

# 12 Souldrop

A short circular route just over half of which is off-road on reasonably surfaced tracks. It takes you almost to the county boundary in this relatively cut off corner. You can reach this ride from Bedford by two possible routes and it can easily be linked with the Upper Ouse Valley Ride, No 11, to make a modest figure of eight (see Connections below). Alternatively you can park at the start by Sharnbrook Green on the corner of the High Street and Church Lane (grid ref. 995597).

**5 Miles**  
**MODERATE**

## PUBS

Swan with Two Nicks,  
Sharnbrook  
Bedford Arms, Souldrop

## TEAS & SNACKS

Cake Shop Cafe, Sharnbrook

## PICNIC SITES

The Green, Sharnbrook

*Our description begins at the start in Church Lane in Sharnbrook.*

## A CIRCULAR TOUR STARTING IN SHARNBROOK

# Turn left out of Church Lane into the High Street and follow this in a northerly direction, forking right towards Souldrop.

*This is a nice wooded lane rising to the high ground between the valleys of the Ouse and the Nene. It may be advisable to walk up the steep bit which takes you over the railway line.*

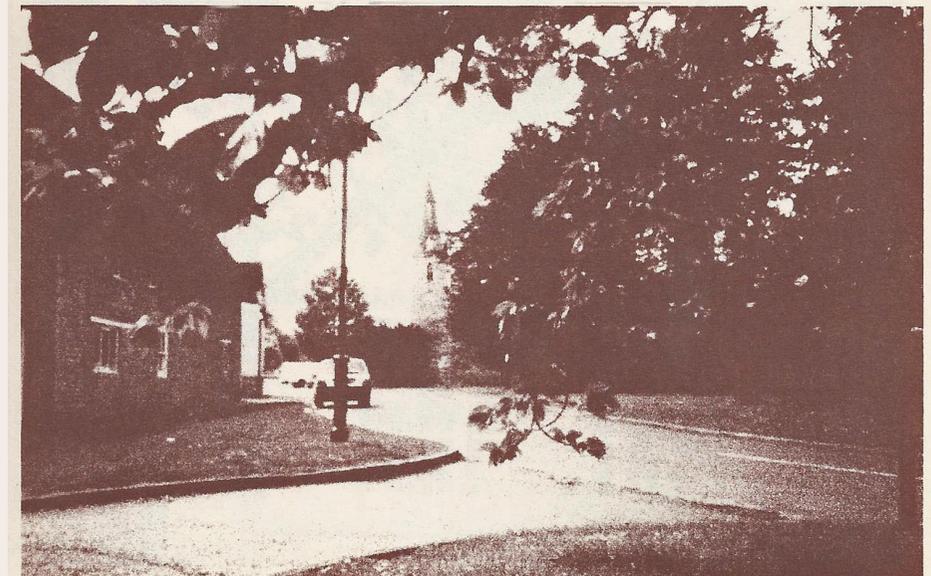
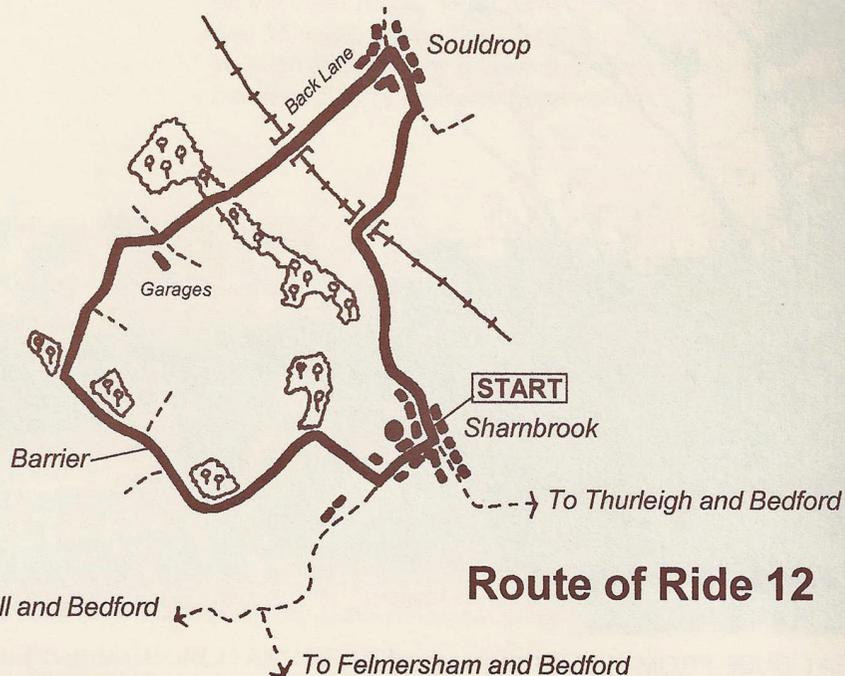
# As you approach Souldrop take the left turn into the village. Look at the school clock across the road and if you are wondering what happened on 22nd June 1911, the answer is the coronation of King George V.

# On past the Bedford Arms pub (*which does morning coffee*) and left at the next triangle of Green into Back Lane.

*It might have a 'No Through Road' sign, but when did that ever stop a cyclist? Back Lane soon turns into a stony track and gets a bit steep as it crosses the railway line, but look at the views from up here.*

# Keep on past the 25 mph sign, and around the corner. Here there is a gate across the road (no through road) but beside the gate is another for cyclists to go through. This lane emerges into farmland.

# At the 'Give Way' sign go straight across (garages on the left). The route meanders about, up and down a bit, but follows the 'Way Our' signs. There is a barrier across the road and it will rise as you approach it (if for some reason it doesn't you can always push the bikes behind it).



SHARNBROOK CHURCH AND GREEN

- # Keep straight on, over the cattle grid and up the hill.  
*You are now in Yelnow Lane which is very pleasant and runs as a green lane for two or three miles westwards, if you wish to explore it further.*
- # Go straight on and then take the first turning on the right, Lodge Road.  
*This leads you past Sharnbrook Village Hall - behind is a children's play area.*
- # At the T-junction turn left into Church Lane, which will bring you back to the Green.  
*Opposite is The Cake Shop which also serves teas.*

## CONNECTIONS

From Bedford you can join this ride by either Ride 7 or by Rides 1, 2, 10 and 11.

- Rides 7 *This ride to Thurleigh can be extended via Bletsoe to reach Sharnbrook Green.  
Go left at the T-junction by Thurleigh Windmill. At the next T-junction turn left for Milton Ernest and then almost immediately right for Bletsoe.  
When you reach the Bletsoe sign turn right. Enjoy the fine*

Rides 1, 2  
and 10

Ride 11

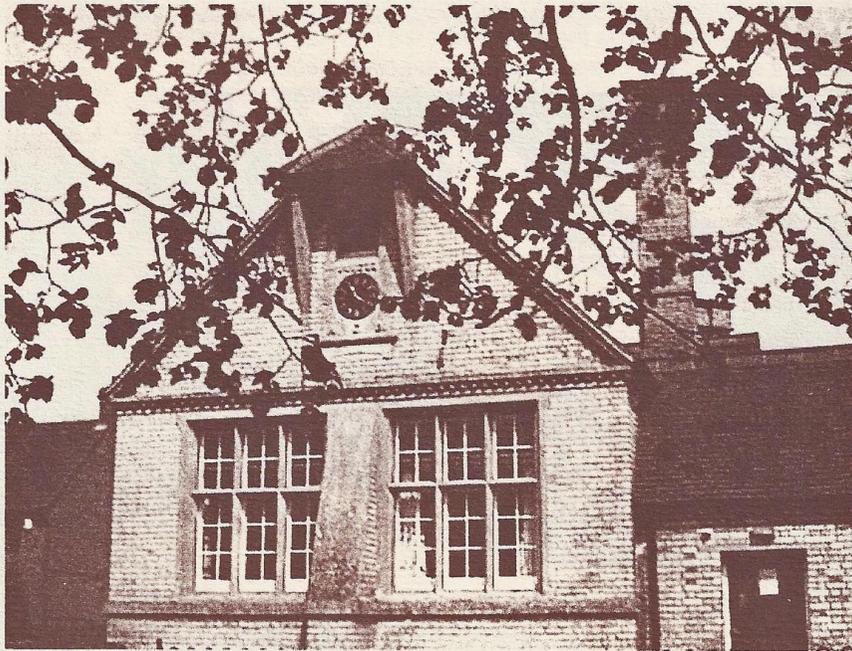
*views from the top of the hill and when you reach Bletsoe turn right. All the next T-junction go left and follow this road, taking care at the crossing of the A6, all the way into Sharnbrook. It will bring you up to the High Street to the starting point.*

*It is 11 miles from the start of Ride 7 in Mowsbury Park on the northern edge of town.*

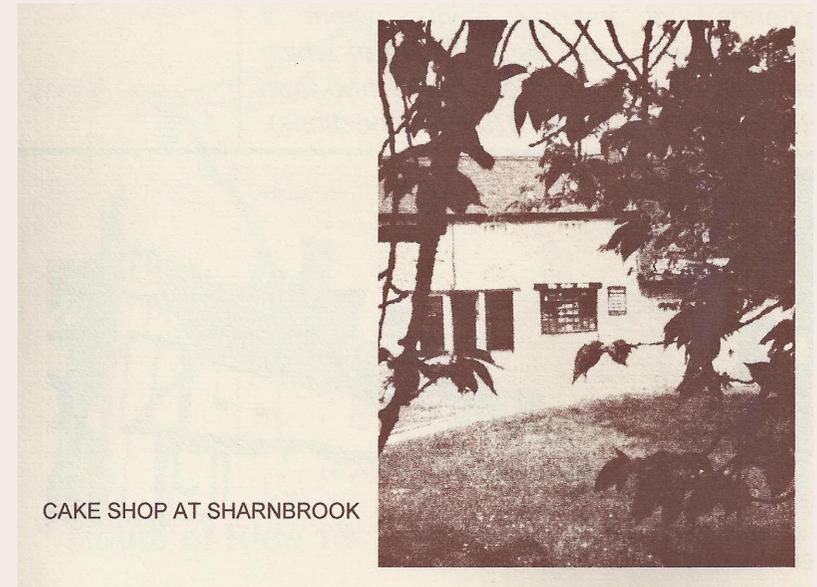
*Use the directions in these rides to get from the riverside in Bedford to Bromham and onwards through Pavenham and Felmersham. This will bring you down Church Lane to the Green. It is 16 miles from Priory Park on the east of Bedford by this route.*

*Why not do a grand circuit by coming out one way and returning the other. It is 30 to 35 miles depending on the options chosen.*

*Upper Ouse Valley. Towards the end of this ride (No 12), go right, not left, at the end of Lodge Road. Go straight on for Odell, and you are now on Ride 11 towards the end. Follow the directions for Ride 11 and when you get right back to Sharnbrook. This road will take you back to where you started.*



SCHOOL CLOCK AT SOULDROP



CAKE SHOP AT SHARNBROOK