

6 Woods, Parks, etc

A ride in two halves! It takes in the countryside on the north-east fringe of Bedford, coming into Bedford along the Willington/Priory Park cycle track. It returns to the starting point in Mowsbury Park following ride 5. The first half follows tracks and bridleways which, although firm, can be wet in winter. This ride will appeal to off-road riders but can be ridden on shopping and touring bikes. Parts may be a little rough for beginners but is largely off-road. It is circular and can be easily accessed from all other parts of the town, particularly by Ride 1 and, from the south of Bedford, by Ride 3 in reverse. Car parking is available at Mowsbury and Priory Country Parks.

9 Miles MODERATE

PUBS

Beefeater, Priory Park
Polhill Arms, Renhold

TEAS & SNACKS

Kiosk, Russell Park
Kiosk, Bedford Park

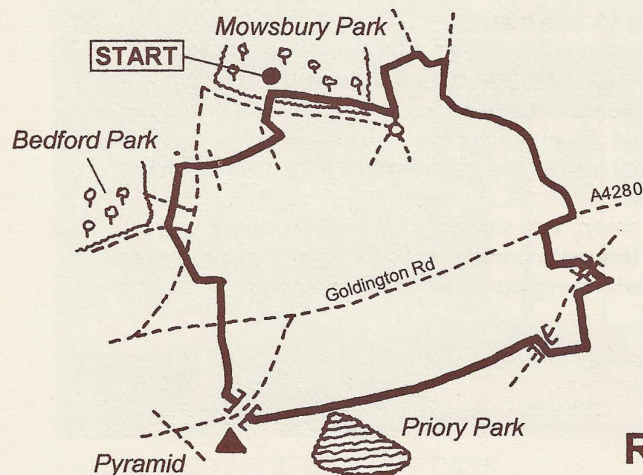
PICNIC SITES

Mowsbury Park
Priory Country Park
Longholme Lake
Russell Park
Bedford Park

Our description starts and finishes at Mowsbury Park.

CIRCULAR TOUR FROM MOWSBURY PARK

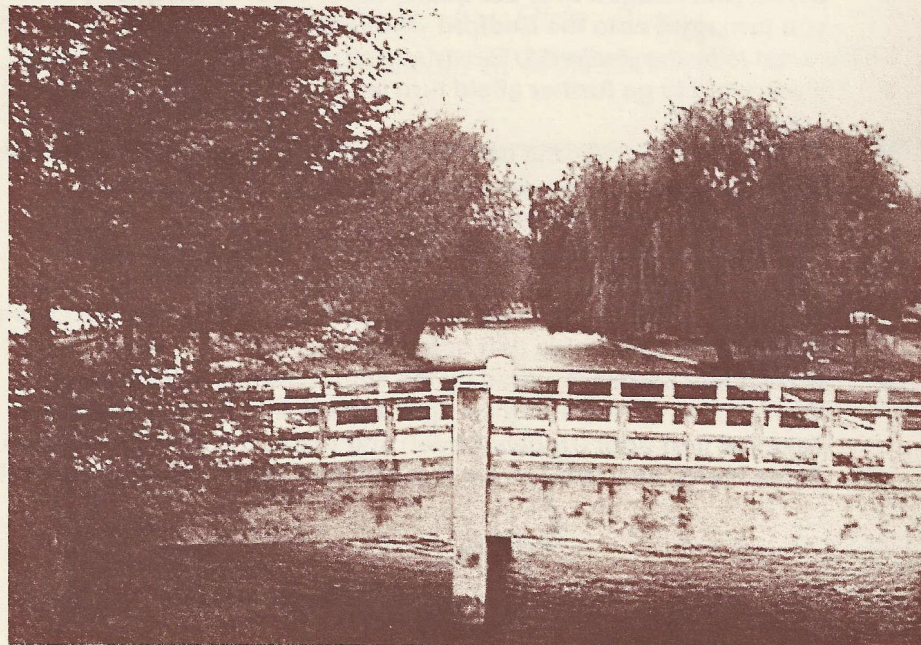
- # Start from Mowsbury Park and use the directions in Ride 8 to get to the Polhill Arms.
- Take care crossing over on the corner and go between the pub and the car park onto the bridleway. This track provides a lovely ride down to the A4280.*
- # Immediately prior to the A4280 turn right along a path which takes you to a pegasus signalled crossing of the main road.
- # After crossing the brook, turn left through the white gate onto the bridleway.
- Please close all gates behind you.*
- # Follow the bridleway across the yard and swinging to the left of the old mill, cross the river and go under the by-pass.
- The area was originally covered with poplar trees, planted originally for matches by Bryant and May. Most of the extensive Willington plantation has now worked for sand and gravel.*
- # At the T-junction turn right, cross over the quarry road and follow the cycleway and after half a mile turn right onto the Bedford to Sandy cycle track.
- The cycleway is now part of the National Cycle Network Route 51 which runs between Oxford and the North Sea via St Neots, Huntingdon and Cambridge.*
- # If you want to go further afield turn left (see Connections). # Follow the path over the A421 by-pass bridge, swinging left on the far side. Keep straight on past the entrance to Priory Country Park until you get to the pyramid.
- # Turn sharp right onto another cycle track. Follow this over the river, swing left and right under the road bridge, and bear right to go over the little white bridge (Newnham Bridge) unless you wish to explore the riverside (left onto Ride 1).
- # Go straight across the road by the central refuge, up Tennyson Road, left at the top and then right and left into Russell Avenue. Take the first right (Dudley Street) and follow the directions in the Three Parks Ride (No 5) from Russell Park back to Mowsbury Park.



Route of Ride 6



POLHILL ARMS AT RENHOLD HAS A LARGE PLAY AREA



'LITTLE WHITE BRIDGE', NEWNHAM BRIDGE

CONNECTIONS - from Mowsbury Park

- Ride 17 Great Barford, Wilden. *At the old Willington Plantation turn left 'on the Bedford - Sandy cycle track. This will provide a short (1 mile) diversion to Willington Stables and Dovecote or a slightly longer (6 miles) ride out and back to the riverside picnic spot at Great Barford, or a 9 mile circular ride back to the Polhill Arms, via Wilden.*
- Ride 18 Greensand Ridge. *Turn into Priory Country Park for the start of this ride which also gives access to other rides in the attractive Greensand country (see rides 13, 14, 15 and 16).*
- Ride 1 Bedford's Riverside, *joins this ride at Priory Country Park and at Newnham Bridge. It provides an easy means of accessing this ride and exploring from it.*
- Ride 3 Abbots and Priors, *joins this ride at Priory Country Park and leaves it (left) at the pyramid.*



RUSSELL PARK NEAR TO THE RIVER AND PLAY AREA