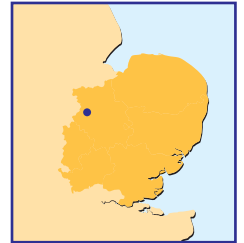


CYCLING DISCOVERY MAP



Starting point: *Grafham Water (nr. St. Neots), Cambridgeshire*

Distance: *15 miles/24 km (or with short cut 12 miles/19 km)*

Type of route: *Day ride - moderate, circular; on roads and tracks*

KATHERINE'S WHEELS

This cycle ride starts from the peaceful setting of Grafham Water, the third largest man-made reservoir in Britain. From here the route follows in the footsteps of royalty, through rich farming land and interesting villages which border the final two residences of Queen Katherine of Aragon. Henry VIII confined her at Buckden Towers from 1533-34, prior to the annulment of their marriage. She was then moved to nearby Kimbolton Castle, where she died in 1536. Along this route you can explore the flora and fauna of Grafham, discover historic World War II airfields and admire a rare Tiffany window.



Grafham Water

Essential information

Starting point: Grafham Water - The Lodge/Mander car park. Located 3¼ miles west of Buckden (and A1). Entrance off B661 on outskirts of Perry village.

Car parking: Grafham Water - The Lodge/Mander car park (charge made).

Nearest railway station: St. Neots (7 miles south east of Grafham Water).

Type of route: Day ride - moderate, circular; on roads and tracks.

Summary of route: Grafham Water (The Lodge/Mander car park) - Perry - Dillington - Staughton Highway/Great Staughton - Little Staughton Airfield - Little Staughton - Pertenhall - Kimbolton - Grafham Water Nature Reserve (Littless Wood Nature Trail - Dragonfly Pond and Meadow - Wildlife Garden and Cabin) - Grafham Water (The Lodge/Mander car park).

Distance: 15 miles/24 km.

Short cut: From Staughton Highway/Great Staughton, west along B645/unclassified road to Pertenhall, 3½ miles (6 km). Total route with short cut, 12 miles (19 km).

Terrain: Gently rolling. Moderate climb between Staughton Highway/Great Staughton and Staughton Moor. Lowest point - 75 feet (23 metres) at Staughton Highway/Great Staughton. Highest point - 220 feet (67 metres) between Staughton Moor and Little Staughton.

Cycle hire: Grafham Water Cycling, Marlow car park (01480) 812500.

Cycle repair: Grafham Water Cycling (see cycle hire above).

Ordnance Survey map area: Landranger 153 - Bedford & Huntingdon.

National Cycle Network links: Route 51. This ride follows the NCN along the eastern side of Grafham Water.

Key to Symbols & Abbreviations

	Cycle Parking
	Places of Interest
	Refreshments
	Children Welcome
	Picnic Site
	Shop
	Toilets
	Tourist Information
	Caution/Take care
L	Left Turn
R	Right Turn
T-j	T-junction
SA	Straight Across/Ahead
X-roads	Cross roads
SP	Sign-posted
NS	Not Sign-posted

Buckden



Points of Interest (listed as you would find them along the route)

Please note: within this map there is only room to list basic details regarding opening times. In this respect, if you are planning to visit any of the places of interest on this route, we advise you to telephone in advance to confirm exact opening days and times. Refreshment establishments listed on this map are just a small selection of those available. For further information, please contact the nearest Tourist Information Centre.

A Grafham Water - third largest man-made reservoir in Britain, set in 1,500 acres of countryside. Constructed in the 1960's, it covers 21/2 square miles and holds 59,000 million litres of water. Sailing, trout fishing, nature reserve and 10 mile (16 km) circular cycle track.

♿ Mander; Marlow car parks.

🏠 **Grafham Water Visitor Centre** (Marlow car park) - reservoir information. Open all year. Admission free. (01480) 812154. ✖

✖ **Harbour View Restaurant and Bar** (Mander car park) (01480) 812315. 🍷

🚰 Mander; Marlow car parks.

🚻 Mander; Marlow car parks.

B Perry - pretty village with thatched houses and a dovecote. 🏡

✖ **The Wheatsheaf** (01480) 810253. 🍷

C Just off the route - Buckden (31/4 miles east of Mander car park, along B661). Former coaching centre, set beside the Great North Road. The High Street has old inns and brick/timber houses. Former haunt of highwayman Dick Turpin. 🏡

🏠 **Buckden Towers** - former moated ecclesiastical palace of the Bishops of Lincoln (1186-1842). 15th C. Tudor gatehouse and turreted tower, where Katherine of Aragon was held by Henry VIII in 1533, prior to the annulment of their marriage. A year later, fearing a revolt in favour of his popular queen, she was moved to Kimbolton Castle. Buckden Towers is now a Christian retreat and conference centre. *Not open to the public.* Parkland surrounding building open all year. Admission free. (01480) 810344. ✖

St. Mary's Church - 13-15th C. with memorials to the Bishops of Lincoln. Two uncles of the nine-day queen, Lady Jane Grey are buried in the churchyard.

✖ **The Lion Hotel** (High Street) (01480) 810313. 🍷

The Vine (High Street) (01480) 810367.

D Dillington - tiny hamlet set amongst open countryside with fine views.



Great Staughton

E Staughton Highway/Great Staughton - straddling the B645, Staughton Highway is noted for its 17th C. cross with a sundial on three of its four faces. At neighbouring Great Staughton, look out for the fine red-brick Place House (c.1539). The remains of a Roman villa were found nearby in 1958/9.

🏠 **St. Andrew's Church** - dates from 13th C. Double memorial to Sir James and Sir Richard Dyer. Fine south doorway and 16/17th C. heraldic glass.

✖ **Tavern on the Green** (01480) 860336. 🍷

The White Hart Inn (01480) 860345. 🍷

F Little Staughton Airfield - probably the best surviving example of a wartime airfield in the county. Built 1941/2, it was used by both USAAF and RAF squadrons. Closed in 1945, the original control tower remains.

G Little Staughton - small village. Near the church stands an impressive moat, which was once the stronghold of one of Edward I's knights, Sir Adam de Creting.

🏠 **St. Margaret's Church** - 13-15th C. with magnificent spire. Stone memorial and an RAF Book of Remembrance to the personnel who lost their lives whilst serving at the former airfield.

H Pertenhall - quiet village with a Georgian rectory and timber-framed Elizabethan manor house.

🏠 **St. Peter's Church** - late Norman work, including dog-tooth on one arch. Monument to Mary Rolt, daughter of Oliver Cromwell.



Kimbolton Castle

I Kimbolton - former market town, now picturesque village with interesting lanes and alleyways.

Handsome 17/18th C. buildings display pan-tiled roofs and Georgian facades. 🏡

🏠 **379th Bomb Group Memorial** (11/4 miles north of village along unclassified road to Stow Longa) - memorial to personnel of US 379th Bomb Group, who served at former World War II airfield from May 1943-Jun 1945. Most of the site has now reverted to agriculture.

St. Andrew's Church - 13-15th C. with painted medieval screen, 'Tiffany' window and monuments to the Dukes of Manchester, owners of the castle. Memorial stone and book to US 379th Bomb Group based at former airfield.

Kimbolton Castle - Tudor house remodelled in the early 18th C. to designs by the famous Sir John Vanburgh. It is built on the site of the original 13th C. stronghold.

Katherine of Aragon spent her last years here, dying as a prisoner in 1536. Once the home of the Dukes of Manchester, the castle is now an independent school. Superb wall paintings by Pellegrini and Robert Adam gatehouse. Open selected dates throughout year. Admission charge. (01480) 860505.

✖ **The New Sun Inn** (High Street) (01480) 860052. 🍷

The Saddle (High Street) (01480) 860408. 🍷

J Grafham Water Nature Reserve - a site of special scientific interest, with 370 acres of woodland, grassland, creeks and open water. Supports wide variety of wildlife, such as summer songbirds and large numbers of wintering wildfowl. Bird feeding station, hides and nature trails. Open all year. Admission free (01480) 811075.

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

STARTING POINT: Grafham Water (The Lodge/Mander car park).

A Grafham Water - man-made reservoir. 🏠 ✖

1 Leave the car park, and at the T-j with the B661, turn R (NS). ⚠

Grafham Water cycle track (10 miles). Total route with track - 25 miles.
A complete circuit of the reservoir can be added to this route. Turn L at the T-j with the B661. Just after 'The Wheatsheaf' pub, bear L onto the cycle track and pass through the Plummer car park, around the base of the dam and onto the Marlow car park. Continue to Grafham village, where at the T-j with the road, turn L. 3/4 mile later, at the Hill Farm parking area, rejoin the cycle track back to The Lodge/Mander car park. To continue, please now go back to 'direction 1'.

B Perry - thatched houses and dovecote. ✖ 🏠

C Just off the route - Buckden (turn L onto the B661 for 3 1/4 miles. Take care as this road can be busy with fast-moving traffic. Just before the A1 roundabout, dismount from your cycle and bear L onto the pavement. Go under the A1 using the underpass, then turn L into Buckden High Street). ⚠ Former coaching centre. 🏠 ✖ 🏠

2 At the X-roads, turn L, SP 'Dillington'.

D Dillington - tiny hamlet.

3 At the T-j with the B645, turn L, SP 'St. Neots and Hail Weston'. ⚠

E Staughton Highway/Great Staughton - 17th C. cross with sundial. 🏠 ✖

Short cut (3 1/2 miles). Total route with short cut - 12 miles.
At the T-j with the B645, turn R, SP 'Kimbolton and Tilbrook'. After 1/4 mile, turn L, SP 'Little Staughton and Pertenhall'. This takes you through the centre of Great Staughton. 2 1/4 miles later at the X-roads, turn R, SP 'Pertenhall 1, Kimbolton 3'. Remain on this road for 1 mile.
Please now continue from 'H Pertenhall'.

4 Turn R, SP 'Staughton Moor'. ⚠

5 Turn R (NS). If you turn L you would be going onto a dead-end road.

F Little Staughton Airfield - former World War II airfield.

6 Turn R (NS).

G Little Staughton - impressive moat, once stronghold of a Knight. 🏠

7 Turn L onto Green End, SP 'Pertenhall 2, Kimbolton 3 1/2, Swineshead 3 1/2'.

8 At the X-roads, go SA, SP 'Pertenhall 1, Kimbolton 3'.

H Pertenhall - Elizabethan manor house. 🏠



Kimbolton

9 At the T-j with the B660, turn R, SP 'Kimbolton'. Follow the road up, then down the hill. There are good views over to Kimbolton Castle on your L. ⚠

10 Just after passing the 'Huntingdonshire' sign, turn R onto Hatchett Lane (NS). Alternatively if you want to visit the village of Kimbolton, then continue SA to the T-j, where you turn L. Please take extra care as the B660/B645 can be busy at this point. You might prefer to dismount from your cycle and walk along the pavement, which starts to the L of this junction. ⚠



Grafham Water Nature Reserve

1 Kimbolton - picturesque village. 🏠 ✖ 🏠

11 At the end of Hatchett Lane, bear L around the corner onto the pathway (no vehicle access). After a very short distance this becomes a paved road again.

12 At the T-j with the B645, turn R (NS). You might prefer to dismount from your cycle and walk along the pavement beside this road. ⚠

13 Turn L onto Easton Road, SP 'Easton 4'. ⚠

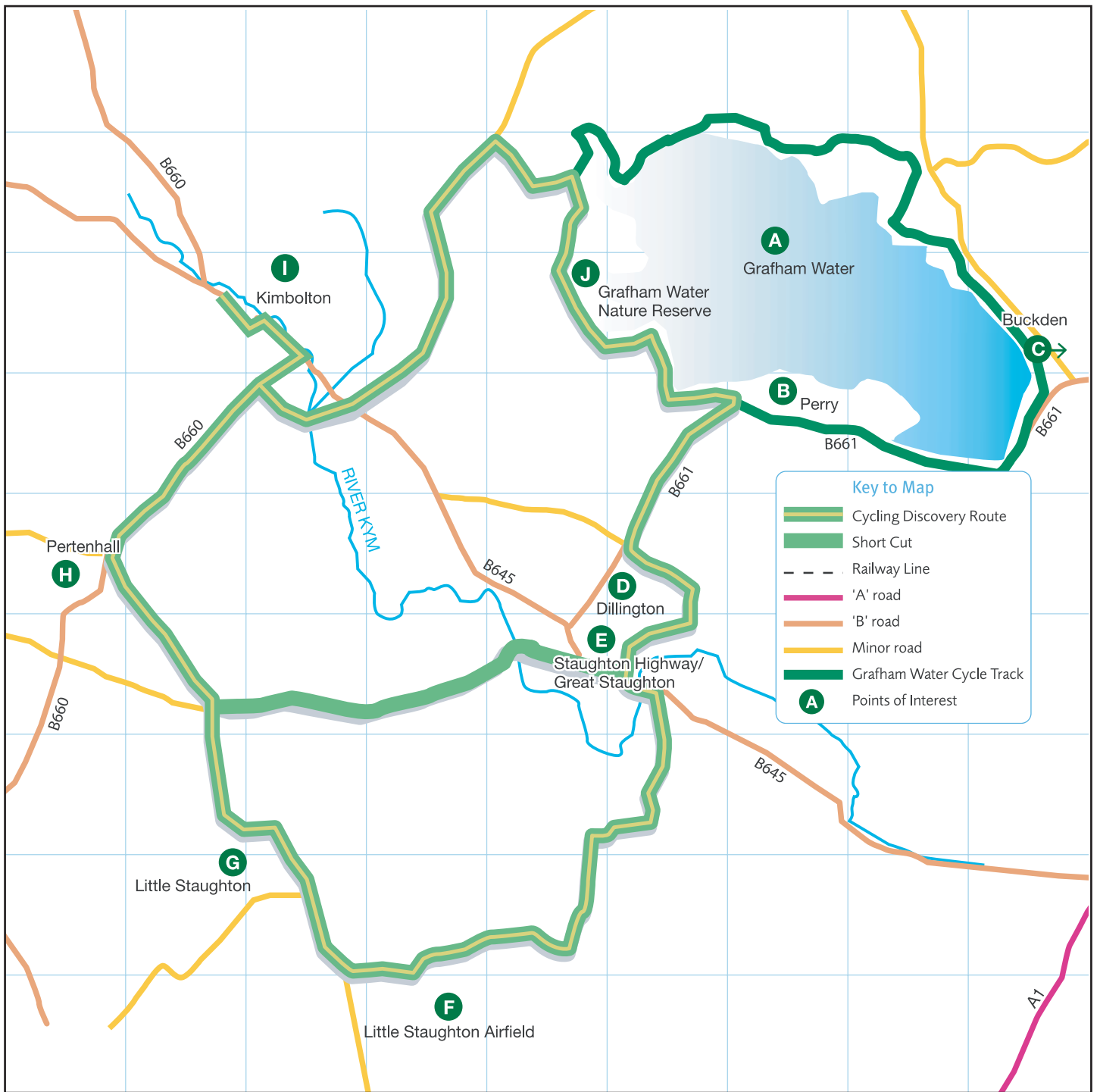
14 Turn R, SP 'Public Bridle Path' to High Park Farm. This is a paved road until you reach the farm.

15 From the farm, continue SA along the well-surfaced track. After a short distance this bears to your L and goes down a hill. ⚠

16 Turn R (in front of the trees) onto the circular cycle track around Grafham Water (NS).

J Grafham Water Nature Reserve - woodland, grassland, creeks and open water. 🏠

17 Remain on the path back to the The Lodge/Mander car park.



The Map shown in this route provides just a general outline - In this respect, we recommend that you purchase the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map which covers the area. Ordnance Survey map area: Landranger 153 - Bedford & Huntingdon. 'Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO ©Crown copyright (2006). All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100017282'.



**EAST OF ENGLAND
TOURIST BOARD**

To obtain information on other Cycling Discovery Maps throughout the East of England, please contact:-
East of England Tourist Board, Toppesfield Hall, Hadleigh, Suffolk IP7 5DN
Tel: (01473) 822922 Fax: (01473) 823063 Internet: www.visiteastofengland.com

Katherine's Wheels - published by the East of England Tourist Board, in association with Huntingdonshire District Council. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure accuracy of the information in this publication, the East of England Tourist Board cannot accept responsibility in respect of any error or omission which may have occurred. The producers of this map have no responsibility for the physical state or maintenance of the route or its suitability for cycling, and therefore give no warranty as to its condition at any time. Any complaints concerning the state or condition of the route should be addressed to the relevant Highways Authority.