

8 Wilden

This is a pleasant foray on a circular route out into the quiet countryside north-east of Bedford. It is readily accessible by bike from the northern suburbs and by Ride 5 from the rest of the town. In turn this ride provides access to Rides 9 and 17 (see Connections below). Cars can be parked in Mowsbury Park (Wentworth Drive). The start is to the east, just beyond the big hedge which runs down to Putnoe Wood.

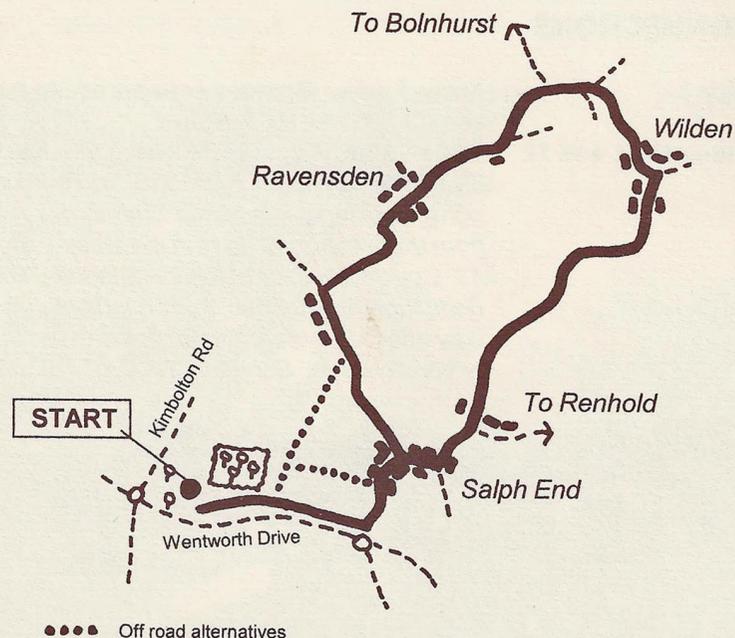
8 Miles
EASY

PUBS

Polhill Arms, Salph End
Victoria Arms, Wilden
Horse & Jockey,
Ravensden

PICNIC SITES

Mowsbury Park
The Green, Wilden



Route of Ride 8

Our description starts on the cycle path facing eastward beside Wentworth Drive with your back to the subway and car park.

1. MOWSBURY PARK TO SALPH END, RENHOLD

With your back to the subway and car park, set off on the cycle track down Wentworth Drive.

In dry conditions mountain bikes may wish to use the bridleway going up between the wood and the rugby club. If so turn right at the far corner of the wood following the brook and then up to Hookhams Lane, where you go left. Everyone else should:-

Continue to the end of Wentworth Drive, swing left on the cycle path and turn left into Salph End along Hookhams Lane. Turn right at the bottom of the downhill slope (signposted Wilden). Go past the Polhill Arms and up the hill. *(for Rides 6 and 17 take care and cross over to the pub).*

2. SALPH END TO WILDEN

At the top of the hill bear left (signposted Wilden).

Two miles into the ride there is a farm shop on the left which not only sells fruit and veg., but ices and cans of drink as well.

Continue along this winding lane; control your speed downhill to the T-junction in Wilden. Turn left towards Ravensden and Bolnhurst (right for Ride 9).

If a rest is needed there is a seat on the green next to The Victoria Arms.

3. WILDEN TO RAVENS DEN

With a bit of steady climbing Ravensden is reached.

Keep on through the village past the Horse and Jockey pub.

If your children are not used to steep hills, get off at the Church and walk down for a while, the steepest part of this road is on the bend.

4. RAVENS DEN TO MOWSBURY

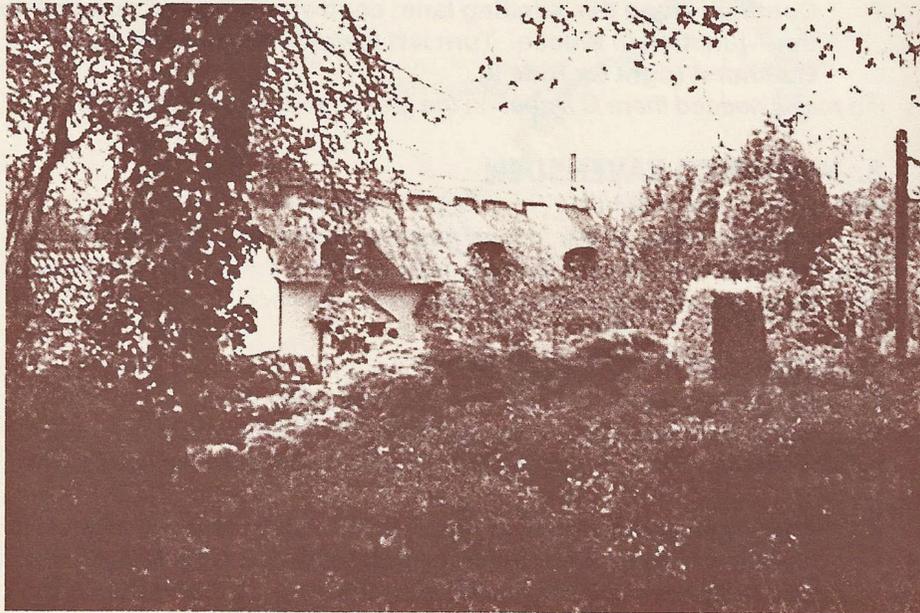
At the T-junction turn left (signposted Renhold).

Mountain bikers may wish, in dry conditions, to use the bridleway back past Putnoe Wood. If so turn right where signposted between the houses (Nos. 70 and 74).

Everyone else continue to the next T-junction and turn right into Hookhams Lane. This will bring you back to the cycle path which you used earlier. Take care in crossing over to it and then carry on back to the start.



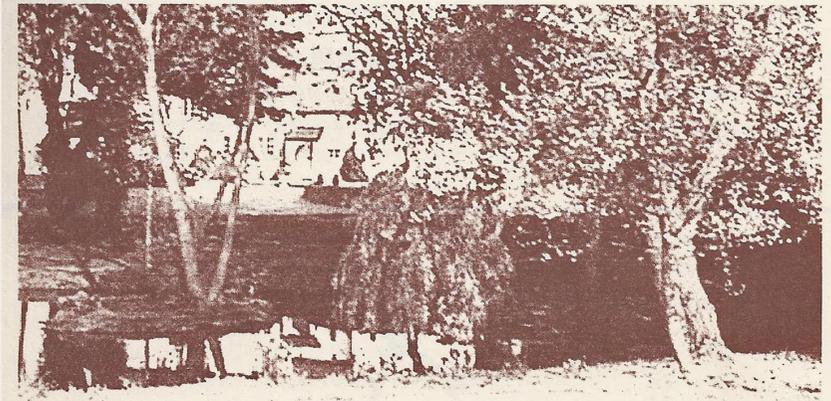
SEAT FOR A PICNIC OR REST BY THE VICTORIA ARMS, WILDEN



COTTAGE IN CHURCH END, RAVENS DEN

5. CONNECTIONS

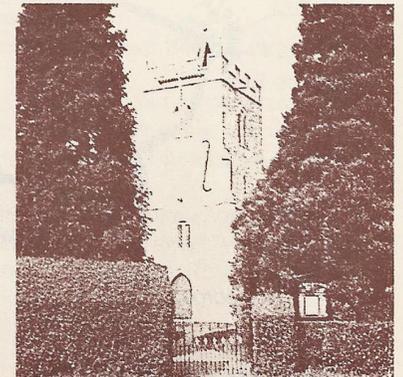
- Ride 5 *Provides access from the rest of Bedford to the start/finish point.*
- Rides 6 and 7 *Can be followed from the Polhill Arms in Salph End. Take care in crossing over to join the bridleway which they follow.*
Ride 6 will take you to Priory Park and back to Mowsbury.
Ride 17 can be used to take you out to Great Barford via Willington and back through Wilden. It will extend the circuit to Wilden by 7 miles.
- Ride 9 *Keysoe, Bushmead and Honeydon. To reach this pleasant and quiet ride turn right, not left, at the T-junction in Wilden (see Ride 9 Connections for directions).*



POND AND FARMHOUSE NEAR WILDEN



WILDEN CHURCH



RAVENS DEN CHURCH