



Horse Riding Routes

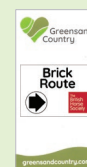


Explore Greensand Country on horseback



Brick: This lovely ride of about 9 miles is on a mixture of hard tracks, sand tracks and grass paths, with much of the ride in a woodland environment. There are some steep hills both upward and downward and a level crossing.

Starts from the Forest of Marston Vale, Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine.



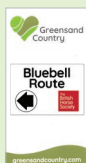
Aspley: Explore Bedford Estate plantations on former heaths, passing some ancient woodland and several points of interest. This route is predominately in woodland, a mix of broadleaf and conifers, on mainly sandy ground. 7 miles (with option of 4 miles)

Starts from a well signed car park off the A5130 between Woburn and Woburn Sands.



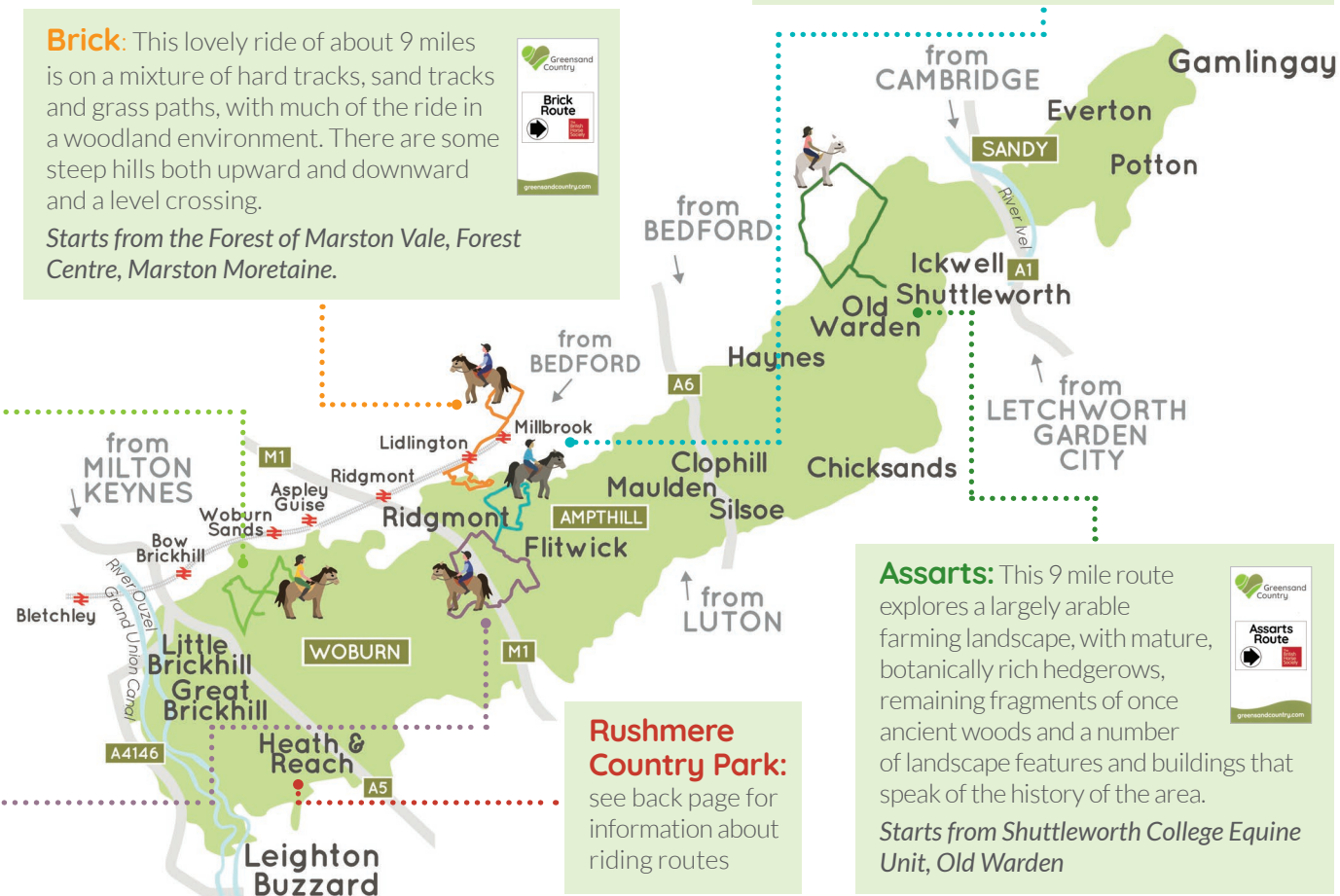
Bluebell: Explore ancient woodlands (with spring bluebells) and farmland developed from former medieval deer parks. Approximately 7½ miles but can be extended to 12 miles by also riding the Warren Ride.

Starts in Eversholt, with an alternative parking spot near Steppingley and Millbrook.



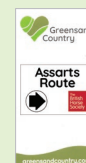
Warren: A short route of about 4 miles around the woods of Millbrook Warren, now home to a Center Parcs holiday village – the route essentially follows the perimeter of this recent development. This ride can be ridden in conjunction with the Bluebell Ride to create a 12 mile route.

Starts near Steppingley, with alternative parking in Fordfield Road, Millbrook, recommended for lorries.



Assarts: This 9 mile route explores a largely arable farming landscape, with mature, botanically rich hedgerows, remaining fragments of once ancient woods and a number of landscape features and buildings that speak of the history of the area.

Starts from Shuttleworth College Equine Unit, Old Warden



Rushmere Country Park: see back page for information about riding routes

Off-road cyclists

Each of the routes is suitable for off-road cyclists but please remember that cyclists should give way to walkers and horses. Please pass other users slowly and with consideration. Be nice, say hi!

Places to stay

Please note these accommodations and liveries have not been inspected by the BHS.

Sunnyside Lodges and Livery



South View Farm, Bury Ware, Lidlington MK43 0QR
www.sunnysidelodges.co.uk
paul@sunnysidelodges.co.uk
01525 403777



Paul and Lynne offer luxurious self catering accommodation in the heart of Bedfordshire. Their daughter, Lucinda, an international show jumper and advanced dressage rider, as well as a trainer and coach, can provide livery for your horse. Sunnyside is located next to the Brick ride and close to the Warren ride – the others are also easily accessible.

Top Barn



Rectory Farm Barns, Gravenhurst
Julie Wright 07503 185277
juliemwright@msn.com

2 stables and grazing available on this private yard, located within a short drive of the routes (between 8 and 15 miles). No human accommodation on offer but there are several locally, including Clophill Eco Lodges (3 miles) and The Old Piggery (5 miles).

The Old Piggery



West Park Farm, Wilstead Hill, Haynes MK45 3QS
www.theoldpiggerybandb.co.uk
enquiries@theoldpiggerybandb.co.uk
01234 742142



Situated on a working arable farm set along the beautiful Greensand Ridge, the once redundant building was thoughtfully converted into a welcoming, well-appointed bed and breakfast. The Old Piggery also offers two luxurious yurts for up to four, on either B&B or self catering basis.

Camptonbury Farm



Gravenhurst Road, Campton, SG17 5NY
Joanne Essex 07974 138586
Joanneessex1976@outlook.com

2 stables and lots of grazing available on this private yard. No human accommodation on offer but there are several locally, including Clophill Eco Lodges (3 miles) and The Old Piggery (7 miles). Assarts is only 5 miles away and the others between 8 and 16 miles.



Upper Wood End Farm



Marston Moretaine MK43 0NZ
www.upperwoodendfarm.co.uk
hello@upperwoodendfarm.co.uk
01234 766932



Farmhouse B&B with stabling or grazing available for your horse. Arena, instruction and McTimoney treatments are also available.

Close to the start of the Brick ride, with other hacking also available locally. The other routes are a short drive away.

Coming soon - Wakes End Farm



This farm, which is at the start of the Bluebell Ride, intends to offer both human and horse holiday accommodation, subject to planning permission which has been delayed due to COVID. We will put further information on the Greensand Country website when available.
www.greensandcountry.com/explore/horse-riding

Key:



Horse Stay



Accommodation

Clophill Eco Lodges



Old Church Path, Clophill MK45 4BP
www.ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk
info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk
07935 911207

Set in a woodland copse, half a mile up a private track, Clophill Eco Lodges encourage healthy living, appreciation and a love of the great outdoors. The lodges are laid out in a horseshoe shape and can accommodate up to 16 including a self catering lodge and a central kitchen and lounge. Suitable for families, couples or singles.

Each of the rides is easily accessible, being between 7 and 12 miles away



The British Horse Society advises that before you take to the bridleways, byways and roads, there are ten things to do:

1. Make sure that your tack fits and is safe
2. Your own clothes and boots should be comfortable and suitable for the weather conditions
3. Wear hi-viz, ideally on both you and on the horse, which could be seen from above as well as from all angles by other people on the ways
4. Wear boots which are suitable for walking should it be necessary
5. Carrying a whip is advised for various uses (assuming your horse is safe with you doing so)
6. Take a phone and, in unknown territory, take a map. If you have a smart phone we recommend that you download the what3words app so that you can determine your location at any time.
7. Tell somebody where you are going and roughly how long you think you will be out
8. Train your horse to open gates safely at home; allow more time for a gated ride
9. Train your horse to stand, so that if any difficulties arise you can deal with them while the horse is still
10. If you are riding in unknown territory, it is advisable to have a headcollar under the bridle with a rope (looped and knotted – quick release – round the horse's neck, or attached to your saddle).

The route leaflets and .gpx files of the routes, can be downloaded from the website: www.greensandcountry.com/explore/horse-riding. Up to date information about the routes can also be found on that website.



Whilst out on the ride, please enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work with courtesy, care and consideration for others and for the land:

- Leave only hoofprints and guard against fire
- Help others to see you: wear hi-viz aids, even off-road
- Keep to the bridleway or byway
- Do not jump fences, hedges or walls – you may cause damage
- Pass others at walk and slow down well before you reach them, as they may be frightened of horses or uncertain how to act
- Be able to stop in the distance that you can see ahead
- Acknowledge courtesy shown by other users
- Adopt 'Share the Trail': each encounter with another user is a chance to build cooperation – a smile and a short chat can work wonders!
- Encourage cyclists to call out when approaching horses. Many cyclists are unsure what to do around horses.
- Ride slowly past all livestock
- Leave gates as you find them
- Do not ride on crops or cultivated land (except on public rights of way), including stubble (which may be sown with a new crop) and young grass
- Keep to walk if faster paces may damage the ground.



Charity number :
210504



Greensand Country

An area of distinct, beautiful and loved countryside

Greensand Country covers 40 square miles of scenic landscape, which is defined by the Greensand Ridge and reaches three neighbouring counties, from Cambridgeshire in the East, across Bedfordshire and to Buckinghamshire in the West. Greensand Country contains all of Bedfordshire's remaining heathland, more than half of its woodland and a greater concentration of historic parkland than any other part of England.

We have produced leaflets describing five different horse rides within the Greensand Country area to help you explore this wonderful landscape. Each leaflet is available online as a pdf download, along with .gpx files, from www.greensandcountry.com/explore/horse-riding/

In addition to the ride map and directions, the leaflets include information about the area you are riding in – its history, important buildings or sites that you pass and some of the native wildlife that you may encounter.

Most of the buildings and historical sites are not accessible on horseback but we hope you will return on foot – perhaps with friends and family – to immerse yourself in the heritage of this wonderful area.

We hope you enjoy your ride!

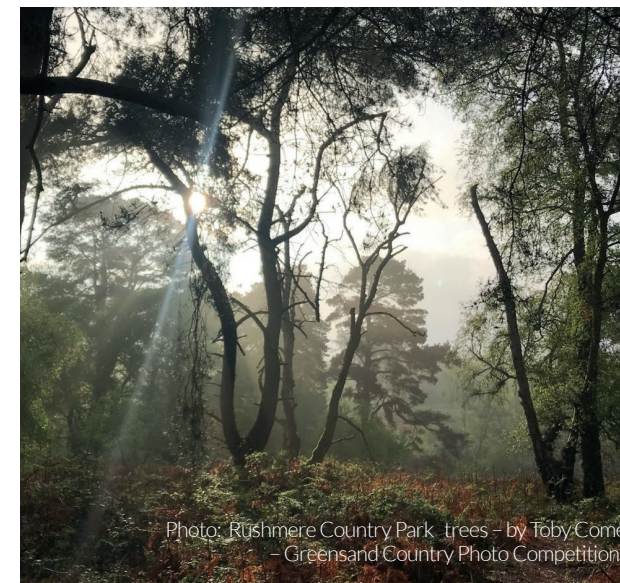


Photo: Rushmere Country Park trees – by Toby Comer
– Greensand Country Photo Competition 2019

Rushmere Country Park

In addition to the routes described, Rushmere Country Park welcomes horse riders and has a designated parking area for vehicles with horse boxes off the main car park. Please note that weekend parking cannot be guaranteed unless booked in advance. There is a charge on entering the park and riders will be required to purchase a 'Greensand Horse Riding Pass' in advance. Please refer to www.greensandtrust.org/horse-riding for further details.

Linslade Road, Heath and Reach, Bedfordshire LU7 0EB

w3w for main entrance: ///results.proofs.drumbeat

What3words: Please download this app to your smartphone to help you find locations and to tell others (vets, emergency services, friends) where you are. Each 3m square in the world has been assigned a unique 3 word address that will never change. In the leaflets you will find the w3w address for each of the ride start points.

Get involved: greensandcountry.com

