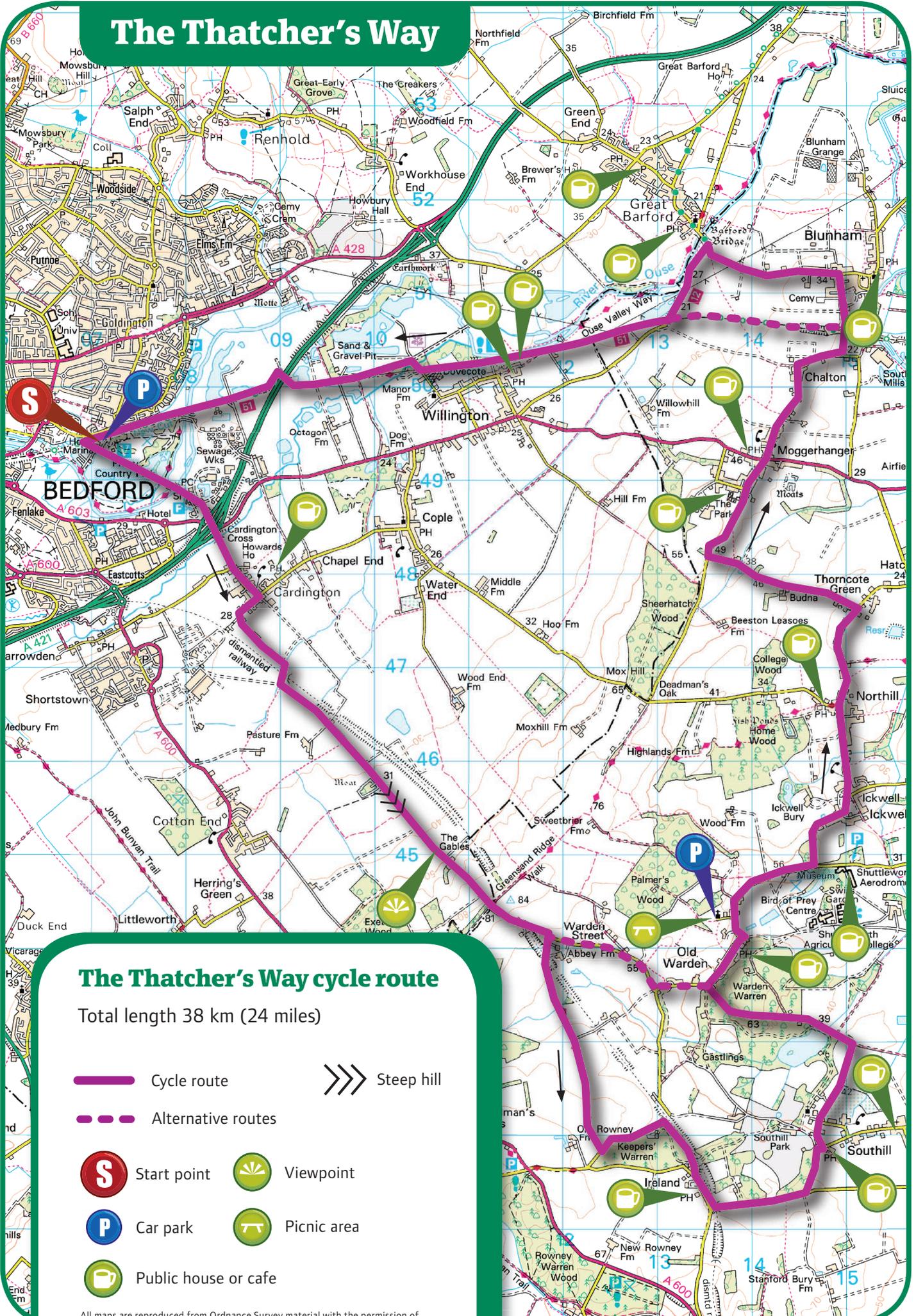
**Great Barford Store and Post Office**, 8 – 10 High Street, 01234 871399 [www.greatbarford.org.uk/your-village/village-shop](http://www.greatbarford.org.uk/your-village/village-shop)

**Willington** – The Crown PH, 17 Station Road – 01234 831024

**Danish Camp Riverside Centre**, Chapel Lane, Willington 01234 838709 – [www.danishcamp.co.uk](http://www.danishcamp.co.uk)



# The Thatcher's Way



## The Thatcher's Way cycle route

Total length 38 km (24 miles)

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

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