

CYCLING DISCOVERY MAP



Starting point: *Ware, Hertfordshire*

Distance: *25 miles/40 km (or with short cut 20 miles/32 km)*

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

MALT AND FORGE

This cycle ride starts from the attractive town of Ware, once a major centre for the malting industry. From here the route heads east into a landscape of gently rolling countryside - home to rich farmland and pretty villages, such as Hunsdon and Stanstead Abbots. Stop off at Much Hadham - the former country seat of the Bishops of London. Look out for the ancient art of pargetting (raised decorative plasterwork). Then it's back to Ware, beside the River Lea Navigation, with its colourful narrow boats. Along this route you can go in search of the elusive Bittern amongst the reedbeds, explore an unusual shell-decorated grotto and visit a working blacksmith's forge.



Ware

Essential information

Starting point:	Ware - Railway Station car park (Crane Mead Road).
Alternative starting point:	Much Hadham - High Street. See 'D Much Hadham' for information. Join the route by cycling south along the High Street (B1004) towards Widford. Start from 'E Widford'.
Car parking:	Ware - Railway Station car park, Crane Mead Road (charge made). Much Hadham - High Street (free).
Nearest railway station:	Ware. Join the route by going R from the front of the station building (along Station Road). Then at the T-j with Viaduct Road, turn R, then immediately L into Crane Mead Road. Start from 'direction no. 2'.
Type of route:	Day ride - easy, circular; on roads and cycle paths.
Summary of route:	Ware - Fanhams Hall - Babbs Green/Wareside - Much Hadham - Widford - Hunsdon - Stanstead Abbots - Stanstead St. Margarets - River Lea Navigation - Ware
Distance:	16 miles/26 km.
Terrain:	Gently rolling. Lowest point - 111 feet (34 metres) at Stanstead Abbots. Highest point - 292 feet (89 metres) at Kettle Green (nr. Much Hadham).
Cycle repair:	Ware - Highway Cycles, 35 Amwell End (01920) 461448.
Ordnance Survey map area:	Landrangers 167 - Chelmsford; and 166 - Luton & Hertford.
National Cycle Network links:	Route 61. This ride follows the NCN along the River Lea Navigation between Stanstead Abbots and Ware.

Key to Symbols & Abbreviations

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

Scott's Grotto, Ware



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 Ware - attractive market town, set on the navigable section of the River Lea. Old coaching inns and 18th C. riverside gazebos. Market - Tues. 🗺️

Malting - old malting buildings can be found throughout Ware, which became one of the country's major centres of the industry from the 17-19th C. Malt is an essential ingredient of beer, providing its body, potential strength and much of its flavour. It is made from the cereal crop - barley, whose grains are steeped in water and allowed to partially germinate. This is then arrested by drying in the kiln. The resulting malt was then transported by barge along the River Lee Navigation to brewers in London. The last malthouse closed in 1994.

🚲 Ware Priory (High Street).

🏛️ **The Maltmaker** (High Street) - bronze life size statue of a maltster, complete with his broad shovel and cat.

St. Mary's Church (High Street) - 14/15th C. although much restored. Tower surmounted by spire. Carved font.

Scott's Grotto (Scotts Road) - extending some 67ft into the hillside, this 18th C. grotto is decorated with flints, shells and coloured glass. Open Apr-Sept (Sat and Bank Hol Mon only). Admission free. (01920) 464131.

Ware Museum (High Street) - story of town, including tools and photographs about the malting industry. World War II command bunker. Open all year. Admission free. (01920) 487848.

Ware Priory (High Street) - founded as a Franciscan friary in 1338, this Grade I listed building stands in picturesque riverside grounds. Open all year. Admission free. (01920) 460316. 🚶

✂️ Wide selection throughout town.

🚻 Amwell End; Priory Street.

🚶 Ware Priory grounds (High Street).

B Fanhams Hall - listed Jacobean building (now a hotel), with formal gardens, ponds and Japanese tea house.

C Babbs Green/Wareside - adjoining settlements, set amongst tiny wooded lanes.

🏛️ **Holy Trinity Church** - c.1841 in Norman style, with unusual shaped tower.

✂️ **The Chequers Inn** (01920) 467010. 🚻

The White Horse (01920) 462582. 🚻



The Maltmaker, Ware

D Much Hadham - long High Street with well-preserved timber/brick houses. Former country seat of the Bishops of London. Edmund Tudor, father of Henry VII was born here in 1430. 🗺️

🏛️ **The Forge Museum and Victorian Cottage Garden** - former blacksmith's workshop (1811-1983). Displays and working forge. Garden with early 19th C. bee shelter. Open all year. Admission charge. (01279) 843301. 🚶

Hopleys - 3 1/2 acre garden. Trees, island beds and pond. Open Mar-Oct. Admission charge. (01279) 842509. ✂️

St. Andrew's Church - mainly 15th C. Two carved head stops (a king and queen) by sculptor Henry Moore.

✂️ **The Bull Inn** (01279) 842668. 🚻

The Jolly Waggoners (01279) 842102. 🚻

The Old Crown (01279) 842753. 🚻

E Widford - agricultural village with several attractive buildings.

🏛️ **Blakesware Manor** (1 mile west of village) - rebuilt 1876-9.

The former house (demolished 1823) is where the grandmother of poet Charles Lamb (1775-1834) was housekeeper for over 50 years. *Not open to the public.* **Church of St. John the Baptist** - 12th C. with fine wall paintings (c.1500). Charles Lamb's grandmother is buried here.

✂️ **The Green Man** (01279) 842846. 🚻



St. James Church, Stanstead Abbots

F Hunsdon - timber and weather-boarded cottages overlook the green with its pump. To the east is the site of the former Second World War RAF airfield (a Mosquito bomber is shown on the village sign). 🗺️

🚲 The Fox and Hounds.

🏛️ **Hunsdon Hall** (3/4 mile south of village) - substantially altered today, the building was owned from 1525 by Henry VIII, who used it to escape the London plague and for hunting. *Not open to the public.*

St. Dunstan's Church (3/4 mile south of village) - fine wooden porch and Jacobean screen. Brass plate shows James Gray (died 1591), a park-keeper aiming his crossbow at a stag, whilst a skeleton (death) is aimed at him.

✂️ **The Crown** (01279) 842561. 🚻

The Fox and Hounds (01279) 843999. 🚻

G Stanstead Abbots - thriving village. High Street has several listed buildings. Colourful marina. 🗺️

🚲 The Red Lion.

🏛️ **St. James Church** - mainly 15th C. with timber porch, box pews and unusual three-tiered pulpit.

✂️ **The Jolly Fisherman** (01920) 870125. 🚻

The Lord Louis (01920) 870121. 🚻

The Red Lion (01920) 410056. 🚻

🚻 High Street car park.

H Stanstead St. Margarets - small village. Fine old maltings building.

🏛️ **Amwell Quarry Nature Reserve** - reedbed, marsh and willow woodland, home to wetland birds and the elusive Bittern. Open all year. Admission free. (01272) 858901.

St. Margaret's Church - flint with 12th C. nave, box pews and small Georgian cupola.

I Just off the route - New River (Great Amwell) (1 mile north of route). Artificial channel, cut 1609-1613 to supply fresh water to London. Pretty spot with islands and monuments to scheme.

J River Lea Navigation - once busy with barges transporting goods (coal, timber and malt). Today popular with anglers and colourful narrow boats.

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

STARTING POINT: Ware (Railway Station car park, Crane Mead Road).

A Ware - attractive market town. 🏠 ✂️ 🚰 🚽 🚲

- 1** At the car park entrance/exit, turn R onto the road (NS).
 - 2** Bear L at the mini roundabout - and follow this road to the end (NS). Go SA onto the pedestrian/cycle path. This brings you to the River Lea Navigation, where you turn L onto the path (National Cycle Network Route 61).
 - 3** At the end of the path (beside Ware Bridge), carefully cross over Viaduct Road using the green cycle lane. Then continue SA along the path beside the river. Look out for the 18th C. riverside gazebos on your R. ⚠️
 - 4** Turn R over the black tubular bridge into the Library car park. Continue SA through the car park until you reach the T-j with the High Street, where you turn R (NS). At this point you may wish to dismount and walk with your cycle along this small stretch until you reach Church Street. ⚠️
 - 5** Turn L (after the bus stop) into the one-way Church Street (NS).
 - 6** Turn R (effectively SA) opposite the church into Crib Street (NS).
 - 7** Turn R onto The Bourne/Collett Road.
 - 8** Turn L into High Oak Road (NS). After about 1/2 mile the road bears R around the corner onto Fanhams Hall Road.
- B** Fanhams Hall - listed Jacobean building.

Alternative Route (via Thundridge and Cold Christmas), 5 miles/8 km. Total route with this option, 16 1/2 miles/27 km.

- Turn L onto The Bourne (NS).
- Turn R into Milton Road, beside the pub (NS).
- Turn L into Clifton Way (NS).
- Turn L into Kingsway (NS).
- At the T-j with Wadesmill Road, turn R onto the cycle lane (NS). ⚠️
- Turn L into Poles Lane (NS).
- When you reach the X-roads with Quincey Road, go SA remaining on Poles Lane (NS). This now becomes a well-surfaced track. Take care as the track may be muddy after wet weather. After a short distance, the track passes under the A10, then skirts the golf course at Hanbury Manor Hotel on your R.
- At the end of the track, go SA onto the surfaced lane, SP 'Exit A10'. This is beside the entrance to the hotel.
- At the X-roads, go SA into Cold Christmas Lane. The road then crosses over the A10. ⚠️
- After a short distance you reach the tiny hamlet of Cold Christmas, with its scattering of houses and farms.

Please now continue from 'direction no. 11'.

C Babbs Green/Wareside - set amongst tiny wooded lanes. 🏠 ✂️

- 9** Turn L, SP 'Bakers End'.
- 10** Turn R, SP 'Barwick Ford, Much Hadham'.
- 11** Turn R, SP 'Much Hadham'.



Much Hadham



D Much Hadham - long High Street with timber/brick houses. 🏠 ✂️ 🚰

- 12** Turn R onto the B1004 (NS). ⚠️
- E** Widford - agricultural village. 🏠 ✂️
- 13** Bear L off the B1004, SP 'Hunsdon B180'. ⚠️
- F** Hunsdon - timber and weather-boarded cottages. 🚲 🏠 ✂️ 🚰
- G** Stanstead Abbots - thriving village. Several listed buildings. 🚲 🏠 ✂️ 🚰 🚽
- 14** At the T-j, turn R onto Roydon Road. ⚠️
- 15** At the mini roundabout (beside The Red Lion), turn L, SP 'Hertford A414'.
- H** Stanstead St. Margarets - small village. 🏠
- I** Just off the route - New River (turn R into Amwell Lane). Pretty spot with islands and monuments.

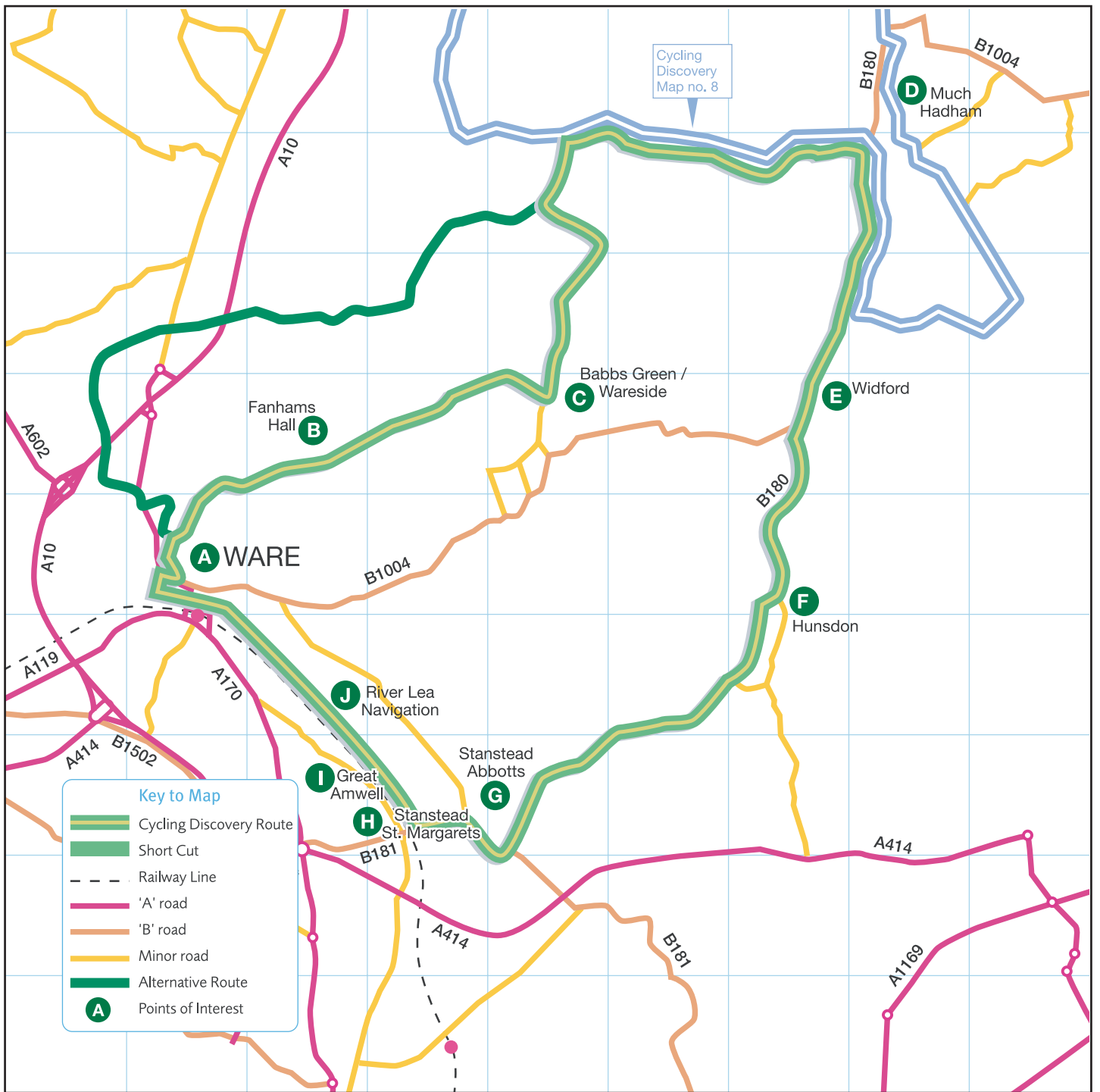


The Maltings, Stanstead Abbots

16 Turn R onto the towpath (National Cycle Network Route 61) beside the River Lea, SP 'Ware 2 1/4'.

J River Lea Navigation - once busy with barges transporting goods. Colourful narrow boats.

17 50 metres after the footbridge (as you enter the outskirts of Ware), turn L back onto the pedestrian/cycle path towards the housing. At the end, bear L rejoining the road to the mini roundabout. Bear R, and you shortly arrive back at the car park on your L.



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: Landrangers 167 - Chelmsford; and 166 - Luton & Hertford. 'Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO ©Crown copyright (2006). All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100017282'.

To obtain information on other Cycling Discovery Maps throughout the East of England, please contact:-

East of England Tourism, Dettingen Way, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3TU

Tel: (0)1284 727470 Fax: (0)1284 706657 Email: information@eet.org.uk Internet: www.visiteastofengland.com

Malt and Forge - published by East of England Tourism, in association with East Hertfordshire District Council. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure accuracy of the information in this publication, East of England Tourism 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.