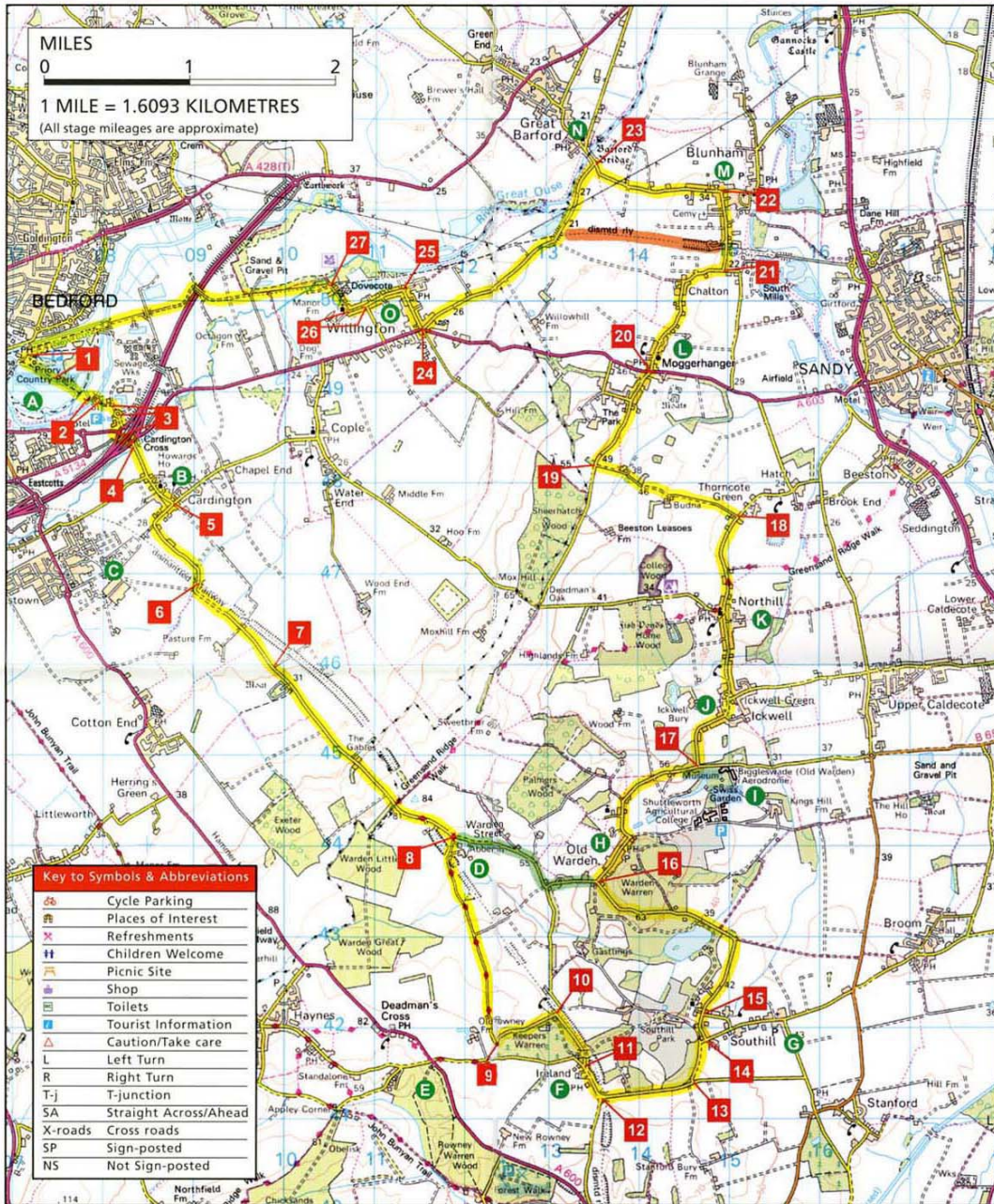


THE THATCHER'S WAY



The map shown has been reduced to 90% of the actual size shown in the Ordnance Survey Landranger Series.

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STAGE 1 BEDFORD (PRIORY COUNTRY PARK) TO WARDEN STREET (4 3/4 MILES)

STARTING POINT: Bedford (Priory Country Park).

- A** Priory Country Park - 300 acres with lakes. 🏞️ ✖️
- 1 With the Visitor Centre to your L, go SA so that you have the lake in front of you. Turn L along the cycle path which runs beside the lake.
 - 2 Turn L over 'Marina Ford Bridge' and follow the path through the wooded area, then across 'Jetty Bridge'. On the other side, bear L, then R across the 'Cardington Lock' and 'Sluice' bridges. You then leave the park.
 - 3 At the T-j, turn R (NS) onto Stannard Way. Pass SA the 1st roundabout, then just before the 2nd one, bear R onto the cycle path, SP 'Kempston and Cardington'. Follow the path anti-clockwise around the busy roundabout, crossing over the A603, then bear L across the two slip roads of the A421. △
 - 4 Take the next R turning off the roundabout, SP 'Cardington'.
- B** Cardington - attractive village. 🏡 ✖️ 🇸🇨
- 5 Turn R onto Southill Road, SP 'Old Warden 4, Southill 6'.
 - 6 The road crosses over the old railway line, where a scene from the classic film 'Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines' (1965) was shot.
 - 7 The road now starts to climb uphill onto the Greensand Ridge. This is a line of sandy hills with extensive woodlands, private estates and open heathland.
- END OF STAGE 1 - PLEASE NOW GO TO STAGE 2

STAGE 5 GREAT BARFORD TO BEDFORD (PRIORY COUNTRY PARK) (5 MILES)

- 24 At the T-j with the A603, bear directly R onto Station Road. This is directly to the R of this T-j. If you prefer, you can dismount from your cycle and walk around the corner using the pavement. Do not go onto the A603. △
- C** Willington - attractive village. 🏡 ✖️ 🇸🇨
- 25 Bear L around the corner into Church Road.
 - 26 Continue SA along the dead end road. Then take the next R into Church End.
 - 27 Turn L onto the Willington to Bedford Cycle Way. This well-surfaced track has a signpost with a cycle branded on it. Please note, at one point the track crosses a quarry road where you might encounter lorries. The route is over the cycle way stile, and not the quarry entrance. Follow the track back to the Priory Country Park.

STAGE 2 WARDEN STREET TO KEEPERS WARREN (DIRECTION NO. 10) (2 MILES)

- D** Warden Street - remains of Cistercian abbey. 🏰
- 8 Turn R, SP 'Haynes 4'.
- Short cut (1 mile). Total route with short cut - 19 miles.
Continue SA to Old Warden. After 3/4 mile at the T-j, turn L, SP 'Old Warden'. Remain on this road for 1/4 mile.
Please now go to Stage 3 and continue from 'H Old Warden.'
- 9 Turn L, SP 'Old Warden 2'.
- E** Just off the route - Rowney Warren Wood (turn R at this junction for 1/2 mile. When you reach the X-roads with the A600, go SA, SP Haynes. The wood is on your L). Extensive woodland offering walks. 🌲

END OF STAGE 2 - PLEASE NOW GO TO STAGE 3



The Swiss Garden, Old Warden



The Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden

STAGE 3 KEEPERS WARREN (DIRECTION NO. 10) TO ICKWELL (6 1/2 MILES)

- 10 Turn R, SP 'Ireland 1/2, Shefford 2 1/2'.
 - 11 Turn L, SP 'Southill 1 1/2, Shefford 2'.
- F** Ireland - tiny hamlet. ✖️
- 12 Turn L, SP 'Southill 1 1/4, Stanford 1 3/4'. △
 - 13 Turn L, SP 'Southill 1/2, Old Warden 2 3/4'.
- G** Southill - 'Whitbread' estate village. 🏡 ✖️ 🇸🇨
- 14 Turn L (opposite The White Horse pub), SP 'Old Warden 2'.
 - 15 As the road bears sharply R around the corner, go SA, SP 'Old Warden 1 3/4'. The road passes through Warden Warren.
 - 16 Turn R onto Bedford Road, SP 'Ickwell 2, Northill 2 1/2'.
- H** Old Warden - attractive 'Swiss' style village. 🏡 ✖️ 🇸🇨
- 17 Turn L, SP 'Ickwell 1/2, Northill 1'.
- I** Just off the route - The Shuttleworth Collection (continue SA for 1/4 mile).
World famous collection of vintage aircraft and motor vehicles. 🏰
- J** Ickwell - large green with maypole. 🏡

END OF STAGE 3 - PLEASE NOW GO TO STAGE 4



Ickwell

STAGE 4 ICKWELL TO GREAT BARFORD (5 3/4 MILES)

- K** Northill - 18th C. thatched houses. 🏡
- 18 Turn L, SP 'Moggerhanger 1 3/4'.
 - 19 Turn R, SP 'Moggerhanger 3/4, Blunham 2 1/4'.
- L** Moggerhanger - hilltop village. 🏡 ✖️
- 20 At the X-roads with the A603, go SA, SP 'Chalton 1/2, Blunham 1 1/2'. △
 - 21 Turn L, SP 'Blunham 1 1/2, Great Barford 2'.
- Please note: the new Bedford to Sandy Cycle Way will past directly across this road running between Chalton and Blunham. In the future, you will be able to turn L at this point and follow this traffic-free route back to Willington, then onto the Priory Country Park.
- M** Blunham - set in Ivel Valley. 🏡 ✖️ 🇸🇨
- 22 At the T-j, turn L, SP 'Great Barford 1 1/4'. △
 - 23 At the traffic lights, turn L in front of the bridge (NS). Alternatively to visit the village of Great Barford, go SA the bridge. △
- N** Great Barford - 15th C. bridge. ✖️ 🇸🇨 🏰

END OF STAGE 4 - PLEASE NOW GO TO STAGE 5



Old Warden