



Have yourself a Greensand Country cycling adventure

Greensand Country Cycleways: **Parkland Way**

This ride begins at the Georgian village of Woburn, with a fine range of shops, pubs and eating places. The character of this area is dominated by the nearby Woburn Abbey the seat of the Russell family, Dukes of Bedford. The ride crosses the magnificent Deer Park and passes the village of Eversholt, a typical, Bedford Estate village. A feature of this ride is the attractive woodland which is mostly planted with pines. There are also fragments of semi-natural woodland and a few areas designated and protected for ecological rarity.

Key facts:

Route marker:

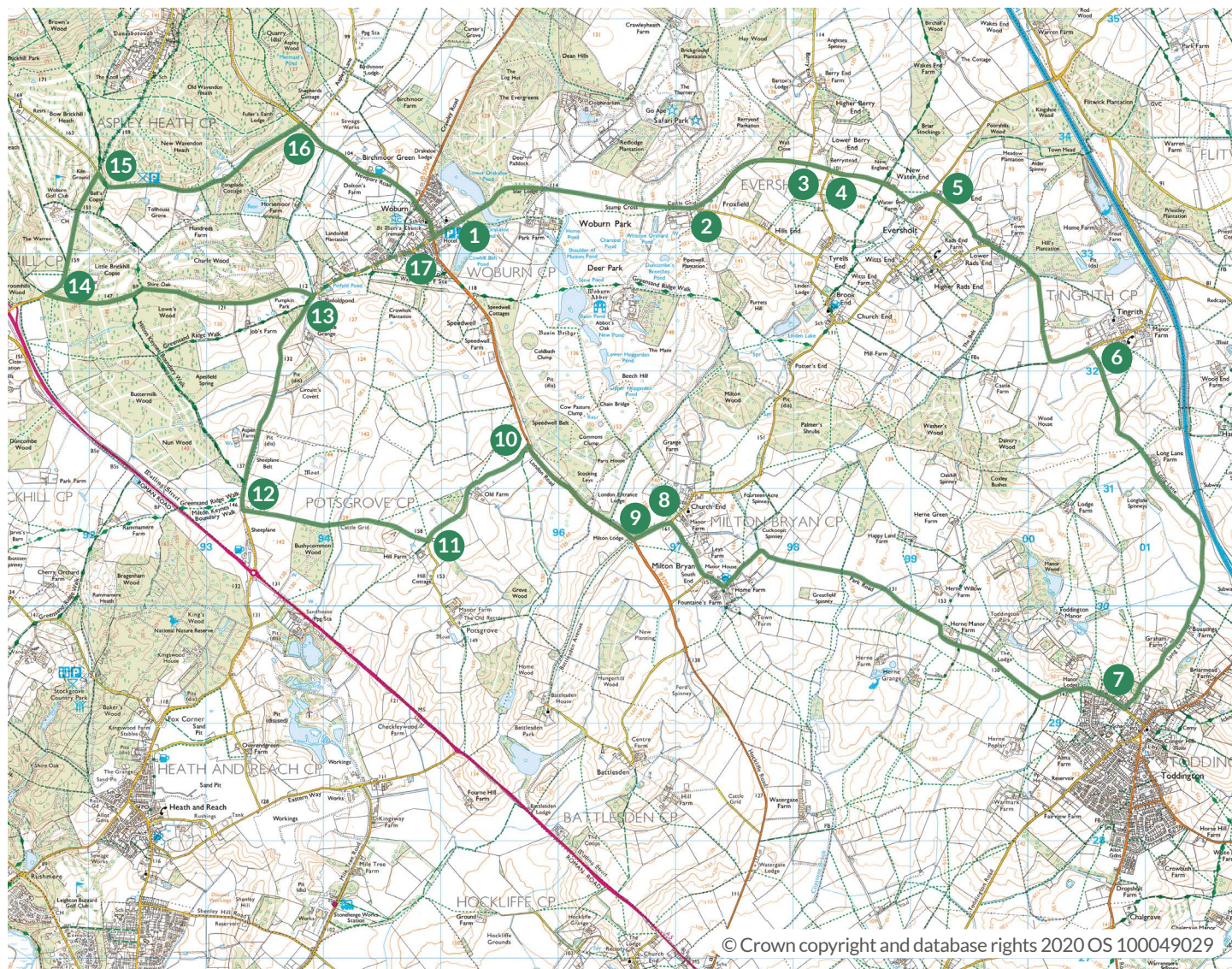


Length:	19 miles (30km)
Direction of travel:	Clockwise but can be ridden in either direction.
Route type:	On road
Options:	Two
Links to other routes:	Greensand Cycleway
Terrain:	Up & down. One steep hill going up if ridden clockwise
Sites:	Woburn deer park
Car park:	Woburn, MK17 9QZ
OS Explorer maps: (Orange 1:25,000)	192 & 193

The section through the deer park has three sets of cattle grids. You may wish to dismount and use the gate to the side. The minor road to Potsgrove also has four cattle grids which you may have to walk over or around.

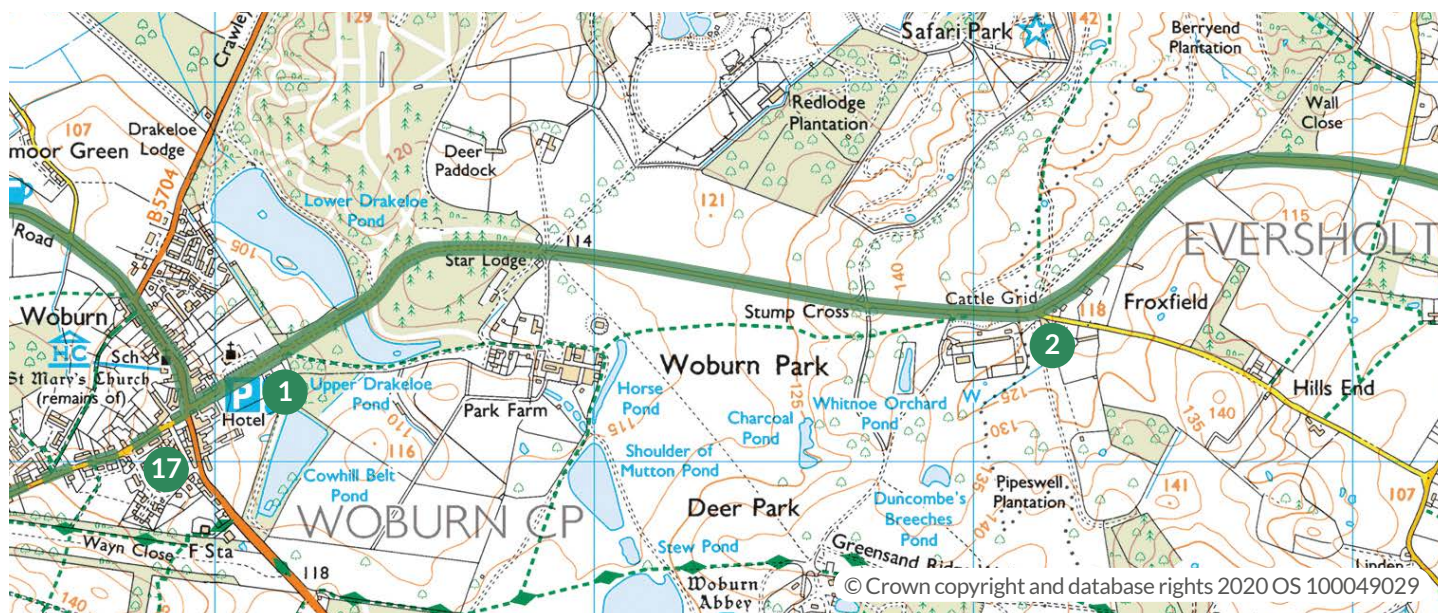


Route map



Woburn

The church with a striking tower opposite the car park is something of an anomaly in the Greensand Country where local churches are usually graced by a more modest squat sandstone structure. As the guide to the church comments, "the Church of St Marys was built by the Duke of Bedford in the 1860s, to suitably noble proportions". The spire had to be dismantled in 1890 for safety reasons.

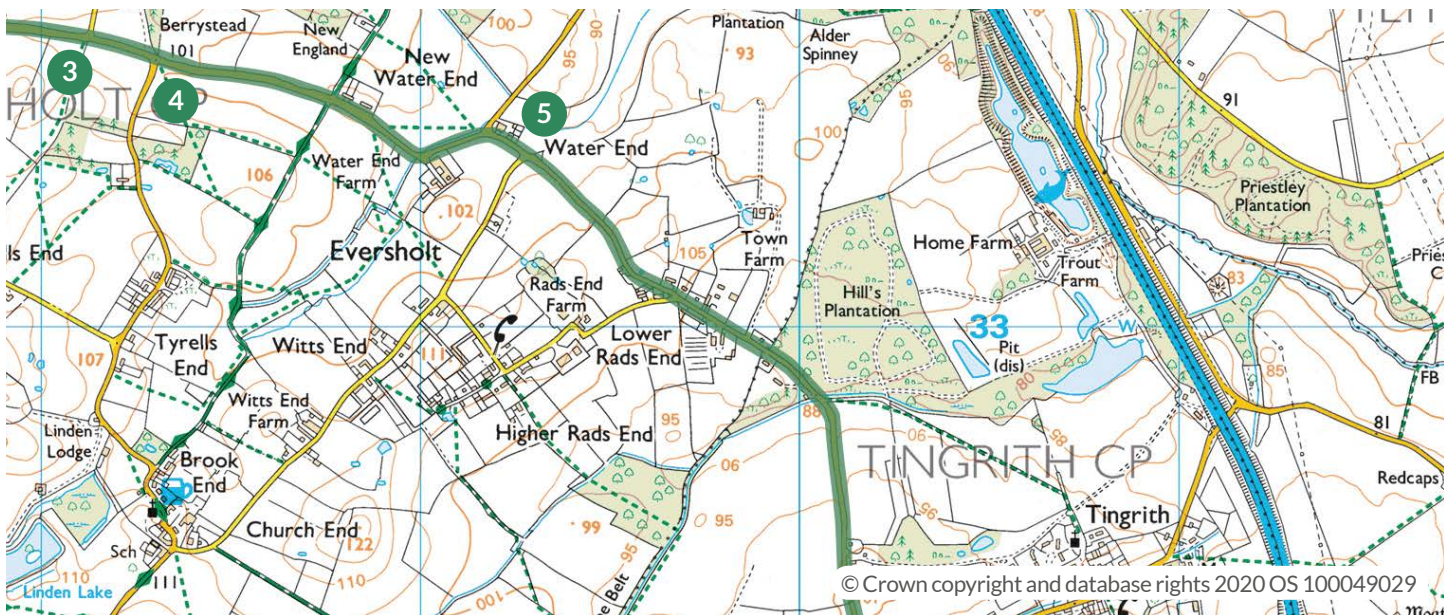


- 1 Start from the free car park in Woburn village centre and turn right onto Park Street. Go through the entrance to the Deer Park and enjoy the views of the ornamental landscape, lakes and flowering rhododendrons (in season). Stay on the lane across the Deer Park, admiring the herds of deer, and up the short, steep hill. Leave the Park and cycle through the tiny hamlet of Froxfield.

Deer Park

Crossing the Deer Park the expansive nature of this estate becomes clear. This is not only one of the best examples of the parkland landscapes in the Greensand Country, but one of the grand houses of England. Both the house, which holds an impressive art collection, and the immediate garden, are open to the public. The parkland, is crisscrossed by public footpaths, provide splendid views of what a classic parkland landscape looks like. The landscape and garden design follows the ideas set out by Humphrey Repton in one of his famous 'red books'.

- 2 Take the left hand fork past Froxfield House on your right.



- 3 Continue along the Road, past the road to Ridgmont

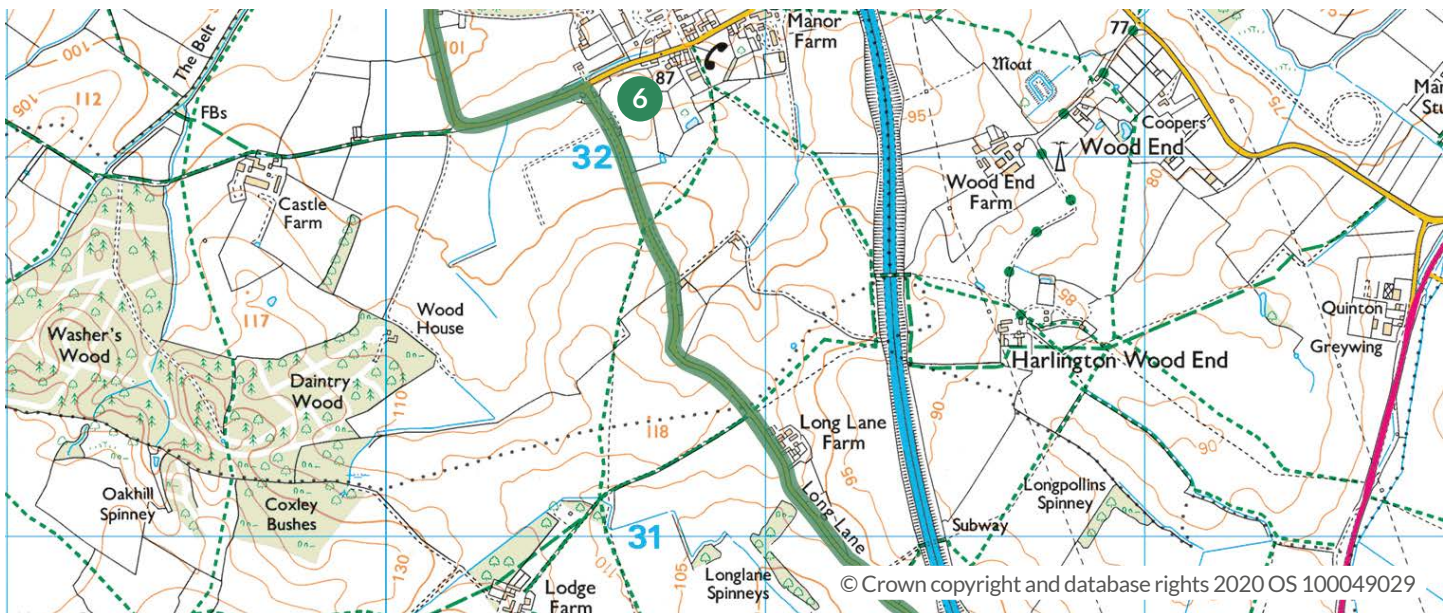
Eversholt

The route now skirts the village of Eversholt, which is a scattered community with numerous 'ends', such as Water End, where the route forks right and the pleasingly named Wits End. The use of the word 'end' in is thought to denote a clearing in the medieval forest where settlements pushed out and away from the core arable fields.

- 4 Then past Berrystead. Continue straight ahead on the Steppingley Road, past the Bedford Estate cottages and to the sharp left-hand bend at Water End Farm
- 5 Turn right, across the road and head along Tingrith Road. Carry straight on, through Lower Rads End and past Bracken Hill Farm, on your right. Follow the road round a sharp left-hand bend.

Tingrith

The route is on the outskirts of the village of Tingrith. Again, the place names allow us to understand the origins of this settlement, as the ending 'grith' is connected to the Norse and confirms this settlement as part of the Danelaw province settled in the 9th century. The ending 'grith' usually denotes a 'place of protection', in a general locality at the edge of the Saxon kingdoms which would be have been an insecure borderland.



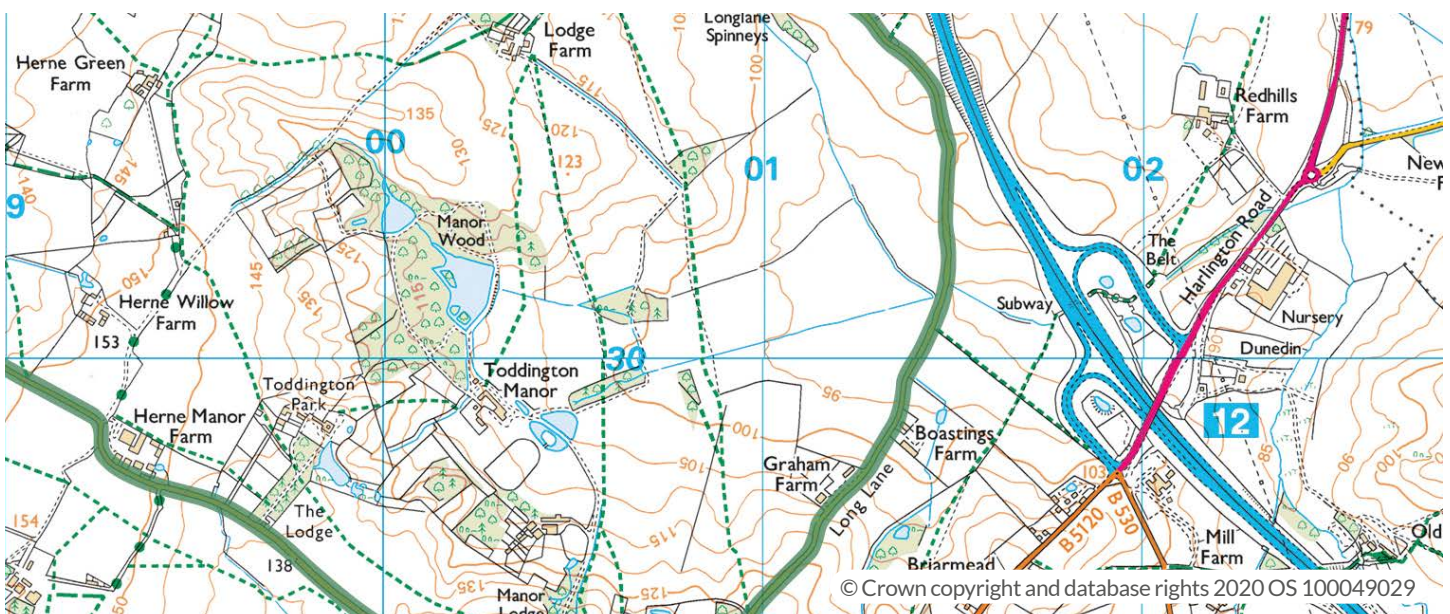
- 6** Then turn right at the next junction and head south east Long Lane which is appropriately named. This parallel to the M1 motorway opened in 1959.

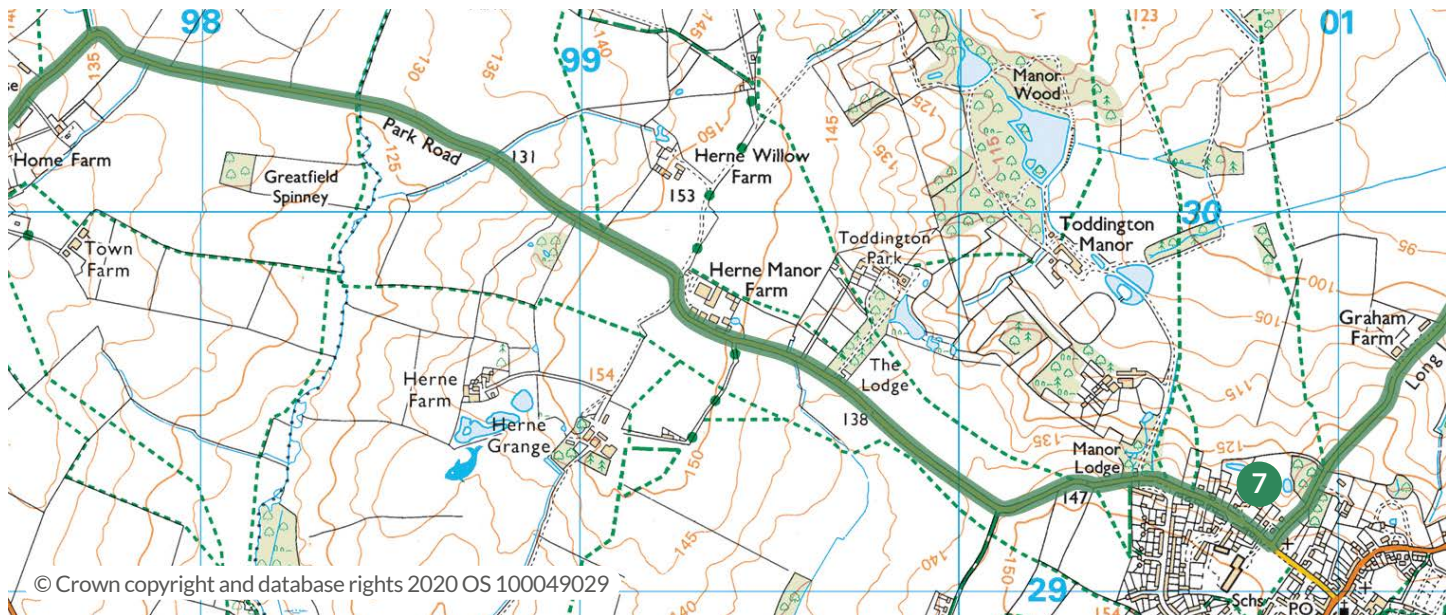
Eventually you will reach a T-junction on the north east edge of Toddington. From here turn right along Park Lane and out into open countryside, past Herne Manor Farm, on the right. Continue along Park Lane, around several bends and bear right into the small village of Milton Bryan.



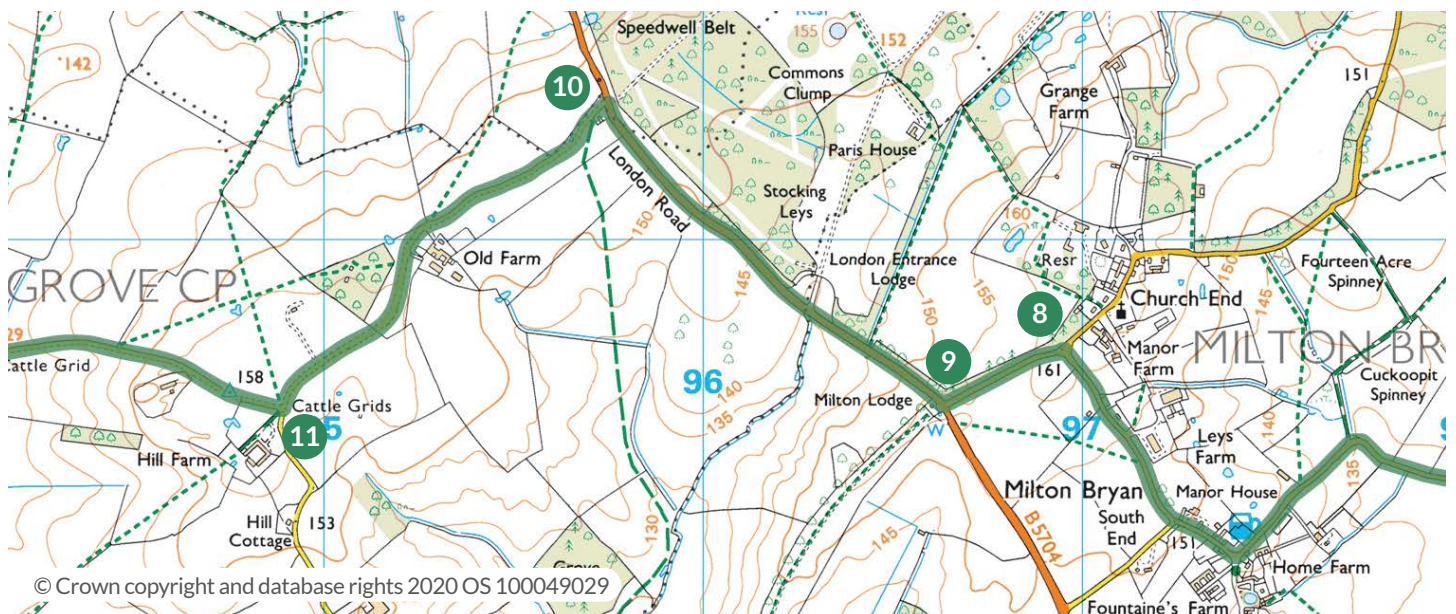
Black propaganda

Milton Bryan is the location of a WW2 black propaganda radio station, now a Scout & Guide camp site.





- 7** Go past the Red Lion PH and school to the T-junction where you turn left then cycle along the road.



- 8** At the T-junction and turn right (carefully) onto the busy A4012 Hockliffe to Woburn road. Cycle along here for approximately 1.18km (0.7 miles).



Turnpike

The A4012 used to be the Hockliffe to Woburn turnpike road.

- 9** Turn left towards Potsgrove (adjacent to Potsgrove Lodge). See Option 1. Cycle down the narrow lane.

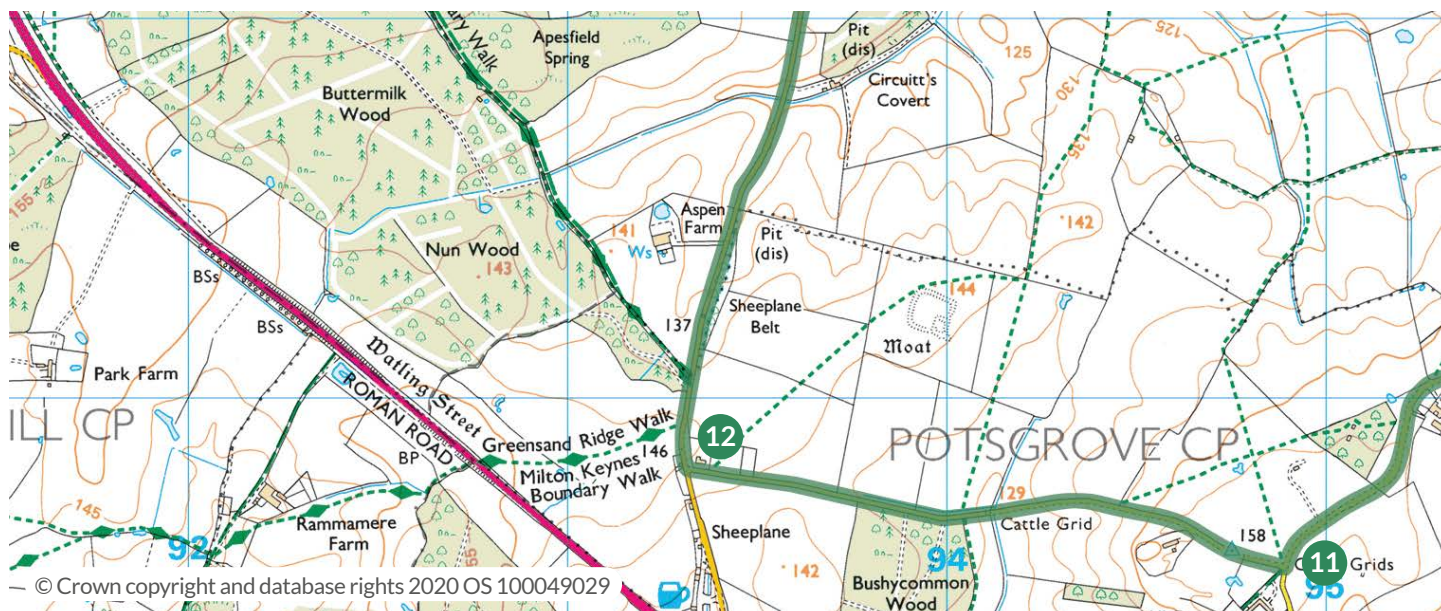
Potsgrove

The route enters one of the least populated and quieter areas of a generally busy county. This area has long history of settlement and is recorded in the Domesday Book as being owned by Gozelin le Breton which illustrates the French influence in the re-distribution of land after 1066. The hamlets here represent deserted or reduced villages and the landscape has been described as a 'fossilised medieval landscape'

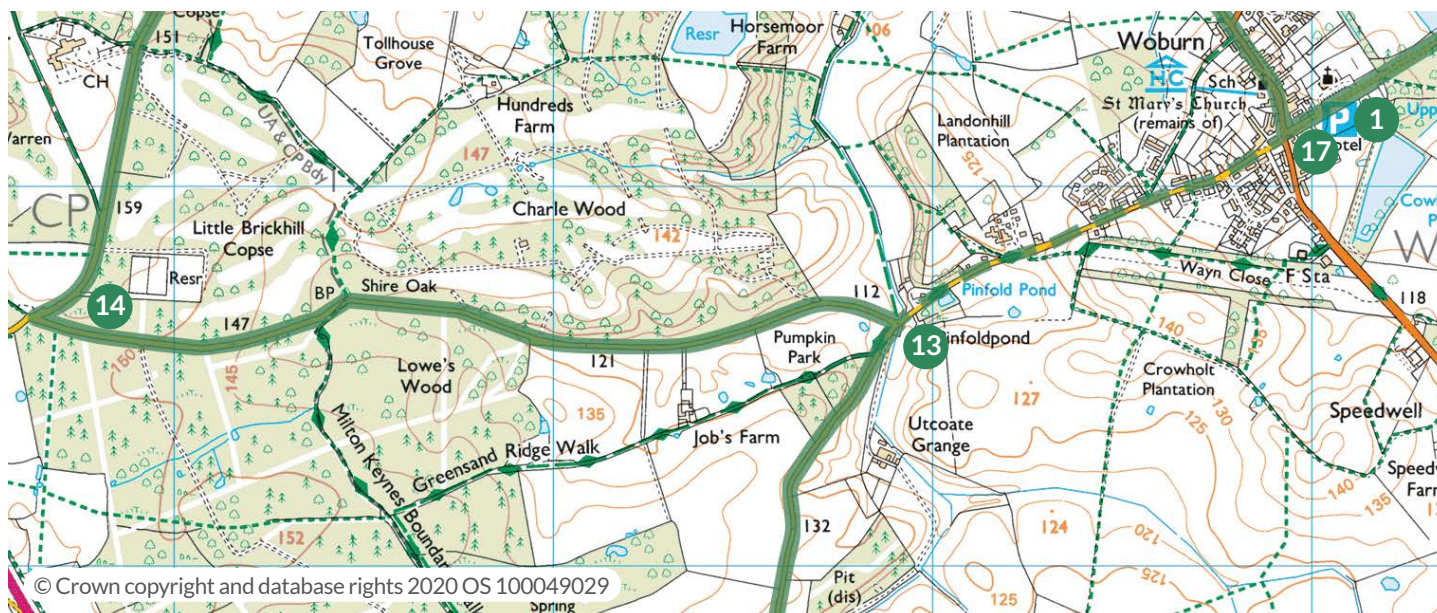
- 10** Just before Hill Farm cottage, take the right turn and continue along the lane past farm buildings and Bushycommon Wood.
- 11** At the next T-junction turn right (watch out for traffic) onto Sheep Lane, towards Woburn. Follow this winding lane.

Greensand Ridge Walk

At the bottom of the hill before the junction to Brickhill the ride crosses the Greensand Ridge Walk. At this point the ride climbs again on to a higher point of the ridge which has sandy soils and has been planted with conifers, as part of the Bedford Estate plantation woodlands. These woods are a popular walking locality for local people and beyond. Walking trails and some bike paths provide access to the woodland.



- 12** At the bottom of a hill, turn left (signposted Little Brickhill) and follow the lane past woodlands. See Option 2.
Continue through woodlands until you reach another lane, on a sharp bend, on your right (signed Woburn Golf Club).



- 13** Turn right here (carefully) and head along the small lane. Cycle through woodlands with Little Brickhill Copse on your right and Woburn Golf Club on your left.



Wavendon Woods

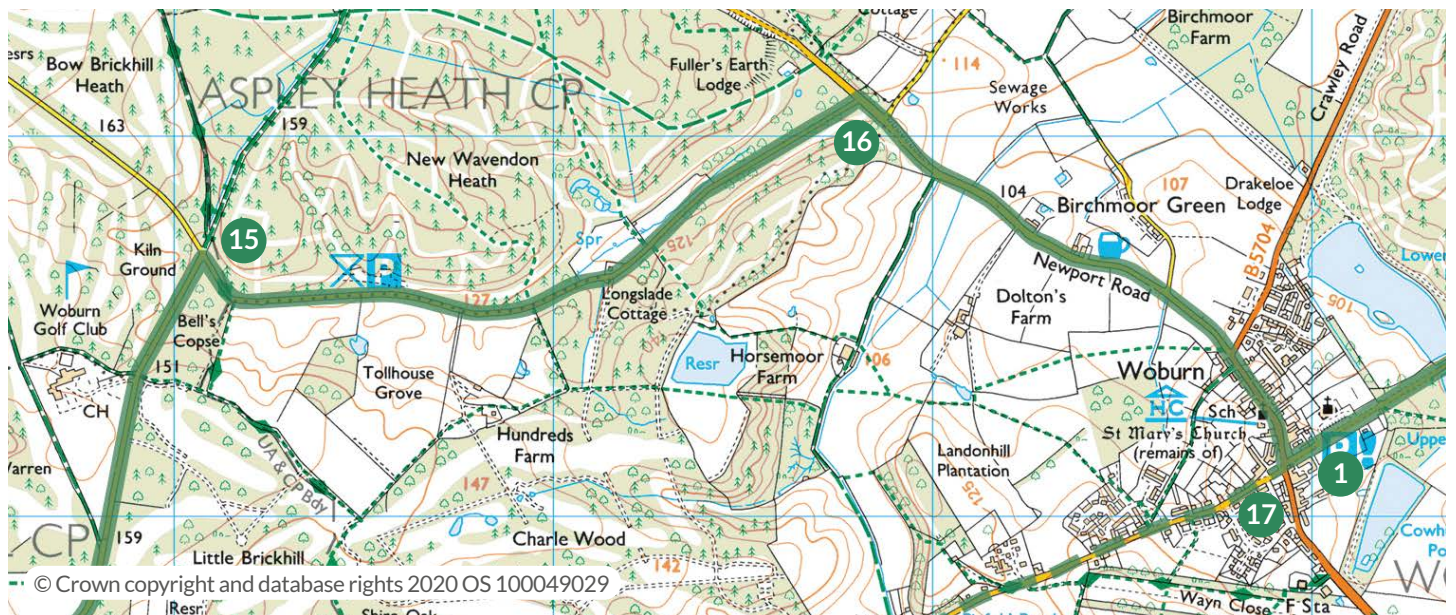
The return to Woburn along Longslade Road takes the ride past New Wavendon Woods, which is a part of this extensive spread of heathland including Charle Wood and the woods around Aspley Guise. Most of this land is now planted to conifers. Within this woodland are a number of ponds which are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), as they are a rare example of what is termed an 'acid mire'. This reflects the sandy soils which are acid in nature and supports an ecology which is uncommon in southern England.

- 14** At the small T-junction turn right and head along Longslade Lane past the lovely woodlands of New Wavendon Heath on your left. Continue ahead and up the slight incline and stop at the T-junction.



Aspley Wood

Aspley Wood is opposite the junction. For off road cyclists this has an immediate attraction with cross country cycle trails and a downhill jump facility. The use of this off-road cycling challenge requires a Greensand Country permit.



- 15** Turn right here onto the A5130 Woburn Road (beware of traffic) and follow the road back into Woburn village centre.
- 16** In the village centre turn left just before the Inn at Woburn (signposted Woburn Abbey), into Park Street and back to the car park on your right, opposite the Parish Church of Saint Mary, Woburn.

Options

Option 1

Instead of turning off the A4012 to Potsgrove at waypoint 10 you can stay on this road and head back to Woburn.

Option 2

Instead of turning off Sheep Lane at waypoint 13 to head towards Little Brickhill stay on the road, up the hill past Maryland House, along Leighton Road and back into Woburn.

Refreshments

Details of refreshment outlets can be found on the Greensand Country website



www.greensandcountry.com/experience

Remember when cycling

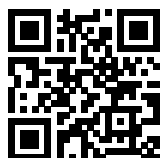
- If possible start your ride from your front door
- If you do drive to the start point then please park with consideration
- Please DO NOT cycle on footpaths.
- Always keep to the waymarked routes and do not enter private land.
- Always ride in single file when roads are narrow and never ride more than 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.

More information



What 3 Words: Download this app to your smartphone to help you find locations and to tell others where you are. Each 3m square in the world has been assigned a unique 3 word address that will never change.

The route passes a number of churches. More information on them including services, facilities and what else they have to offer can be found online.



www.achurchnearyou.com



www.explorechurches.org

This website may also tell you what is special about the buildings and makes them worth visiting.

Churches are attractive and worthwhile stopping places steeped in community history. They usually have benches to rest on and a porch in which you can shelter from the elements.

Signage for promoted routes throughout Greensand Country has been part-funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.