Stotfold
Located on the banks of the River Ivel, the town is infamous for the *Stotfold Riot* of 1830. Today, in quieter times, go up Queen St to visit St Mary's Church, or further on take a stroll in Stotfold Meadows adjacent to the mill.
Great North Way is planned to continue through Bedfordshire to Sandy, St Neots Huntingdon, Peterborough
The border
The county boundary marks the end of the Hertfordshire section of the Great North Way.
Standalone Farm
Explore 170 acres of farmland with 70 bird specimens, mammals, creepy crawlies and a working beehive. Watch wildfowl in their natural habitat from specially constructed hides. See all the farm animals on the farm trail and check out the children's play area.
Letchworth Greenway
Parts of the Great North Way follow the Letchworth Greenway, this 13.6 mile route circumvents Letchworth passing through many local attractions. Parts of the greenway can be cycled and these paths are shown on the map.
Baldock
The market town of Baldock is one of the county's oldest settlements, at the intersection of two ancient roads - the Icknield Way and the Great North Road. Dating back at least to Roman times, the present town was established by the Knights Templar in the 12th century, Baldock was an important malting and brewing centre and thrived as a coaching town.
Letchworth
Built in 1904 Letchworth was the first garden city, based on Ebenezer Howard's ideals in his book *Tomorrow: A Peaceful Path to Reform* published in 1898. Utilising 4000 acres of land, Letchworth now has a population of 33,000. The visual effect of Letchworth's planning is seen in the quite impressive approach to its centre along Broadway with its avenues of linden trees leading to the Town Square and its attractive rose beds.
William Arboretum
Picnic here or walk through Manor Wood to visit Willian Arboretum with over 30 different tree species. On the way you will see a sculpture of the famous Letchworthian Telford Morton.
Key
Hill
Cycle Gate or Barrier (cyclists may have to dismount)
National Cycle Network Cycle Route
Sustrans Milepost
Children's Play Area
Pub / Restaurant
Supermarket
Cycle Shop
Tourist Information
Rail Station
Car Park
School near route
Sports / Leisure Centre
Swimming Pool
Watersports
Arts Centre
Museum
Toilet
Football Ground
Hospital / A&E
Field
Park
Residential
Building
Lake
Great North Way (traffic free)
Great North Way (on road)
Cycle Routes (traffic free)
Cycle Routes (traffic free or on minor roads)
Suggested Cycle Route
River
Footpath
Track
Minor Road
Main Road
Railway
Rail (in tunnel)
true N
1 Kilometre
1 mile
scale 1:30,000 approx
Fairlands Valley Park
120 acres of beautiful parkland and an 11 acre sailing lake are a mecca for wildfowl and anglers alike. There is also the opportunity for watersports and a paddling pool and play area for children.
Stevenage
Old Stevenage was the site of an original Saxon settlement and has been influenced by every great period of history since. Picturesque Middle Row was rebuilt after a major fire in 1807 including the White Lion pub where prisoners from the Napoleonic war were rested in the cellars on their way to northern camps.
Along Rectory Lane can be found the quaint St Nicholas Church & Rooks Nest House - the childhood home of E M Forster & inspiration for his novel Howard's End.
Stevenage changed drastically after being designated the first new town in 1946 following which six neighbourhoods were constructed around the Old Town.
The town also features an impressive cycle path network which is an inspiration. Remember to keep an eye out for those **12** signs as you admire the roundabout cycle underpasses!
Knebworth House
Knebworth House was purchased by Sir Robert Lytton in 1490 after he served King Henry VII in London. This Tudor manor house has been in the family ever since. For more information log on to www.knebworthhouse.com. In Old Knebworth itself can be found the Lytton Arms pub where you can enjoy a drink and an outdoor game of chess!
Codicote
Though mentioned in the Doomsday Book of 1086 the present village probably dates from 1267. Today Codicote Village has a number of village shops and pubs all of which provide food.
Old Welwyn
Old Welwyn was of strategic importance because of its location in the Mimram Valley attracting settlers from as early as the Iron Age. Later the Romans settled and built villas and bath houses, an example of which can be seen at the Welwyn Roman Baths under the A1(M).
Ayot St Peter Church
This is an exceptional example of an Arts and Crafts church built in 1875, the site of the earlier church can be seen a little way to the north where only the churchyard remains.
Sherrardspark Wood & Welwyn Garden City
This 200 acre wood is recognised as one of the finest examples of natural sessile oak and hornbeam woodland in Britain, located on the outskirts of the town centre. The town itself was the second garden city built after Letchworth with the Howard Centre shopping plaza named after the town's founder Ebenezer Howard.
Stanborough Park
126 acres of parkland are ready for you to explore! Visit the two lakes or the River Lea. Hire a boat, go coarse fishing or learn how to sail at the watersports centre.
Mill Green
Visit the local history museum housed in a fully restored and operational watermill.
Old Hatfield
The house was built in 1607 as the seat of the Cecil family and is still home to Lord & Lady Salibury. A stunning Jacobean house, Hatfield House sits in its own Great Park and has magnificent gardens and nature trails.
Stream Woods
Set in Howe Dell, an area of grassland and woodland, is a *swallow hole* where the stream disappears into a basin shaped hole. It was created naturally by acidic water dissolving the underlying chalk and causing the soil to collapse. Steps lead down to the swallow hole from the footpath on the east side, next to the railway line.
Brookmans Park
An unmistakeable landmark as you cycle this section, is the collection of radio transmitter masts over to the east. Serving London & the South East, it was one of the BBC's original transmitting stations. This mast dates back to 1929, and is still in use.
Mymmshall Woods
Cross the A1(M) via the bridge here for a great woodland diversion.
Potters Bar
Potters Bar developed, from its medieval origins, along the Great North Road (the High Street) in the 18th century and expanded further after the opening of the railways in 1850.
In 1916 a L31 Zeppelin crashed in the Oakmere estate within Potters Bar. Nearby Tempest Avenue is named after the RAF pilot who brought down the airship in his BE2C biplane.
The town has several attractive parks and open spaces, and an active Arts Centre near the station.
Mosquito Museum
A mile detour west along the St Albans Road B556 brings you to a splendid museum featuring the prototype De Havilland Mosquito, as well as many other aircraft and engines by this famous local company.
South Mimms
Don't assume motorway services are just for drivers! - cyclists have their own entrance directly off the route, and weather permitting you can bask in the sun on the terrace!
Rural Rides
Minutes after entering Hertfordshire you can start to imagine you're in the depths of the country, though you are still inside the M25!
Journey's End...
...or beginning... Hadley Wood Railway Station will be the place to start or finish if you are cycling the whole route one way, and taking the train the other.
For rail information - *see back cover.*